



The Spire

**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. - 9:30am – 1:00pm

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT



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A Message From the Interim Minister



Catch the Spirit Sunday was a day filled with joy and excitement and meaning. There was a picnic on the lawn with good food, face painting, games, and renewal of relationships. But before the outdoor celebration, we celebrated our life as a vital and active worshipping community. We praised God for our life in community and celebrated the many ways our lives intersect and are woven together.

Rick Voelker created a beautiful loom for the occasion and I was imagining a beautiful and organized weaving, similar to the one created in the afternoon at Ashlar Village (photo left). But instead, as people came forward to add their own ribbons of prayers and hopes for the church, we discovered the ribbons were slippery and didn't necessarily cooperate in creating a perfect tapestry. (photo right) As person after person added their ribbon, the tapestry became more chaotic and also more beautiful. More than one person commented that the tapestry reminded them of their lives, beautiful, but messy or chaotic or full of loose ends.



I think both of these images are true reflections of the church. Can you embrace them both?

Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together in unity and love,
Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together, together in love!

~ Rosemary Crow



A Message from the Moderators

Dear Members and Friends of the First Congregational Church,

It doesn't seem possible to me, but by the time you read this message, summer will have officially ended, and fall will have begun. The few leaves that have already fallen in the yard at the Whitehouse home all seem to gather at the side entrance as if to remind me that the new season is literally at my doorstep and is waiting for me as I step outside each day. In spite of the cooler temperatures and what is to come weather wise, I do look forward to all the beautiful colors of the season.

There is also much is going on at First Church as the seasons change. On Catch the Spirit Sunday, September 14th, we moved back up to the church sanctuary (did you notice the new chancel carpeting and handrails?) and enjoyed lots of good food, fun and fellowship on the front lawn after the service. The Unity in Faith Food drive was a great success, bringing together 12 churches to help support Masters Manna.

You will also find information about many other upcoming events in this Spire. Be sure to check them all out and participate when you can. Also, I encourage you to take the time to read our Vision and Mission Statement. At our monthly Vision Board meetings, we always open with a prayer and then read both our Vision and Mission statements out loud to remind all present of what we are trying to achieve and to guide us in all our actions.

One of our main focuses, as Moderators and of the Vision Board, has been to work on communicating effectively as we have transitioned from the old Committee structure to the new Ministry Team Model. We have made a lot of progress but there is still more we can do.

Communication isn't just about making announcements; it's about building relationships and ensuring transparency. One of our purposes as Moderators is to help all the Ministry Teams work together, to openly share and discuss new ideas. We strive to support each other so that everyone feels informed about our activities, decisions, and future plans and to make sure our church is a cohesive community where every member feels valued and included.

We are all united by faith, and our ability to connect, listen, and share with one another is a testament to the health of our community. In a world full of noise, emails, texts and many other interruptions, our words and messages to one another must be guided by clarity, grace, and purpose as we all work to weave together the beautiful fabric of our church family.

We want to thank each of you for all you do to make our Vision and Mission statements come to life in the world around us. Let's continue to pray for our ability to communicate effectively, build trust, and remain connected as the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Whitehouse and Lori Folk- Barron
Co-Moderators

Message from the Minister of Music



MUSICAL EVENTS Coming Up

MAGICAL MELODIES

350th CONCERT October 17, 2025, Friday at 7:00 p.m.

This concert is NOT your average church concert. All styles of music will be represented. The concert represents music you may have heard in the church over the past 30 years. The Chancel Choir plus will sing a couple of pieces accompanied by instrumentalists. The Handbell Ensemble and the Praise Band will play. You will hear excerpts from Broadway musicals. And, we have some remarkable guests- Silk 'n Sound and Flute Loops. You may recognize some familiar faces in those groups, and you will hear some familiar solo voices you haven't heard in a while. Afterwards in Congregational Hall there will be a delicious reception.

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CHILDREN'S SABBATH

And you've wanted to know what a boom whacker is?

Children will be playing boom whackers and singing at this service.

Friday, December 13 at Beaumont Farm NATIVITY SERVICE

This will be a service in the barn at Beaumont's farm (corner of Center Street and No. Airline Drive before you get on I91 at Exit 14). More information on this service will be forthcoming. Save the Date!

Sunday, December 14, 2025, CHORAL SERMON "Ballad of Bethlehem"

with choir, instruments, narration and visuals.

