



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:

<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



May 11, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025 ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light Tune: HOUSTON/arr. Robert Train Adams

WELCOME

Rev. Meredith Jeffers

CENTERING MUSIC

Stay with Us

Arr. Bernard Wayne Sanders

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

+HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH #28

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Powerful and Merciful God, you have blessed us abundantly, and we have complained. You have linked our lives with others, and we have abused their trust. We have despised our birthright and misused your blessing. We have left undone many tasks you have set before us, while pursuing passions and pleasures that have become our gods. We have staryed so far from the truth that we find truth hard to recognize. We are sinners with no place to turn but your compassion and grace. We ask for forgiveness, and strength to lead a new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry Arr. John Ylvisaker Meditation on PROMISE

ARR./ Brenda Portman

LESSON FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 23

LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Acts 9:36-43

MESSAGE

+HYMN

God is My Shepherd

NCH #479

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

The Greatest is Love

Allen Pote

+DOXOLOGY

NCH #780

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN God Made From One Blood

NCH #427

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Carol Browning

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

Announcements

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Joan M. Smith by Virginia Smith.

A Blessed Mother's Day and Festival of the Christian Home!

In honor of Mother's Day, please give generously to **Blanket Sunday**, a ministry of Church World Service.

Our Beaumont Farms Spring Flower Sale fundraiser for the month of May is here. Bring the flyer to Beaumont and some of the proceeds will go to the church. We will also have a Mother's Day Flower Sale in Congregational Hall during coffee hour TODAY. Please support our church. Volunteers are appreciated for the Mother's Day Plant Sale, see Jolene Pope.

Enhance your spiritual well-being by participating in the Renewal Weekend from Footsteps in the Sand. Footsteps weekends are open to anyone seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. Men's Weekend May 16-18 & Women's Weekend May 30 - June 1.

FCC Scholarship Applications Are Open! FCC youth members who are graduating from high school this year and continuing their education this fall may apply for a scholarship from the church. The scholarship application has moved online. Scholarship applications are due by Monday, May 26th. Save the Date-Scholarship Sunday is June 15th!

Our church's **Bylaws** have been simplified and revised. An informational meeting will take place next Sunday, May 18 after worship in the Guild Room. Draft copies of the proposed new Bylaws are available in the Narthex and Congregational Hall. It is anticipated the revised Bylaws will be proposed at the Congregational Meeting on June 8.

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