



The Spire

**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 uplift 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.



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 (office)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org

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

Jesus' 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 world 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, and we proclaim ourselves an Open and Affirming church.



OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

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A Message From the Interim Minister



When I was 9, a little girl named Nancy joined my third-grade class. She had long brown hair, sad brown eyes, and didn't speak much English. She seemed shy, but also curious. She had a tentative smile, but watched as we played on the playground. I wasn't quite sure how to include her and I wasn't quite sure where she had come from that she didn't speak English. My mom explained that she had come from an island called Cuba and that there was a crisis there and her family had to leave. I didn't really understand why she had to leave Cuba, but I did understand I wanted her to know I was glad she was here and I wanted to be her friend. And so we had a "playdate" one day where we played with dolls, something I never did, but she always did. It was the beginning of her learning English and me learning to welcome a stranger. As Nancy made more friends and learned English, we didn't really see each other that much, but as we were graduating from high school, Nancy sought me out and said, "You know, you were my first friend. Thank you for welcoming me. I will never forget that."

Jesus' imperative to welcome the stranger has stayed with me throughout my life. In a broken world, welcoming the stranger seems more important than ever. As many of you know, almost a year ago I was asked by IRIS, Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services to help settle a refugee family in the Meriden/Wallingford area. I said yes. Since then, a group we call Starfish has formed. We are from 7 faith communities in the Meriden/Wallingford area who all feel called to welcome the stranger. FCC has three of us working on Refugee Resettlement. You are invited to join us in extending a welcome and working toward peace.

Friday, a family here on an SIV Visa landed at Bradley Airport. SIV Visas are granted to Afghanis who worked alongside American military during the Afghanistan War. Remaining in Afghanistan puts their lives at risk and so many of them have chosen to go through an arduous screening process to leave Afghanistan and start a new life in the United States with their families. The family we welcomed on Friday are here on what is called a Special Immigrant Visa. They are here legally and are on a path to citizenship.

We are welcoming a family of four. The family consists of a husband, wife and their two children. The boy is 12 and the girl 10. They are beautiful and spirited. We hope they will start school next week. The husband is relatively fluent in English and has high hopes for creating a new and wonderful life for his family. He has some challenges as he is a paraplegic and uses a motorized wheelchair. He is good with computers and hopes to begin to study Computer Science. The wife is just starting to learn English. She is a loving caretaker of her family and is a great cook. They have only been here a few days and already we have shared three meals. Hospitality is very important to this family and their culture. While we welcome them, they also welcome us with grace, warmth, and good food. Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger.

Do you feel called to be a part of our welcome? Speak to Charlene Bruce, Lauren DeNisco or me to join the Starfish Team.

A Message from the Moderators

In our respective tenures as co-moderators of this congregation, we have encountered questions that neither of us recall being a part of the job description. Some are joyful: “We received a generous donation. How do we use it in an uplifting way?” Others are stressful but have a relatively mild lasting effect: “Do we cancel services when we know that there is a 50/50 chance that the meteorologists are right?” Others are significantly more momentous: “How long should we keep the church closed in a global pandemic? When can we worship together without masks? How do we figure out what to do with the Meetinghouse?”

More recently, in light of various executive orders within the federal government, we, Pastor Meredith, and the entire Vision Board have been faced with challenging questions that risk poking the elephant in the room: POLITICS. For example, federal policies related to immigration have caused questions to bubble up from the congregation and from the church staff. These questions include: What should we (staff and congregation) do if ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents come to the church, request entry, and pose questions to staff, members, or visitors? While some may think it alarmist to broach the question, others find it imprudent to ignore the matter. Having an informed plan that prepares our staff with guidelines seems reasonable. Thankfully, the Southern New England Conference of the UCC has provided some guidance, and the Vision Board continues to prepare an appropriate response to this question.