Notes on Rehearsals: All ARE WELCOME

Children's choir (ages 2 – 5) will start rehearsing on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, 11:15-12 noon

Chancel Choir (ages confirmands up) rehearses Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm.

Handbell Choir: rehearses Thursdays 6:30-8:00 pm Rehearsals have started, but please come!

Praise Band: TBA See Paul Masi.

October Worship

October 5 World Communion Sunday

Neighbors in Need Offering

October 12 Introducing Our 2025 Mission Trip

This Year Being Held in Wallingford!

October 19 Children's Sabbath

Who Will Stand for the Children?

Baptism

October 26 Reformation Sunday - Reformed and Reforming



Neighbors in Need Offering

October 5

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages the church to “carry each other’s burdens.” This seems to be a clear enough encouragement. Why then, does he also say just a few

verses later, “for each one should carry their own load?” This scripture highlights a dynamic many of us face when we help others or receive help. There’s a difference between helping someone and taking over for them. Inversely, it can be both challenging and a source of comfort to receive care. Giving and receiving, with autonomy, is an integral part of justice ministries. When the United Church of Christ gathers to collect the Neighbors in Need offering, we work to honor this complexity.

The following ministry teams are supported in part by Neighbors in Need: Office for Public Policy and Advocacy Economic Justice Environmental Justice Racial Justice Disabilities and Mental Health Justice Immigration Justice Gender and Sexuality Ministries.

Thank you for your gifts as we work together,
sharing our burdens to support our Neighbors in Need

Settled Minister Call

On Sunday, September 7, the Members of the Search and Call Team made the exciting announcement that we are ready to call our next Settled Minister!

Candidating Weekend
September 27 and 28

Saturday, 1 to 4 pm **Meet and Greet** with the candidate in Congregational Hall.
Sunday, during the 10 am service the candidate will provide the **sermon**.

You are invited to come and get to know him!

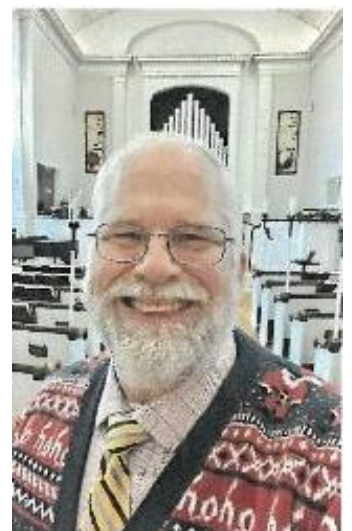
Notice has hereby given of a Special Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, September 28, 2025, immediately following the 10:00 am Worship Service, both in person in the Sanctuary and via Zoom meeting, for the following purpose:

