



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

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

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

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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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Dawn Charron,

First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



September 14, 2025

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catch the Spirit Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDES *Fantasy in G Major* J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *All Are Welcome* David Lasky

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather us in, Welcoming God.
That being close to you we will understand your intention for creation.
Weave us into one, Sweet Spirit of All,
That living your ways we will create communities of faith, justice, and peace.
Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal.
That treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.
Weave us into one, Redeeming Presence,
That together we may be the signs of your presence, the weavers of your communities and the witnesses to your abiding love. Gather us in this day so that we might serve you with joy. Amen.

+HYMN Enter, Rejoice, and Come In NCH # 73

BLESSING OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TEACHERS

Wise and Playful God, fill our students and teachers with curiosity, courage, strength, wisdom, peace, and joy. May their joy in learning and passion for teaching inspire us all. Fill them with your Spirit. Bless them as they all grow in faith as they learn together. Amen.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Caring God, you call us to be the body of Christ: to live in community, to care for one another, to use our different gifts. Instead of working to sustain community, we follow our own desires. Instead of trusting in your care, we think we can do it alone. Forgive our neglect of others. Weave us together in service and compassion. Give us obedient spirits, that we may care for one another, depend on your love, and use our gifts for your gospel. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SOLO *Church Pew* Riley Clemmons

REFLECTION YOU - SITTING IN THE PEW NEXT TO ME
By Ann Weems

THE MESSAGE

As we return to the church for a new program year, what are your spiritual goals for yourself? What are your hopes and prayers for the church?

HYMN Weave Us Together (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 *For One Great Peace*
Words: Shirley Erena Murray Music: Jim Strathdee

+DOXOLOGY NCH #779

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN In the Midst of New Dimensions (vss 1,3,4,5) NCH # 391

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE Bind Us Together

Bind us together, Lord Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord Bind us together
Bind us together in Love

POSTLUDE *Tarantella on Oh, Sing to God Above* ROSAS
Setting: David Evan Thomas

Announcements

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given with Praise and Celebration for Catch the Spirit Sunday by Marilyn Colandrea.

Summer Craft Workshops Please have refreshments after church and join us for craft workshops in Congregation Hall as we prepare for our Christmas Fair. Materials and instruction will be provided. Your ideas are welcome.

Bible Study Tuesday starting this Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30. Have you ever wondered why we sing what we do in church? Did you know there is a tie between theology (the study of the nature of God and religious belief) and worship, especially hymns? Did you know that hymn writers are some of the best theologians? Are you curious Join us on Tuesday evening. Information: Charlene Bruce 203-503-8379 or charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net

Today is Catch the Spirit Sunday! We return to the Sanctuary, welcome our children back to Sunday School, play games, eat hot dogs, greet old friends, and welcome new friends as we Weave our lives together.