We do not raise this particular matter in our message this month to stir a political debate about policies. Rather, we raise this to share what the overwhelming and uplifting consensus of the Vision Board has been. When we have discussed these matters, comments have focused on the fierce belief that, as Christians, the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ form the foundation of our responses to the world and all that we do. When we, as a church, are faced with these challenging questions, we first and foremost ask: What did Jesus teach us to do? What would Jesus himself do? We turn to scriptures like these to be our beacon as we attempt to lead this congregation and lead the life we are called as Christians to lead:

Matthew 22: 34-40 When the Pharisees heard that he (Jesus) had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 25: 37-40, 45 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ 45 Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

During these challenging times when poking the political elephant risks reactivity, defensiveness, and separation, we hope and pray that this church family can approach each other and the world with grace, compassion, peace, and LOVE, guided by the light of Jesus Christ in our lives. Look into one another eyes and see the light of Christ that connects us. Reflect on Christ’s teachings and let his love, which has saved us all, be the light we send out into the world.

With the grace and peace of Christ,

Lori Folk-Barron and Greg Whitehouse, Co-Moderators

Message from the Minister of Music



Many thanks to all who participated in Holy Week Services. The ukulele Lenten workshop group made its debut appearance at the Good Friday noon service. They did an incredible job strumming away. Special thanks to all the singers who participated in the various choirs throughout the Lenten season and Holy Week.

Sunday, May 4 is a special day in the life of the church as we celebrate the 350th year of the founding of our church. You may be interested in knowing that there were no instruments in the church at that time (1675). At first there were singing schools, they were held in people's homes. For young people these schools were popular because there the young men and women could meet with each other.

The only instrument allowed was a violone (or string bass). The singing was done by the lining out method, i.e. a solo leader sang a line of a song, and the congregation repeated it. There were no hymnbooks.

The first organ in the church was operated by a water hydraulic system. Remember there was not yet electricity. I will write about the organs in our church over the years in a subsequent paper. You will hear about the fires that happened in the sanctuary which had a great impact on the organ.

The service on May 4 will reflect the hymns from one of the earliest sung in the service to more modern ones. Susan Phipps has orchestrated the design of this Birthday service which flows from the past to present showcasing highlights along the way.

Sunday, May 18 is the last day of church school for the season. Look for a special music event involving children.

TAKE NOTE: In the months of May and June—dates yet to be identified, there will be a couple of gatherings of ukulele players. The goal is to come together under a known ukulele leader and play songs together. Most likely they will be a mixture of folk songs and popular songs of the past. It will be a party atmosphere with food.

FUTURE MUSICAL EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

The summer months are a good time to try out your musical specialty in the service—singing, playing an instrument. But there will be no karaoke options. Talk with Jeanette if you would like to spread your wings—no age limit.

There is a possibility of a children's musical. I know that many parents must plan summer care for their children. I will be working out the logistics.



Sunday School & Youth Group students and families,

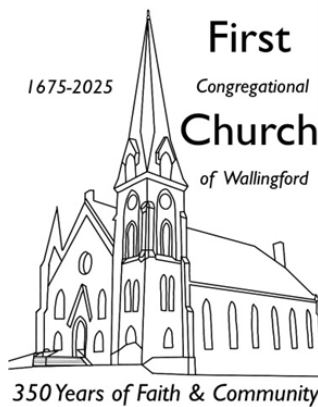
As we dive into May, there are a few reminders for everyone. First and foremost, the official last day of Sunday School will be **Sunday May 18th**. To celebrate the end of a wonderful year and all that our students have accomplished, we will be hosting an ice cream social, directly following church school. We encourage students, families and friends to stay after church to socialize, have some ice cream and enjoy displays of work that our students have done throughout the year.

While it is sad to see such a meaningful, productive school year come to a close, the faith formation team is excited to be planning our 2025 Summer Sunday School Program. More information will be sent out shortly. If you, or anyone you know is interested in volunteering for one Sunday to help us teach a lesson, please reach out to Madison Torre at fccwfaithformation@gmail.com for more information. Any and all help is greatly appreciated, as it allows different members of our church community to interact with our students and provide them support and guidance as they grow into their faith. With more lighthearted, themed lessons, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

The final date for Youth Group is also Sunday **May 18th**. We will be hosting youth group at our church from 12-3 pm, after the conclusion of our ice cream social. This meeting will include outdoor games, reflection of the school year, and loads of fun! Please have students dress accordingly to be outside (weather permitting). If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Madison Torre at fccwfaithformation@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Madison Torre & Faith Formation



Join the 350th “Voices of Devotion” Project!

