



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@firstchurchwlfd.org (office)
 pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfd.org (pastor)
 gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)
 Website: 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:

<u>Vision</u>

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



THE CAVES OF LIFE

June 22, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

June 22, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)

PRELUDE Adagio from Symphony No.3 in C minor, Op.78

Camille Saint-Saens

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC Rhosymedre R. Vaughan Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: God is ready for us to seek what is eternal and lasting God wants us to find the truth beyond ourselves.
- P: Our spirits long for God, as a deer longs for water We cry out for some evidence of God's presence.
- L: God seldom comes as earthquake, wind, or fire Rather, in moments of sheer silence, God is revealed.
- P: We come in quiet expectation to this place of worship We approach the altar of God, hungering to be fed
- L: All are welcome here as one in faith and united in Christ Here is a place to find healing and promise.

ALL: Our hope is in God, who gives us life and identity
Our help is from God, who came to live among us and
after his ascension sent the Holy Spirit as our guide
and companion

+HYMN I Sing the Mighty Power of God NCH #12

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Almighty God, we confess that we have broken covenant with you, despised some of your children, and accused you of forgetting us. Our lives do not praise you, our actions deny you, and our work is caried out without reference to your will. We draw lines of distinction among ourselves rather than celebrating our common humanity. When we are zealous for the faith, we trample on others rather than learning to know and appreciate them. O God, forgive us and change us.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 19: 1-15

ANTHEM Within Us Flows a River Mark A. Miller Debbie Clark, recorder

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3: 23-29

THE MESSAGE The Caves of Life

HYMN "Thirsty Seekers" (see insert for words)

Tune Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? NCH #539

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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 Bridge Over Troubled Waters Paul Simon
+DOXOLOGY NCH #779

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN How Firm a Foundation NCH #407

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE Blessed Be the Tie That Binds NCH #393 (VS. 1 & 4)

POSTLUDE Tocatta Jan Sweelinck

Announcements

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Nancy Tipping, Liturgist. Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of my mother Ethel Matakaetis, by Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce.

Christmas Fair Kick Off Lunch - All are invited for a pasta and meatball lunch TODAY after church along with our usual coffee hour fare. Come enjoy Herb Knight meatballs carefully saved (frozen) since the fair. We will be eating together and scheming for a wonderful season of fellowship preparing for the fair.

SNEAKERS FOR SCOW - The Monthly Drives Team of the Mission & Outreach Ministry in partnership with the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) is collecting NEW sneakers for SCOW families in need. Prefer to make a monetary donation? Store gift cards (e.g., Walmart, Target, Kohl's) and other monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted the day of the drive or at any point before the drive. Sneakers will be collected on Saturday, July 19, 2025 - Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am. This is a drive-up, drop-off event at the rear of the church. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated! COMING SOON: A Sign-Up Genius link with a list of shoes that are needed, giving you the chance to sign up for a particular shoe. The link will be provided in a future email. Questions? Please contact David Wells at detawells@sbcglobal.net or 203-599-5422.

Pastor Meredith will be on vacation June 9 – June 30. In case of emergency or pastoral need, please contact the church office or the Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce.

Today we welcome our own Charlene Bruce will lead us in worship today and on June 29.

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

Thirsty Seekers Lavon Bayler

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Thirsty, cast down souls will seek you, Troubled ones will call your name. God, we summon you for rescue; Come among us, make your claim.

In the silence, you are speaking,
As we wait for you in prayer.
When your families are seeking
Common ground, we find you there.

When we live with fears, you claim us.
When our doubts exceed our trust,
You are present with your counsel;
You are faithful, you are just.

With steadfast love, you claim us When we dare to stand alone. With the baptized saints, you name us, Calling us to be your own.

God, our helper, hear our praises
When your Spirit sets us free.
Listen as your church now raises
Tributes to your sovereignty.

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