

In Our Prayers

Our country, our leaders, and leaders elect**Lori Parisi and Kathy Graham (cancer diagnosis)**Oaklynn (3 year old granddaughter of Tina Caldwell)** Those impacted by nature's fury**Michael Savenelli **Beth Piascyk**Linda Syphers (friend of Gail Berlepsch)**Louis Pasierello Jr. (friend of Mike and Pam Savenelli)**Jeff Clay (progressive throat cancer, (Tina Caldwell's brother in law)**Gladys Wells**Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)**Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)**Andrew (brain cancer)** Friends of Cynthia Bruestche** Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes**Tina Caldwell**Sally Coleman** Megan Perkowski ** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)**Tom Jastermsky** Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)**Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)** Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes ** Cathy Kovi** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman**Janice Frey**David Lick**Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



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



November 24, 2024

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 24, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *For the Fruit of All Creation* Frank Stoldt
We Gather Together Flor Peeters

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *For The Beauty of the World*
Conrad Kocher/arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by *Come, O Thankful People, Come.*)

L: Come, you thankful people come.

P: Let us lift up our voices and give thanks to God.

L: Come, you thankful people come.

P: Let us praise God our Maker who provides for us every day.

L: Come, you thankful people, come.

P: Let us worship the God of the harvest, the God who promises to be with us always.

+HYMN *Come, O Thankful People, Come!* NCH # 422

GATHERING PRAYER

Giving and generous God, have we said “thank you” today? As we woke up this morning, alive and well, did we give thanks for our lives? As we gaze out of the window at the splendor of your creation, have we told you that we appreciate the beauty? As we sit among friends and neighbors, have we given thanks for fellowship? We are told that if the only prayer we ever say is “thank you,” that will be enough. Thank you, loving God. Thank you. Amen.

QUIET PRAYER

THE GOOD NEWS

PASSING CHRIST’S PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE Madison Torre

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Joel 2:21-27

ANTHEM *I’ve Got Peace Like a River*
arr. Valerie W. Stephenson / Handbell Choir

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:25-33

THE MESSAGE “ The Locust Years” Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

A LITANY OF THANKS (see insert)

PRAYERS 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 *Thank Our God! Pelo Tsa Rona* Chancel Choir
African Folk Melody/HOLY MANNA/ arr. Daryl Hollinger

+DOXOLOGY NCH #420

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your Holy Name, glad praises be sing.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *Great Is Your Faithfulness* NCH # 423

RESPONSE *In the Lord We’ll Be Ever Thankful*
Jacques Berthier

POSTLUDE *Let All Things Now Living* Frank Stoldt

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 Barbara Rusbarsky by Marilyn Colandrea who is forever thankful for having had Barbara in her life.

Serving the church today: Tony Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Russ Hinckley, Bernice Annunziata, Ushers. Meredith Jeffers, Liturgist. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

We welcome **the Rev. Dr. Sue Foster as our Guest Preacher!**

A Thanksgiving Potluck follows worship this morning! Forgot to bring a dish? Come anyway, and give thanks with and for our church community!

The beautiful cornucopia gracing our worship was created by the creative visual artists Pam Perkowski, Heidi Bonassar and Kristen Hinckley.

Our **Christmas Fair** is just a few weeks away, December 6-7. There are many ways to enjoy getting involved. Donation request slips for crafting items are on the Fair table. There are one hour crafting workshops every Sunday after church with no skill needed and all (12+) are invited to help. Contact Fair Coordinator: Lorraine Westervelt 203-257-6964 with questions, offers, ideas, thoughts.

As expressed in our church’s Open and Affirming (ONA) Covenant, “Jesus’ teachings of love and compassion call us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity, both within the sanctuary of this church and throughout the community in which we live and serve.”

To live into Jesus’ teachings, the ONA Team is meeting to discuss ways to promote the fair and equitable treatment of all. If you’d like to join our team or have ideas you’d like to share, please speak with any ONA Team member (Kathy Filkins, Cathy Knight Steve Knight, Sandy McKenna, Pam Walker, Erica Haddad, Jeanette Gross), or email us at ona.fccw@gmail.com.

Blessed Thanksgiving!

Litany of Thanks (For the Beauty of the Earth)

LEFT: When I look toward the heavens, I stand in awe of God, whose love lasts forever.

RIGHT: You, who created us and who knew us before anyone else, we thank you.

LEFT: We thank you for love that surrounds us and grace that forgives us,

RIGHT: We thank you for the beauty of your creation which reflects your power and Welcomed presence.

ALL: (singing)
*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise*

LEFT: Let us give thanks to God, for God's steadfast love endures forever. God does wondrous things.

RIGHT: God created the heavens and the earth. God made the great lights – the sun to rule over the day while the stars and moon rule over the night.

ALL (singing):
*For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise*

LEFT: For loving relationships, for friends that walk by our side

RIGHT: For families given to us and chosen by us

LEFT: For our congregation, united by your love

RIGHT: For the blessings of human love, we give you thanks.

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*For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise*

*For the good that love inspires,
For a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise*

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster



Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster (Sue) grew up in Wallingford and attended Sunday School and Pilgrim Fellowship at the First Congregational Church. She graduated from Lancaster Seminary with her classmate Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers. Sue recently retired after serving the East Woodstock Congregational Church for 36 years. Her love of fellowship, hospitality, learning and welcome is reflected in her book *Retreats to Go: Twelve Creative Programs that Renew and Reflect*.

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