



**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.



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. - 9:30am – 1:00pm

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org

We, the faith community of the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, United Church of Christ, aspire to live by the wisdom of Christ's teachings.

At the heart of our vision and mission is a commitment to inclusivity and acceptance.

We welcome everyone regardless of age; race; culture; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; family configuration; economic circumstance; mental, physical, developmental, and emotional ability; and religious tradition.

Jesus Christ, in speaking to his disciples said this: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13: 34).

As current disciples of Jesus, we commit to maintain a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful involvement in the life of the church.

Jesus' teachings of love and compassion call us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity, both within the sanctuary of this church and throughout the community in which we live and serve.

Diversity in our world is a gift from God which we celebrate.

Guided by our Lord's wisdom, we offer an authentic and loving welcome to all who seek a relationship with God, and we proclaim ourselves an Open and Affirming church.



OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister.....	4
Message from the Moderators.....	5
Mission Money at Work.....	6
Faith Formation News.....	7
March Worship Opportunities.....	8
350th Anniversary Gift Registry / Voices of Devotion Project.....	9
Our Love Offering to the World.....	10
Bible Study Spring 2026.....	12
Mah Jongg Lessons.....	12
Wallingford Work camp.....	13
March Mission Drive.....	14
Book Club News/ Upcoming Dates.....	15
Chocolate Easter Egg Sale.....	16
Facebook FYI.....	17
Palm Cross Making.....	18
Transgender Day of Visibility.....	29
FCCW Ministry Team.....	20
Stewardship Corner	23
Easter Flower Memorial Order For.....	24

A Message from the Minister

March 2026

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

“...He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way (back) to him. John 4:29b-30

The Second Visit”

If you're a greeter in church, or have been in a meeting with me, you have probably heard me talk about the “Second Visit.” What I mean by that is that while we rightfully relish the arrival of a visitor to our church, what we should relish even more is the *second visit*; one that is incited by the wonderful and fulfilling experience that they (hopefully) had during their first visit.

We all have a role in creating and sustaining the “first visit” experience. From how the church looks aesthetically, through the intentional greeting as the visitor pass through the door, then to our human-to-human expressions of authentic welcome, of course the worship experience itself, and then our hospitality and welcome at coffee hour. All of it.

Remember, the visitor comes the first time because they are searching for something that need. They come back because they found it here with us.

In the United Church of Christ, we rightfully take pride in our brand of Extravagant Welcome, but we certainly didn't invent it. In that passage from the Gospel of John, above, the Samaritan woman at the well had such an amazing first visit Jesus that she told everybody in her city, and they all came back...to experience it themselves.

It's called evangelism, and it doesn't have to be hard. Sometimes, it's just a smile, or a handshake, or a nice cookie and a cup of coffee, or a bit of honest conversation.

I know that many of you grew up in this church. But if you didn't, then you have experienced this - you came once...that then you came back.

Holy Week is coming, and with it will be many *first visits* to our beloved church. I encourage you to think about how many angels you might meet that week, and how you might help them decide to make their *second visit*.

Be blessed, dear ones, and may you experience a thoughtful and fulfilling Lent.

Pastor Jeff

Message from the Moderators

March 2026

Most months, we use these messages to deliver information about upcoming celebratory events, pending congregational decisions, issues around governance, or discussions about how we are living into our Vision and Mission. This month, though, we are compelled to pause and reflect on a difficult part of life in our church family...loss. Loss of beloved members of our congregation is an unavoidable fact that we must always face. However, it seems, particularly over the last year, that we have been saying goodbyes at a more frequent and heartbreaking pace. Based on our conversations with many in the congregation, you have similar feelings. So, we wanted to take this moment to honor our shared grief and offer love and support to all those grieving: family members, friends, acquaintances, and those who hoped to one day know better the ones we have lost too soon.

We uplift all of the beautiful souls who have been called home and rejoice that they are resting in God's gracious peace and promised everlasting life. We are grateful that we had the opportunity to share time, relationships, and the light of life with so many. May their light and inspiration continue to shine down upon us. We give thanks for all they did to support our church, and we vow to continue the work they started.

