



**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

We, the faith community of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, United Church of Christ, aspire to live by the wisdom of Christ's teachings.

At the heart of our vision and mission is a commitment to inclusivity and acceptance.

We welcome everyone regardless of age; race; culture; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; family configuration; economic circumstance; mental, physical, developmental, and emotional ability; and religious tradition.

Jesus Christ, in speaking to his disciples said this: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13: 34).

As current disciples of Jesus, we commit to maintain a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful involvement in the life of the church.

Jesus' teachings of love and compassion call us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity, both within the sanctuary of this church and throughout the community in which we live and serve.

Diversity in our world is a gift from God which we celebrate.

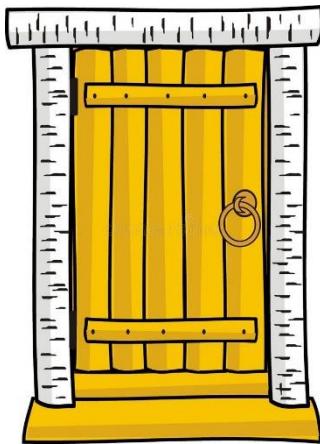
Guided by our Lord's wisdom, we offer an authentic and loving welcome to all who seek a relationship with God, and we proclaim ourselves an Open and Affirming church.



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A Message from the Minister

“...knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Matthew 7:7b.

“Listen, I am standing at the door, knocking...” Revelation 3:20a

A persistent theme in the New Testament is one of call - *hearing* God’s call, *responding* to God’s call. It is a part of many of the scripture passages I’ve been preaching from these last weeks.

Sometimes, the model is one of Jesus entering into our lives (Jesus is knocking at the door...we’ve all seen that famous image), other times, as in the passage from Matthew, above, it is us who are doing the knocking. Whichever side of the metaphorical door we’re on, though, each meme contains elements of wonder, hope, and initiative. Wonder is the emotion that intrigues us. We’ve heard that there’s something special on the other side of that door.

Hope is emotion that is catalyzed by wonder. Can the change we long for, the happiness that we seek, the redemption that we need, be found through that door?

And initiative, is the permission you give yourself to step through the door and find out.

The initiative is your YES to God.

In my theological outlook, I believe that being “in Christ” means that we as individuals are making a focused effort to be better than our natures. That we have consciously decided that we want to live and love better than we have before, and to do that we are willing to go beyond merely hoping for the best and intentionally move towards working for the best. Sometimes that means working on our ourselves, doing the things that help us to become better people:

Yes, I will pray more earnestly.

Yes, I will declutter my life.

Yes, I will take time to read more.

Yes, I will seek to understand the views of others.

Yes, I will seek to live and love more authentically.

And other times, it is the work that we do for others.

Yes, I will volunteer for a new project.

Yes, I will spend more time with my family.

Yes, I will call that old friend from school.

Yes, I will try to forgive the wrong done to me.

Yes, I will apologize for a wrong I did myself.

Getting to “Yes” is, in a very real sense, what Jesus calls us to do.

So, my challenge to you in these last few weeks before Lent begins is to honestly ask yourself, again or for the first time, what you might be hoping for. To wonder again what God might be calling you to do and be. This Lent, let’s ponder the new ways that we might say Yes to God, both as individuals and as a congregation.

Blessings to you all!

Message from the Minister of Music



We have a wonderful organ in our sanctuary, actually we have two. I found out from Greg Whitehouse that the last real overhaul of the organ was in 1967.

The organ has faithfully been tuned and minor repairs made.

Now, however, we are facing some major work to be done on the organ. Let me explain just a little of organ anatomy. The organ in the chancel has 3 manuals (that is, 3 keyboards for the hands) and a pedal board for the feet. The manuals each have 61 keys on them. The pedal board has 32.

So, on the pedal board, if I play one sound like the bombarde, I have one pipe for each of those keys. Therefore, I would have 32 bombarde sounding pipes of graduating pitch. In organ jargon, that is a rank of pipes. Now the bombarde pipe is a reed pipe (like a trumpet sound) and it needs a higher pressure of air to sound. It is in a special box in the organ loft. These are the first pipes effected with conditions like dry air, heat, and age.

Here is a cartoon picture of an organ where you can identify the manuals and pedals.

On the music scene many things are happening.

