

## In Our Prayers

Sally Coleman\*\*Gladys Wells (David Wells mother)\*\*Alexander Karacsonyi, recovering from surgery;\*\*The family of Barbara Peters\*\*Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family)\*\*Morgan Bau and family mourning the death of Morgan's father\*\* Harold Chick\*\*A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer\*\* Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)\*\* Tim Keogh\*\* Ann Hebert (Lori Fast-Minkema's friend)\*\* Charmaine Craggs\*\* Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)\*\* Pam Savanelli\*\* Hayden Steinhilper (serving our country)\*\* Kimberly Eames-Burgett (friend of Lori Folk Barron)\*\*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 Brod (Sandy Week's sister)\*\* Matthew Lopilato (Amando Nesto's cousin\*\* Cathy Kovi\*\* Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)\*\* Kyle Denson (friend of Kristen Hinckley)\*\*Peter Fradiani and Tom Fedora (friends of Megan Perkowski)\*\* Sandy McCume\*\* Betsy-Sue Eisenman\*\* Pamela Lyons (Megan Perkowski's aunt)\*\* Hazel Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's grandmother)\*\*Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)\*\* Judy and Eric Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's parents)\*\*Janice Frey\*\*David Lick\*\* Beverly Lastig\*\* Those around the world who live in areas of conflict\*\*Those whose lives have been affected by Covid\*\*For an end to violence\*\*For those in Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquake.



### 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

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[pastormeredith@firstchurchwld.org](mailto:pastormeredith@firstchurchwld.org) (pastor)

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**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.

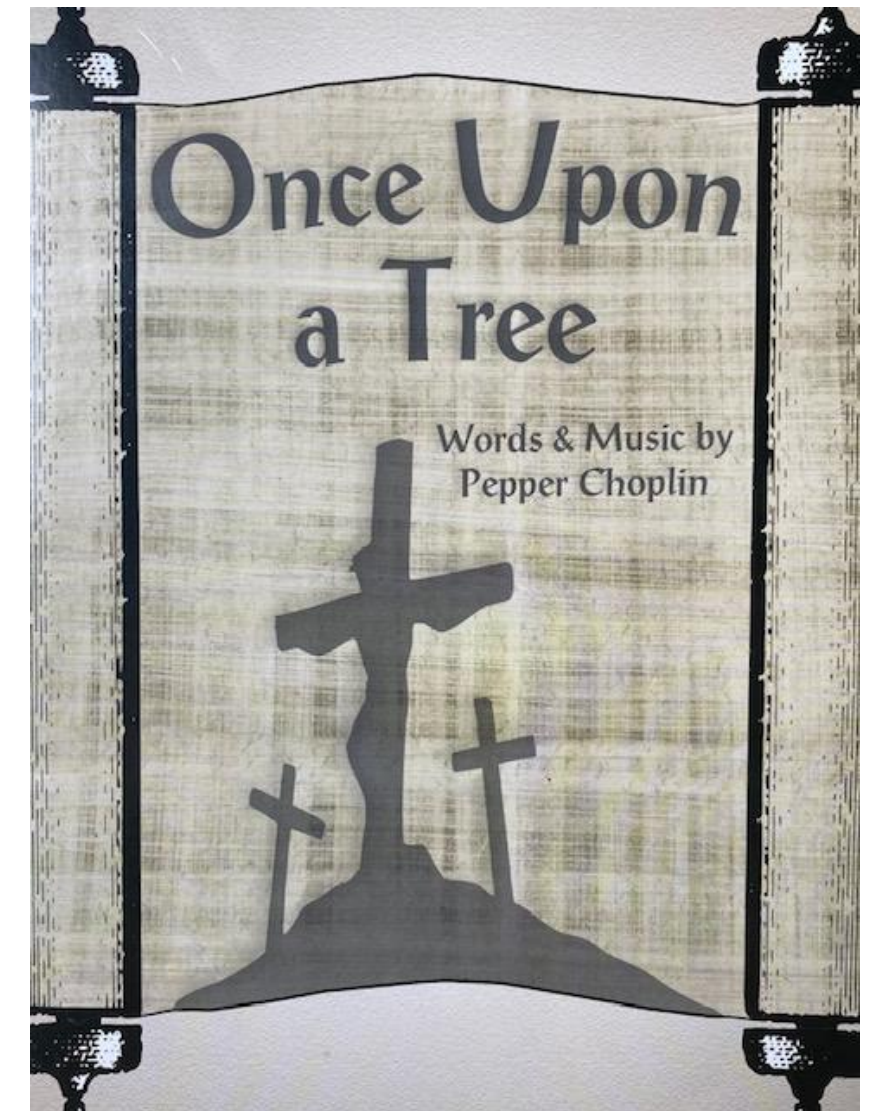
### Mission

***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



### The Fifth Sunday of Lent

**March 26, 2023**

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE "Jesus, My Friend" *Johann Gottfried Walther*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lift up your voice and call out to God.

**All: We cry out, believing that God hears us.**

One: Come together and wait for God.

**All: We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.**

One: Surely God's presence is here with us now.

**All: We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.**

One: Come, worship the Lord.

**All: We celebrate the power of God that restores us.**

+HYMN "Before Your Cross, O Jesus" NCH #191

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

CLEARING OUR CONSCIENCE WITH GOD

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN -

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE -  
(Pew Bible OT p. 709)

Psalm 130

+HYMN "Out of the Depths, O God, We Call"

NCH # 554

CHORAL SERMON

Excerpts from ONCE UPON A TREE

by Pepper Choplin

1. *Once upon a Tree*
2. *Blessed Is He*
3. *Jerusalem*
4. *Do This and Remember Me.*
5. *Gethsemane* Ron Graziani as Jesus (solo)
10. *Once Upon a Tree* (Reprise)

CALL TO PRAYER - "Spirit of the Living God"

NCH #283

PRAYERS OF GOD'S 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.***

INVITATION TO BLESS OTHERS

OFFERTORY MUSIC Meditation on UBI CARITAS Larry Visser  
("Where Charity and Love Prevail")

+THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all creatures here below!  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore, one God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN - "What Wondrous Love Is This"

NCH# 223

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE - "Bind Us Together"

*Bob Gillman*

POSTLUDE- "Out of the Depths I Cry, Lord, to Thee" *C.P.E. 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. 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 celebration of Spring!

Serving the church today are: Lori Minkema, Liturgist; Michael May, Heidi Bonassar and Greg Whitehouse; Ushers; David Wells, Greeter; and Debbie Clark, Chimes. Musicians this morning are the Handbell Choir under the direction of Jeanette Gross. Thank you! We also offer thanks to those who prepared and served coffee hour!

Do you need a NAME TAG? Name tags help us to get to know one another better. If you have one, please wear yours and return it at the end of the service or coffee hour. If you need one, email Maureen, our Office Manager, indicating the name you would like on your name tag, or leave a note in the offering plate making your request.

Jesus Christ Superstar is 50! First Church will be attending this amazing and moving musical on April 22 at 2 PM at the Schubert Theater in New Haven. Orchestra seats are \$90 and Mezzanine \$71. Contact Pastor Meredith or Jeanette Gross to make your reservation **TODAY**.

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