

In Our Prayer

Michael May (recovering from surgery)**Tina Marcoux, in Hospice (niece of Dawn Charron)**Dawn Charron and family mourning the death of Fred Merrow**Those mourning the death of Ellen Jacke** Those who mourn the death of Diane Geiss**Gail Berlepsch (recovering from surgery)**Jeff Clay (progressive throat cancer, Tina Caldwell's brother in law)**Gladys Wells** Doug Jameson (friend of Bob Blakeslee)**Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)**Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)**Lucille Blakeslee (recovering from a stroke)Those mourning the death of Fran Rice** Pastor Rich (cancer)**Andrew (brain cancer)** Friends of Cynthia Bruestche** Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes**Those impacted by nature's fury** Tina Caldwell** Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend **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** Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)** Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)**Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)** Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes ** Cathy Kovi** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman**Janice Frey**David Lick** Beverly Lastig** Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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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



June 16, 2024

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST/FATHER'S DAY**

June 16, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in D Major*
Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *This Is My Father's World*
ENGLISH MELODY/setting Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is good to give thanks to God!

People: God knows our troubles and remembers our need. God looks at our hearts.

Leader: This infinite God cares for each of us, just as we are

People: In confidence we call upon you, knowing you will listen

Leader: God cares for each of us, even when others reject us.

People: We gather to glorify God's holy name.

+HYMN God of the Prophets NCH # 358

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

God of all ages, God of all people, God of all truth, who can stand before you? We judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts. We see what is on the surface, but you see beneath and in our hearts. Our outward appearance may not attract or even appear useful, but each one of us is created by you: unique, complete, valuable, and beautiful. We measure importance by world standards, but you find value among the lowly and insignificant. You offer us deep and profound joy of living in your realm while the world may overlook and reject us.

However, we forget your teaching and promises and turn to pursuing the world's attractions which separate us from you and separate us from your community. We ask for forgiveness and strength to find and pursue your right paths in our lives. Amen

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: I Samuel 15: 34-16:13

ANTHEM *Draw the Circle Wide*
Words and Music by Gordon Light/arr. Mark A. Miller

LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 4: 26-34

MESSAGE

HYMN Just As I Am NCH# 207

PRAYER 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 *Like As A Father*
Music by Luigi Cherubini/arr. Austin C. Lovelace

+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 We Live By Faith and Not by Sight NCH #256

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Now Go in Joy*
Caribbean Folk Melody/arr. Jorge Lockward

POSTLUDE *Toccata in F Major* Dietrich Buxtehude

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 mother, Ethel Matakaetis, by Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce.

Serving the church today: Roy Canon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker, Ushers. Debbie Clark, Chimes. Nancy Tipping, Liturgist.

We are off to a good start with our **Pledges**. As of June 12th **\$188,948** has been received from **91 Pledging Units**. That is an average pledge of Please be generous in your giving. Together, we are changing lives!

Pastor Meredith will be out of the office until Friday, July 5 and will return to the pulpit July 7. The Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce will be covering in case of emergencies. Please contact the church office and they will contact Charlene if you are in need of assistance. Rev. Bruce is preaching today and Rec. Eric Fjeldel will be our Guest Preacher June 23 and 30.

Today is **Scholarship Sunday**, when we recognize our FCC youth who have just graduated from high school or are about to do so. This year's scholarship recipients are Keri Allardice, Sydney Drumheller, Callie Shingler, and Erin Villano. Congratulations to the graduates, and we invite all to join us at coffee hour downstairs following the service for an ice cream social in their honor.

Today we offer our gratitude to the Chancel Choir who have served faithfully, enriching our worship Sunday mornings and Special Services. Many thanks to Tina Caldwell, Dawn Charron, Nancy Churma, Debbie Clark, Holly Francke, Ron Graziani, Marjie Martin, Sarah Mather, Paul Masi, Sandy McKenna, Nancy Tipping, Sandra Weekes, Jenn Wood, and of course Music Minister Jeanette Gross.



Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Acting Coordinator of Sunday School
and Youth Ministries