1. The new beginning recorder group is meeting from 11:15-11:30 am Sundays right after church in the music room. I have extra recorders if anyone would like to join who doesn't have one.
2. OH, JONAH, a youth musical. We hope to present this on Sunday, May 17 in the Church service. Rehearsals are Sundays 11:30-12:15.
3. A Choral Sermon is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2026. We have started working on it on Wednesday nights. We can use some new voices! It's fun—the more the merrier and it is for a limited time period.





Moderators Message

The first month of 2026 has already drawn to a close but there was much to celebrate this holiday season. In early December, the Church Fair was a great success, and at Christmas time, through the generosity of our church family, we were able to support over 100 requests with Angel Tree donations for children in need. Our new settled minister, Pastor Jeff Birch, began his ministry with us on December 29th just in time to ring in the new year. On January 10th, the Star Ball, which was the capstone event to close out our 350th Anniversary celebration year, was held at the Elks Club and featured great food, fellowship and fun for all in attendance.

As Moderators, we offer our grateful appreciation to all those members of our church family who worked so hard during last year to bring all our special 350th year celebration events to life. We are also especially thankful to the 9 members of the Search and Call Team whose dedication and devotion made possible for the next ministry in our church.

As we wait patiently for the first signs of spring, it is the perfect opportunity for each of us to reflect and remember to let God's presence in our lives transform our thoughts into thoughts of gratitude and praise for the many blessings we each enjoy. Let each of us be inspired to make a renewed commitment to our faith as we move into the 351st year of our church's ministry. Let us also remember to take the time to slow down, be still, and hear God's voice more clearly despite the noise of the world that surrounds us each day.

Each month our church's Vision and Mission statements are listed on the first page of the Spire, and at the start of each monthly Vision Board meeting, we read them out loud to remind us of our purpose and guide us as we deliberate on issues of importance to our church. As Pastor Jeff begins his ministry with us, we encourage you to reread them below and reflect upon what they mean to you and what you are inspired to do to bring them to life in our church and the world around us.

Vision Statement

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Mission Statement

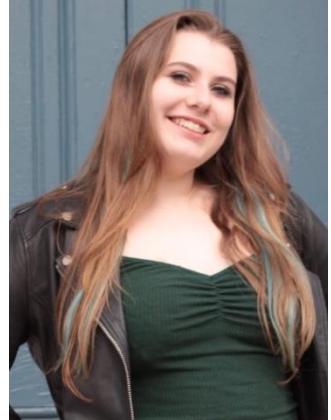
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Let us go forward into this new year with the scripture from John 15, verses 34 and 35 to guide us.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Yours in Christ,
Greg Whitehouse and Lori Folk-Barron



Faith Formation News

Church School and Youth Ministry Director

We are pleased to announce that Sydney Holloway is our new Church School Director. Sydney has been attending the First Congregational Church of Wallingford since she was an infant. With roots going back to the founders, her family has a history of attendance, including John and Jean Holloway and David Holloway. She was confirmed in our church and participated in the mission trip to Hazlet, New Jersey. Sydney graduated from Lyman Hall High School in 2024 and is navigating through Gateway Community College to find her passion. She enjoys theater, music, sewing, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends. She is so excited to be a part of the staff at church and make the youth programs even stronger!

Confirmation Class Activities

In December, the Confirmands learned about public aspects of the Christian life, especially Worship and Sacraments. Next month, they will hear about more private, individual practices, such as Prayer and Devotions.

Besides gathering for regular sessions on the first two Sundays of every month before church, the Confirmands will have opportunities for service. On Feb. 8, they can assist in assembling Super Bowl grinders, which benefits the Youth Group Mission Trip. On Feb. 17, they can help out at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (see flyer) and on Mar. 28 is the Palm Cross Breakfast.

