

In Our Prayer

Michael May (recovering from surgery)**Those mourning the death of Tina Marcoux, (niece of Dawn Charron)**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** 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**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 30, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

June 30, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *A Short Musical before the service.*

JONAH AND THE WHALE

by Grace Hawthorne & Sam Pottle/arr. Gregg Sewell

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: To you, O Lord I lift up my soul;

People: My God, I put my trust in you.

Leader: Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths.

People: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you I have trusted all day long.

+HYMN God is Here! As We Your People Meet NCH #70

INVOCATION (by Pastor)

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we gather this day knowing full well that nothing needs to separate us from your love, and yet, in the challenging and difficult moments of life we fail to trust in your sustaining presence. Instead of trusting in your wisdom and strength, we become foolish as we rely on ourselves to control the outcome. The result is often a bigger, more complicated and messier situation. In seeking forgiveness, we also ask for help recognizing when and where we turn away.

Continue to guide us that we may come to see that

your way is the way that leads to healing, hope, grace and mercy. Help us to use what you offer to help us trust you more fully in these challenging times that we may widen our circle of concern, compassion and inclusion. We ask this all in Jesus' name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I Corinthians 1: 18:-25

HYMN Spirit of the Living God NCH# 283

SERMON "Foolishness? You Decide" Rev. Eric Fjeldal

RESPONSE There's A Wideness in God's Mercy NCH# 23

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 *He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!*
Tune: William B. Bradbury / Setting, Greg Bottomley

+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 Called As Partners in Christ's Service NCH# 495

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Standing on the Promises*
Tune: Russell Kelso Carter / Setting, Greg Bottomley

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 to all members and friends who have served the Ministries in 2023-2024 and with positivity for the 2024-2025 year ahead!

Serving the church today: Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina, Ushers. Russ Hinckley, Chimes.

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.

Today we welcome Rev. Eric Fjeldal as our guest preacher. Rev. Eric Fjeldal is a retired United Methodist Pastor having served 43 years in the New York Annual Conference. Eric served the last 25 years of his ministry in Connecticut including 12 years as the Pastor of the Yalesville United Methodist Church, serving from 1997-2019. Rev. Fjeldal is still active serving on various United Methodist and community Boards. He has a deep passion for social justice ministries which empower those society calls "the lost, last and least." He frequently preaches in area churches and is looking forward to preaching at First Congregational in Wallingford. In his free time, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife, Renee' and his family, especially their two grandchildren.

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