



First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT

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.

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The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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To make a gift to First Church

June 29, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 29, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ORDER OF WORSHIP
 + Please rise in body or in spirit
 NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)

PRELUDE *Elegy* Brenda Portman

WELCOME :

CENTERING MUSIC *I've Got Peace like a River*
 Brenda Portman

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Call to mind the mighty acts of God. Remember the wonders God has revealed in your life.

People: All the ways of God are holy. Nothing in heaven or earth is so great as God.

Leader: With a strong arm, God redeems the people. Day by day, God leads us with a shepherd's care.

People: Even when the earth trembles, God is with us. When lightning flashes, we are confident of God's care.

Leader: We have inherited the mission of the prophets. We need the prophet's mantle from our God.

People: We have come to be equipped for our tasks. We have gathered for renewal of our lives.

+HYMN *O God Our Help in Ages Past* NCH# 25
 (v. 1,3, 4, 5)

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Unison Prayer: It is not always easy to hear God in the voice of change. Yet, even when we do hear God's voice, it can be hard to let go of the ones who have mentored and led us, and accept our own call to minister amongst the world. There are so many reasons we find it difficult to attend to the call of

change. It is hard to recognize that the time has come to encourage someone else to take up a ministry that we hold dear and to let them shape ministry in new ways. It is hard to put aside our own self-interest, social expectations, and even a need to prove ourselves worthy, to follow the leading of God in a changing time. Amen

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+GLORIA PATRI PH (Red) # 513

PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14

SOLO *It Is Well with My Soul* Sarah Mather
 Matt Redman/Phillip Bliss

READING FROM PSALMS 77: 1-2, 11-20

THE MESSAGE *Transitions*

HYMN *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* NCH #433

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Adoration* Florence Price

+DOXOLOGY NCH #779

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* NCH #576

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds* NCH #393
 (vs.1)

POSTLUDE *Sortie in E-flat* Alfred Lefebure-Wely

Announcements

Serving the church today: Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina, Ushers. Dawn Charron, Liturgist. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of our parents, Sam & Lucy Bimonte on their 72nd wedding anniversary and in memory of our son, Michael, always loved, never forgotten, by Maria and John Yerganian.

SNEAKERS FOR SCOW - The Monthly Drives Team of the Mission & Outreach Ministry in partnership with the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) is collecting **NEW** sneakers for SCOW families in need. Prefer to make a monetary donation? Store gift cards (e.g.. Walmart, Target, Kohl's) and other monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted the day of the drive or at any point before the drive. Sneakers will be collected on **Saturday, July 19, 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! **COMING SOON:** A Sign-Up Genius link with a list of shoes that are needed, giving you the chance to sign up for a particular shoe. The link will be provided in a future email. Questions? Please contact David Wells at detawells@sbcglobal.net or 203-599-5422.

ONA HIGHLIGHT

The ONA Team invites you to read a book focused on autism this summer and join us to discuss it on Thursday August 21st at 6:30 pm. Snacks will be provided. We are reading **A Little Less Broken: How an Autism Diagnosis Finally Made Me Whole** by Marian Schembari. See you there.

Pastor Meredith will be on vacation June 9 – June 30. In case of emergency or pastoral need, please contact the church office or the Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce.

Today we welcome our own Charlene Bruce who will lead us in worship.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
 Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music.
 Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
 Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
 Ms. Madison Torre, Coordinator of Sunday School and Youth Ministries