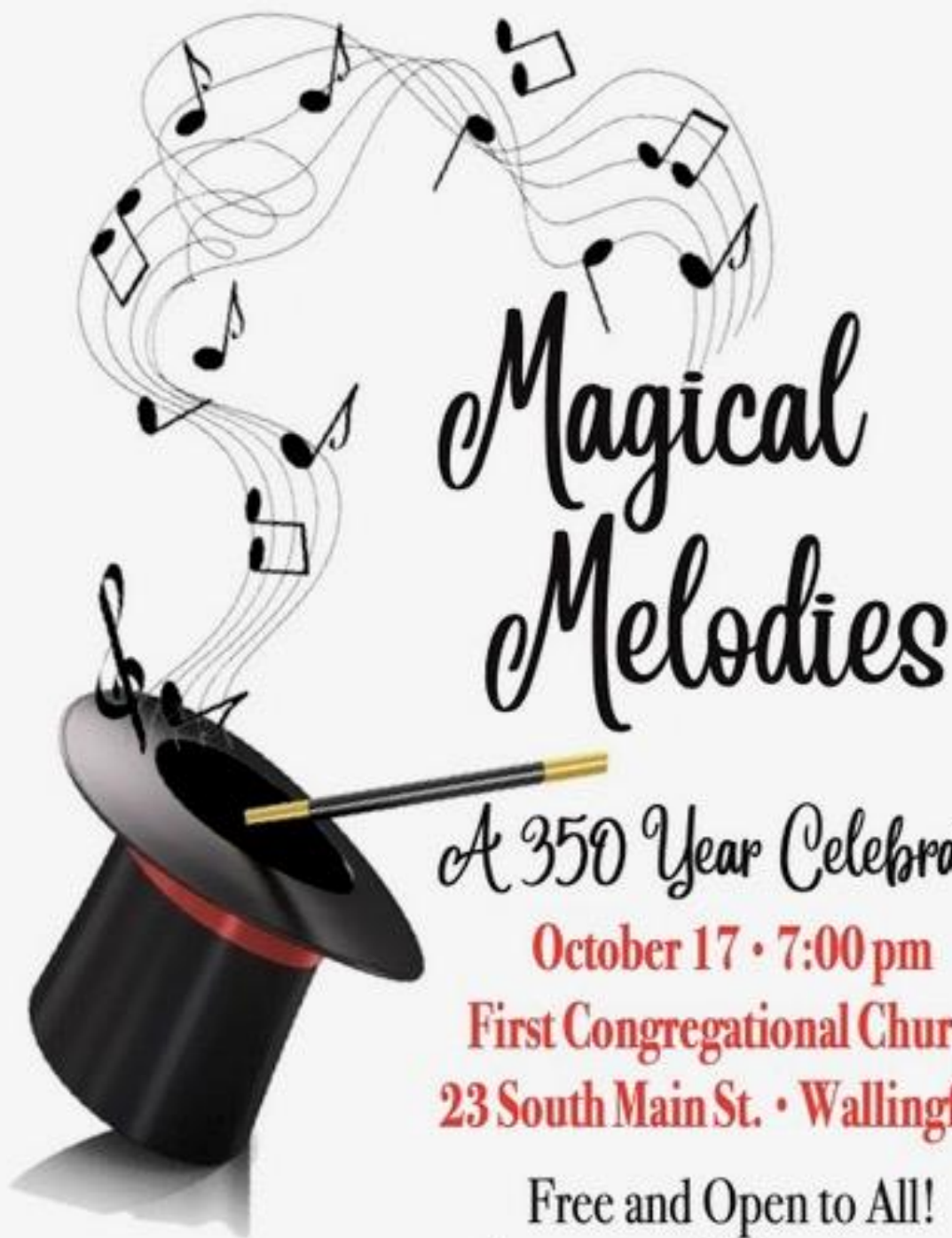
To call Jeffrey Birch as the new settled minister of First Congregational Church Wallingford.

Plan to be a part of this momentous next step in the life of our church.

Jeff Birch is currently serving as bridge preacher and pastoral caregiver for the First Church of Christ in Saybrook (UCC) through December. He will be Ordained into Pastoral Ministry in November.

With an affirmative vote, he will begin here in January.





Magical Melodies

A 350 Year Celebration!

October 17 • 7:00 pm

**First Congregational Church
23 South Main St. • Wallingford**

Free and Open to All!

A reception will follow the concert

with Special Guests: **Silk'n Sounds** & **FLUTE LOOPS**



Faith Formation News

With the start of the new church year, we have many opportunities for faith education and enrichment for children and youth. We are happy to be able to present some of them here.

But first, we want to acknowledge, and sincerely thank, Madison Torre for serving as the Church School Coordinator for the past year. She provided creative, energetic leadership and encouraged teachers and instructors with a balance of guidance and independence. As a token of the church's gratitude, a purse collected from the membership totaling \$175 will be sent to her. Maddie will be missed, but we wish her all the best as she takes up a new phase of her life in Florida. Meanwhile, the search for a new Coordinator has been in process since August. The position has been posted with the UCC and in other venues. The Faith Formation team has interviewed a couple of candidates, but we are still looking for just the right person to fill this important role.

Students in the Sunday School met with their teachers on Catch the Spirit Sunday, Sept. 14. For parents who wish to enroll their children use this QR code



We are searching for new faces to join our team of Sunday School teachers. We are looking for volunteers to be substitutes, as well as anyone interested in joining a teaching rotation. Our substitutes will remain on an "on-call" list for the entirety of the school year in the event that one of our teachers calls out or has a conflict. Our rotating teachers follow a shared teaching schedule that would allow for a smaller commitment than a consistent, weekly lead teacher, while still giving the opportunity to work with the same students throughout the year, alongside other teachers. We are in need of help at all grade levels from Pre-K through 8th grade. We thank you in advance for your consideration! Please contact us at fccwfaithformation@gmail.com.

