

In Our Prayers

Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)**Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)**Lucille Blakeslee (recovering from a stroke)Those mourning the death of Fran Rice** Pastor Rich (cancer)**Andrew (brain cancer)** Friends of Cynthia Bruestche** Keith Charron (kidney failure)**Micheline Zumbo, (friend of the Berlepschs)**Fred Merrow (Dawn Charron's brother-in-law)**Michael May, recovering from a hit and run**Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes**Butch Ziacks (dear friend of Bob Blakeslee)** Bob Blakeslee, recovering from surgery **Those impacted by nature's fury**Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavares Savanelli)**Deborah Masella (new cancer diagnosis** Tina Caldwell** Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend)**Diane Geiss**Sally Coleman** Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run** Megan Perkowski **Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) **A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Charmaine Craggs** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)**Tom Jastermsky** Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)** Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)**Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)** Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes ** Cathy Kovi** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman**Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)**Janice Frey**David Lick** Beverly Lastig** Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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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



April 21, 2024

Third Sunday After Easter

Celebrate Creation!

Honor the Earth!

April 21, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Sheep May Safely Graze* J.S.
Bach

There is No Shadow Brenda
Portman

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *My Shepherd Will Supply My
Need*
Tune: RESIGNATION/arr. Tracey Craig
McKibben

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Church, where do you see God?
P: **We see God in the wide reach of sky, in the towering height of mountains, in the depths of the sea, and in the vividness of flowers.**
O: Church, where else do you see God?
P: **We see God in early morning sunrises, in the quiet after a snow, in the reaching of rivers and tributaries, and in the stars that light the night.**
L: And in your seeing, what do you know?
P: **We know that God is here, and we know that God is good.**
L: Let us worship the God of creation!
P: **Let us worship our with-us God.**

+HYMN Morning Has Broken

PGM # 38

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Creator God, We have lost our way. In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation. However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite. The oceans are heavy with plastic. The ice caps are

melting by the hour. Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end. Corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution. Policies and practices are slow to change. Forgive us, O God. Bring us back to the garden. Fill our hearts with compassion for your world.
Show us where we can make a difference, and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world. With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray
Amen.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Psalm 8

ANTHEM *Shepherd Me, O God*
Marty Haugen

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES Romans

8:18-25

MESSAGE

+HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH # 28

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 *Stay With Us*
Egil Hovland

+DOXOLOGY
melody NCH #780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky NCH #
563

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Be Still and Know*
John Bell

POSTLUDE *Psalm XX*
Benedetto Marcello

Announcements

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford! If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

The flowers on the altar are given in thanksgiving for friends and family by Ann Gygax.

Serving the church today: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Ushers. Nancy Tipping, Liturgist. Leslie Spiars, Steward. Russ Hinckley, Chimes.

Today is the first of our **Café Conversations** hosted by the Search and Call Team. What characteristics would you like to see in the next settled pastor? Come and share your ideas. Meeting will take place in the Guld Room following worship.

We look forward to **Welcoming New Members** into the life of the church on April 28. If you would like to learn more to prepare for membership, speak to or email Pastor Meredith at pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org

Give yourself the gift of a fantastic **Renewal Weekend** with Footsteps in the Sand. Info: footsteps-sand.org or Bob and Lorraine Westervelt. Women's Weekend May 31-June 2, 2024. Men's Weekend June 7-9, 2024.

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