

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** 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)

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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 uplift 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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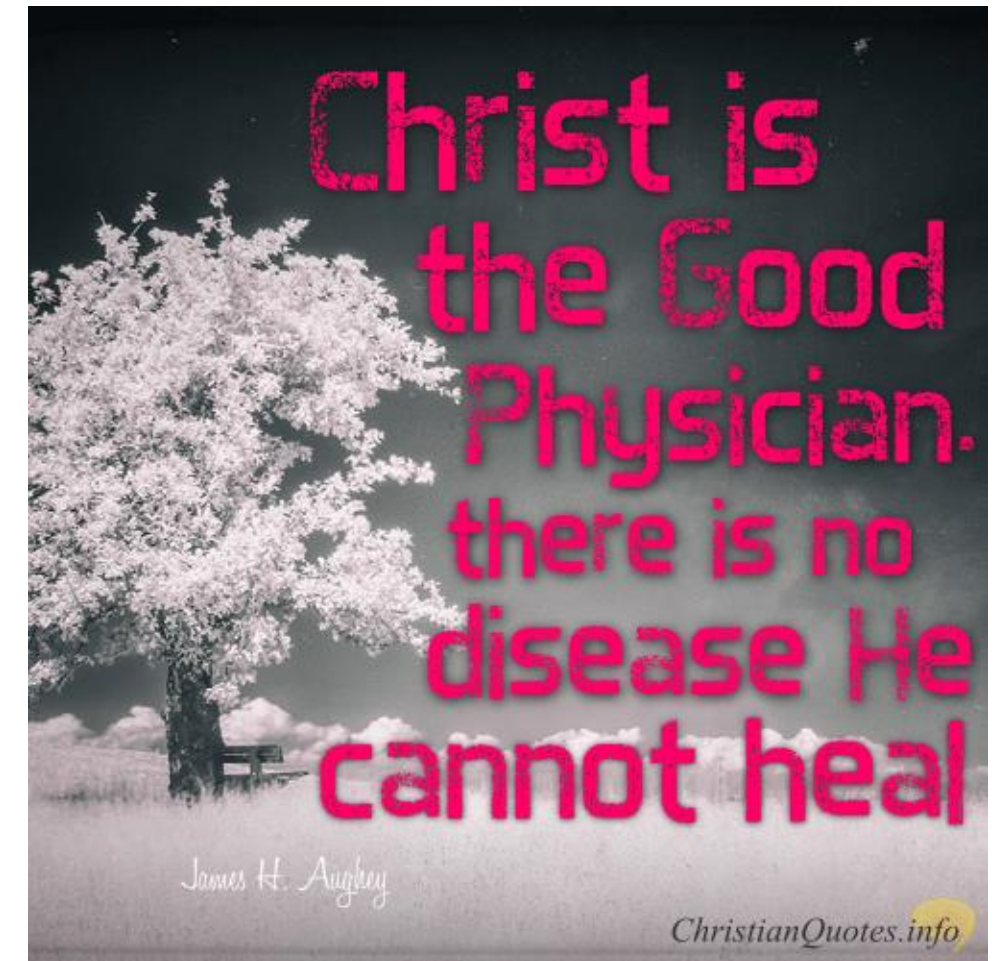
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First Congregational Church



September 8, 2024

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Healer of Our Every Ill*
Marty Haugen/arr. Mark Hayes
Children of the Heavenly Father
Arr. Brenda Portman

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*
Music by Ken Medema/ setting by John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

P: Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

L: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

P: Lord, help us to work for you.

L: Lord, make us ready to serve.

**P: Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love.
AMEN.**

+HYMN O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing NCH #42

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Patient Lord, you know us so well. We are fascinated by healing and can talk all day about the miracles, but we do not understand the compassion of Christ. We often say, “Just heal us; or Just make me rich; or Just make things go better at work” or other such deals and then we promise our faithfulness and witness. But in our hearts, we just don’t get it. Please forgive us, Lord, when our greed and fear get in the way of understanding. Help us to know the transformational power of your love. Get us ready to be faithful witnesses to you in all that we say and do. It is in Jesus’ Name that we pray. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SOLO *Keeper of the Stars*
Laura Story / Kyla Nesto, solo

THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Mark 7:24-37

MESSAGE

CALL TO PRAYER Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (3x)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

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 *Surely No One Can Be Safer* NCH #487
Lina Sandell / Swedish Folk Melody

+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 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy NCH #23

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE Sent Out in Jesus’ Name (insert)
Translation: Jorge Maldonado

POSTLUDE *The Solid Rock*
Setting by Marianne Kim/ TUNE: SOLID ROCK by William R. Bradbury

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 my father, Charles Matakaetis who passed 20 years ago by Rev. Charlene Bruce.

Serving the church today: Louise Zemina, Greeter, Roy Canon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker, Ushers. Russ Hinckley, , Chimes. Kyla Nesto, 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

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

Sent out in Jesus' Name,
our hands are ready now
to make the world a place
in which the Kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O, help us to obey,
and carry out your will.

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