



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 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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January 11, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE	<i>How Brightly Shines the Morning</i>	Dieterich Buxtehude
WELCOME		Pastor Jeff
CENTERING MUSIC	<i>Christmas Star</i>	John Williams
CALL TO WORSHIP		

Come, you who are weary,
you who have been bruised by life,
you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

We come, longing to be renewed.

The Holy One who stretches out the heavens
is stretching us now—
stretching our hearts toward courage,
our hands toward compassion,
our lives toward gentle justice.

We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.

A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus:
You are my beloved.

This Spirit rests upon us, too.

We are God's Beloved, called to bring gentle justice.

Come, let us remember who we are.

Let us worship God with joy.

+HYMN	<i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>	NCH #300
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PRAYER OF REFLECTION

We are incredibly stubborn, O God.

**We have entered the season
in which your light has been given to the world,
your blessings have been poured out on the world,
and yet all we can think about is our own problems,
our own needs, our own desires.**

Help us to desire you, God.

Help us to yearn for your presence.

Pour your baptismal waters over us again,

**cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.
Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.
Wash away our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors
that stand in the way of our truly being
the people you have called us to be.
Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM	<i>Stars Are For Those Who Lift Their Eyes</i>	Pauline Delmonte
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LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT	Matthew 3:13-17
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THE MESSAGE	<i>"The Fourth Epiphany"</i>	Pastor Jeff
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HYMN	<i>"Beautiful Savior"</i>	NCH #44
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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	<i>Down to the Water to Pray</i>	Traditional/Arr. Pepper Choplin
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+DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RECEIVING OUR STAR GIFTS

+HYMN	<i>At the Font We Start Our Journey</i>	NCH #308
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COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE	<i>Star Child</i>
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Text: Shirley Erna Murray; Music, Carlton Young
In Dulci Jubilo 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. welcome here!

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Fenella "Penny" Tongco Reyes Seichter. Always remembered. Always loved. By Jim Seichter

Serving the church today: Ushers: Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina; Chimes: Debbie Clark

Debrief the Christmas Fair Meeting: Everyone with a thought or idea is encouraged to join us Sunday, January 11 after church at the crafting tables.

Warm and Cozy Drive: January 17 Collecting hats, gloves, etc.

January 27 Book Club: My Friends by Frederick Bachman

Rev. Jeffrey Birch, Minister

Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music

(Vacant) Office Manager

Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton.

(Vacant) Director Sunday School and Youth Ministries