At the same time, we pray that we are all comforted during our period of shared mourning. Let us remember that our time with our church family and all of our loved ones is to be cherished. During the time that we share, let us remember to witness, uplift, and reflect the light of Christ that exists in one another. Let us wrap loving arms around the families and friends of those we have lost. And, let us remember to lead with kindness and love at every opportunity during the short time we walk together.

We are reminded of our Core Values from our Vision & Mission Statement: "United in Christ, we uplift individuals, celebrate shared humanity, cultivate and share a community of faith among all ages, pledge our mutual love and support, and walk together in service."

Be gentle with yourself and with one another as we grieve the loss and celebrate the light of so many. Always know that your presence in this church family is valued, and you are loved.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2, 4 – For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.

With the grace and peace of Christ,
Lori Folk-Barron & Greg Whitehouse, Co-Moderators

MISSION MONEY AT WORK

As the scripture says: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16.

The Mission Funds Distribution Team uses your donated mission money to support organizations that are consistent with First Congregational's Vision and Mission. This month we donated to the following organizations:

The Malala Fund, <https://malala.org>

The Malala Fund invests in civil society organizations who are challenging the systems, policies and practices that prevent girls from going to school in their communities. They complement their efforts by advocating to expand and protect girls' right to secondary education and secure resources for education. The funds' efforts are focused on the countries of Afghanistan, Brazil, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Tanzania. We donated \$250 in support of this mission.

The Sisters' Project, PO Box 1643, Wallingford, CT.

The Sisters' Project is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2010 by a group of biological sisters and sisters through friendship. They are committed to raising funds in support of cancer patients and their families and focus their efforts on projects within our local community. From supporting the local Wallingford YMCA cancer recovery program to awarding scholarships to local high school seniors who have been affected by cancer, and everything in between, their goal is to bring a sense of tranquility to cancer patients and their families. We made a donation of \$250 in memory of Tim Keogh, who passed away on February 1, 2026, after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer.

Vinny's Deli, 567 Center Street, Wallingford, CT.

Vinny Iannuzzi, the owner of Vinny's Deli in Wallingford provides \$10 gift certificates for meals paid in advance. Individuals who may be hungry and have no money can stop at the deli and use the certificates, no questions asked. Vinny welcomes donations from the community to support this ongoing project to fight food insecurity. We donated \$100, or the equivalent of 10 pre-paid meals.

Wallingford Emergency Shelter, Wallingford, CT.

The Governor extended the Cold Weather Protocol until February 13, 2026. The Shelter was operating 24/7 until that time and was in need of food supplies to support our neighbors. The Mission & Outreach Ministry held a second pop-up food drive on February 8, 2026 to support the shelter, and we donated \$200 towards the purchase of lunch foods.

If you have suggestions for nonprofit organizations whose missions align with FCC's Vision & Mission and who may benefit from our financial support, please feel free to contact any of the following members of the Mission Funds Distribution Team: Joan Bushey, Lori Folk-Barron, Nancy Mueller, Jessica Pereira, or Kathy Wallace.

Faith Formation News

Saturday, March 28, will be a day full of time for fellowship and fun. At 9:00 a.m., breakfast will be served prior to the **Palm Cross Making Workshop** for the church service the next day. Later that morning, children (3rd grade and older) and the young at heart can take a **Tour of the Bell Tower**, led by Rick Voelker. The young and young-at-heart can also take part in an **Easter Egg Hunt**.



On Feb. 8, the Confirmands assisted in assembling Super

Bowl grinders, which proceeds from which will benefit the Youth Group's Mission Trip.

Youth Group

Youth Group met twice this February to help with the Super Bowl grinder fundraiser and on the 22nd for Bible Jeopardy. In March, there will be two meetings, teamwork activities on March 8th and community service on March 29th. Reach out to Sydney Holloway with any questions or concerns at sdrumbheller39@gmail.com. We are always looking for resource adults, if interested please email Sydney.

Confirmation Class

In February, the Confirmands learned about Prayer, both as an individual devotion and as an aspect of public worship. Next month, they will be considering "What We Believe." Besides gathering regular sessions on the first two Sundays of every month before church, the Confirmands have opportunities for service. On March 28, they can help to serve at the Palm Cross Breakfast and can assist in making palm crosses that will be handed out at church the next day.