First Congregational Church of Wallingford
February Worship

February 1, 2026
Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12

Knowing Who We Are,
Part 1
Communion

February 8, 2026
Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20

Knowing Who We Are,
Part 2
Baptism

February 15, 2026
Exodus 34:29-25, Matthew 17:1-9

The Face Behind The Veil
Transfiguration Sunday

February 18, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service
(Anointing and
Communion)

February 22, 2026 Matthew 4:1-11

Put to the Test
First Sunday in Lent

How Black History Month Got Started

The Open and Affirming Team thought it would be interesting to highlight that this February, Black History month marks the 100th year since this observance originated in this country. “Century of Black History Commemorations” is the theme chosen this year by The Association for the Study of African American Life and History founded by Carter G. Woodson. Woodson, who was the son of former slaves, was the second African American to acquire a PhD from Harvard University. He saw the importance of establishing an initiative to be celebrated annually on a national scale that promoted the history, culture, and achievements of African Americans. Therefore, he launched Negro History Week in February 1926, designed to coincide with the birthdays of two great Americans who shaped African American history, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Negro History Week was a coordinated effort to develop lessons and encourage the teaching of African American history across the country’s communities and public schools. Woodson believed that denying people of their history denies them of their humanity. He wrote “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

By 1976, then U.S. President Gerald Ford formally expanded the week-long recognition into Black History Month to “honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Black History Month has been celebrated in the United States every February since and starting at the first Negro History Week in 1926, other countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands have joined the United States in celebrating black people and their contribution to history and culture.

The Open and Affirming Team would like to encourage everyone to watch a documentary or read an article or book during the month of February about a prominent person, group or event in African American history. Please remember to check out the Open and Affirming library for some reading options, and if you’re interested in local history you can consider researching Chatham Freeman and his wife Rhea who were some of the first African American slaves to be freed in Wallingford, CT.



The Warming Tree

On our front steps is a Warming Tree for those in need of warm and cozy items. Mission and Outreach Ministry is trying a new project. We need: hats, gloves, mittens, scarves or neck warmers, rain poncho's & emergency blankets the kind in the little packages for adults and children. What we need most are men's hats and scarfs and mittens and gloves for both adults and children. So far people have taken some things from the tree. You can give these items to Jolene Pope or Nancy Tipping. All items donated are greatly appreciated.



Wallingford Workcamp Team

Bringing A Community Together

**We are looking for a team of
volunteers to help with the
Wallingford Workcamp details!**

Join the Wallingford Workcamp co-sponsoring team to help in the months leading up to our campers being here. We are looking for people to help spearhead & work on the following teams:

LADDER TEAM

locates all size ladders for the sites & delivers the week before camp & picks up after

VOLUNTEER TEAM

recruits and coordinates all volunteer help before and during camp

WORKSITE CLEANUP TEAM

picks up construction debris during workcamp

HOSPITALITY TEAM

provides snacks to all participants during the week of camp

LIASION TEAM

works with other organizations prior to camp to get involved

SITE VISITS TEAM

visits residents with Lorraine February-April to determine work to be done and details

MEDIA TEAM

leads public relations to help get the word out leading up to and during camp

FUNDRAISER TEAM

works to raise funds for construction materials leading up to camp

POWERWASH TEAM

powerwash decks, etc at sites the week before camp

**Order a
tshirt!**



KICKOFF MEETING

**February 2nd @ 5:30-6:30
in the Guild Room**



Super Grinders and Salads for SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Place your order for Superbowl Sunday, February 8, 2026

Price is only \$10 for a 12" grinder sandwich or \$10 for a tossed salad

Total items order _____ @ \$10 each = \$ _____

Circle whether grinder or salad desired and select type of meat and toppings for each

(Circle one) Grinder or Salad	Meat: (circle one) Turkey Ham Tuna Roast beef None	Toppings: (circle all desired) cheese lettuce tomato onions cucumber green peppers
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If more than five grinders or salads desired, please listed additional on the back.

Please place your order no later than Monday, February 2nd. You may place your order during coffee hour or by leaving the order form and check in office. Pick up will be on Sunday, February 8th after church until 12:30. All proceeds will benefit the youth going on the mission trip to this summer. *A special thank you to Mark Allard and to Ferraro's Market in North Haven for all of the quality meats, cheeses and produce used to make each grinder and salad.*

FCCW SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE DINNER

JOIN US FOR
FOOD, RELAY RACES & FELLOWSHIP



FEBRUARY 17, 2026
6 PM
CONGREGATIONAL HALL

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
23 S MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD, CT



Hot Soup A Nourishing Meal on a Cold Day

Mark your calendars for our regular monthly mission drive on Saturday, February 21st.

We will be collecting any kind of soup for Master's Manna.

This is a regular drive-thru drop off collection, behind the church. If you can't make it on Saturday, donations may be placed in a box near the kitchen door.

