

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@firstchurchwlfd.org (office)

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#### Be Still... A Message from Your Interim Pastor

I don't know about you, but lately the world has seemed very loud. Around me I have heard the booms of war, the shrieks of exhilaration at graduations and other celebrations, the moans of discontent as we engage a contentious political matchup, bubbles up of hope as small steps are made toward peace, and questions, questions, and more questions about human rights and our future as a society. Add to that the noise that comes from our anxiety about the future of the church. Some days, the world seems really loud.

Sometimes all of the noise is intriguing, stimulating, and challenging. Other days, it is too much. Lately, more often than not, the noise has been a bit overwhelming. Too often I have wondered how I might have a coherent useful thought. I am at that time of year when I need a break. I need a break from the noise to listen for the "still small voice" of God. (I Kings 19:12) Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." What does that mean? As an Interim Pastor with a limited time to get things done, I have grown accustomed to focusing on productivity. But after 18 months of focusing on productivity, yours and mine, I think it is time to take a break. It is time to take a break, pause, and listen. Later in June, I will be doing just that, taking a break to rest, renew, play, and listen for that still small voice. I will be taking a break to be still and rediscover that God is God and that God is still speaking, with or without the noise.

I have been told activities really slow down at FCCW during the summer. Last summer they didn't as we had a new structure to roll out and explore. But having spent a year living into a new way of being church, I am hoping that this summer we can take a cumulative deep breath, rest, quiet the outside noise, listen for the voice of God, and allow God to be God. Are you able to be still? Are you open to listening for the voice of God? Are you open to God sightings on your summer sojourn?

Be still. And discover God anew.

Blessed Sabbath,

Pastor Meredith



Dear Members and Friends,

At the Annual Meeting on June 11, 2023, the Congregation approved a pilot implementation of a Ministry Team organizational structure. Immediately thereafter, the newly established Vision Board and elected coordinators for six Ministries (Worship, Faith Formation, Membership, Congregational Care, Mission and Outreach, and Administration) began to put this new structure into action. Each Ministry included five elected coordinators who provided oversight of multiple teams of volunteers that fulfilled the programs and ministries of the church according to our established core values and our Vision & Mission. The Vision Board, comprised of the elected church officers (Co-Moderators, Treasurer and Clerk), Pastor Meredith Jeffers, and Minister of Music, Jeanette Gross as an ex-officio members, and a coordinator from each of the six Ministries, met regularly to oversee and guide the Ministry model's implementation.

The early months of the new model involved many meetings, much organization, numerous communications, and the building of teams within each Ministry to ensure that the Mission of the church was being fulfilled. As you might imagine, change of this scope and implementation of a new organizational structure have been no easy tasks and have come with some growing pains. After the busyness of the Christmas season was behind us, the Vision Board was able to find time and space to begin a more formal review of the model. In February and March 2024, the Vision Board officers and all Ministry coordinators participated in a written evaluation of each individual Ministry as well as the Ministry model in general. Thanks to some wonderfully thoughtful responses from our dedicated coordinators, we gathered extremely helpful information about what's working, what's not working, and where there are opportunities to improve the functioning of our trial organizational model. We prepared a summary of the feedback and shared it with the Vision Board and the coordinators of each of the Ministries. Each Ministry and the Vision Board will continue to reflect on the feedback and refine our model to more effectively achieve God's mission in our congregation.

Sharing all of the detailed feedback here would be cumbersome, but we want to make you aware of some important general themes that emerged from the Ministry model evaluation:

- 1. Without exception, our Ministry coordinators expressed a need for more volunteers to serve as coordinators and members of various teams across the Ministries. We continue to seek your service, your creativity, and your passion to fulfill the work of the church. Please contact us or Pastor Meredith if you are being called and need help finding your place. Volunteers are especially sought in the Faith Formation Ministry to assist with the Christian Education of our children and youth. We fervently hope that those serving on all Teams in our six Ministries will continue to serve and help our church thrive and grow. Many hands make lighter the work!
- 2. Ongoing efforts are needed to improve communication within Ministries, across Ministries, and between Ministries and the congregation. Such efforts will be a high priority. Importantly, we want all members and friends to be aware that Vision Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend to learn more about the envisioning that is being done among leaders of the church.
- 3. Many coordinators supported extension of the trial period for an additional year so that we can continue to correct, refine and develop the Ministry model. As a result, on May 6, 2024, the Vision Board voted to recommend to the Congregation that the trial period for the Ministry model be extended through June 30, 2025. This recommendation has been placed on this year's Annual Meeting agenda for Congregational vote.

