

23 South Main Street Wallingford, Connecticut 06492  
Phone: 203-265-1691 Fax: 203-265-0693  
Website: [www.firstchurchwlfld.org](http://www.firstchurchwlfld.org)

# THE SPIRE

*Hello from First Congregational Church*

In person services are back and will continue through the summer!

Every Sunday: 10am Family Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
First and Third Sunday of each month: 8am Communion Service in the  
Sanctuary

Ashlar Services will begin again as soon as we have permission from Ashlar's  
administration.

## **In-Person Service Announcement**

We have resumed our Family Worship Service every Sunday from 10-11am, and an additional  
Communion Sunday 8am Service!

These services will occur on the first and third Sunday each month starting in October thru December  
2021. The dates are as follows:

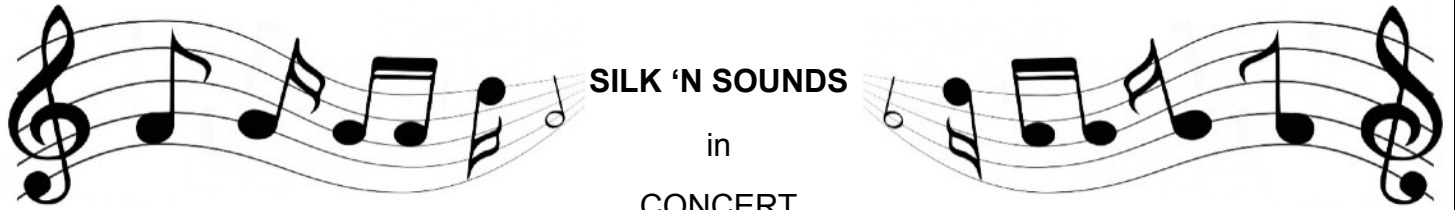
**Oct 17th, Nov 7th, Nov 21st, Dec 5th, and Dec 19th.**

We do ask that all members wear a mask **regardless of vaccination status** at this time. Please help us  
keep our community safe!

If you are not comfortable at an indoor gathering or wearing a mask, you're welcome to continue joining  
us via streaming or YouTube (links available on the First Church of Wallingford Facebook page and  
website).

The Diaconate also voted to continue with the pre-packaged elements through the ending of the year,  
and will revisit the schedule during their December meeting on Dec 13th to determine the schedule  
starting January 2022

**The Music Ministry *presents***



**SILK 'N SOUNDS**

in

**CONCERT**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021

Free will donation

Several of our church members make music not only with us, but also with other community groups. One such group is Silk 'n Sounds. We are featuring them in this upcoming concert. Debbie Clark and Holly Francke have been singing in this group for several years as well as holding down the fort in our Chancel Choir.

Silk n' Sounds is an auditioned acappella singing group of 30 plus women from the Greater New Haven Area. They sing in a barbershop style and have a broad repertoire of traditional and contemporary sounds. They regularly compete in national singing events. Check out their website.

Refreshments will be served in Congregational Hall.

## **MUSIC AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

We are moving ahead with rehearsals as we also stay in compliance with COVID limitations.

### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

Rehearsals are Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. Packets of music will be available for the upcoming weeks for all, especially those who are unable to come to rehearsals on Wednesdays. We will meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to finalize the Sunday music. New members are always welcome. You do not need to read music to sing with us.

### **ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR**

Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you can count, you can play. If you wish to join us, you are welcome. Please come on Thursdays or contact Jeanette Gross at 860-803-8745 or email at [gross7jeanette1@gmail.com](mailto:gross7jeanette1@gmail.com)

### **CHILDRENS MUSICAL GROUPS AND DRAMA**

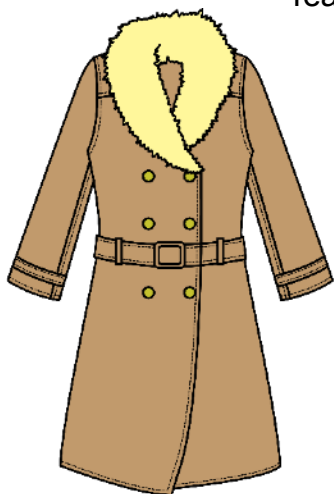
We are working on forming these groups. Plans will be announced soon.

**Jeanette**

## Clothing Drive to Benefit Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW)

This will be a drive through event to benefit the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) and local families who have immigrated to Wallingford from Ecuador. Gently used & new clothing for males & females of all ages would be a great help to these individuals & families who are settling in our community and are in need.

This drive is a collaboration between First Congregational Church's Vision & Mission Implementation Team, the Board of Community & World Service, and SCOW.  
Please enter from South Main Street.



**Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021**

**Time: 9:30 am to 11:00 am**

As always, your donations are greatly appreciated.