On September 28, Bibles will be given during worship service to students in the 2nd and 5th grades. Each Bible is inscribed by hand as a special gift for each student. How many of you still have the Bibles you received in Sunday School?

We are pleased to announce that Kayla Perkowski has kindly agreed to lead the Youth Group this year. However, a team of adults, both males and females, is needed to help with that group. Please consider volunteering. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with The First Baptist Church and Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, as well as our own meetings throughout the year.

We currently have eleven, possibly twelve, potential participants in the Confirmation class for this coming church year. With the aid of past leader Leslie Spiars, this year's instructors have constructed a schedule of sessions and activities, with classes meeting the first two Sundays of each month before worship, starting in October and ending in May, with Confirmation occurring on the first Sunday in June 2026. With the help of the Faith Formation Team, parents and students have received notices to sign-up, registration forms, and other materials. The instructors met with the confirmands for an introductory session, featuring pizza, was held after worship on Sunday, Sept. 21. For any who are interested in attending who did not receive a notice, please reach out to any member of the Faith Formation team, or email us at fccwfaithformation@gmail.com



What: Church School Halloween Party

Where: First Congregational Church

Start Location: Miss Amanda's Classroom

When: Sunday, October 26th after Church

Students are welcome to wear their costumes to Sunday school that day and join us for holiday treats, games and activities in Congregational Hall after class!





FALL RUMMAGE SALE

October 2, 3 & 4, 2025



It's never too late to be thinking about the Fall Rummage Sale which will be here before you know it!! During your relaxing, unwinding summer days(!), hopefully you took a little time to clean out a drawer, closet, cabinet, and/or room.

Once again, are you ready to **love and help your neighbor** by donating some gently used clothing, linens, shoes, coats pocketbooks, small household items, children's toys and stuffed animals? As always, we greatly appreciate whatever you can give. **Donations are accepted on Mondays through Fridays. They can be dropped off between the hours of 10:00 – 3:00pm.** Please **NO** furniture can be accepted.

Let's keep our wonderful success going with this fall sale! We are becoming well known throughout the state!!

HELP is needed with the following:

1. Setting up tables on Sunday, September 28th in Congregational Hall after coffee hour;
2. Sorting donated items from Monday, September 29th through Wednesday, October 1st from 9:00 to noon and 1:00 – 3:00pm.
3. Working on the sale floor on October 2 and 3 (hours 4:00-7:00pm) and October 4 (hours 9:00- to noon).
4. Breaking down the sale on Saturday, October 4th at noon.

Please feel free to call Bernie Annunziata at 203-415-9809 if you have any questions or wish to volunteer your time. The fellowship is great!!



First Congregational Church of Wallingford

2025 Fall Fundraiser

At Beaumont Farms

945 East Center Street

Wallingford, CT

Hours: Monday – Saturday 9-7, Sunday 9-6

Charge, Checks or Cash is accepted

Support our church!

Bring this flyer in, show it on your phone, or tell them your purchase is for First Congregational from Sept 15 thru Oct 31, and a portion of the sales will be given to our church.

All annuals, perennials, perennial mums and all fall decorations will be included. Regular garden veggies not included.

Total Sale Amount:





CELEBRATE WALLINGFORD

Saturday, October 4, 2025 11 am – 6 pm
Sunday, October 5, 2025 11 am – 5 pm

Celebrate Wallingford is a 2-day festival, highlighting the heart and soul of the Wallingford community. On North Main Street & Center Street, you can sample food from local restaurants, see live entertainment, and shop local.

During Celebrate Wallingford, First Congregational Church will be giving away popcorn and information about our Ministries under our tent at the front entrance to the church.

Many church members and friends are needed to help work at the tent those days. Your presence would be greatly appreciated! Help us share the great news of our church and its 350 years at this wonderful community event!

Use the SignUp Genius link below or call the church office (203-265-1691) to volunteer.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084EAEA82AA1FD0-58656138-fcctent>



Monthly Mission Drive

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

More information about the cause of the month and items needed will be announced soon. This is a drive-up, drop-off event at the rear of the church. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Footsteps Community Gathering

Please come - It's here at our church!

October 18, 2024

Join us for potluck at 6 pm and program at 7pm



Monthly gatherings are open to all who are looking for a spiritual lift or just want to find out more about a Footsteps weekend. There will be music, an inspiring story, some discussion and communion.