We appreciate the support of the Congregation as we have trialed this new organizational structure. Did we get everything right? No. Are there aspects of our new organizational model that need refining and tweaking? Absolutely yes. Do people continue to be motivated to see what this model can become? Definitely yes. Do we need continued and expanded volunteerism to make it work? That is a loud and resounding, YES! Please reach out to us about how you can be a part of change and growth here at First Congregational.

## Message from the Minister of Music



#### **CHOIR SUMMER BREAK/ MUSICIANS NEEDED FOR SUMMER**

Music does not stop in the summer months. The Chancel choir officially sings its last regularly scheduled service on Sunday, June 16 (Fathers' Day). There are eleven Sundays starting June 23 to be filled with musicians of any age---solos, duets or small ensembles. I have started scheduling people. See me if you are interested or I will find you. This is a wonderful opportunity to try your wings. I will rehearse with you and help you.

#### **CHORAL SERMON SUMMER ADVANCED REHEARSALS**

The choral sermon by Pepper Choplin is based on The Lord's Prayer. It will be presented this year on Sunday, November 17, 2024. Summer rehearsals to get a jump start on this work will be held Wednesdays June 21, July 31, and August 21 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the music room.

#### MUSICATION ORGAN STUDY FOR CHILDREN August 19-August 22 from 10-12 noon

This is an opportunity for children in rising grades 3-8 to learn how the organ works. There will be scientific experiments about sound, explorations of the parts of the organ and an opportunity to take apart an organ and put it together again. Also, you can try playing the two organs in the sanctuary.



#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024, 2:00 P.M. LESSONS AND CAROLS at ASHLAR VILLAGE

Please reserve on your calendar now. This service will take place in Auditoriums A, B, and C in Bridge House, Ashlar Village. The service is for all residents of Ashlar Village and their families and friends and everyone from First Congregational church and friends. There will be multiple choirs and instrumentalists.

#### 350 CELEBRATION (January 1-December 31, 2025) MUSIC PROGRAM (Oct. 2025)

I am pursuing having a big music celebration and am planning on the possibility of having a composition composed for this occasion. I want it to involve musicians from the varying generations in our congregation and use different styles of music found in our culture and church tradition. I am targeting the date of Friday, October 17 or Friday, October 24, 2025 for this performance.



June 2 Celebrating Pride

June 9 One in Spirit

**Annual Meeting following Worship** 



June 16 Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce, Preacher

June 23 Rev. Eric Fjeldal, Guest Preacher

June 30 Rev. Eric Fjeldal, Guest Preacher

## **Call to The Annual Meeting**



## June 9, 2024

To the members of The First Congregational Church of Wallingford, Connecticut: Notice is hereby given of the 348th Annual Meeting of the Church to be held Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 11:15 a.m. via hybrid meeting, both in person in Congregational Hall and via the Zoom application for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive Annual Reports from Ministers, Vision Board Officers, and Ministries and Teams of the Church;
- 2. To act upon any business arising from such reports;
- 3. Discussion and action regarding recommendation to <u>extend and refine</u> the pilot implementation of the proposed organizational structure with a Vision Board & Ministries of Teams for references in Article V IX of the By-Laws regarding the Council, Boards and Committees. During this pilot extension, which will run from July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2025, the Moderators and Treasurer will continue as the signatory authorities as authorized by a positive vote of the church members attending the Annual Meeting of the Church and also by authorizing the election of the Vision Board in lieu of the Council and the Administration Ministry functioning in lieu of the Board of Trustees;
- Discussion and action regarding the proposal to become an Open and Affirming congregation and to accept the Open and Affirming Covenant.
- 5. To act upon the Proposed Budget for July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025;
- 6. To receive the Report of the Nominating Team;
- 7. To elect Officeholders, Vision Board and Ministry Coordinators for 2024-2025;
- 8. To act upon such other matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Lori Folk-Barron and Greg Whitehouse Co-Moderators

#### **Welcome to Our Newest Members**



Millie Kabal, Gina Phillips, and Jackie Wadelin

It is a joy to welcome three new members to First Congregational Church. Millie Kabal, Gina Phillips, and Jackie Wadelin were received into membership April 28, 2024.

