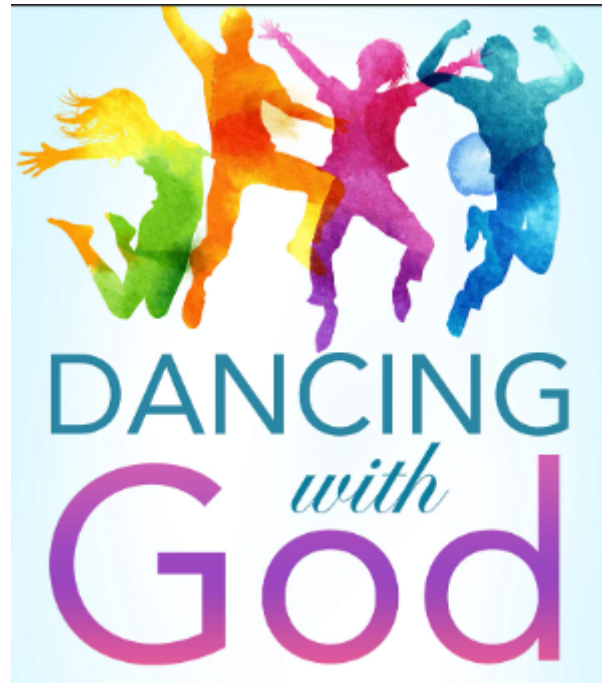




To make a gift to First Church

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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 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.



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)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



November 16, 2025

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

DANCING WITH GOD

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit
NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)
PGM = Pilgrim (Red)

PRELUDE *Rain Down* Jamie Cortez/arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Simple Gifts* Jen Wood clarinet
Traditional Shaker Hymn/arr. Tyler Adams

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come people of God! Today is a new day! A day when we are called to listen. A day when we are called to move and be moved.

We thank God for another day! A day when we might ponder anew the sacred dance to which we are called.

Worship is a dance lesson led by God!!

We are all students of this lesson! Let us learn to dance together in body and in spirit!

+HYMN	Morning Has Broken	PGM #38
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PRAYER OF REFLECTION

For the gifts of breath, motion, stamina, and rhythm, we are grateful beyond measure. As we prepare to worship you this morning, help us to let go of our preconceived notions of what we think dance is, so that we might respond with the dance as you intend it to be for your people in this time and place. But there are some days, O Compassionate One, we are so overwhelmed with the trials and tribulations of our lives and our world, we want to pull the covers over our heads and stay in bed where we feel safe, comfortable, and warm. We're afraid to turn on the television or read a newspaper, wondering what new tragedy, injustice, or disaster is about to strike. Some of us can't remember being this afraid. Others can remember this kind of fear and hoped those days behind us. We find ourselves questioning, isolating, and wondering where you are in the midst of our anguish, fear, and despair. In the midst of our confusion and pain, remind us of the steps of the sacred dance to which you have called us. Remind us of the joy you promise us with each new day. Be our muse. Be our partner. Be our teacher. Be our hope. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

David and Stephanie Harris

SONG Welcome to the Family

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Psalm 150

ANTHEM *Look at the World* John Rutter

THE MESSAGE Resilience

HYMN In Solitude NCH #521

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 *Psalm of Celebration* Dan R. Edwards

+DOXOLOGY NCH #779

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Lord of the Dance (insert)

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE	<i>Many and Great</i>	NCH #3
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POSTLUDE *Fanfare* Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Announcements

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs in Congregational Hall immediately following the service.

Serving the church today are ushers: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski & Deanna Holloway; chimes: Bob Westervelt

The flowers on the altar are given by Heidi Bonassar - Happy heavenly birthday, Ron. I hope you are not causing too much trouble up there. Love, Heidi, Andrew, and Emma.”

Welcome to Stephanie and David Harris who are being received as new members by Re-Affirmation of Faith.

Join us for our **Thanksgiving Potluck Sunday, November 23** following worship. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving Side Dish or Dessert. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office with Name, # of People and what you will be bringing.
203-265-1691

The Youth Group will be conducting their **Annual Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt** on Sunday, November 23rd from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please set aside items to be picked up and fill out the information form to drop collection plate or drop at office. Thanks from Faith Formation Ministry & Monthly Donation Drive Team.

Christmas Fair Update: Join us after church today and for the last crafting workshop for our Christmas Fair on Friday, Nov. 28 at 10am. Materials and instruction provided. Please check the table for new food donation requests slips.

Bible Study is Tuesdays at 5:30pm see Charlene Bruce for info

Book Club is Nov. 18th 6:30pm Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast is Nov. 22nd 9-11am at Denise Castelleno's house RSVP Lori Folk-Barron

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music.
Search in Process, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Search in Process, Director of Sunday
School and Youth Ministries