Miss Amanda's Sunday School class in session.

Sunday School

In February, Sunday School students learned about the stories of Moses. They made crafts, such as making baskets to put their hopes in similarly to the story they read. Sunday School also hosted coffee hour all month and shared paper hearts with kind words to members after worship on Sunday the 15th.



First Congregational Church of Wallingford

March Worship Opportunities

Sunday, March 1, 2026 @ 10:00 am	“The Gospel in Three Verses” (Communion)
Sunday, March 8, 2026 @ 10:00 am	“A New Paradigm”
Sunday, March 15, 2026 @ 10:00 am	“Looking for Our Shepherd” OGHS offering gathered in.
Sunday, March 22, 2026 @ 10:00 am	“A Powerful Spirit”
Sunday, March 29, 2026 @ 10:00 am	“Who IS This?” Palm Sunday Worship
Thursday, April 2, 2026 @ 7:00 pm	“What Is Truth?” Maundy Thursday (Communion, Tenebrae)
Friday, April 3, 2026 @ 12:00 noon	Good Friday Service of Lessons and Songs
Saturday, April 4, 2026 @ 2:00 pm	Easter Vigil at Ashlar Village (Communion)
Sunday, April 5, 2026 @ 10:00 am	“Destination: Hope!” Easter Sunday Service (Communion)

**First Congregational Church
350th Anniversary Gift Registry**

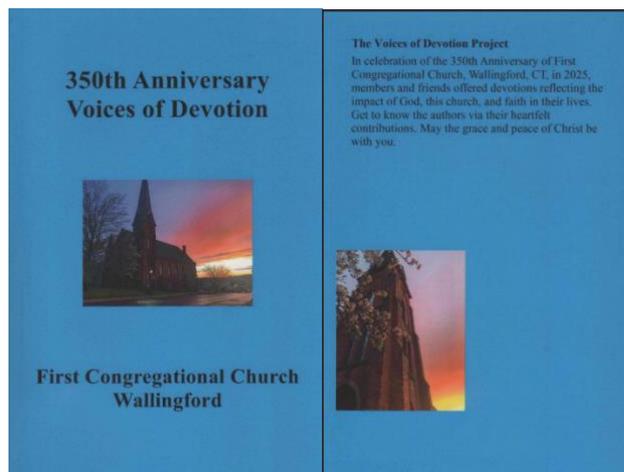
Over the course of the 350th year, members and friends of FCC have donated \$57,865.00 to the 350th Gift Registry! These donations as well as the 20% matching funds from the Angel Donor allowed several of the registry projects (hearing assist devices, chancel railing, chancel carpeting, and kitchen & hallway flooring) to be completed in mid to late 2025. As you recall, the Angel Donor offered matching funds up to a maximum donation on their part of \$60,000. With hearts filled with gratitude, we are pleased to announce that the Angel Donor decided to donate the remainder of the matching funds, and in January 2026, we received an additional \$55,000 from the Angel Donor to be used for remaining projects on the 350th Gift Registry! Pending final estimates, the \$57,865.00 donated by the congregation plus the \$60,000 donation from the Angel Donor plus \$27,000 previously donated by an Angel Donor for sanctuary technology are expected to provide funding for all 350th Gift Registry projects except the insulation of the sanctuary (a project expected to cost approximately \$40,000). This is truly exciting, as the generosity of the congregation and the Angel Donor in celebration of the 350th Anniversary has allowed/will allow FCC to make upgrades/improvements without needing to tap the endowment for these projects.

In the coming months, you will see other projects coming to completion thanks to the generosity of this congregation and the Angel Donor. Plans for LED screen installation and new pew cushions in the sanctuary, which have been approved by the Vision Board, are currently underway. You will also be seeing newly upholstered chairs in the sanctuary, and lighting and painting improvements in other areas of the church. Plans continue related to the installation of a new sign in the front of the church, and the Vision Board will continue to review updated estimates for refinishing the floors in the sanctuary and insulating the sanctuary for increased energy efficiency.

THANK YOU to all who have made the 350th Anniversary Gift Registry a success during our celebratory year!

