



### **The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

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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 up lift 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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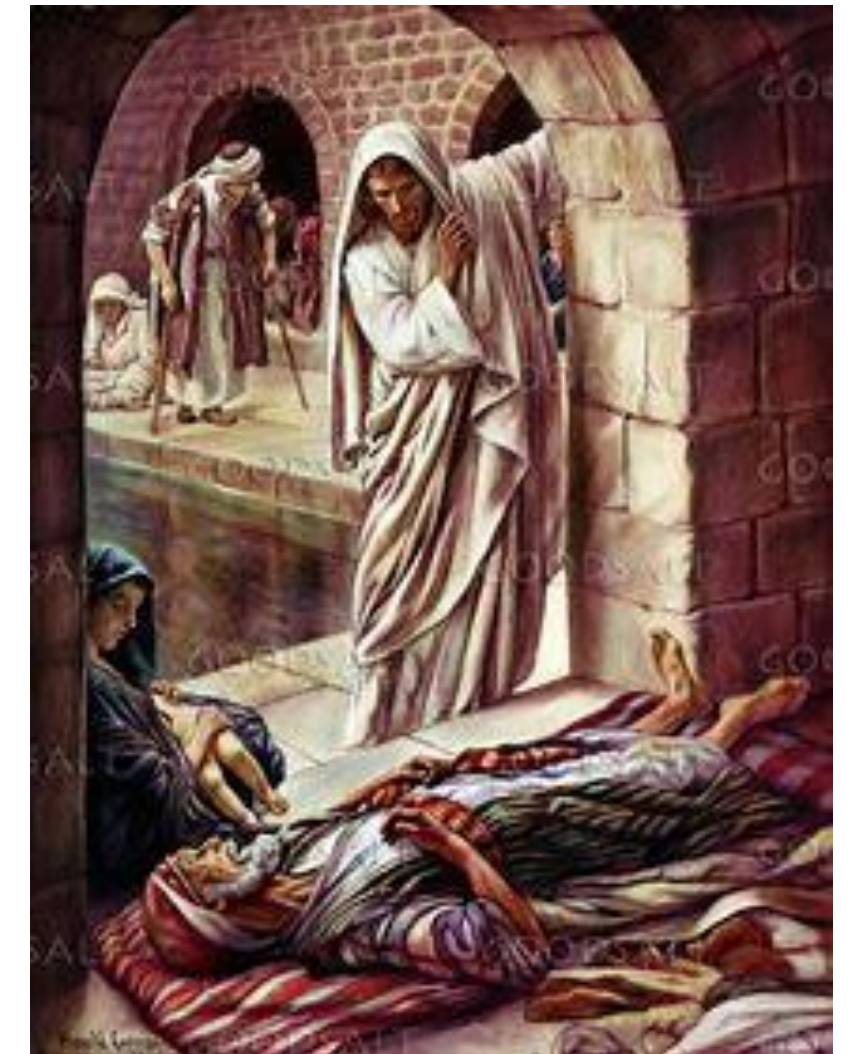
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# **First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT**



**May 25, 2025**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 25, 2025  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)		
PRELUDE	<i>Air “Water Music”</i>	George Frideric Handel
WELCOME		
CENTERING MUSIC	<i>Canon in D</i>	Johann Pachelbel
CALL TO WORSHIP		
We come together this day, drawn by the light of God’s love!		
<b>In God’s eternal kingdom, gloom and despair are vanquished.</b>		
In God’s eternal realm, peace and hope reign!		
<b>Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!</b>		
Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!		
<b>Praise be to God. AMEN!</b>		
+HYMN	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	NCH #43
CALL TO PRAYER		
PRAYER OF REFLECTION		
<b>Lord, You know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our anxiety and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared. Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to</b>		

**your mercy and your love. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.**

WORDS OF GRACE		
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		
REFLECTION	<i>The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)</i>	Matt Maher
LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE John 5:1-9		
MESSAGE Holding On, Letting Go		
+HYMN	We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness	CHL# 179
PASTORAL PRAYER		
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	<i>Winter (Movement 2)</i>	Antonio Vivaldi
+DOXOLOGY		
+PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
+HYMN	I Look to You in Every Need	NCH #463
+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION		
RESPONSE	<i>Breathe on Me Breath of God</i>	NCH #292

POSTLUDE	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring</i>	
	Johann Sebastian Bach	

Announcements

**Serving the church today:** Jeremy Phillips, Steve and Cathy Knight, Bruce and Katherine Ollodart, Ushers. Debbie Clark, Chimes.

**The flowers** on the altar are given in memory of our parents, David and Videen McGaughey on what would have been their 77<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, by David, Deeny, Heather, and their families.

**First Congregational Church will be hosting the Annual Community Wide Worship Service** to honor those who have fallen in service to our country. The service will begin this evening at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Memorial Day Parade Marchers** will meet at the church tomorrow, March 26 at 8:30 am or at Dutton Park at 8:50 am. The parade will be from Dutton Park to Town Hall. Join the marchers in honoring Wallingford’s fallen.

**Next Sunday is a day of celebrating many things – Christ’s Ascension, Pride Sunday, Generosity Sunday, and Communion.** Don’t worry, it will not be a 2 hour service!

**FCC Scholarship Applications Are Open!** FCC youth members who are graduating from high school this year and continuing their education this fall may apply for a scholarship from the church. The scholarship application has moved online. Scholarship applications are due by Monday, May 26th. Save the Date-Scholarship Sunday is June 15th!

**Do you want to help our native bees and butterflies?** On Sunday, June 1, at 11:30 in Congregational Hall, our own Nancy Tipping will be presenting a talk called **“Bring Back the Pollinators.”** Come and learn what simple things you can do in your own yard to help pollinators, and the earth this year.

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