By now, you have heard that one of the many ways we will be celebrating the 350th Anniversary of First Congregational Church in 2025 is with the “Voices of Devotion” Project. Modeled after the Upper Room devotionals that many of us use for our daily devotional time, we are seeking devotionals written by past, present and (hopefully) future members and friends of FCC. With the start of 2025, we have begun to share submitted devotions on a weekly basis via email, and we intend to publish all of the devotions in booklet form at the end of the anniversary year.

Some may find the idea of writing a public devotional to be intimidating, but we want to remind you that the purpose of this project is to celebrate the many voices that have worshipped God at First Congregational Church. We are looking for YOU, the heart, soul, and history of FCC, to lend your voice and offer a devotion that speaks from your heart. Write about an experience, large or small, that told you God is near. Write about an event, a memory, a trial, a person, a meaningful piece of scripture - anything that brought your heart closer to God or reminded you that the Holy Spirit was and is a force in your life.

To create your devotional: Choose a Bible scripture that speaks to you or connects to the story you have to tell. Describe your story and how you apply this story and its spiritual truth to your life. How do you hope others might apply it to theirs?

We pray you say YES to participating in this project. Please use the attached form to submit your devotion. The “Voices of Devotion” team members will confirm the receipt of your submission. If you have submitted your devotion and did not receive confirmation or received a “rejected email message,” please assume we have not received it, and contact us at fcc350devotionproject@googlegroups.com or at lorifolkbarron@gmail.com. You can also enter your devotional using the Google sheet at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr6UXLI8h8weoxhhyoG23cKxWF0DXRDi_4z-2oGzq-b84lcQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

We are accepting submissions on a rolling basis. Please feel free to submit more than one devotional if you have more than one story to tell!

With joyful voices,

Lori Folk-Barron, Bernie Annunziata, Marsha Mather, and Bob Westervelt

“Voices of Devotion” Submission

Name: _____
(as you wish it to appear in the devotional booklet)

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____

Quoted Scripture: _____

Quoted Scripture Citation: (e.g., Jeremiah 29:11-14) _____

Devotional Text: (up to 500 words) *Please handwritten or type below or attach separate page.*

Prayer:

Please submit devotional by

- Email to fcc350devotionproject@googlegroups.com
- Use this Google sheet link to enter your devotion directly
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr6UXLI8h8weoxhhyoG23cKxWF0DXRDi_4z-2oGzq-b84lcQ/viewform?usp=pp_url
- Mail to “Voices of Devotion” Project, First Congregational Church, 23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492.



Our Spring Rummage Sale is back on the calendar for Thursday through Saturday, MAY 1-3rd! Hopefully during our cold winter months, you have had a chance to clean out some closets and basements. If you set things aside, now is the time to donate them for our sale. It is **absolutely CRUCIAL** that you **DO NOT START TO DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 21st...THE DAY AFTER EASTER**. Storage space is extremely limited.

Some reminders:

We accept gently used clothing, linens, shoes, pocketbooks, coats, puzzles, kids toys, stuffed animals, fabric, yarn, and small household items.

PLEASE – NO FURNITURE CAN BE ACCEPTED

1. **HOURS OF THE SALE:** Thursday, May 1st and Friday, May 2nd 4:00 – 7:00 pm; Saturday, May 3rd – 9:00 a.m. to noon
2. **Help is needed as follows:**
 - a. Setting up tables on Sunday, April 27th in Congregational Hall at 11:30 a.m.
 - b. Sorting donated items from Monday, April 28th through Thursday, May 1st from 9:00 a.m. to noon and then 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
 - c. Working the sale floor whenever available those 3 days.
 - d. Breaking down the sale on Saturday, May 3rd at noon.
 - e. **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK** – great fellowship and camaraderie while working and helping others! Let's put a smile on all our faces!!
 - If interested in donating your time, please call Bernie Annunziata at 203-415-9809.

