

In Our Prayer

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**Those impacted by nature's fury** Tina Caldwell**Sally Coleman** Megan Perkowski **Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) ** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Charmaine Craggs** 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** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)** 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

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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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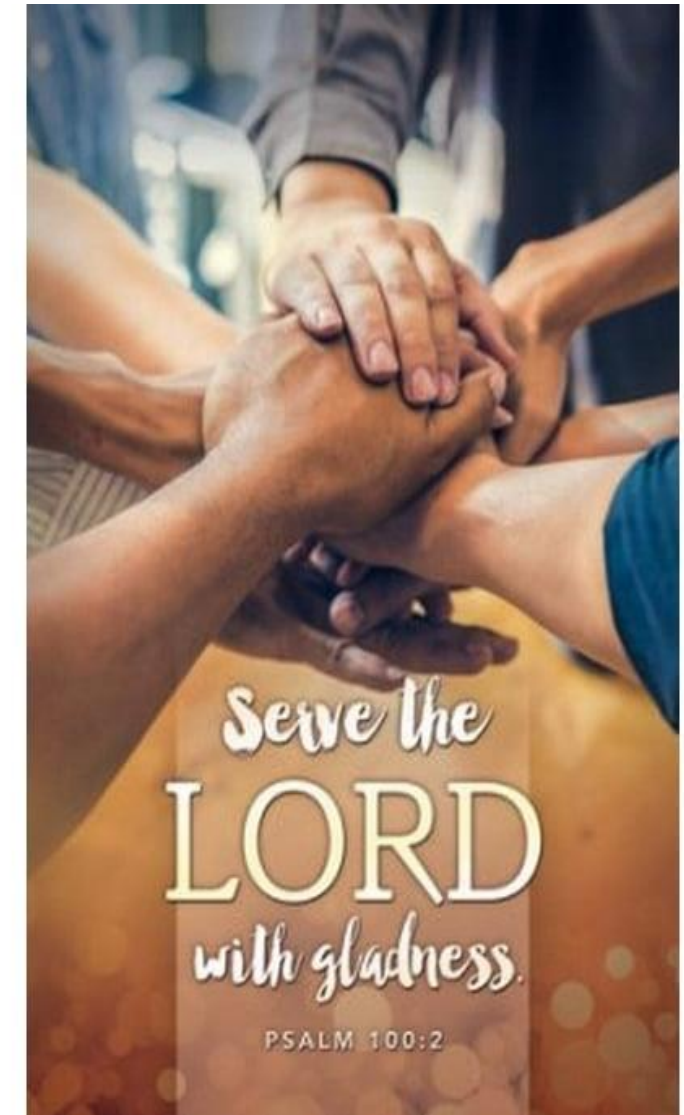
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First Congregational Church



September 1, 2024

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *He Shall Feed His Flock*
G.F. Handel/ar. Tracey Craig McKibben

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *The Summons*
Scottish Traditional/Adapt. John Bell/arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Summer wanes and the autumn draws close.

P: Lord, help us to be ready for opportunities of service.

L: We have felt the refreshment of time-away.

P: Lord, give us spirits of joy for the times ahead.

L: Come, let us celebrate God's eternal presence and love.

P: Let us open our spirits to receive God's direction for our lives. AMEN.

+HYMN Praise to the Living God NCH #8

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

God of mercy, you know us so well. We like to think that we can hide from You, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered to us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; but we have far too often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to your transformational love. Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who serve you; that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this world. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM *Reckless Love* Cory Asbury
Solo, Madison Torre & Jillian Barron

THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE James 1:17-27

MESSAGE

HYMN Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? NCH #539

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Rock of Ages* arr. Brenda Portman

+DOXOLOGY 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

THE COMMUNION

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. Please hold each as you receive it so that we may partake together.

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.**

+HYMN Take My Gifts NCH # 562

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Make Me a Servant* Kelly Willard

Make me a servant, humble and meek,

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant,

Make me a servant today.

POSTLUDE *Wonderful Words of Life* Philip P. Bliss

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 our fathers and grandfathers by the Jayantha Mather family.

Serving the church today: Dawn Charron, Greeter, Tony Annunziata, Ann GyGax, Russ Hinckley, Bernice Annunziata, Ushers. Debby Voelker, John Lenox, Rick Voelker, Tina Caldwell, Sacramental Ministers. Debbie Clark, Chimes. Lorraine Westervelt, Liturgist.

Have you pledged yet? We are inching closer to our 2024-2025 goal. To date we have received 94 pledges for a total of \$192,248. Please be prayerful in considering what God is calling you to do for your church. Please be generous in your giving. Together, we are changing lives!

Catch the Spirit – Sunday, September 15 – 9:15 Sunday School Registration; 9:45 Jonah Reprise; 10:00 Worship; 11:00 Celebratory

Rock for a Cause Fundraiser with Shell Shockt. Saturday, September 21, 5-8 pm. Get your tickets at Coffee Hour today.

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