For questions, please contact Lori Folk-Barron at [lorifolkbarron@gmail.com](mailto:lorifolkbarron@gmail.com) or 203-314-9885.

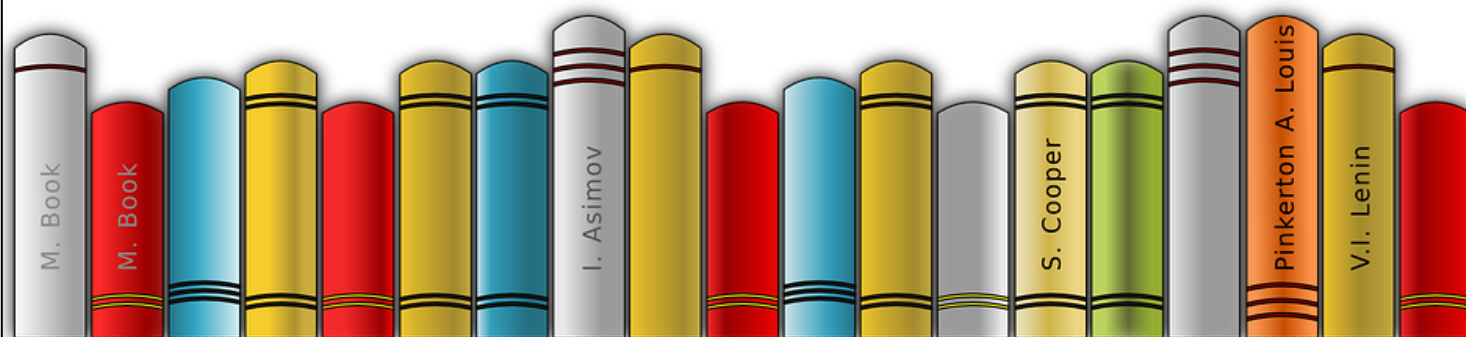
## Book Club

The Book Club will be resuming meetings!

This month's book is "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas.

**When: 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month**

**Where: The Guild Room**



## Tag Sale!

The church was able to participate in a Clean Up on September 25 to help refresh the church and sort through items for the Thrift Store and Tag Sale that were held on October 2. Thank you to all of our volunteers who spent the day with us to get our church ready as we begin to transition back to a full service and meeting schedule!

The church community came together again for our Tag Sale and Thrift Store during Celebrate on Center on October 2! Together with the people of Wallingford, we were able to sell most of our stock which is very exciting.

Everyone's efforts were much appreciated, and we are thrilled to let you know that our free will offering tag sale netted \$980.75 and our thrift store sales added \$146 for a wonderful total of \$1,126.75 for everyone's efforts.



## Family Life Golf Tournament

The 14th Almost-Annual First Congregational Church Family Life Golf Tournament in support of Breast Cancer Research is coming up!

The event on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> has 34 golfers signed up, 21 hole sponsors and five raffle prizes! Tim Keogh is donating the hole sponsor signs, and many other church members are sponsoring the rounds!

Pray for good weather!



## **Open and Affirming**

I hope everyone that attended our kick-off event on **Oct 3** enjoyed the presentation and lunch!

The committee is working hard to bring awareness to inclusivity at the church. We have several more ideas planned to continue to foster education and growth in areas of being welcoming to all!

Welcome Sandy McKenna to the committee! We're so happy to have you on board.

If anyone else is interested in helping in the open and affirming process, please contact Michele Tarantino at 203-228-7461



## **Pride Retreat at Silver Lake**

November 5-7, 2021

LGBTQIA+ and Ally 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Join a community of your peers for fun, laughter, connections, music, community, campfires, history, low ropes, arts and crafts, fashion shows, and discussion. This retreat is open to youth in grades 9 through 12, and is a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies to explore issues of identity and faith through a lens of progressive Christian values. All are welcome, regardless of faith identity or belief.

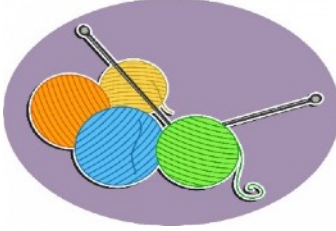
Learn more at [slcc@silverlakeect.org](mailto:slcc@silverlakeect.org)

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Do you have a loved one, a friend, an acquaintance with health, family, or personal issues? The Prayer Shawl ministry creates beautiful, comforting shawls, lap robes, and blankets for you to give to your loved ones in need. Please ask one of the deacons, Rev. Kathy or Kathy Janis for a shawl in one of our many colors and sizes. All items 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 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.

The prayer Shawl group meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Please consider joining us, we will teach you how to knit or crochet or help improve your skills. Please contact Kathy Janis at **203-376-1173** or **kathrymjanis@gmail.com** with any questions or requests.