THANK YOU!!

First Congregational Church of Wallingford

2025 Spring Fundraiser



at Beaumont Farms

*All annuals, perennials
and decorations will be included.*

945 E. Center Street, Wallingford, CT

Hours: Monday - Saturday 9-6

Sunday 9-5

Charge, Checks or Cash accepted

Support our Church!!!

*Bring this flyer in for
the month of May
or show it on your phone,
and a portion of the
sales will be given to our church.*

*There will also be a sale of
hanging plants, flowers, vegetables and pollinators
after church on Mother's Day in Congregational Hall*



May Monthly Mission Drive

**First Congregational Church
23 S. Main St., Wallingford**



Cereal Drive

The Monthly Drives Team of the Mission & Outreach Ministry is collecting cereal items to donate to Master's Manna.

**** Due to allergies NO NUT products ****

Prefer to make a monetary donation? Store gift cards and other monetary donations will also be happily accepted the day of the drive or at any point before the drive.

Cereal donations will be collected on:

Date: Saturday, May 17, 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!

If you have questions, please contact Louise Zemina at 203-988-2517 or email her at louisezem@aol.com

Stewardship Team - 2025



Imagining, together, a world made whole is the first step.

Once we imagine it, we can believe it.

Once we believe it, we can work for it.

Imagine the impact we can make, together, as you prayerfully consider your pledge commitment for the 2025-2026 church program year.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE NOTICE



As part of our 350th year anniversary celebration the First Congregational Church is planning to march as a group in the 2025 Wallingford Memorial Day Parade. You can either meet us at the church at 8:30 a.m. on Monday May 26th and we will walk up to Dutton Park as a group or you can be dropped off at Dutton Park at 8:50. There is a brief service at Dutton Park which starts at 9:00 a.m. and then the parade begins from Dutton Park and ends at the Town Hall. We will be carrying the Church Banner and a banner honoring all Wallingford residents who have given their lives in service to our country. We will have some light refreshments available at church after the parade. Please contact Greg Whitehouse at 203-909-1027 or gkwhitehouse@snet.net if you are planning to march. ***Please wear your First Congregational Church T- shirt if you have one.***

Book Club News



The May book is "The Sweet Hereafter " by Russell Banks.

Please join us on Tuesday May 27 at 6:30 in the Guild Room to discuss this book of "compelling moral suspense," (LA Times book review.)

Bring Back the Pollinators



Join Nancy Tipping, Xerces Society Ambassador, to learn about native bees, their life history, threats, and what you can do to help these important pollinators. The Xerces Society is a nationwide non-profit that works to protect the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats.

Sunday
June 1
Congregation Hall
11:30



Blanket Sunday

On May 11, we will continue to the tradition of collecting funds to purchase blankets through Church World Service. In 2023, 32,785 blankets were shipped to provide comfort and warmth to refugees, the homeless, and survivors of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. \$10 buys a blanket that can save a life! \$60 buys a Blanket Bundle. \$300 buys a case of 30. Be a part of the movement to Blanket the World With Love!



How will you serve?



It takes everyone for our Church's Vision and Mission to become real.

Since we are approaching the end of our program year and our annual meeting, please consider, prayerfully, how you would enjoy being involved in and/or supporting our work for the next year. Are you feeling the nudge to serve (or continue to serve) as a coordinator or a team member within a ministry or a specific team?

Please send me an email, call, text or speak to me so I will know your thoughts. lorraine.westervelt@gmail.com 203-257-6964



**Call to The Annual Meeting
June 8, 2025**

To the members of The First Congregational Church of Wallingford, Connecticut: Notice is hereby given of the 349th Annual Meeting of the Church to be held Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 11:15 a.m. via hybrid meeting, both in person in Congregational Hall and via Zoom. A detailed agenda for the meeting will be provided to the congregation in early May.