18th First Congregational Church Golf Tournament

Profits to benefit Breast Cancer Research



Saturday, October 18, 2025

Tee off at 9:00 am at Miner Hills Family Golf

80 Miner Hills Drive, Middletown, CT

Rain date: Sunday, October 19 at 1pm

9 Hole Golf Tournament Scramble Format

Lots of fun for people of all ages and abilities

Adult \$30; Seniors & Juniors \$25

Includes: Green Fees, Prizes, Picnic, fun, friends, and a great cause!

Profits to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation & The Family Life Fund

Electric or pull cart rentals are available but are an extra cost to the golfer.

Prizes: Low gross Team * Closest to the Pin * Closest to the Line * Longest Drive

TEAM MEMBERS Sign up as a foursome or come and make new friends.

↓ Indicate A for Adult; S for Senior; Y for Youth

Golfer 1 ____ Name: _____ cell # _____

Golfer 2 ____ Name: _____

Golfer 3 ____ Name: _____

Golfer 4 ____ Name: _____

HOLE SPONSOR (\$30.00):

All proceeds from hole sponsorships will go to Support Breast Cancer Research

In Memory / Honor of _____ By: _____

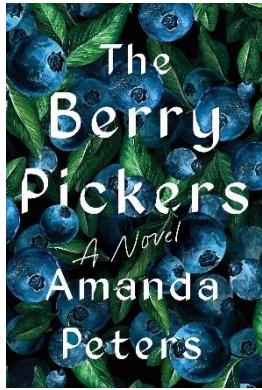
Checks should be payable to First Congregational Church - Wallingford

Or sign up, sponsor or donate through the church website

Questions 203-257-6964



Book Club News



We will begin this program year on Tuesday, October 28 with
“The Berry Pickers” by Amanda Peters.

Named a Best Book of the Year by Amazon, Apple, People magazine,
Barnes and Noble, The New Yorker magazine and more.

See everyone at 6:30 PM in the Guild Room.

Copies of this season’s books are available in the church library.

Save the Date for a
Women’s Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, October 25, 2025
Watch for more details!
9-11 AM



We will share together the materials Ellie created.



Bible Study
Join us on Tuesday evening at 5:30pm.

Have you ever wondered why we sing what we do in church? Did you know there is a tie between **theology** (the study of the nature of God and religious belief) and worship, especially **hymns**? Did you know that hymn writers are some of the best theologians? Are you curious? Information: Charlene Bruce 203-503-8379 or charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net.



Chili Cook Off and Square Dance

**Saturday • November 1
4:30 – 7:00
Congregational Hall**

Everyone gets to taste each chili entry
and vote for their favorite!



**Cooks, Tasters & Dancers wanted!
Fun for all ages – no experience needed
Come kick up your heels**

Professional square dance caller Russ Tietjen will be helping us learn to dance!

Free Will Donation will be collected
In addition to the chili, mac n' cheese, salad and beverages will be served.

Competitor notes: Bring a crock pot full of any kind of homemade chili to be part of a judging by everyone who attends. Arrive before 4:30, plug in and keep your chili warm. Give your chili a name. For allergy concerns, bring a printed list of ingredients.

Trophies awarded for “Adults Choice” and “Kids Choice”



November 9, 2025

In Congregational Hall

Exodus 35:31-32

And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze.

- **This is the time to gather some wonderful artwork to display in the church art show! “Art” includes photography projects, craft projects, etc.**
- **This is a multi-generational display of our congregation’s artwork for our 350th celebration year!! Please invite your family & friends are welcome to show their artwork too!**
- ***Drop off to a designated area of Congregational Hall on Sunday, Nov. 2 and the work will be on display on***

Sunday, November 9th

- ***Pick up your art work on Monday, Nov. 10th between 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. or at coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 16th***



I’m trying to give people time to create something or put things aside as artwork comes home with your children! Please label with family name & artist’s name.

Questions? Please email Pam Perkowski at pperkowski@myhts-wallingford.org



Save the Date! **350 CEMETERY TOUR**

In conjunction with our 350th year long celebration we will be taking a tour of the Historic Center Street Cemetery on October 26th.

We will gather in Congregational Hall after service for some light refreshments and walk down to the Cemetery for the tour at 11:30.