### **Ushering Committee**

We need you!! Ushers needed.

If interested, please call the church office or Tony Annunziata at 203-500-9522.

### **Monday Morning Ministry**

Join us for Monday Morning Ministry from 9-12 for projects and fellowship.

If you have any questions, please call Tony Annunziata at 203-500-9542.

### **A Message from the Flower Committee**

- **Altar Flowers:** The traditional altar flower sign-up calendar has returned to the Narthex, and, thanks to everyone's wonderful support, the only openings left on the 2021 calendar are for December 19 & December 26! If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for the altar on these dates, please sign up in the Narthex, call the church office, or email Lori at [lorifolkbarron@gmail.com](mailto:lorifolkbarron@gmail.com). If you would like to add flowers to the pedestals on any remaining 2021 Sundays or if you have specific 2022 Sundays in mind for altar flowers, please email Lori.
- **Flower Fund Donations:** Donations to the Flower Fund are always appreciated! Such donations help with paying for altar flowers when specific sponsors are not available, for flowers offered during baptisms, for mowing the grass around the church, and for the purchase of various floral decorations at the holidays. Thank you for considering such a donation.
- **Christmas Wreath Sale:** Although there is no 2021 Christmas Fair, the Flower Committee will be proceeding with its annual Christmas Wreath sale to spread some holiday spirit and to raise funds for the church. The wreaths will be sold in November and made available for pick up in early December. Please watch the next Spire, the bulletin, Constant Contact emails, and online announcements for upcoming information on how to purchase wreaths.
- **Poinsettia for the Sanctuary:** With optimism, we look forward to being able to celebrate Christmas services in the sanctuary this year. The Flower Committee is planning on returning to its annual sale of memorial and honorary poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary just before Christmas. Please watch for order forms in the next Spire, the bulletin, Constant Contact and online announcements.

**Questions?** Please contact Lori at [lorifolkbarron@gmail.com](mailto:lorifolkbarron@gmail.com) or call the church office.

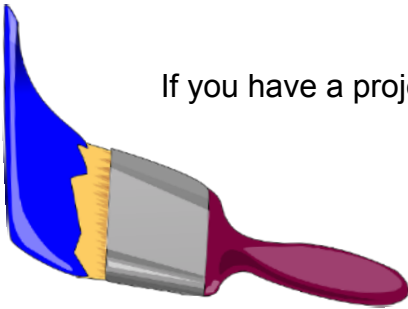


### Youth Group Helpers

If you have a project around the house that you need help with, consider having some of our church's youths help out!

Whether it's a burned-out lightbulb or help cleaning up the sticks in your yard after the storm, we're here to help!

If you have a project or questions, please contact Leslie Spiars at 203-600-8043



### Helping Hands

Can you lend a hand to help families dealing with medial issues or other challenges in these difficult times?

Join our list of folks willing to **cook a meal** for them! We'd love to hear from you soon. **The need is now!**

Thank you for volunteering to be a part of this home ministry!

Questions or looking to help?

Contact either Louise Zemina at 203-988-2517 or [louisezem@aol.com](mailto:louisezem@aol.com)  
or Bernie Annunziata at 203-415-9809 or [berniceja0907@gmail.com](mailto:berniceja0907@gmail.com)



## Vision and Mission Implementation Team

**Our 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.**

Guided by the teachings and compassion of Christ, our Vision and Mission Implementation Team has been actively working to bring our Mission to life within our church and community by facilitating collaboration both within and without the Church.

- We are celebrating a collaborative meeting with Council, the Board of Trustees, the Diaconate, and the Vision & Mission Team on September 7 where we shared ideas, hopes and plans for potential sanctuary renovations and upgrades that will support our Mission. Our next step is to seek input from a general contractor who can help us develop a prioritized proposal for these renovations that we can soon share with the congregation at large.
- We are continuing to assist the Board of Community and World Service with monthly supply drives to benefit people and organizations in our community. We had a successful "School is Back Snack Drive" to benefit Master's Manna on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Our next drive will be Saturday, October 16. We will be partnering with the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) for a gently used and new clothing drive. Stay tuned for more details and thank you for your generosity!
- We are striving to form partnerships with community organizations whose missions reflect and resonate with our own. For example, we will be learning about potential opportunities to work with the Wallingford Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and we are hoping to work with

the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) on volunteer projects. We will continue to educate ourselves about other Wallingford nonprofit organizations and seek ways to establish mutually supportive relationships that strengthen our community connections. If you are involved with a nonprofit in the community and would like to work on a collaborative project with First Congregational, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

- We are beginning to review the structure and organization of First Congregational Church's boards and committees to consider what is working and where there may be opportunity for growth and change that enhances our ability to live our Vision & Mission.