#### Millie Kabal

Millie came to the United States from Venezuela 25 years ago. She has three grown children, two sons and a daughter. Millie came to church after being invited by her friend Lori Fast-Minkema, another Early Childhood Educator. Millie started coming to First Congregational Church almost a year ago and has found the people to be kind and welcoming. She has enjoyed getting involved helping with different activities, attending Bible Study, and crafting in preparation for the Holiday Fair. In her "free" time, Millie enjoys hiking, cooking, time with family, and taking road trips with her dog.

#### **Gina Phillips**

Gina grew up attending Holy Trinity Church in Wallingford and a Christian Science Church in Meriden. She liked the small Sunday School during service at the Christian Science Church. They helped her feel more connected. When she got older and attended some baptisms at First Congregational Church as a guest, she liked how the children were invited up for a Children's Sermon before going off to Sunday School. That was part of what drew Gina and now husband, Bill, to get married at First Congregational Church in 2008. A few years later, their twins, Jeremy & Ryan, were baptized here. The Phillips have been attending services regularly for the past 6 years. Gina has served on the Faith Formation Team and taught Sunday School for the past 3 years, an extension of her gifts as 22 year veteran elementary teacher in the Wallingford schools. She has enjoyed helping at events such as Catch the Spirit Sunday, Grandma's Corner at the Christmas Fair, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and the Palm Cross Breakfast. I love the way First Congregational gives back to the community and I hope to continue to contribute to the Church's efforts to make a positive impact on others.

#### Jackie Wadelin

Jackie grew up at First Congregational Church of Wallingford and was active here with her mother and sister. She has fond memories of her time in the Middle School Youth Group. Her faith journey led her to explore other churches as she grew up, notably the Catholic Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church. A year and a half ago, Jackie felt called to return to her roots and was moved by the openness and inclusiveness of the church. She has enjoyed helping with behind the scenes work at ONA activities and has been active in the Bible Study. Jackie works as a Customer Service Representative. She enjoys gardening, sports, and is a "big" NY Sports fan



#### **Spring Reflection and Summer Updates from the Faith Formation Ministry**

Sunday School had a very exciting spring season to end our Church School year! The classes talked about Doubting Thomas, the Ascension, the Missions of Paul, and important females in the Bible. As this year comes to a close, we want to give a huge shout out to all of our teachers for their commitment to the kids! A big thank you to Kathy Wallace, Amanda Nesto, Gina Phillips, Lori Fast-Minkema, Jess Pereira, Jennifer Wood, Kirsten Hollingsworth, and Robin Davies. Youth Group also ended with excitement!

During the spring, the groups completed an escape room, played many games, and completed a photo scavenger hunt! As this year comes to a close, we want to give a huge shout out to our resource adults for the year! A big thank you to Robin Davies, Sarah Mather, Pam Perkowski, and Heidi Bonassar.

Looking ahead, we have a couple of updates! The Summer Sunday School program will run during church on the following dates: June 30th, July 14th, July 21st, July 28th, and August 4th. The theme will be Escape the Summer: How God Helps Us Through Puzzling Situations.

If you would like to be a teacher for one of those weeks, please let Kayla know! (It's all preplanned, you just get to be the instructor!) Also, we are looking for someone to take over the position of the Church School and Youth Group Lead. If you or someone you know would be interested in running Sunday School and Youth Group, please contact Robin Davies at dav111@snet.net . Or feel free to talk to Robin or Kayla at church!



