



## 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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**March 8, 2026**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**



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**To make a gift to First Church**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

NCH – The New Century Hymnal, PH – Pilgrim Hymnal

PRELUDE *Air from Water Music* G. F. Handel

WELCOME Pastor Jeff

CENTERING MUSIC *Canon in D* Johann Pachelbel

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are thirsty—not just for water, but for hope.

**We come, weary and longing, seeking the One who satisfies.**

At the well, Jesus meets us—knowing our stories, hearing our questions, offering us living water.

**We drink deeply of His grace, and our hearts are refreshed.**

Let us worship the One who knows us completely and loves us without condition.

**We come to worship Jesus, the Living Water, and to proclaim His goodness to the world!**

+HYMN *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* NCH #18

### PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**God of living water, we come before You aware of the places in our hearts that remain dry, parched by doubt, fear, and unspoken shame. Like the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, we approach You at the noon of our own lives, unsure, hesitant, burdened by the weight of our histories.**

**We confess the times we have hidden our true selves, presenting masks to the world to avoid judgment or rejection. Forgive us, O Lord, for the ways we have sought fulfillment from sources that can never satisfy, for the shallow wells in which we have sought life apart from You.**

**We acknowledge the ways we have constructed boundaries—between ourselves and others, between our communities and those who seem different or distant. We confess our prejudices, our fear of crossing social, cultural, or theological divides, and the times we have failed to see You in those deemed unlikely or unworthy.**

**Renew us, O God, at the wells we frequent each day. Teach us to leave behind the weights, the jars of our own making, and allow Your truth to compel us toward honest confession, radical humility, and authentic encounter. May we, like the Samaritan**

**woman, receive Your insight, drink deeply of Your Spirit, and be inspired to bear testimony, bringing others to the well of life You have opened for all. Amen.**

### 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 *Walk By Faith* J. Paul Williams & Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE READINGS John 4:5-42 Page 89

THE MESSAGE “A New Paradigm” Pastor Jeff

+HYMN *I Love to Tell the Story* NCH #522

### 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 *We Are Called* Arr. Mark Hayes

### +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 *Jesus Lover of My Soul* PH #210

### +COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloche

POSTLUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* 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 congregation of the United Church of Christ. All are welcome here!

**The flowers on the altar** are given in memory of Joan Smith by Delbert Smith, Sr., Nancy, Ginny, Terri, Del Jr. and family.

**Serving the church today:** Greeters: Dawn Charron, Lori Folk-Barron. Ushers: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Deanna Holloway. Chimes: Russ Hinkley.

**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 March 10 at 6:30 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