



### **The First Congregational Church of Wallingford**

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Website: [www.firstchurchwallingford.org](http://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**



**February 22, 2026**

**The First Sunday in Lent**

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
+ Please rise in body or in spirit		
NCH – The New Century Hymnal, PH – Pilgrim Hymnal		
PRELUDE	<i>“Air” from Orchestral Suite #3 in D minor</i>	J. S. Bach
WELCOME		Pastor Jeff
CENTERING MUSIC	<i>“On the Glory of Your Presence”</i>	Steven L. Fry
CALL TO WORSHIP		
Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. <b>Come, beloveds, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.</b> In the midst of our hunger for comfort, provoked by lies of scarcity, <b>this Lent journey promises bread and abundance.</b> In the midst of our longing for safety, enticed by promises of security, <b>this Lent journey promises angels and costly solidarity.</b> In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity, <b>this Lent journey promises prayer and turning around.</b> The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. <b>Come, beloveds, to worship, venturing deeper and deeper into the wilderness of our broken and beautiful world.</b>		
+HYMN	<i>“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Day”</i>	NCH #211
PRAYER OF REFLECTION		

On this first day of Lent we pause, look within, and examine our consciousness.		
Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.		
Where we have failed to notice those who become invisible in their suffering, and ignored on the streets: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.		
Where worry has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.		
Examine us, O God, renew our hearts, and forgive us.		
SILENT REFLECTION		
ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE		
PASSING THE PEACE	May the peace of Christ be with you! <b>And also with you!</b>	
MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE		
ANTHEM	<i>“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone).” Vocalists: Jessie DePonte and Sarah Mather</i>	Chris Tomlin
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Matthew 4:1-11	Page 167 Page 3
THE MESSAGE	“Saying Yes to God”	Pastor Jeff
+HYMN	<i>“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”</i>	Insert
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	<i>“Lift Up You Heads”</i>	Steven L. Fry
+DOXOLOGY		
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	“When Peace, Like A River (It is Well With My Soul)”	NCH #438
+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION		
RESPONSE	<i>“Open the Eyes of My Heart”</i>	Paul Baloche
POSTLUDE	<i>“Prelude in C major”</i>	J. S. Bach
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. All are welcome here!		
The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Christopher Benz by Bernie & Tony Annunziata		

**Serving the church today:** Greeters: Steve Knight, Louise Zemina. Ushers: Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina. Chimes: Bob Wetervelt.

**A special welcome to** Paul Masi, who is serving as Minister of Music today while Dr. Jeanette is on vacation.

**Bible Study:** Meeting Jesus on the Road: A Lenten Study. Next meeting is February 24 at 5:30 pm. See Charlene Bruce with questions. 203-503-8379 or [charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net).

**The Music Team** will present the musical “**Oh, Jonah**” in May. Any children would like to be part of the production, please come to the music room after church or notify Jeanette (text 860-803-8745) or Kayla Perkowski. We will meet weekly on Sundays from 11:30-12:15.

The Rev. Jeffrey Birch, Minister  
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music  
Ms. Lena Rivera, Office Manager  
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton  
Ms. Sydney Holloway, Director of Sunday School  
and Youth Ministries