



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)
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 Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



To make a gift to First Church



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.

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First Congregational Church

Wallingford, CT



Carols, Communion and Candlelight

December 24, 2025

11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT
December 24, 2025 11:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit
PH = Pilgrim Hymnal (Red)

PRELUDES

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC Once in Royal David’s City
H.J. Gauntlett/harm. A.H. Mann

WE COME TOGETHER IN REVERENCE AND AWE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight is a night of joy and promise.
We remember the birth of Jesus.
A baby was born who changed the world.
His love is for everyone.
Let us celebrate and worship together.

CAROL O Come All Ye Faithful (vss. 1,2) PH #132

INVITATION TO A TIME OF REFLECTION

TIME OF REFLECTION

Holy God, on this night when heaven touches earth, we come before you aware of our need for grace. You offer us peace, yet we cling to worry. You shine your light, yet we choose familiar shadows. You come to us in humility, yet we chase after our own importance. Forgive us for the ways we have turned from your love. Forgive the harsh words, the hurried lives, the compassion withheld, the kindness delayed. Forgive us for forgetting the wonder of your presence and the hope you place in our hands. As we stand at the manger once more, renew our hearts with your mercy. Let the birth of Christ awaken in us a deeper

love, a wider generosity, and a courage that reflects your light into the world. In the name of the One who comes with grace, we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
Rick and Debbie Voelker

RESPONSE All Earth is Waiting

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared; yet feel his presence throughout the earth today, for he lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

ANTHEM See, Amid the Winter’s Snow John Goss

TELLING THE OLD OLD STORY

Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol This Is the Truth Sent from Above arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Carol O Little One Sweet Old German tune/harm. J.S. Bach

Lesson Luke 2:8-12

Carol Away in a Manger arr. Karen Smith & David Synder

Lesson Luke 2:13-20

Carol Ding, Dong Merrily on High
16th c French Tune/harm Charles Wood

Carol I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In Bramley and Stainer

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CALL TO GIFT GIVING

OFFERTORY Gesu Bambino
Pietro Yon/arr. Karen Smith & David Synder
Erin Vivero, flute, Jeanette Gross piano

DOXOLOGY (melody Angels from the Realms of Glory)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voice is raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is the table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome! You will receive first the bread, and then the juice. Please hold each until all are served, so that we might partake together. Rice cakes are available for those with gluten intolerance and water for those who prefer water over juice.

Invitation

Words of Institution

Words of Consecration

Communion Music Assorted carols with Debbie Clark, recorder

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christmas Prayer 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

THE SHARING OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT

CHRISTMAS CAROL Silent Night, Holy Night PH #138

As you feel led, light your candle in celebration of love and light coming into our world.
As you sing, watch the light build until we are bathed in the beautiful light of His birth.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS Joy to the World PH #130

POSTLUDE Noel Suisse Louis-Claude Daquin

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.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of my sister-in-law Barbara Rusbarsky by Marilyn Colandrea.

Serving the Church this evening are Sacramental Ministers: Lori Folk Barron, Sarah Mather, Debby Voelker, and Rick Voelker. Ushers: Ann Gygax & Bob Blakeslee Chimes: Bob Westervelt. The Chancel Choir and Instrumentalists under the direction of Minister of Music Jeanette Gross.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in honor and memory of loved ones by members and friends of the church. Additional flowers were donated by Joe Geremia. The sanctuary was decorated by the Monday Morning Crew, and the Hanging of the Greens Crew, Christmas Tree Crew, and the Flower Team. Thanks to all!

Pastor Jeff Birch - Sunday, January 4, 2026, will be our new settled pastor’s first worship service here at our beloved First Congregational Church of Wallingford. Please join for the service and a time of celebration following the service.

First Church Star Ball: You are invited to attend this very special ending to the celebration of our 350th Anniversary Year. Saturday, January 10th 6:30-10:30pm at the Elks Club. Tickets will be available after church for \$35 and \$40 at the door.

As we celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas, Susan Alker will be leading worship on Sunday, December 28 at 10 am. Her sermon will be “God With Us.”

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Preludes

Angels We Have Heard on High
Trad. Arr Karen Smith & David Synder
Erin Vivero, flute, Jeanette Gross, piano

Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming
Trad Arr. Karen Smith & David Synder
Erin Vivero, flute Jeanette Gross, piano

Mary, Did You Know?
Mark Lowery and Buddy Greene, Setting Jack Schraeder
Holly Franke, solo

Do You Have Room?
Marsha Mather, solo

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam/arr Karen Smith & David Synder
Erin Vivero, flute Jeanette Gross, piano

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