Be Part of Our Summer Sunday School Program

for Students in Grades PreK - 8th Grade

## Join Us This Summer for

# Escape the Summer:

How God Helps Us Through Puzzling Situations

A program that runs during the church service!

It will be in Miss Amanda's room downstairs!





#### June is Pride Month

**Pride Month** is a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ culture, support their rights and reflect on the history of the LGBTQ+ movement in America and throughout the world. In last month's Spire the proposed Open and Affirming (ONA) Covenant was presented. We announced that church members will be voting at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, to accept the covenant and become an Open and Affirming congregation. How fitting that this vote will take place during Pride Month. The ONA Team encourages all members to attend and show your support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Please visit the ONA table in Congregational Hall after the 10:00 service to borrow a book, take a pride pin, or take a copy of one of the articles we have available.

#### **Highlighted books for Pride Month:**

- Raising LGBTQ Allies A Parent's Guide to Changing the Messages from the Playground by Chris Tompkins
- The ABCs of Diversity: Helping Kids (and Ourselves!) Embrace Our Differences by Carolyn B. Helsel & Y. Joy Harris-Smith
- The Savvy Ally A Guide for Becoming a Skilled LGBTQ+ Advocate by Jeannie Gainsburg

#### Watch for other Pride Month Announcements.

"Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7)

#### 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 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

## Church Community Garden

#### WALLINGFORD VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

1029-1097 E Center St, Wallingford, CT 06492

Dear Our First Congregational Church Members,

Spring is just around the corner, and we're excited to announce a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved and make a positive impact! Our church community garden will be in full bloom, and we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our gardening team.

#### Why Volunteer?

Nourish the Soul: Gardening is not just about planting seeds; it's about nurturing connections, fostering
growth, and creating a beautiful space for everyone to enjoy.

**Health Benefits:** Spending time outdoors, digging in the soil, and tending to plants can boost your physical and mental well-being.

Community Bonding: Working side by side with fellow church members strengthens our sense of community and shared purpose.

#### What Will You Do?

- Planting and Weeding: Help sow seeds, transplant seedlings, and keep our garden beds free from weeds.
- Watering and Pruning: Ensure our plants receive the love and care they need to thrive.
- Harvesting: Enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of your labor by harvesting fresh produce for our community.

How to Get Involved? Simply contact Tina Caldwell at the email below or sign up on the sheet posted in the church narthex. Let us know your availability, and we'll add you to our gardening team.

#### Bring:

- Gardening gloves
- Sun hat
- Water bottle
- Enthusiasm!

Together, we can cultivate beauty, share abundance, and grow deeper connections within our church family. Let's make our community garden a place of joy, reflection, and growth.

Thank you for being part of this green initiative!
Blessings, Tina Caldwell "Community Garden Team Lead".

For more information please email Tina.Caldwell520@gmail.com



## **Help Our Adorable Fluffy friends**



Please donate supplies for our drive for the Wallingford Animal Shelter at

23 South Main Street Wallingford CT
Saturday June 15 2024
9:00 AM-11.00 AM

Drive through at the rear of the Church, entrance on center Street

Accepting donations of old but clean towels, blankets sheets, comforters, cat litter, cat food dry and canned, cat and dog toys, Nyla bones for large dogs and laundry detergent

The animals on this flyer are from the animal shelter. If you are interested in adopting a pet you can find the info on their website or Facebook page Animals for adoption are listed on pet Finder.







### **Stewardship Generosity Update**

As of Generosity Sunday on May 19, we received 52 Pledges totaling \$134,636. That is an average pledge of \$2,589. Thank you!



## Please join us for a Ladies' Fellowship Breakfast

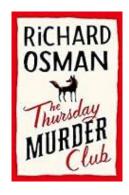
Saturday, June 22, 2024 9-11 AM

Location: TBD

Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a meal, scripture discussion, and fellowship.

RSVP to Lori Folk-Barron (lorifolkbarron@gmail.com or 203-314-9885) by Thursday, June 20th and let her know what breakfast item you plan to bring. Suggestions include juice, muffins, yogurt, fruit, banana bread, quiche, etc.