Saturday, February 21st

9-11 am

23 S. Main St. Wallingford

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Nancy Tipping cell 203-823-6962 or email nancy.tipping@gmail.com



SING FROM YOUR HEART

February 22nd during Coffee Hour

Do you hum or sing to yourself during the day? Does music touch your soul? Does music enhance your spirituality? If you said yes to any of these questions, you need to experience the Sing From Your Heart song session.

Enjoy fellowship and connection in a group singing session featuring several contemporary Christian songs that have stood the test of time. Led by Art Allen, we will learn and sing together some “modern music” with Christian lyrics and themes. Borrowing from folk, rock and pop influences, several of the songs have been played by our Praise Band or performed by various soloists, e.g. Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone), 10,000 Reasons, Cornerstone.

Art’s custom digital instrumental tracks provide a contemporary “sound” that brings today’s Christian Music to life. These songs are very intuitive and do not require any special musical ability or skills. Lyrics will be projected on the wall to make it easy to follow along. Singers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. No prior musical experience required - Sing From Your Heart!

As one popular Contemporary Christian song says: “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you; I want to see you.” That’s what this song session is about - exploring some of today’s popular worship songs while connecting your inner spirit with your innate ability to make music.

Questions? Want more info? Contact Art Allen arthur.t.allen@comcast.net



Mah Jongg, Anyone?

Mah Jongg is a tile-based game of skill, strategy and luck. It stimulates strategic thinking, memory and concentration, and provides opportunities for socialization and friendship. Are you interested in learning how to play this ancient Chinese game (American version) that millions are playing now? Well, here’s your chance! Bernie Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Debby Voelker and Louise Zemina will offer lessons at the church. It takes a few sessions to learn the game, but once you know the basics, the more you play, the better you get and the more fun you have! If you are interested, please contact Bernie (203 415-9809); Ann (203 213-9136); Debby (203 710-1550); or Louise (203 988-2517). Once we have an idea as to how many are interested, and what days and times work best, we will announce the class schedule.



Butter Braids & Cookie Dough

Order February 1 - 22

Sundays during coffee hour

Picked up orders starting Sunday, March 22nd

Butter Braids come frozen, rise when thawing and bake into a delicious treat.

Checks payable to First Congregational Church

Order by email with Deanna Holloway at hollowaydeanna21@gmail.com

Butter Braid Pastry \$18

- Strawberry Cream Cheese
- Cinnamon
- Apple
- Blueberry Cream Cheese
- Raspberry
- Bavarian Crème

Cinnamon Rolls \$18

Classic Cookie Dough \$20

- Chocolate Chip
- White Mac Nut
- Oat Raisin
- Peanut Butter
- Triple Chocolate

Fundraiser to support the FCCW Youth Group costs for the 2026 Mission Trip!



Discover Beautiful Scotland!

The First Congregational Church of Wallingford is sponsoring a 10-day trip to Scotland, September 14 – 23, 2026. Highlights of this Collette tour include: Bagpipe demonstration; Whisky tasting; Isle of Skye; Loch Ness; Orkney Islands (Skara Brae and Standing Stones of Stenness); Dunrobin

Castle; Sheepdog demonstration; Edinburgh Castle; Scottish Cooking demonstration; 15 meals (8 breakfasts, 7 dinners); and more! Also included are transportation to the airport, round trip airfare and hotel transfers.

This tour not only offers a fabulous travel opportunity, it's a fundraiser for our church! The First Congregational Church will receive a commission based on the number of travelers. A limited number of seats has been reserved, and to take advantage of the special reduced rate, registration must be made by March 15, 2026. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. The trip is not limited to First Church members. Invite your friends!

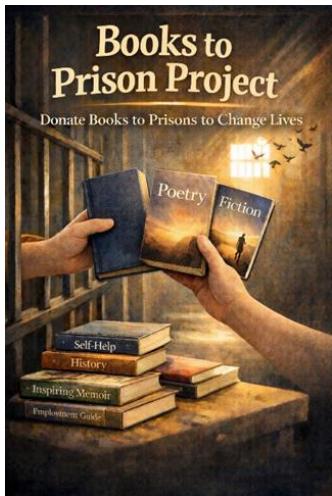
Travel brochures are available in Congregational Hall. For additional information and/or to register, go online to: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1393031>

Questions? Contact Debby Voelker at debvoelker@sbcglobal.net



Book Club News

Please join us in reading Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins Valdez. "Inspired by true events that rocked the nation." We will meet on Tuesday February 24 at 6:30 in the Guild Room.