*Have any questions? Want to be a part of the Vision & Mission Implementation Team or help with certain projects? Contact the Vision & Mission Implementation Team at: [fcc-wallington-implementation-team@googlegroups.com](mailto:fcc-wallington-implementation-team@googlegroups.com)*

## **Message From the Moderators**

Well, the program year “hit the ground running” after an enjoyable and informative Catch the Spirit Sunday gathering on the Parade Ground. Lots of ideas are bubbling up from many sources, and it looks like there is something fun and interesting in which every member of the congregation can take part.

However, our pledge numbers are not in sync with our plans and enthusiasm, and we need your help. If you are a member of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, we must ask you to participate in supporting its financial needs if it is within your means. As awkward as it so often is to discuss money in a church setting, the fact remains that we have bills to pay.

The gifts of your time and talents are valuable beyond measure, and they are truly what fills our congregation with the Spirit that sustains us. It is also necessary to acknowledge, however, in a straightforward way: “No money. No church.” This is not a threat. It’s a guaranteed eventuality. The expression “God helps those who help themselves” is an ancient message that rings just as true today as when it was first uttered. He will watch over us if we watch over each other.

If you have been putting off your pledge, we would ask you to fulfill it now so the exciting plans we have can become reality. Perhaps you have not returned to church due to the pandemic or changes in your lives that have dictated a change in your weekly habits. If you have concerns of any kind regarding your participation, we stand ready and eager to resolve those issues. Please call or email us.

Over the past several years, there have been several convenient ways for you to fulfill your pledge almost automatically. All of those ways are described on the church website. If you have questions, reach out and we will assist in any way we can.

Let us close with an invitation and a promise: We invite you to participate in the life of this church in any way you see fit. What we promise is the joyous fulfillment of being part of a loving faith family that is striving daily to live out our new Vision and Mission.

Thank you to those who have made your pledge commitment. We ask those who have not as yet joined them to please consider this important decision.

**Steve and Lori**



## **First Congregational Church of Wallingford**

### **Important Upcoming Events**

You "Caught the Spirit" in September!  
Let's "Regather, Come Home, and Keep the Spirit Afire"  
with this Cornucopia of Fellowship Events this fall and holiday season!"

- **October 16, 2021 – Clothing Drive to Benefit SCOW**
  - This will be a drive through event from 9:30 AM to 11 AM to benefit the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) and local families who have immigrated to Wallingford from Ecuador. Gently used & new clothing for males & females of all ages would be a great help to these individuals & families who are settling in our community and are in need. This drive is a collaboration between First Congregational Church's Vision & Mission Implementation Team, the Board of Community & World Service, and SCOW.
  
- **October 22, 2021 – Silk'n Sounds in Concert in the Sanctuary**
  - 7 PM, Free and open to the public with reception to follow after the concert. A free will offering will be collected.
  
- **November 6, 2021 – All Church Regathering Dinner in Congregational Hall**
  - We'll have dinner, music (thanks to a special DJ) and dancing. Watch for ticket information and more details coming soon.
  
- **November 7, 2021 – Regather for A Pastries and Coffee Hour**
  - Regather after the All Saints Day service for pastries and coffee. Come visit with us, see the newly renovated Congregational Hall, hear about the ministries and projects going on in the church, and sign up for events.
  
- **November 20, 2021 - Thanksgiving Food Drive/Collection**
  - Gather your Thanksgiving food donations for local families. This will be a drive through/drop off event in the morning behind the Meetinghouse. Stay tuned for more details.
  
- **November 20, 2021 - Game Night for all ages!**
  - Bring your family (however you define it!) and have some fun sharing a meal (probably pizza and snacks) and enjoying some laughs together as we pull out our favorite board games. Likely start time will be 5:30 PM.
  
- **November 27, 2021 - Church Breakfast and Holiday Decorating**
  - At 9AM, join us for breakfast, Hanging of the Greens and decorating the Christmas tree. An all church event to ready the sanctuary for the Advent season.

First Congregational Church of  
Wallingford  
23 South Main St  
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### **First Church Worship and Study**

*The Spire is published  
monthly except summer by  
The First Congregational  
Church of Wallingford, CT.  
The deadline for Spire  
articles is the 15th of each  
month, September through  
June.*

*Email the church office at  
[firstchurchwfd@snet.net](mailto:firstchurchwfd@snet.net).*

## **Our Values, Mission, and Vision**

United in Christ we:

- Uplift Individuals
- Celebrate Shared Humanity
- Cultivate and Share a Community of Faith Among All Ages
- Pledge our Mutual Love and Support
- Walk Together in Service

Our 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.

Our 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 nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and