*Lori Folk-Barron and Greg Whitehouse
Co-Moderators*



**Youth Mission Trip
Scranton, PA
July 20-26, 2025**

Youth (going into ninth grade next year through age 20) interested in going on this mission trip should speak with Maddie Torre or Lorraine Westervelt.

A Gift for You!

Christian Renewal Weekend

Men's May 16-18 or Women's May 30-June 2



Does a spiritual boost sound good?

Enjoy a **Renewal Weekend** presented by **Footsteps in the Sand**.

Footsteps Weekends are conducted by a team of 21 volunteers including two pastors. Everyone from our church who has attended a weekend felt blessed by the experience and some are serving on the teams for the upcoming weekends.

If you would like to know more visit: Footsteps-Sand.org or contact
Bob (203-218-9537) and Lorraine (203-257-6964) Westervelt



A Message from the Flower Team

Thank you to all who sponsored memorial flowers this Easter season! We also extend our gratitude to Joe Geremia and Geremia Farms who again donated many beautiful spring flowers that enhanced the beauty of our Easter worship service.

We thank our altar flower sponsors for supporting this ministry on a weekly basis. In looking ahead to the summer months, we are in need of sponsors for these dates: **July 13th, July 20th, August 10th, and August 17th.**

Due to increases in their costs, Wallingford Flower Shoppe will be increasing the price of altar flower arrangements for the first time since November 2019. As of May 1st, altar flower sponsors will be charged \$50 for one large arrangement or \$50 for two smaller arrangements. If you have signed up to sponsor flowers after May 1 and this price increase alters your ability to do so, please contact the church office.

Direct donations to the Flower Fund are always appreciated to allow us to place flowers on the altar on those weeks when we do not have sponsors, to help provide holiday flowers to our homebound members, to provide flowers to our baptismal families, and for special occasions, such as placing palm plants in the chancel on Palm Sunday. Thank you!



Welcome Our New Members!!

Kristian Charron

Kristian was baptized at FCC when he was nine. He joins the church by Profession of Faith. Has been coming to the church with his Nana and has been a part of many church activities and has served the church by unlocking the church and preparing for worship on Sundays. He is 16 and a sophomore in high school. Kristian describes himself as kind, loyal, and hands-on. He will be moving to Rhode Island this summer where he hopes to find a new church home to be with him as he grows in faith.

Jenn Hally has been a member of an MCC Church for many years, but as her son Ben grew, Jen was seeking a church with an active Sunday school to help raise Ben in the Christian faith. After checking us out, she felt welcome here and has participated in various activities and events. She has become active in the Women's Fellowship Breakfast, where her teaching and leading skills have been recognized and appreciated. Jenn teaches at Quinnipiac University and works for the Department of Labor.

Yvonne Ortiz is a relatively new participant at First Church. She is also a newlywed, having married her long-term partner, Jackie Wadelin here at First Church on March 23. It was a joyful day. Yvonne came to church at Jackie's invitation and attends worship almost every Sunday as well as participating in the Tuesday night Bible study. Yvonne really enjoys learning more about her faith. We look forward to being on that journey with her.

Rich and Gina Besitka We first met Gina when she came to the church, looking for a place to get married to her then fiancé Rich. They began premarital sessions in preparation for their wedding last August.

They celebrated a beautiful wedding in our Sanctuary on Richard's birthday surrounded by family and friends. Gina has a history of involvement in the Catholic Church where she has enjoyed attending worship and teaching catechism. For much of the last year, Rich and Gina have attended both churches and will continue to be one of our "two church couples." The Besitkas have gotten active in many activities here such as the church fair, making eggs, and delivering meals at the holidays.

Kim Mansfield First started coming to church after attending a Baptism Reunion almost 2 years ago. She attends with three generations of her family. Kim, her 2 daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren. As a family, they attend many church events and help at others. Kim has found a home at First Church and we are glad to have Kim and her family with us.



We baptize in the name of God the Father, who is our Creator; Jesus Christ, God's Son, who is our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, who is our Sustainer. In Baptism we are claimed as God's own and God's beloved.

