

## In Our Prayer

\*Dawn Cherron and family mourning the death of Fred Merrow\*\* Ellen Jacke\*\* 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)\*\*Diane Geiss\*\*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

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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[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)



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 2, 2024**

**Pride - Opening Doors!**

**June 2, 2024**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* arr. Gilbert Martin

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Canticle of the Tuning*  
Rory Cooney / arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Source of Life, in the beginning, you made us and called us beloved.

**P: When we forget how to love, you remind us we are beloved.**

L: When the powers of the world try to oppress us, you name us beloved.

**P: When our siblings in faith condemn us, you claim us: beloved.**

L: We are your beloved, so today we sing your praises.

**P: Praises to you, Source of Love!**

+HYMN I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty NCH # 50

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION (see insert)

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 27:1-2, 5, 10-14

<sup>1</sup> LIVING GOD is my light and my rescue.

Whom should I fear?

LIVING GOD is my life's refuge.

Whom should I dread?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers come at me to eat up my flesh—

my attackers and ill-wishers—they are the ones who stumble and fall! [. . .]

<sup>5</sup> For God shall conceal me in Their own hideout in times of trouble.

They tuck me away in Their own tent's secret place;

They set me high up on a rock. [. . .]

<sup>10</sup> When my father and my mother forsake me, LIVING GOD takes me in.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, LIVING GOD, and lead me on a smooth path,

on account of those who scrutinize me!

<sup>12</sup> Don't give me over to the will of my attackers, for false witnesses and those who breathe violence take their stand against me.

<sup>13</sup> If I did not believe that I would experience the goodness of LIVING GOD In the land of the living, where would I be?

<sup>14</sup> Hope in LIVING GOD!  
Be strong! Let your heart take courage!  
Hope in LIVING GOD!

ANTHEM *I Choose Love* Mark A. Miller

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Mark 3:20-35

MESSAGE

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Psalm 139* Allen Pote

+DOXOLOGY NCH # 779

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Christ, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;**

**One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+COMMUNION HYMN As We Gather at Your Table NCH #332

THE COMMUNION

*This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome! We receive first the bread and then the juice, please hold each so that we might partake together.*

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.**

+HYMN Love Astounding (insert) melody: Holy Manna

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *We Walk in Love*  
Deanna Witkowski & Lemuel Colon

POSTLUDE *Rigaudon* Andre Campa / arr. Virgil Fox

**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 with gratitude for the dedication of the Faith Formation Ministry and church school volunteers during this program year.

**Serving the church today:** Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Ushers. Bob Westervelt, Chimes. Holly Francke, Marjie Martin, Lori Folk-Barron, Bob Westervelt, Sacramental Ministers.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held **next Sunday, June 9** following worship. A light lunch will be served. We will receive Annual Reports, vote on a Budget, consider a motion to become an ONA Church, and elect Coordinators and Officers. Your voice counts.

We are off to a good start with our **Pledges**. So far **\$148,266** has been received from 64 Pledging Units. Please be generous in your giving. Together, we are changing lives!

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

## Prayer of Reflection

Voice A: Divine Creator, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness.

**We confess, O God, that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus.**

Voice B: We try to control the paths of those we love, deeming them “out of their minds” or unworthy of acceptance when they veer from our expectations for how they “should” be or whom they “should” love.

Voice C: Meanwhile, in moments of doubt, we have sometimes sought approval from those who do not understand our truth instead of finding solace in the chosen family you have blessed us with.

**Have mercy on us, O God, when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy on us, O God, when we have caused others to doubt your love**

Voice D: Forgive us for the moments we stand in our own way or in the way of others— dimming a God-given light, participating in the silencing of God-given voices.

Voice A: Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have allowed ego to overshadow our ability to extend solidarity and support to our most marginalized siblings.

Voice B: Like Esther, who risked her life to advocate for her people, help us to use whatever privilege or advantages we possess to uplift the voices of those who are vulnerable and oppressed.

Voice C: Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with our queer and trans siblings, even when doing so puts us at risk or challenges our comfort. In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises, O God.

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Voice D: Even if our earthly relationships falter, you remain steadfast in your love for us. Strengthen us with the knowledge that you will always take us in and hold us close, especially when we feel alone or misunderstood by those we hold dear.

**Help us, O God, to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be.**

Voice A: Give us courage to trust our belovedness even in a world that sometimes threatens to snuff out the life that has been breathed into us by God.

Voice B: Strengthen us to embody your love and courage in all that we do.

Voice C: Guide us to walk humbly, act justly, and extend grace and mercy to all whom we encounter.

**May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

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