The Mission & Outreach Ministry is launching a new ministry team: The Books to Prison Project! This ministry arises from church book club members' interest in providing the inspiration and education of books to underserved populations. We will be working with an existing program at the Yale Law School which works to build microlibraries in prisons as a resource and symbol of freedom and possibility. To learn more about Yale's program, please visit: <https://law.yale.edu/yls-today/news/law-library-launches-books-prison-project>.

We will be collecting soft and hardcover books (in good condition) on 2/15 and 2/22/26 during coffee hour and then preparing them for pick up by representatives from Yale Law School on 3/2/26.

Questions? Please call the church office.



A Message from the Flower Team

We thank our altar flower sponsors for supporting this ministry on a weekly basis. We are in need of sponsors for these upcoming dates:

March 1

March 15

March 29

April 5 (Easter)

April 19

Direct donations to the Flower Fund are always appreciated to allow us to place flowers on the altar on those weeks when we do not have sponsors, to help provide holiday flowers to our homebound members, to provide flowers to our baptismal families, and for special occasions, such as placing palm plants in the chancel on Palm Sunday. Thank you!



MISSION MONEY AT WORK

As the scripture says: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2.

The Mission Funds Distribution Team uses your donated mission money to support organizations that are consistent with First Congregational's Vision and Mission. This month we donated to the following organizations:

Generation Power CT (formerly known as Operation Fuel) – honors the legacy of Operation Fuel, which provided emergency fuel assistance, while embracing a new mission: to lead the way so current and future generations can thrive with secure access to heat, power, and water. Generation Power CT is evolving from crisis relief to sustainable solutions—empowering households, transforming systems, and lighting the path toward a more just and resilient Connecticut. We donated \$250 in support of this mission.

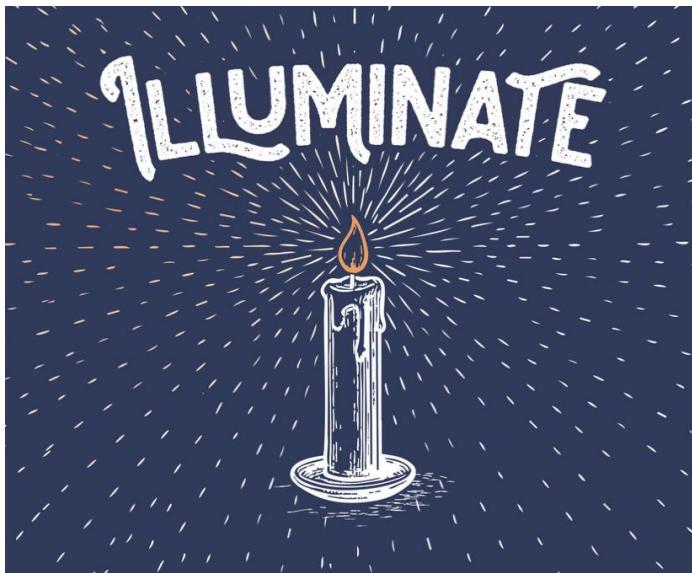
Sandy Hook Promise - The mission of Sandy Hook Promise is to educate and empower youth and adults to prevent violence in schools, homes, and communities. Through our proven, evidence-informed *Know the Signs* programs and sensible, bipartisan school and gun safety legislation, we teach young people and adults to recognize, intervene, and get help for individuals who may be socially isolated and/or at risk of hurting themselves or others. We donated \$400 in support of this mission.

If you have suggestions for nonprofit organizations whose missions align with FCC's Vision & Mission and who may benefit from our financial support, please feel free to contact any of the following members of the Mission Funds Distribution Team: Joan Bushey, Lori Folk-Barron, Nancy Mueller, Jessica Pereira, or Kathy Wallace.



Save the Date for a
Women's Fellowship Breakfast
Saturday, February 28, 2026
9-11 AM

Location and presenter TBD. Watch for more details!



