



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.

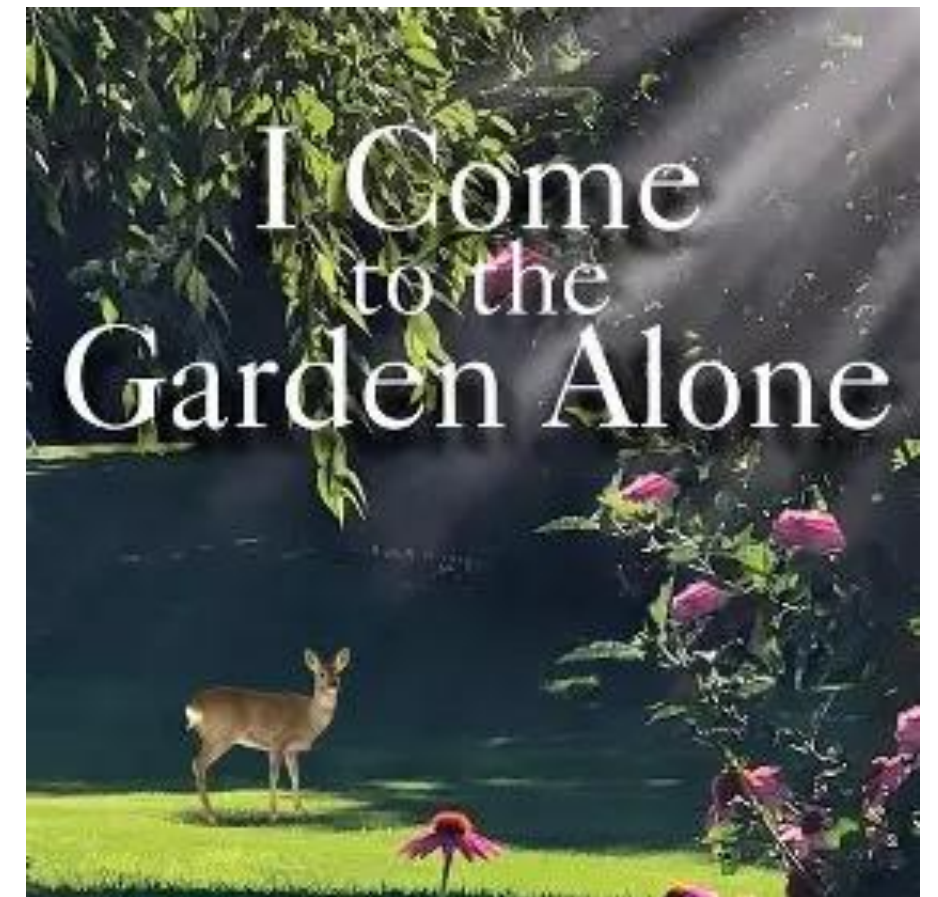
We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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Dawn Charron,



August 24, 2025

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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



To make a gift to First Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE *How Great Thou Art*
Trad. Swedish Folk Tune/arr. K.L. Phillips

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*
Spiritual/arr. Patricia Cota/Handbell Quartet

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ’s presence in your midst!
Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.
Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and our strength.
We place ourselves before this God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God’s Spirit. Amen.

+HYMN When Morning Guilds the Skies NCH # 86

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations, through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM *God Help the Outcasts*
Alan Menken & Stephen Schwartz
Jessie DePonte, Sarah Mather, Kayla Perkowski

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Philippians 4:4-7

THE MESSAGE ASAP Bob Westervelt

HYMN I Come to the Garden Alone NCH #237

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 *A Little Talk With Jesus Makes It Right*
Spiritual/Patricia Cota/Handbell Quartet

+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 Blessed Assurance NCH # 473

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE Make Me a Servant Kelly Willard
**Make me a servant Humble and meek
Lord let me lift up Those who are weak
And may the prayer Of my [heart](#) always be
Make me a servant Make me a servant
Make me a servant today**

POSTLUDE *Sing Praise to the Lord* Nicholas Palmer

Announcements

Serving the church today: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Deanna Holloway, Ushers. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of JoeAnn and Fred Wallace by Kathy Wallace.

Summer Craft Workshops Please have a refreshment after church and join us for craft workshops in Congregation Hall as we prepare for our Christmas Fair. Materials and instruction will be provided. Your ideas are welcome.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music.
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton



Welcome Bob Westervelt to Our Pulpit

Bob grew up in First Church and has served in many ways. Currently he is on the Worship Ministry and is the church collector. As a public school educator, he was a teacher, coach, student activities leader, and high school Associate Principal, all at Weston High School in Weston, Connecticut. Bob and Lorraine have two children, Katie and Chris. Bob and Lorraine enjoy many activities, including volunteering, music, sports, square dancing, and Footsteps in the Sand, keeping them both very busy.