

## In Our Prayers

Those recovering from natural disasters\*\*Thanksgiving for the lives of Darlene Kupeck, Ruby Heilman and Sharon Hazelwood and those who mourn their losses\*\*Diane Geiss\*\* Dorothy Burdick\*\* Margaret Porter\*\*Darlene Kubeck, experiencing life transitions\*\*Shirley Breedlove (Tina Caldwell's mom)\*\* Sharon Geil\*\*Sally Coleman\*\* Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run\*\* Megan Perkowski \*\*Alexander Karacsonyi \*\*Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) \*\*A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer\*\* Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)\*\* Tim Keogh\*\* Charmaine Craggs\*\* Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)\*\* Pam Savanelli\*\* Hayden Steinhilper (serving our country)\*\*Tom Jastermsky\*\* Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)\*\* Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)\*\*Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)\*\* Wendy Riddle Brod (Sandy Week's sister)\*\* Cathy Kovi\*\* Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuael Arce and Deborah Sinon)\*\* Kyle Denson (friend of Kristen Hinckley)\*\* Sandy McCume\*\* Betsy-Sue Eisenman\*\* Hazel Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's grandmother) \*\*Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)\*\* Judy and Eric Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's parents)\*\*Janice Frey\*\*David Lick\*\* Beverly Lastig\*\* Those around the world who live in areas of conflict.



### 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](mailto:officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org) (office)

[pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org](mailto:pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org) (pastor)

[gross7jeanette1@gmail.com](mailto:gross7jeanette1@gmail.com) (Minister of Music)

Website: [www.firstchurchwallingford.org](http://www.firstchurchwallingford.org)



**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



**Sixteenth Sunday  
After Pentecost  
September 17, 2023**

**Not right or wrong, either or,  
this OR that, but  
BOTH AND**

# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor* J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*  
Sebastian Temple / arr. Jane Holstein

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing and rejoice! The Lord reaches out to you with healing love!

**P: The Lord is our strength and our power!**

L: Dance before the Lord, a dance of joy and hope!

**P: The Lord brings us joy and lifts us up in hope.**

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

**P: Let us celebrate the good news God brings to us each day. AMEN.**

+HYMN Rejoice, You Pure in Heart NCH #55

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgmental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.**

CLEARING OUR CONSCIENCE WITH GOD

WORDS OF GRACE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Psalm 103:8-13  
(Pew Bible OT p. 564)

ANTHEM *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
CONVERSE / arr. Patricia Sanders Cota

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
NETTLETON / arr. Patricia Sanders Cota  
Handbell Choir

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES Romans 14:1-12  
(Pew Bible NT p. 155)

MESSAGE – Both And

+HYMN Help Us Accept Each Other NCH #388

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 SHARE

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Grace Alone*  
Scott Wesley Brown & Jeff Nelson / arr. Tom Fettke  
Chancel Choir

\*THE DOXOLOGY NCH #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Unite and Join Your Cheerful Songs NCH # 617

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

+ RESPONSE *Now Go in Joy* GTG # 745

POSTLUDE *O Sing to the Lord!*  
Anthony Giamonco / TUNE: CANDAD AL SEÑOR

## 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 honor of the church school children and teachers. Have a great Year!

Serving the church today are: Louise Zemina and Charmaine Craggs, 8:00 Greeters; (10:00) Karen Blakeslee, Liturgist; Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt John Lenox and Bill Zemina, Ushers; Debbie Clark, Chimes;

Save the Date for the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual First Congregational Church Golf Tournament** to be held Saturday, September 30 starting at 9 am at the Miner Hills Family Golf in Middletown. Profits will benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the Family Life Fund. Sign up at Coffee Hour.

**Ticket money is due by October 1** for tickets to **Come From Away** at the Schubert Theater in New Haven November 11 at 2. Come from Away is a heartwarming musical based on the true story of the hospitality of a small community in Newfoundland that found itself the grounding spot for 7,000 people when their planes had to leave air space on September 11, 2001. Tickets are \$84. We have 4 tickets remaining. Reserve with [pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org](mailto:pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org) by September 24.

Are you interested in Bible Study? We will be offering two opportunities for Bible Study beginning in October. Bible Study will be offered Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24 in the Guild Room from 7-8 pm. Bible Study will also be offered at Ashlar Village Wednesdays at 10 am. For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Meredith at [pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org](mailto:pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org) or (914) 255-1690

Coming Soon – Celebrate Wallingford and our Semi-Annual Rummage Sale!