350th Anniversary Voices of Devotion Project -

Thank you to the members and friends of the congregation who offered devotions for the Voices of Devotion project. All of the devotions have been compiled into a book commemorating the project. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the book, please contact the church office. There is no cost; however, if you are inclined to make a free will donation towards this book, a suggested donation is \$6.





In 2 Corinthians 8-9, the Apostle Paul lays out his stewardship campaign to gather an offering to be sent to the Christian church in Jerusalem. Commonly known as “the collection for the saints,” the offering occupies a significant place in Paul’s missionary work.

Paul’s calling was to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. He preached generosity and hospitality. He brought Jewish and Gentile believers into one community, despite their differences of nationality, tribal affiliation, and economic standing. He encouraged unity, love, compassion, and service.

Paul’s stewardship campaign called for members to set aside money each week, above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings, to help Christians in Jerusalem. The offering was a gift, with no strings attached, no expectation of repayment or reward, and no ulterior motives. This collection was a love offering, embodying the word of Jesus:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35, NIV)?

Members of the early church took seriously the command to love God and neighbor. The Apostle’s focus on the collection highlights the hallmarks of community life that God and Jesus emphasized: care of the poor and vulnerable; use of resources to benefit those who need help; loving one’s neighbor; caring for the environment; and advocating social justice so all can live and thrive. Communities grounded in Jesus’ sacrificial life and death embody radical generosity, often pooling their resources for their common good (see Acts 2:44-47).

The term “love offering” may not be a familiar one in your tradition. A love offering is a voluntary monetary gift: to show appreciation for a beloved pastor, a guest preacher, or special speaker; to support a specific occasion, like an anniversary or commemoration; or, to support a particular church or community program, mission, ministry, or project. The love offering is separate from one’s regular tithe and giving and is often collected on special days or occasions.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been gathering love offerings for over 75 years. Each year, we are invited to participate in a giant love fest—giving our dollars and time for the sake of sisters and brothers around the globe. Our contributions are our love offering to the world!

We will gather in our OGHS offering here at First Church on March 15, 2026. I hope you will consider giving to this cause generously.

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

Bible Study Spring 2026 Meeting Jesus on the Road

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30pm, Chapter 2

Tuesday, March 10, 6:30pm, Chapter 3

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30pm, Chapter 4

Tuesday, March 24, 5:30pm Chapter 5,

Book Club at 6:30pm

Tuesday, March 31, 6:30pm, Chapter 6

Tuesday, April 6, 6:30pm, Chapter 7 and end

Mah Jongg Lessons

Come learn to play Mah Jongg, a tile-based game of skill, strategy and luck. Lessons have been scheduled for three consecutive Thursdays, beginning March 5. We are offering two sessions: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Bernie (203 415-9809) or Debby (203 710-1550) to let us know which session you plan to attend.





Wallingford Workcamp Team
 Bringing A Community Together
2026

Four Months away!

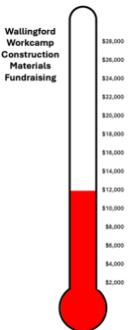
Two focus areas for March

Fundraising!

The Wallingford Workcamp Team must raise \$27,000 to purchase construction materials. As such, all donations are appreciated and are tax deductible. We need this money by May 1st to let residents know we will work on their home and start ordering materials. Jane Callanan has been contacting business connections and needs help. You too can ask corporations, organizations or businesses for donations with this [letter](#).

Donations:

- \$10,000: Rotary Club of Wallingford
- \$500: Thurston Foods
- \$50: East Side Market
- \$1,450 from individuals



Residents: Visiting Sites and adding more residents

We have 32 applicants so far ... keep spreading the word. [Application Link](#)
 (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pALjfDw-ExqUxyJS-46HNSc4oKvs6dyv/view>)

We need to visit each site to see if work is appropriate & safe for youth workers. Two people are needed for each visit. If site is ok, helper will, using a checklist, explain what camp is and get resident's agreement to have work done and have checklist signed. Meanwhile, Lorraine will take pictures, sketch out and write up the work. It is fun to meet potential residents and talk with them about the work. Can you help for about five hours one day? If so, sign up at the Workcamp table or use this link: [Site Visit Sign Up](#) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448ACAA2BA3FEC25-62579068-site#/>)

Find [volunteers](#) now for work later:

