



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The First Congregational Church of Wallingford
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Church telephone: (203) 265-1691
Church Office Hours: Tues.– Fri. - 9:00am – 2:00pm
Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlf.org (office)
pastorjeff@firstchurchwlf.org (Minister)
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Website: 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 uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity.

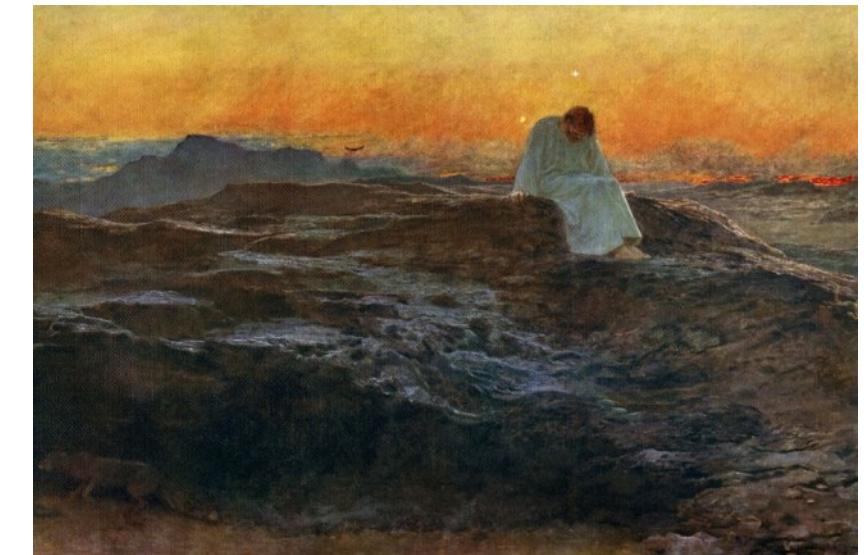
Mission

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.

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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

"Air" from *Orchestral Suite #3 in D minor*

J. S. Bach

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

"On the Glory of Your Presence" Steven L. Fry

CALL TO WORSHIP

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Come, beloveds, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.

In the midst of our hunger for comfort, provoked by lies of scarcity, **this Lent journey promises bread and abundance.**

In the midst of our longing for safety, enticed by promises of security,

this Lent journey promises angels and costly solidarity.

In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity,

this Lent journey promises prayer and turning around.

The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Come, beloveds, to worship, venturing deeper and deeper into the wilderness of our broken and beautiful world.

+HYMN "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Day" 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!
And also with you!

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)." Vocalists: Jessie DePonte and Sarah Mather 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 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" 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 "Lift Up You Heads" 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 "Open the Eyes of My Heart" Paul Baloche

POSTLUDE "Prelude in C major" 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.

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