



The Spire

**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

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

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.

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.

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

A horizontal row of black silhouettes of people of various ages and abilities holding hands. From left to right: a man, a child, a man, a child, a man, a woman, a child, a child, a person in a wheelchair, a woman, a woman, a man with a cane, a man, and a child. The background is a solid light blue.

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A Message From the Interim Minister

Most years, I really enjoy the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. They have always been seasons of reflection, anticipation, lights, carols, good food, beautiful music, gatherings with family and friends, traditions, and creative gift giving. From Thanksgiving through Epiphany, I am in awe and wonder of the many ways I have been blessed and the many ways God blesses humanity. Every year, I am astonished once more of the incredible gift God gave us in the birth of a little baby, Jesus.

This year, however, is bittersweet. It is a season where I anticipate wonderful things. But in order to embrace some of the wonderfulness God has in store, I need to hold onto hope in the midst of a season of deep personal grief. I struggle with the loss of my mom, one of my best friends, and so many beloved church members and friends. As I write this, I have already begun to grieve the end of my ministry at First Church. Letting go of the many relationships I have established in the last three years is challenging and sad, but it is part of the job and necessary to make room for new leadership, specifically for Pastor Jeff.

Three years ago, it felt natural to begin my ministry at the beginning of a new liturgical church year, the beginning of Advent Year A, the beginning of the story that shapes us as a Christian people. In my tenure here, we have done each of the three years of the Lectionary cycle. With Thanksgiving Sunday, we complete Year C. November 30 begins Year A again with the First Sunday of Advent and the Candle of Hope.

This year, I will allow the four Advent Candles to guide me as I grieve, remember, offer thanks, and prepare to let go of my ministry among you. As I prepare for Christ's birth I will focus on the light of the candles. On Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Those are gifts of God I want to dwell with as I prepare to say goodbye, and as I walk with you as you joyfully move into the next exciting chapter of your ministry.

Soon we will hear again those sacred words. God is with us. God is with us now. I take comfort in the words "Unto us a son is born, unto us a son is given. (Isaiah 9:6-7) Every year, again and again, from generation to generation. The Son will be born, ready or not. So, let's prepare our hearts and make room for the expected unexpected gift.

With gratitude and love for all we have shared,

Pastor Meredith

Hope

Peace



Joy

Love

Message from the Minister of Music

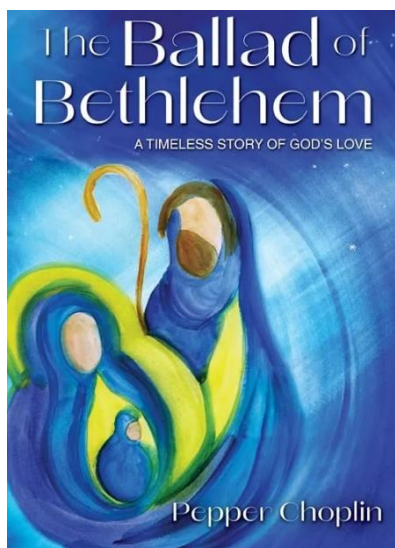
Why do we have music in worship in the church? Why should we have music in worship in the church? Did you know that “back in the day” – i.e., the 11th century – only men were allowed to sing in church? Nuns sang and worshipped in their convents – all women. And they had little music from which to choose! Now many manuscripts are being made available that show the musical compositions of men and women in the 11th century. Fast forward to today – we have eleven centuries of music to choose from! And everyone can sing in church!



I believe that we should include music from all ages in our worship services. It doesn't mean that a particular service will be all music composed last week that you can hear on the internet, like Chris Tomlin or Matt Redmen. It doesn't mean that it will all be from the 11th century or all by Bach or Brahms. It doesn't mean it will always be played on the organ, the piano, the guitar, the drums, or the boomwhackers. So how do we decide what music to choose? We usually consult scripture and decide on a theme or vice versa.

Each Sunday there is a theme usually arising out of the scripture. The music, hymns, anthems, solos and instrumental music—relates to this theme or complements it in some way. It may be a piece in a particular style you like or it may not. I try to offer music in varying genres and styles. I know all of you do not like all of the music. Some music may speak to you, and other music may not. Just as we all have different styles of dressing and like different colors, so it is with music.

Now with that in mind, we are going into **Advent and Christmas**. In this particular period of the church year, we do tend to have more of a commonality. There are also some very popular contemporary pieces like “Mary Did You Know?” that have entered our repertoire.



There will be a choral sermon on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14** at the 10:00 a.m. service. It's called **The Ballad of Bethlehem by Pepper Choplin** and includes many of the carols you know. This particular piece has a Celtic flavor giving a contemporary twist to our story of old. I hope you enjoy it.

For another mixture of old and new, come to the Lessons and Carols at Ashlar Village on December 18 at 7:00 p.m. The Handbell Ensemble will be playing and many beloved carols sung.



