

In Our Prayer

Tay Arrow Sherman and sons Emerset and Oz (Dawn Charron's niece)
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** **Sandy McCume** **Betsy-Sue Eisenman** **Janice Frey** **David Lick** **Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



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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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First Congregational Church



September 15, 2024

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

Catch the Spirit Sunday

On your mark, get set, get ready, Go!

September 15, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

“Jonah and the Whale”

Performed on the front steps of the church

WELCOME

Rev. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor Lori Folk-Baron, Co-Moderator
Madison Torre, Coordinator Sunday School and Youth Ministries

CENTERING MUSIC

Andante

Felix Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

P: and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

L: We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

P: we gather as people who have been called to see the World from a different viewpoint.

L: God has called us together, God has called us to be part of a community.

P: God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world.

L: In this time together,

P: may God open our hearts, minds and eyes,

L: allowing us to see deeper,

helping us to live in the world

while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

P: We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

+HYMN We Are Marching in the Light of God NCH #526

CALL TO PRAYER

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. Give us

obedient spirits, that we may care for one another, depend on your love, and use our gifts for your gospel. Amen.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM

A Little Talk with Jesus Makes it Right
Spiritual/Patricia Cota/ Adult Handbell Choir

THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Romans 12:1-13

MESSAGE On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

HYMN I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

CHL #614

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

This is My Father’s World
He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

TERRA BEATA/WHOLE WORLD/ arr. Brant Adams / Jen Wood, clarinet

+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

+HYMN

Spirit of Love

NCH # 58

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

The Trees of the Field

Stuart Dauermann

**You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
The mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy
And all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands**

**And all the trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
While you go out with joy**

POSTLUDE

South Africa Trilogy

Setting, Daryl Hollinger

SIYAHAMBA/HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA

WE SHALL NOT GIVE UP THE FIGHT

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 Joan M. Smith by Virginia Smith.

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Debbie Clark , Chimes. Greg Whitehouse, Liturgist.

Welcome to Catch the Spirit Sunday! Join us for fun, hot dogs, cookies, and fellowship on the Parade Grounds following worship.

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