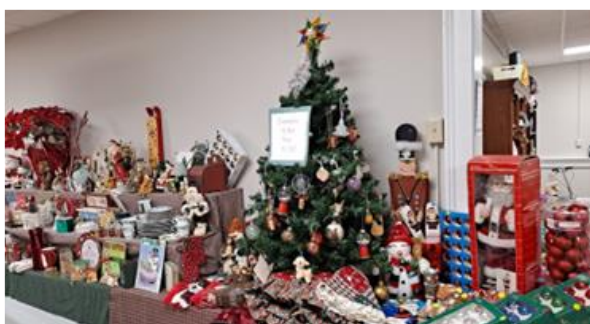
More details to follow.



You Are Invited to Join Our New Member Class!

A new member class is forming! New members will be received into the church on Sunday November 9th at the 10 AM service.

In preparation for membership, prospective members will learn about the rich history of First Congregational Church, the United Church of Christ, and opportunities to serve the church and beyond. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of First Church, please speak with Pastor Meredith at 914 255-1690 or pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org



Christmas Fair!!

Friday, December 5: 5pm – 8pm
Saturday, December 6: 9am – 3pm

Everyone is invited to help with whatever you enjoy doing!
It's wonderful with our whole Church involved!

This fall after church, grab a snack and join us for crafting
Supplies and directions provided
Your ideas are welcome. Great Fellowship!

First Congregational Church 350th Anniversary Gift Registry

First Congregational Church Wallingford has been marking its 350th Anniversary with special worship, celebrations, fellowship events, weekly devotionals, and community events. We hope you have enjoyed these events honoring 350 Years of Faith & Community at First Congregational Church. The party continues! A 350th Anniversary Gift Registry has also been part of this celebration. Our Administration Ministry identified a number of physical and technological projects and desired items that help FCC upgrade and update our facilities for future worship and fellowship. **THANK YOU** to all who have already contributed to our registry! We are hoping that members and friends will continue to prayerfully consider making a special 350th gift (separate from pledging) toward the project registry.

Our wish list items, costs, and current funding status include:

Project	Cost	Funding Status
Chancel Carpet	\$6,700	Fully Funded! 😊
Flooring between Guild Room & Congregational. Hall	\$3,200	Fully Funded! 😊
Hearing Assist Devices (6)	\$930	Fully Funded! 😊
Kitchen Floor	\$6,650	Fully Funded! 😊
Music Room – 4 Fluorescent Fixtures	\$400	Fully Funded! 😊
Office – Fluorescent Fixture	\$100	Fully Funded! 😊
Railing for Chancel Stairs	\$1,000	Fully Funded! 😊
Conference Room – Hot Water Heater	\$300	Funds Needed
Front Sign – Parade Grounds	\$6,000	Funds Needed
Hallway (Near Office) – Paint (\$65/Gal)	\$130	Funds Needed
Hot Water Heater – Ladies Restroom	\$250	Funds Needed
Library Paint (\$65/Gal)	\$130	Funds Needed
Light Fixture Near Office	\$150	Funds Needed
Office – Paint (\$65/Gal)	\$130	Funds Needed
Pew Cushions	\$35,000	Funds Needed
Sanctuary – Refinish Hardwood	\$24,000	Funds Needed
Sanctuary Insulation	\$40,000	Funds Needed
Video Screens – Sanctuary	\$75,000	Funds Needed

We are excited to share an amazing Matching Gift opportunity as you consider your gift! An Angel Donor has offered a 20% match for every gift made towards the Registry. So, a \$1,000 gift adds \$200 in Matching Funds. The Matching Funds can be applied wherever there is a need on the gift registry. The Angel Donor will offer this match up to a maximum donation on their part of \$60,000! This is an exciting opportunity to make a gift to this congregation that grows because of the Matching Funds of this Angel Donor!

Please use the form below and mail your gift payable to First Congregational Church (23 S. Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492) Please include “350 Gift Registry” in the memo line. Gifts can also be made on-line at www.firstchurchwallingford.org or using the QR code below. Thank you for considering a registry gift!

Happy 350th Anniversary, First Congregational Church!

Please specify:

_____ Use this gift of \$ _____ towards the following registry project(s):

_____ Use this gift of \$ _____ towards any project as needed.

Name: _____

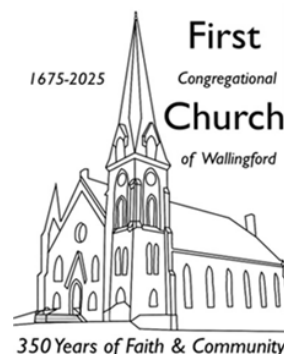
Address: _____

Telephone Number or Email Address: _____



We Need You for the 350th “Voices of Devotion” Project!