## Book Club News





"The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. Something fun for the end of our program year. The meeting will be on Tuesday, June 25 at 6:30pm in the Guild Room.

Don't forget to bring your book suggestions for next year. and let's chat about a possible summer read.



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 <a href="mailto:charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net">charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net</a> or Cliff at <a href="mailto:cliffc45@yahoo.com">cliffc45@yahoo.com</a>

## **Christian Renewal Weekend**

May 30 – June 2 for Women June 7 - 9 for Men

Could you use a spiritual boost? A Christian Renewal Weekend has been created to do just that. These Weekends have been crafted to help you draw closer to Jesus and feel inspired and empowered to come back to this church with renewed energy and enthusiasm to serve our Lord.

We are Footsteps in the Sand, a community of Christians from a number of churches in this area that seeks to bring people closer to Christ. Our mission is to develop people for the local church and encourage Christian action. This has been made all the more urgent as churches try to recover from three years of the pandemic.

Our non-denominational community has been holding retreats for over 40 years and more than 4,000 people in this area have attended, including people from First Congregational Church of Wallingford.

Footsteps Weekends are conducted by a team of 21 volunteers including two clergy. After attending a Weekend, people come back feeling renewed and energized to work with their pastor in serving their church.

If you would like to know more contact Bob or Lorraine Westervelt or go to our website Footsteps-Sand.org.



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.

### A Message from the Flower Team

We are in need of altar flower sponsors for these upcoming dates. Please sign up in the Narthex or email Lori (lorifolkbarron@gmail.com).

June 2 June 9 June 23 June 30 July 14 July 21 August 4 August 18

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. Thank you!



## **RUMMAGE SALE**



For over 65 years the rummage sale at our church has benefitted many individuals

in town, in the area, and countries beyond the United States. It's been a very firm, solid, and stable committed mission project that we can be grateful for and proud of.

This past spring rummage sale, I believe, broke all types of records regarding how much money we made for the church, how much rummage was donated, and how many people came to buy!! I'm submitting this note for the Spire on May 13th, and as of this past Sunday, May 12th, our total amount taken in for the 3 days is **\$4,842.69** with more on the way!!! It was a grandiose, fabulous sale with so many of you telling your family or friends to donate items or you donating clothes and household goods, your many volunteer hours to set up tables, sort, fold, and hang up everything, and/or your help working the days of the sale to try and keep everything neat in tidy piles, being a cashier or by welcoming all the people that came, and finally by being there to break everything down and clean the room!! A total church effort!!

I am truly grateful to <u>all of you</u> who played a part in making this rummage sale a wonderful success! Your helping hands and loving spirit were definitely on full display! Thank you so much!

In Christian love,

Bernie Annunziata



## 350th Anniversary Celebration Team

At the March 4, 2024 meeting, the Vision Board voted to establish that the 350th anniversary celebration of First Congregational Church of Wallingford will take place in the calendar year of 2025, or from January through December 2025. This was done to allow for additional planning time for our year of celebration!



Celebrations and activities to honor the 350th will be occurring throughout the year, and we need the assistance of many to celebrate this momentous year. Are you a party planner? Do you enjoy organizing fellowship activities? Do you have connections to other community organizations that might get involved in celebrating this church, OUR church, as an important member of and contributor to the community of Wallingford? We are looking for creative ideas, and we need you!



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 five 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

#### The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492 Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

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



**Matthew Tolokan** was baptized May 25, 2024. Matthew was born August 28, 2023. He is the son of Jill and Michael Tolokan and the brother of Caden Tolokan.

**Nora Michele Makepeace** was baptized May 26, 2024. Nora was born September 20,2023. She is the daughter of Conor and Alison Makepeace and the sister of Grant Makepeace.

Welcome to the newest members of Christ's Church!



Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Gwendolyn Simmons** who passed away May 7, 2024. She passed at home surrounded by family. A service celebrating her life was held at the Heritage Baptist Church.

First Congregational Church of Wallingford 23 South Main St Wallingford, CT 06492

The next Spire will be published in September 2024. Spire submission deadline for the September Issue is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Email the church office at: officemanager@firstchurchwlfd.org