Youth Mission Trip

Group Workcamps

June 28th – July 4th, 2026

Sunday, June 28th leave church at 10:30

Even though we are in Wallingford,
check out and “be away”

Saturday, July 4 return to church at 9:00

In a world filled with pressure from school, social media, and division, this year's theme, “**Illuminate**,” invites us to discover Jesus as the unstoppable Light (John 1:1–18). His Light brings clarity, purpose, and hope—shining through every challenge and never fading. As we explore what it means to carry that Light, we'll see that faith isn't just something we do—it's who we are. Join us next summer to grow in faith, build real community, and shine Jesus' brilliance in a world that needs it.

Daily Schedule for Monday – Friday

6:45 a.m.

Get up

7:00-7:45 a.m.

Breakfast

Gather tools, water, and lunches

8:00 a.m.

Morning program

Depart with work crew to sites after program

Work at site with breaks for lunch and devotions

3:30 p.m.

Return to the lodging facility

Shower time and free time

5:00-6:30 p.m.

Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Evening program

8:45-9:30 p.m. Youth group devotions
(Our church group meets)

9:30-10:30 p.m.

Free time

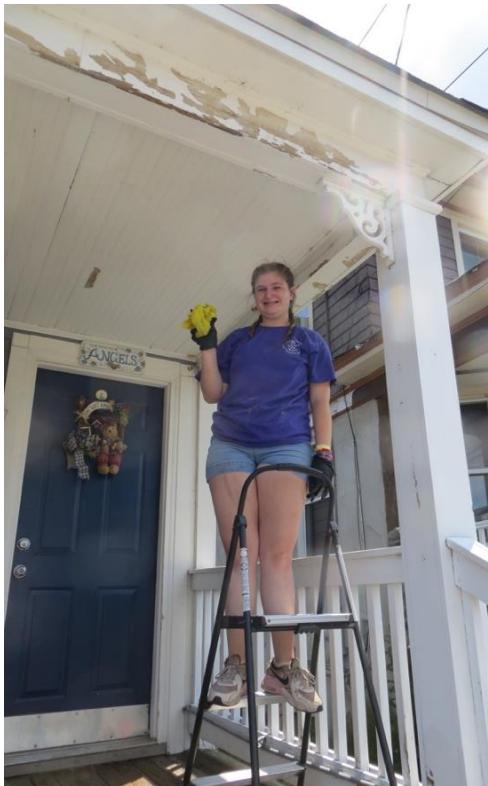
11:00 p.m.

Lights out

(We're sleeping in a classroom of a school.)

Wednesday Afternoon Fun Time quit work at noon





Our financial plan:

Through our church fundraisers Superbowl grinders and butter braids and angel donations along with monetary support from the Mission and Outreach Ministry, we will put together enough money to pay for the van, gas, Sunday lunch, Wednesday dinner, Wednesday activity and the tuition for the adult volunteers.

The cost of the tuition for the youth , \$558, will be the family's responsibility. I strongly recommend you collect donation to pay this part of the cost. This is not your typical summer camp expense! When my kids were going, I sent an email to about 50 friends and family and asked for their support of our mission trip work. The tuition covers the expenses like housing and meals as well as pays for some of the materials for the resident's home repair. I was always astounded by the donations and the wonderful conversation our asking inspired.

Here's some suggested wording for a simple "ask":

(name) is participating in our church's youth group mission trip. During the workcamp week, we will repair homes of elderly, disabled, low income or veterans. I am raising funds to help pay the cost of the trip and our work. Please consider a donation of any amount. This will help me along my faith journey and make the world a little bit better! If you can help, please send any donations to us at XXXXXX, Wallingford, CT. Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church Wallingford. When we return, I will be sure to tell you about the work that we and others in the group did. Thanks for any support!

This link to their website more about the trip: <https://groupmissiontrips.com/>

We need to put a deposit down to hold each spot, so please submit \$100 by the end of February (payable to First Congregational Church Wallingford).

You can break the rest of the payments up as your donations roll in with the balance due by May 15 or so.





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 Jeff 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.

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.



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



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 Jeff at 860-204-2130 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



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Patricia Parker who passed away on December 30, 2025. Graveside Services were held January 11 at St. John Cemetery.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Thelma Walter, who passed away January 1, 2026. Services were at Victory Church in Middlefield, CT, on January 10, 2026.

First Congregational Church of
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*Email the church office at:
officemanager@firstchurchwlf.org*