



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

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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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First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



January 18, 2026

**The Second Sunday After
Epiphany**

January 18, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| PRELUDE | <i>Andante</i> <i>Cantilena</i> | Florence B. Price Florence B. Price |
| WELCOME | | Pastor Jeff |
| CENTERING MUSIC | <i>Deep River</i> Trad. Spiritual arr. Janet Linker & Jane McFadden Handbell Ensemble | |

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, and hear the word of the Lord: "Why do you long for the day of the Lord? It will be darkness, not light."

We come, not with empty rituals, but with hearts seeking truth.

The Lord says, "I despise your feasts; I take no delight in your assemblies."

We will not offer hollow songs or lifeless sacrifices.

Instead, let justice roll on like a river—

And righteousness like a mighty stream!

Come, let us worship the God who calls for truth in our hearts and justice in our lives.

We come to worship in spirit and in truth, ready to live as God's people in the world.

+HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* NCH#576

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.

We know we do not always live as we ought:

We turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves.

**We know we dim your light within us,
With our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control.**

We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again you call us back to you,

**back to love,
back to grace,
back to your light.**

Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.

**Wash away our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors
that stand in the way of our truly being
the people you have called us to be.**

**Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.**

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Imagine* John Lennon

John Danbury, solo

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Amos 5:18-24

THE MESSAGE "Not Long" Pastor Jeff

HYMN *Let Justice Flow like Streams* NCH#588

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 *I Dream a World*

Andre Thomas

+DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

NCH#593

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *O God of Love, O God of Peace (vs.1)* NCH#571

POSTLUDE *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

John Rosamond Johnson/organ arr. by Roger Lowe

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. welcome here!

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Meg Perkowski by her family.

Serving the church today: Ushers: Jeremy Phillips, Steve and Cathy Knight, Bruce and Kathy Ollodart; Chimes: Rick Voelker

Women's Breakfast: January 24 from 9 to 11am. Please come! See Lori Folk-Barron for details

January 27 Book Club: [My Friends](#) by Frederick Bachman

The Music Team will present the musical "**Oh, Jonah**" in May. Any children would like to be part of the production, please come to the music room after church or notify Jeanette (text 860-803-8745) or Kayla Perkowski. We will meet weekly on Sundays from 11:30-12:15.

A **beginners recorder** instruction group for 2nd grade up will start this week in the music room after church from 11:15 to 11:30. There are a few extra recorders for anyone who doesn't have one.

Rev. Jeffrey Birch, Minister

Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
(Vacant) Office Manager

Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton.

Sydney Holloway, Director Sunday School and Youth Ministries