



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

Church Office Hours: Tues.– Fri. - 9:00am – 2:00pm

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 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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First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



May 4, 2025

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit
NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)

PRELUDE

Meditation on “Land of Rest”
Based on Traditional American Melody

Gilbert M. Martin

Prelude on an American Folk Hymn
Based on the early folk-hymn, “Bourbon”

Gilbert M. Martin

WELCOME

Rev. Meredith Jeffers

FOUNDING WORDS

Bob Westervelt

CENTERING MUSIC

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Dwight Gustafson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Phipps

In 1670, a group of men, women and children set out from New Haven to establish a new community.

They trusted God to lead them on their journey.

In 1675, after prayer and fasting, the community voted to establish a new church, to follow in the Congregational way and to advance the glory of God and their spiritual good.

They trusted God to lead them on their journey.

During the past 350 years, the congregation grew, and divided, built and rebuilt, still working to advance the glory of God, their spiritual good and to serve the world around them.

They trusted God to lead them on their journey.

Today, we strive to live out our vision, that 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 trust God to lead us on our journey into a future filled with faith, that we may advance the glory of God in service of others and love for one another. Let us worship God.

+HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

NCH #439

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

We come before you, God, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses who preceded us, who with their hands and minds and spirits built a strong foundation of faith and community. We stand before you today, as imperfect people, people who do not always honor those witnesses, who make mistakes, who turn away from those in need, who resist trusting in you. Forgive us when we fall short and are blind to our own failings. Like Paul on the road to Damascus, open our eyes to see and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may use our hands and minds and spirits to be your blessed community.

WORDS OF GRACE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

GREETING FROM THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Rev. Margret Hofmeister, Area Conference Minister

Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ

ANTHEM

What a Friend We Have in Jesus/Yesu, Kwetu ni Rafiki

arr. Mark Burrows/ Chancel and Youth Choirs

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-20

Greg Whitehouse

+HYMN

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

NCH #459

MESSAGE

Looking Back - Moving Forward

Rev. Margaret Jay

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

Ken Minkema

OFFERTORY

Still Water (Psalm 23)

Leanna Crawford, Jonathan Gamble & Justin Richards

+DOXOLOGY

NCH #780

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

NCH #347

COMMUNION

Rev. Meredith Jeffers

This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome. You will receive first the bread and then the juice. You are invited to hold each until all are served so we might partake together.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Voice of Truth

Mark Hall and Steven Curtis Chapman/arr. MUSICNOTES.COM

+HYMN

Thank Our God for Sisters Brothers

NCH #397

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Connor Filkins

RESPONSE

Now Go In Joy (insert)

Caribbean Folk Melody/arr. Jorge Lockward

The Congregation will sing this through twice. Then the Pulpit side will start the Canon and the Lectern side will join at the *

POSTLUDE

Siyahamba

Zulu Melody/arr. Marianne Kimba

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford on this joyful day as we celebrate 350 years of Mission and Ministry to the Wallingford Community!

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! Following worship, the celebration continues with a picnic on the Parade Grounds! Join us!

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

Announcements

Serving the church today: Roy Canon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker, Ushers. Rev. Maragaret Jay, Preacher. Rev. Connor Filkins, Rev. Margret Hofmeister, Rev. Meredith Jeffers, Ken Minkema, Susan Phipps, Bob Westervelt, and Greg Whitehouse, Liturgists. Tina Caldwell, Holly Francke, Debby Voelker, Rick Voelker, and Bob Westervelt, Sacramental Ministers. Russ Hinckley, Chimes.

Musicians Serving the Church under the direction of Dr. Jeanette Gross are: The Chancel Choir: Tina Caldwell, Dawn Charron, Nancy Churma, Debbie Clark, Holly Francke, Ron Graziani, Sarah Mather, Sandy McKenna, and Paul Masi. Youth Choir: Kyla Nesto, Jeremy Phillips, and Ryan Phillips. Praise Band: Malakai Chadderton, Percussion; Jackson Crowell-Masi, Guitar; Jeanette Gross, Bass Guitar; Sarah Mather, Soloist; Paul Masi, Keyboards and Soloist.

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of the 350th Anniversary of First Congregational Church. Thank you to our founders, to the generations who built the church, and to all those who continue God’s work within our walls and in the community. Happy Birthday!

Our **Beaumont Farms Spring Flower Sale** fundraiser for the month of May is here. Bring the flyer to Beaumont and some of the proceeds will go to the church. We will also have a **Mother's Day Flower Sale** in Congregational Hall during coffee hour on May 11. Please support our church. Volunteers are appreciated for the Mother’s Day Plant Sale, see Jolene Pope.

Enhance your spiritual well-being by participating in the Renewal Weekend from Footsteps in the Sand. **Footsteps weekends** are open to anyone seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. **Men’s Weekend May 16-18 & Women’s Weekend May 30 - June 1.**

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!

Our **Bylaws** have been simplified and revised. An informational meeting will take place May 18 after worship in the Guild Room. Draft copies of the proposed new Bylaws will be available next Sunday. It is anticipated new Bylaws will be proposed at the Congregational Meeting on June 8.

Apparently, God is still speaking! Thanks to Susan Phipps for listening to God’s inspiration to create today’s joy filled Birthday of the Church Celebration!

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