- Ladders: Find ladders we can borrow for camp and team to pick up and return
- Hospitality during camp
- Power washing week before camp
- Worksite Trash Removal
- Set up week volunteers
- After camp workers to finish projects

March Mission Drive

First Congregational Church 23 S. Main St., Wallingford



Snacks, Crafts, Supplies and Fidgets

The Monthly Drives Team of the Mission & Outreach Ministry is collecting items for Ulbrich Boy's and Girl's Club. Suggested items would include a variety of snacks, construction paper, crayons, colored pencils/markers, glue sticks, Fidget Toys

**** Due to allergies NO NUT products ***

Prefer to make a monetary donation? Store gift cards and other monetary donations will also be happily accepted the day of the drive or at any point before the drive.

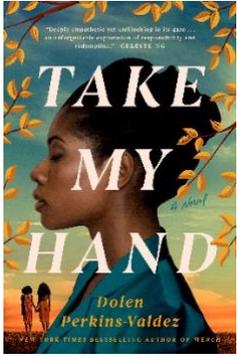
Donations will be collected on:

Date: Saturday, March 21th, 2026

Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

This is a drive up, drop off event at the rear of the church. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated!

If you have questions, please contact Louise Zemina at 203-988-2517 or email her at louisezem@aol.com



Book Club News

Please join us on March 24 at 6:30 in the Guild Room. The book is “Take My Hand “ by D. Perkins Valdez.

“A searing and passionate new novel.” Amazon

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 29 at 10: a.m.

A remembrance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a humble animal, the donkey and the carrying of the cross, made from Our Christmas tree, into the sanctuary while the poignant song “Via Dolorosa” is sung.

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

A service of Tenebrae (Shadows of the actions which happened in the last week of Jesus’s). life and the symbolic presence of the Christ Candle carried out in darkness and reappearance as the Light of the World.

Good Friday: Friday, April 3 at 12 noon

A meditation in Lessons and Songs on the experience of that most holy of days

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.

A service of joy of the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection as our senses are flooded with the joyous strains of “Alleluia, Christ is Risen “and the fragrances and sight of Easter Lilies accompanied by other spring flowers.

All of us can participate in this most Holy Week through the flooding of our senses with the Word, Sight, Smell, Touch and Sound as we experience this journey together.

The First Congregational Church

Chocolate Easter Egg Sale

Enjoy delicious **CHOCOLATE EGGS**

with peanut butter or coconut filling

Just \$8 for 6 candies or \$15 per dozen!

Orders must be pre-paid!



Orders must be received by March 15th and will be ready for pick up on Palm Sunday weekend, March 27, 28, and 29.

To order:

In-person: At coffee hour after worship

Online:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3ZD/home>



The First Congregational Church of Wallingford

23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

Facebook FYI

First Congregational Church Wallingford has both a public Facebook page and a private Facebook page. The number of “followers” of our public page is growing, and there is increasing interest in our private page as well. Given that, we thought it a good time to review information about the Church’s Facebook presence and to outline some policies that the Vision Board has adopted with regard to the private Facebook page.

The public Facebook page, titled First Congregational Church of Wallingford, CT, (<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchwallingford>) is the page where anyone who is on Facebook or the internet can go to get basic information about our church, view livestream videos of our services, and see general event announcements.

The private Facebook page, titled First Congregational Church UCC, Wallingford, CT, (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/73105377547/>) is for Members of First Congregational Church Wallingford. In addition to general event announcements, the content of this page includes announcements directly relevant to our church members, such as the Spire, information about congregational meetings/agendas, event photos, and obituaries of members and friends of the congregation, if we have the family’s permission. Only members of the private page can see its content, and one can only join the page with church approval. When anyone requests to join the page, they are supposed to answer membership questions so we can determine if the requestor has a legitimate reason to access the private page.

An increasing number of people (some known and many unknown to the church) have requested access to the private Facebook page, and a review of our Facebook policies was needed. On 2/2/26, the Vision Board established new guidelines about who should be given access to the Church’s private Facebook group. After discussion, the Vision Board voted to keep the requirement to answer the questions on the membership request page, and it established that, going forward, only active church members and associate members (as defined by our bylaws) will be given access to the church's private Facebook page. As a result, we will be confirming an individual's active or associate membership in the church before approving any requests to join the private page. We know that there are people who do not meet these criteria who were admitted to the page before this policy was established, and we do not intend to remove anyone who is already admitted. However, we needed to establish consistency and verification going forward.