We are celebrating the 350th Anniversary of First Congregational Church in 2025 with the “Voices of Devotion” Project. Modeled after the Upper Room devotionals that many of us use for our daily devotional time, we are seeking devotionals written by members and friends of FCC. Since January 2025, we have been publishing submitted devotions on a weekly basis via email, and we intend to publish all of the devotions in booklet form at the end of the anniversary year. We hope you have been enjoying these weekly devotions that share the faith and God moments experienced by fellow members of our church family.



Some may find the idea of writing a public devotional to be intimidating, but we want to remind you that the purpose of this project is to celebrate the many voices that have worshipped God at First Congregational Church. We are looking for YOU, the heart, soul, and history of FCC, to lend your voice and offer a devotion that speaks from your heart. Write about an experience, large or small, that told you God is near. Write about an event, a memory, a trial, a person, a meaningful piece of scripture - anything that brought your heart closer to God or reminded you that the Holy Spirit was and is a force in your life.

Thank you to all who have already contributed a devotional. We are now reaching a critical point where we need anyone who has been considering writing to send their devotional. Without approximately 20 additional submissions, we will not be able to continue the weekly devotionals through 2025. Please use the attached form to submit your devotion. The “Voices of Devotion” team members will confirm the receipt of your submission. If you have submitted your devotion and did not receive confirmation or received a “rejected email message,” please assume we have not received it, and contact us at fcc350devotionproject@googlegroups.com or at lorifolkbarron@gmail.com. You can also enter your devotional using the Google sheet at this [link](#):

We are accepting submissions on a rolling basis. Please feel free to submit more than one devotional if you have more than one story to tell!

With joyful voices,

Lori Folk-Barron, Bernie Annunziata, Marsha Mather, and Bob Westervelt

“Voices of Devotion” Submission

Name: _____
(as you wish it to appear in the devotional booklet)

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____

Quoted Scripture: _____

Quoted Scripture Citation: (e.g., Jeremiah 29:11-14) _____

Devotional Text: (up to 500 words) *Please handwritten or type or attach separate page.*



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 charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net or Cliff at cliffc45@yahoo.com



Helping Hands Deliver Meals

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 provide 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.



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



Sympathy

Lucy Lathrop Ingraham passed away September 14, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, September 29 at 10 AM

What will you give back to God from the
blessings you have received?

Stewardship

A WAY OF LIFE

First Congregational Church of Wallingford, CT

Envelope # _____

for office use

Pledge Commitment Card for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 Fiscal Year

Name _____

Address _____ email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I plan to give \$ _____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ One Time For an Annual Total of \$ _____

☐ Please call me about including the church in my will.

I joyfully join others in our congregation and generously commit myself to give a portion of what I have in support of the ministries of our church. Serving as Jesus taught us to live, we will indeed changes lives!

Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the collector.

Philippians 4: 15-16: "Generous people give when others will not"

Sample Pledge Commitments

Weekly	Monthly	Annual
\$400.00	\$1,733.33	\$20,800.00
\$300.00	\$1,300.00	\$15,600.00
\$200.00	\$866.67	\$10,400.00
\$100.00	\$433.33	\$5,200.00
\$75.00	\$325.00	\$3,900.00
\$50.00	\$216.67	\$2,600.00
\$25.00	\$108.33	\$1,300.00
\$20.00	\$86.67	\$1,040.00
\$10.00	\$43.33	\$520.00
\$5.00	\$21.67	\$260.00

Methods of Giving : Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), Credit Card payments on the website (www.firstchurchwallingford.org or via QR code in pews), Weekly Envelopes, Bill Pay through your bank, Employee Giving through employer programs, annual gifts by check or a donation of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which is considered a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and more.

Your preferred method of giving:

- ☐ EFT
☐ Credit Card Online ☐ Other _____
☐ Weekly Envelopes
☐ Bill Pay through my bank
☐ Employee Giving
☐ Annual Check
☐ Donation of RMD

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

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the October Issue is
September 15th.*

Email the church office at:
officemanager@firstchurchwld.org