

In Our Prayers

Jeff Clay (progressive throat cancer, Tina Caldwell's brother in law)
Gladys Wells
Doug Jameson (friend of Bob Blakeslee)
Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)
Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)
Lucille Blakeslee (recovering from a stroke)
Those mourning the death of Fran Rice**
Pastor Rich (cancer)
Andrew (brain cancer)
Friends of Cynthia Bruestche
Keith Charron (kidney failure)
Micheline Zumbo, (friend of the Berlepschs)
Fred Merrow (Dawn Charron's brother-in-law)
Michael May, recovering from a hit and run
Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes**
Butch Ziacks (dear friend of Bob Blakeslee)**
Those impacted by nature's fury**
Tina Caldwell**
Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend)**
Diane Geiss**
Sally Coleman**
Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run**
Megan Perkowski **
Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) **
A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer**
Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)**
Tim Keogh**
Charmaine Craggs**
Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)**
Tom Jastermsky**
Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)**
Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)**
Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)**
Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes **
Cathy Kovi**
Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)**
Sandy McCume**
Betsy-Sue Eisenman**
Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)**
Janice Frey**
David Lick**
Beverly Lastig**
Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



To make a gift to First Church



At the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wallingford, CT, we have discerned the following vision and mission for our faith lives together:

Vision

Our faith – rooted in the compassion and teachings of Jesus Christ – is the foundation of our love for one another and service to the world around us.

We offer a home for those seeking deeper meaning or purpose in their lives through the exploration of Jesus Christ's teachings. The love and compassion found in those teachings commit us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity.

Mission

We will foster spiritual growth, loving communication, and mutual care, thereby empowering us to confront issues that impact our community and the world, including poverty, isolation, and exclusion.

We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



May 12, 2024

Ascension Sunday

Rise

May 12, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *English Country Gardens*
Malcolm Archer

The Ash Grove
Andrew Gant

Come now in Joy
Caribbean Folk Melody/arr. Jorge Lockward

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Strong* Kyla
Nesto, solo
Words & Music by Anne Wilson, Matthew West, Jeffry Paroo

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

P: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

L: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

P: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

L: Let's get to work!

P: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

L: Amen

P: AMEN!

+HYMN Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

NCH # 257

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have failed to do this. We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. We look for the quick and easy answers. Forgive us for the smallness of our faith. You, who raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. You

have done this and yet, we remain static in our response to you. Clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord.
AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE Acts 1:1-11

ANTHEM *Listen with Your Heart*

Brad Nix

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE John 17:6-19

MESSAGE "Taking Our Place" The Rev. Margret

Hofmeister

HYMN Guide My Feet

NCH# 497

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *We See the Mountains Lifted High Before Us*

Traditional Irish/arr. Hal Hopson

+DOXOLOGY
melody NCH #780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

NCH # 43

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Now Go in Joy* Children and

Chancel Choir

Caribbean Folk Melody/arr. Jorge

Lockward

POSTLUDE *Loch Lomond*

Christopher Tambling

Announcements

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford! If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Joan M. Smith by Virginia Smith.

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Bernie Annunziata, Chimes.

Today you have an opportunity to share your love by purchasing **Blankets through Church World Service**. In 2023, 32,785 blankets were shipped to provide comfort and

warmth to refugees, the homeless, and survivors of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. \$10 buys a blanket that can save a life! \$60 buys a Blanket Bundle. \$300 buys a case of 30. Be a part of the movement to Blanket the World With Love!

Next Sunday is a special Sunday at FCCW! We will be celebrating **Pentecost Sunday**, the birthday of the church. You are invited to **wear RED!** On this day we will be celebrating **Generosity** as we receive and bless your **Pledge Cards** and share a light lunch in Congregational Hall. Following the lunch, we will gather to discuss the proposed **ONA Covenant**. Join us for a fun and meaningful morning!

Open and Affirming Covenant - The ONA Team has written a proposed ONA Covenant describing our beliefs on being an Open and Affirming congregation. It has been approved by the Vision Board and on **Sunday, May 19th** after the 10:00 service, we will gather in Congregational Hall to give everyone the opportunity to discuss the document and share their comments. A copy is available in the May Spire, and will also be distributed via email and in next week's Sunday Bulletin. If you are unable to attend on the 19th, please email your thoughts to us at ona.fccw@gmail.com, or talk with any ONA Team member. A light lunch will be hosted by the Stewardship and ONA Teams.

Welcome Our Area Conference Minister The Rev. Margret Hofmeister



Rev. Margret Hofmeister is a second career minister who received her Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary (NYC) in 2007. Prior to discerning her call, she worked in the printing industry, having received a BS in Print Management from Rochester Institute of Technology. She served in two local church settings before accepting the position of Area Conference Minister for the SW Region of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. A Connecticut native, she resides in Branford with her wife, Linda and their Pembroke Welsh corgi, Mabel.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Acting Coordinator of Sunday
School and Youth