Please keep in mind that postings on both pages are limited to those that are directly related to our congregation’s activities. General memes or content that is not directly related to church happenings will not be approved. We do not want the Facebook pages to be diluted by non-church content, even if the memes are thoughtful or humorous.

We hope this provides a clearer understanding of our Facebook presence. If you have any questions about Facebook or other social media issues, please direct them to Pastor Jeff or the Vision Board.

Thank you,
The Vision Board of FCC

PALM CROSS MAKING



Pancake
Breakfast



Learn to make a
palm cross! Can
you make the
smallest?

Kids Easter Egg
Hunt
Tours of the Bell
Tower



March 28th, 2026

9:00 a.m.

First Congegational Church
of Wallingford



Transgender Day of Visibility is March 31st

The Open and Affirming Team would like to acknowledge Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV). TDOV is an annual event, first held on March 31, 2009. It was created by transgender activist Rachel Crandall, of Michigan, to counteract the negative narratives often associated with transgender people. It is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and their accomplishments. It raises awareness of the discrimination transgender people suffer, and acknowledges their contributions to society.

The following transgender people have positively influenced our country.

Politics, Activism & Science

Representative Sarah McBride: First openly transgender state senator and member of the United States Congress in US history.

Marsha P. Johnson: LGBTQ rights activist and key figure in the Stonewall Uprising.

Dr. Rachel Levine: U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health, first openly transgender federal official confirmed by the Senate.

Dr. Lynn Conway: Computer scientist, electrical engineer, pioneer of microchip design.

Sports and Other

Caitlyn Jenner: Olympic gold medalist and television personality.

Fallon Fox: First openly transgender mixed martial arts fighter.

Chaz Bono: Advocate, actor and author.

Jazz Jennings: You Tube personality and LGBTQ rights activist.

Fashion & Modeling

Andreja Pejic: The first openly transgender model to be profiled by Vogue.

Valentina Sampaio: First openly transgender model for Victoria's Secret.

Music

Kim Petras: Grammy winning pop singer.

Teddy Geiger: Singer-songwriter.

Laura Jane Grace: Lead singer of Against Me!

Ethel Cain: Singer-songwriter.

Entertainment and Acting

Laverne Cox: Actress known for Orange Is the New Black, the first openly trans person nominated for a Primetime Emmy in acting.

First Congregational Church of Wallingford

Ministry and Team Organizational Structure

Arising from our Core Values and Vision statement, our Mission statement was discerned to be the following:

“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.”

The VISION BOARD empowers our work towards our church’s Vision and Mission and delegates to the following Ministries and their Teams the authority to achieve these goals. It serves as the executive body of the church between meetings of the congregation to manage our strategic issues. Vision Board officers include the Moderators, Treasurer, and Clerk.

WORSHIP MINISTRY assists the minister(s) with the Church’s regular and special services of worship and provides for the supply of the pulpit in the absence of the Ordained Minister. It determines the appropriateness of any use of the sanctuary and chapel. The Worship Ministry oversees the following Teams: Sacramental Ministry Team, Music Team, Altar Team, Flower Team, Choir, Audio Team, Greeters and Ushers Team, Bell Choir, Live Streaming Team, Bell Ringers.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY works with the staff to plan, coordinate, and implement spiritual and faith development programs for children, youth, and adults. Faith Formation Ministry oversees the following Teams: Adult Education Team, Church School Team, Confirmation Team, Youth Group Team, Bible Study, Youth Mission Trip, Women’s Fellowship Breakfast.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY designs and carries out fellowship programs and events for members and for welcoming and recruiting new members to the congregation. It develops and supports communication avenues to inspire people. It works to welcome our involvement in fundraising activities. Membership Ministry oversees the following Teams: Communications Team, Book Club, Fellowship Events Team, New Member Team, Nominating Team, Scholarship Team, Rummage Sale Team, Fundraising Team, Church Fair Team, Historian, Delegates to the Association.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY initiates and oversees plans and programs for the care and welfare of members. Congregational Care Ministry oversees the following Teams: Good Cheer Team, Hospitality Team, Pastoral Relations Team, Visitation Team, Prayer Shawl, Helping Hands.