On April 27 we celebrated the Baptism of:

- **Carmen Albert Houde, son of Kaitlin and Albert Houde, born on December 24, 2025.**

Arts & Crafts Show

November 9, 2025

In Congregational Hall

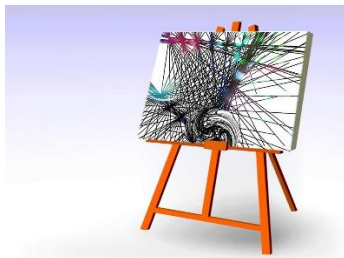
Exodus 35:31-32

And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze.

- This is the time to gather some wonderful artwork to display in the church art show! “Art” includes photography projects, craft projects, etc.
- This is a multi-generational display of our congregation’s artwork for our 350th celebration year!! Please invite your family & friends are welcome to show their artwork too!
- Drop off to a designated area of Congregational Hall on Sunday, Nov. 2 and the work will be on display on

Sunday, November 9th

- Pick up your art work on Monday, Nov. 10th between 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. or at coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 16th



I'm trying to give people time to create something or put things aside as artwork comes home with your children! Please label with family name & artist's name.

Questions? Please email Pam Perkowski at pperkowski@myhts-wallington.org



Congregational Care

We Would Like to Be There When You Need Us!

We would like to be there when you need us. Sometimes, things happen in life leading to someone needing special care – the loss of a loved one, a hospitalization, a nursing home stay, a prolonged illness, an unsettling life transition, becoming homebound... If you are in need of care or would like to be added to the Prayer List, please call Pastor Meredith at 914 255-1690 or the church office at 203 265-1691. They will share your request with the Visitation Team Coordinators Charlene Bruce and Cliff Castellano. If you would like to be a visitor and join the Visitation Team, contact Charlene at charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net or Cliff at cliffc45@yahoo.com

HELPING HANDS



As many of you may or may not know, we have been providing meals to some members of our church family, who through various circumstances, are receptive to having a meal delivered to them. If you know of someone in our church, who either on a short or long term basis, could benefit from a delicious dinner, please let us know. Also, if you wish to have your name added to our list of folks who have volunteered to make a meal, please let us know. We'd be happy to have you join us!

Helping Hands is just one of many "behind the scenes" groups within our congregation that provides comfort and support to our fellow brothers and sisters.

If there is a need or if you are willing to cook, please contact either Louise Zemina at 203-988-2517 or Bernie Annunziata at 203-415-9809.



Do you have a loved one, a friend, an acquaintance with health, family, personal issues? The Prayer Shawl ministry creates beautiful comforting shawls, lap robes, and blankets for you to give to your loved ones in need. There is always a selection appropriate for men, women, children, parents, caregivers. We have a variety of colors and sizes for you to give. Please ask one of the Care Team (Charlene Bruce, Cheryl Naski, Cliff Castellano, Joan Bushey and Ann Gygax), Pastor Meredith or Kathy Janis for a shawl. All are created by loving hands, blessed in our group and just waiting to give to someone in need of that loving touch, that reminder that they are cared for and cared about through whatever is going on in their lives.

We also create all the Baptismal blankets that are given to each child baptized in our church. Please consider asking for a special blanket for a child in need. Again, we have many sizes, colors and patterns for any child. Perhaps a parent who needs a Prayer Shawl and a special blanket for their child?

Please call or text Kathy Janis 203-376-1173 or email kathrynmjanis@gmail.com with any questions or requests.



The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the church, nevertheless the usher performs a major role in ensuring that people see and experience that.

People feel invited to serve the church through a welcoming ministry. The church usher duties can be summed up in a few words – making people feel welcome at church, assisting the Pastor with people management, assisting with seating, collecting offering and maintaining a safe environment. Currently, we have six rotating teams. Usher teams are only needed no more than once a month.

If you are interested in joining the ushering ministry, please contact Tony Annunziata at (203) 500-9542

First Congregational Church of
Wallingford
23 South Main St
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*The next Spire will be
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