

## In Our Prayers

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\*\* Fred Merrow (Dawn Charron's brother-in-law entering Hospice Care)\*\*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) \*\*A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer\*\* 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

Email: [officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org](mailto:officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org) (office)

[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 Wallingford, CT



**May 19, 2024**

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Catch the Spirit!**

May 19, 2024  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Holy Ground* Christopher Beatty

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Spirit of the Living God* Paul Sanchez, Jr.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: As we gather together in this place, let us strain our ears

to hear the rush of wind, the crackle pop of fire.

**P: We listen for your call, God of spirit and flame. We**

**our place in your unfolding creation.**

L: Rejoice, for God's spirit flows among us! Rejoice, for

today the church embraces transformation.

**P: In the midst of rebirth, we join our voices in praise! Let us worship God.**

+HYMN *On Pentecost They Gathered* NCH #272

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**God, you invite us to wonder. We confess that we find more comfort in the mundane. We lean into the familiar and treat the amazing as suspicious or even threatening. We long for a routine to keep us safe from pain, and we're willing to give up joy in exchange. Reshape our hearts for possibility, O God. Awaken our senses to your wondrous work in the world, and give us the courage and will to follow you.**

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

L: The psalmist writes, "O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**P: When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and

you renew the face of the ground."

**P: It is through this same creative, renewing Spirit that**

**we experience God's grace. We give thanks as**

**a renewed, forgiven people!**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

GIVING OF GIFTS AND PLEDGES

*You are invited to bring forward your weekly offerings and pledge cards for 2024-2025. You may also bring a birthday prayer of blessing for the church. If you would prefer to remain at your seat, an usher will come to you to receive your gifts.*

PRAYER OF BLESSING AND DEDICATION

ANTHEM *Great Are You Lord* Jason Ingram and David Leonard

Paul Masi, Sarah Mather, Jessie DePonte

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21

MESSAGE

CALL TO PRAYER *Spirit of the Living God* (2x)

NCH# 283

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.

ANTHEM  
Peter Scholtes

*One in the Spirit*

Debbie Clark, Director

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE

*Sent Out in Jesus Name*

Traditional Cuban/arr. Carmen Pena

POSTLUDE  
Sebastian Bach

Prelude in F Major Johann

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 our dad and pappy, James Folk Sr., on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday by Lori, Mike, Jillian and Thomas Barron.

**Serving the church today:** Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina, Ushers. Debbie Clark, Chimes. Steve Knight, Liturgist.

**We welcome Paul Masi** as Guest Organist this morning and **Debbie Clark** as Director while Music Minister Jeanette Gross is on vacation. Thanks to all the faithful musicians who lead us in worship this morning.



+1

**Holy Joe's Cafe** began on Pentecost Sunday in 2006 and today we celebrate our 18th Anniversary! We give

thanks for all of the support we have received over the years from our Church! Chaplain's 4's:  
 Chaplains+Coffee+Conversation=Connection  
 Please pray for the Chaplains and those they serve. +  
 Tom Jastermsky

\*\*Some portions of the Liturgy are from SanctifiedArt.org

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

regardless of age; race; culture; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; family configuration; economic circumstance; mental, physical, and emotional ability; and religious tradition.

Jesus Christ, in speaking to his disciples said this: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13: 34).

As current disciples of Jesus, we commit to maintain a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful involvement in the life of the church. His teachings of love and compassion call us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity, both within the sanctuary of this church and throughout the community in which we live and serve.

Diversity in our faith community is a gift from God which we celebrate. Guided by our Lord's wisdom, we offer an authentic and loving welcome to all who seek a relationship with God.

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**Proposed Open and Affirming Covenant**

The Open and Affirming (ONA) Team is excited to share the proposed ONA Covenant for our congregation. It has been approved by the Vision Board and is included below for the congregation's review. Today, following worship, we will gather in Congregational Hall to give everyone the opportunity to discuss the document and share their comments. A light lunch will be hosted, by the Stewardship and ONA Teams.

After considering your suggestions, the ONA Team will finalize the covenant and distribute it with other documents for the Annual Meeting, where a vote will take place to determine whether we will adopt the covenant and join the growing number of ONA congregations in the UCC.

Please read the draft carefully, and prayerfully consider its importance to our congregation. An ONA church is committed to not only welcome, but to also affirm the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in the life of our ministries and in our community.

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**Open and Affirming Covenant of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford**

We, the faith community of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, United Church of Christ, aspire to live by the wisdom of Christ's teachings. At the heart of our vision and mission is a commitment to inclusivity and acceptance. We welcome everyone

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