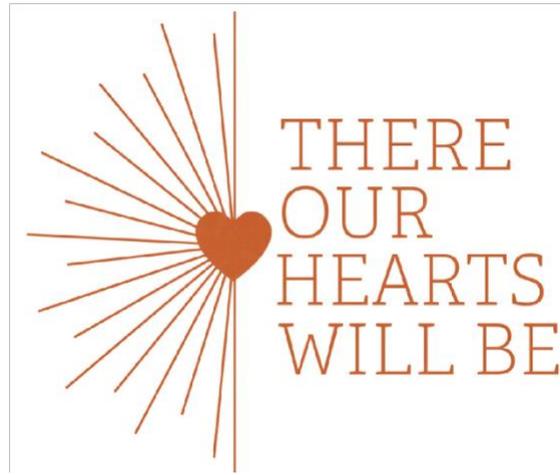
MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY is responsible for the education and involvement of the congregation in the needs and social concerns of local and worldwide communities. Mission and Outreach Ministry oversees the following Teams: Community Action Team, Monthly Mission Drives Team, Mission Funds Team, Open and Affirming Team, Wellness Groups Liaison Team, Scouting, FedEx Ministry Team.

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY holds, cares for, and conserves the physical property of the Church, and it manages the investment and dispersal of funds of the Church. It employs and oversees staff in conjunction with the Minister as specified and appropriate. It prepares a budget to submit to the Vision Board. The Administration Ministry oversees the following Teams: Investment Team, Finances Team, Personnel Team, Property Team, Stewardship Team, Counting Team, Monday Morning Crew.

First Congregational Church of Wallingford

Stewardship Corner

We are excited to announce our 2026 - 2027 Stewardship Theme.



In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Please join me in thinking about where our treasures and our hearts show up at First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT.

- Mission Funds for causes near and dear to member’s hearts
- Monthly drives to support our neighbors in need
- Food Baskets at Thanksgiving
- Easter Baskets and Christmas Angel Tree gifts for children that are part of the DCF process
- 350th Anniversary Gifts to enhance our sanctuary for new worship opportunities
- Weekly food drives to support the Wallingford Emergency Center when they put out last minute calls for help
- Meals for church members who are struggling
- Sharing our spaces for Community Dinners, Boy Scout Events and meetings for those struggling with addiction
- Visitation and outreach to our home bound members
- Weekly worship services to give all who attend a much needed break from all that is happening in the world
- Pledges for Operating Funds so we can keep doing what we do!



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

This year, Easter is **April 5th**. During Lent, you will have the opportunity to purchase flowers that will honor and remember loved ones and decorate the Sanctuary for Easter. Please complete the form below and put it in the collection plate or return it to the church office by **March 29th**. You may also order flowers via the Online Giving tab on the church website:

<https://www.firstchurchwallingford.org/>

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. - *The Flower Team*

EASTER PLANT ORDERS

Number of Daffodils: _____

Number of Tulips: _____

Number of Hyacinth Plants: _____

x \$10 each

Subtotal: _____

Number of Lily Plants: _____

x \$12 each

Subtotal: _____

Total: _____

_____ I will pick up my plant(s) after the Easter services

_____ Please donate my plants.

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____



We celebrate with joy the Baptism of Nellie Elizabeth Johnson on February 8, 2026.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Schunmann, who passed away on January 27, 2026. Funeral services were held at Wallingford Funeral Home on February 15, 2026.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Colleen Miller who passed away on January 28, 2026. A memorial service and reception was held here at the church on February 27, 2026.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Tim Keogh who passed away on February 1, 2026. A memorial service was held here at the church on February 6, 2026.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Sandy Weekes who passed away on February 2, 2026. A memorial service and reception is planned for March 21, 2026.

First Congregational Church of
Wallingford
23 South Main St
Wallingford, CT 06492

*The next Spire will be published in
March 2026. Spire submission
deadline for the February Issue is
February 15th.*

Email the church office at: