





# **Wallingford Workcamp Team**

**Bringing A Community Together** 

# Prayers requested:

- Area residents to say "yes" to having repairs done to their homes
- Youth and their youth groups to say "yes", so they come to Wallingford 4<sup>th</sup> of July week 2026

Cosponsors for the event are First Congregational Church and Group Workcamps Home Repair



# The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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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 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 on our community and the world, including poverty, isolation, and exclusion.

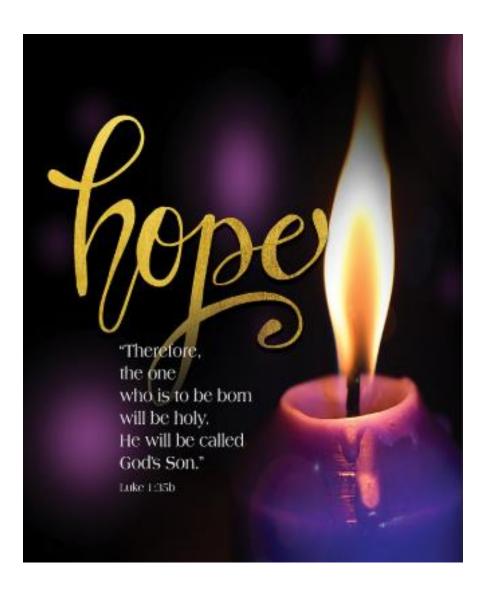
We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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# First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



November 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)

PRELUDE Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland BuxWv211

Dietrich Buxtehude

Prelude on Hyfrydol (Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus)

Raymond H. Haan

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC Divinum mysterium

(Of the Father's Love Begotten) setting, Joe Cox

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

From generation to generation, God has been our dwelling place.

We gather with gratitude, remembering the joy of God's faithfulness.

With joy overflowing, we worship the Lord forever. In every season God's love, renews and restores.

With hearts lifted high, we celebrate the joy that endures. The stories of those before us remind us of God's goodness.

And we add our voices to theirs, singing of grace that never ends.

Come, let us worship the God who carries us from age to age.

+HYMN O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vss. 1,7) NCH # 116

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow, There's room for every story.

**SILENT REFLECTION** 

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE Russ and Kristen Hinckley

**CANDLE RESPONSE** 

When God is a Child (verse 1)

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM Voice in the Wilderness (Prepare the Way)
from The Ballad of Bethlehem Pepper Choplin

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:1-17

THE MESSAGE From Generation to Generation

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 The Ballad of Bethlehem from The Ballad of Bethlehem Pepper Choplin

+DOXOLOGY (melody In the Bleak Midwinter)

Praise the one Creator, praise the Living Christ
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.
Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy
Praise with soul, with all your strength, and your heart and voice.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Thank our God for Sisters, Brothers NCH # 397

**COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION** 

RESPONSE All Earth is Waiting, stanza 1, sung twice NCH# 121

POSTLUDE People, Look East

Besancon (French Carol), setting, Daryl Hollinger

#### **Announcements**

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ!

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Please join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs in Congregational Hall immediately following the service.

**Serving the church today are** ushers: Roy Cannon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins & Rick Voelker; chimes: Russ Hinckley

**The flowers on the altar** are given in memory of our son, Christopher Frederick Walker by Frances and Fred Walker.

Do you have a favorite tradition you would like to share with our young people during the Message for the Young People? We are looking for 3 people who have a special tradition they would like to share. Speak to Pastor Meredith if you are interested.

**Next Sunday** we celebrate the **Second Sunday of Advent**. The candle theme is **Peace** and we will celebrate Communion. December 14 is the Third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy. Come and enjoy our Choral Sermon, The Ballad of Bethlehem.

Christmas Fair December 5: 5-8pm and December 6: 9am–3pm. Please check the Fair table today for food donation requests slips. We are seeking volunteers for booths and the kitchen.

**Please bring until Wednesday:** Raffle Basket, Books: Newish adult books (hardcover or paperback), Classic books & Children books, gently used toys and other treasures to pass along.

Also bring on Thursday & Friday: Cookies for Cookie Walk and Baked Goods like muffins, brownies, cake or pie to sell by the slice and pumpkin bread, banana bread or other breads.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music.
Search in Process, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Search in Process, Director of Sunday
School and Youth Ministries