A Message from the Moderators

As the Advent season begins, our hearts are full, reflecting not only on the birth of our Savior but also on a truly monumental year in the life of the First Congregational Church. Our 350th Anniversary year has been a profound journey of remembrance, celebration, and faith, and we are overwhelmed with gratitude for all of you who made it so special.

This past year, we looked back at the first meeting house where our journey began three- and one-half centuries ago and marveled at the unwavering hand of God that has guided us through each generation. We are forever grateful for the foundation laid by those who came before us, a foundation built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ.

The success of our anniversary celebrations was a testament to the dedication, generosity, and hard work of so many of our church family. From the 350th Kick Off dinner in January through our November Art Show, every shared story and moment of fellowship have deepened our bonds and honored our heritage. Thank you for your countless hours, your generous contributions to the 350th Anniversary Gift Registry, your support for the Voices of Devotion project, and your fervent prayers. We have not yet completed the celebration! As we conclude this anniversary year, we hope all will join us at the 350th Anniversary Star Ball on January 10, 2026, the capstone event of our celebratory year.

As 2025 draws to a close, our transitional period of interim ministry is also concluding. We extend our gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers for serving as our Interim Minister for the last three years, leading our worship and congregational care, and helping to guide during this time of transition and change. Please join us on December 21st for a reception following worship when we can gather together and offer Pastor Meredith our collective thanks.

As we wrap up this historic year and look toward the future, we carry the lessons of our past—our resilience, our community spirit, and our commitment to the Gospel. We are filled with that same anticipation that young children feel Christmas morning -- we are excited to see what God has in store for us in this next new chapter of our church's history.

Luke 2: 4-18 reminds us of that first celebration: *“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a*

manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

This Christmas, we wish you and your families a blessed and peaceful time, filled with the love and joy that comes from Christ our Lord. May we all find well-deserved rest during this holy season and return with renewed vigor for 2026 and the next chapter of our church's journey.

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

Do You Have a Favorite Holiday Tradition?

Do you have a favorite meaningful holiday tradition? Would you like to share it with others? We need 3-4 people to share a favorite holiday tradition during the Young People's Message. It might be a favorite story, activity, food, object, song or something you remember fondly and was meaningful to you from

Christmas' past. My only request is nothing Santa related please. Please speak to Pastor Meredith if you would like to share something special from your past. (914) 255-1690.

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org



Calling All Pageant Alums

Would you like to reprise your role in the Christmas Pageant? We are looking for people of all ages to participate in a Christmas Tableaux at our 5:00 Christmas Eve Service. No lines, no singing, just coming together in the front of the church (the chancel) in Costumes to tell

the Christmas story. We will sing the sacred story together. Who would you like to be? A shepherd? A sheep? Mary? An angel? Joseph? A cow? A manger visitor of your own creation? Help the story come alive! Speak to Pastor Meredith (914) 255-1690 or Jeanette (203) 803-8743.

December Worship



November 30– First Sunday of Advent

Join us as we begin our preparation for the birth of Jesus. We will light the first Advent Candle of **Hope** and will begin the new liturgical year and conclude our 350th Celebration Year considering the theme From Generation to Generation

December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent and Communion

We will light the second Advent Candle of **Peace**. We will continue with the Generation-to-Generation theme and will be reminded *We Can Choose a Better Way*.

December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent

We will light the third Advent Candle of **Joy**. The Chancel Choir and Friends will offer the Choral Sermon *The Ballad of Bethlehem* by Pepper Choplin.

December 18 – Lessons and Carol Service at Ashlar Village (7 pm)

Join our friends at Ashlar Village for a beautiful Service of Lessons and Carols. The service is held in the Auditorium, accessible via the Bridge House

December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

After lighting the fourth Advent Candle of **Love**, we will reflect on How We See God in Each Other. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR AND COOKIES Following the service!

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 PM – Family Christmas Eve Service

11:00 PM – Candlelight Communion

December 28 – Susan Alker, preacher

Don't forget there are 12 days of Christmas. Join us as the celebration continues!

Faith Formation News



Substitute Teachers and a Shared Teacher Needed

Are you interested in helping to educate our children and young people? We are looking for volunteers to be substitutes, as well as anyone interested in joining a teaching rotation. Our substitutes will remain on an “on-call” list for the entirety of the school year in the event that one of our teachers calls out or has a conflict. Our rotating teachers follow a shared teaching schedule that would allow for a smaller commitment than a consistent, weekly lead teacher, while still giving the opportunity to work with the same students throughout the year, alongside other teachers. We are in need of help at all grade levels from Pre-K through 8th grade. We thank you in advance for your consideration! Please contact us at fccwfaithformation@gmail.com.

Youth Group

Kayla Perkowski has kindly agreed to lead the Youth Group on a temporary basis until a new person is hired. However, a team of adults, both males and females, is needed to help with that group. Please consider volunteering. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with The First Baptist Church and Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, as well as our own meetings throughout the year.

December 14th 5:00 – 7:00 pm the Youth Group will be doing *Random Acts of Kindness*.

Confirmation

We have ten participants in the Confirmation class, representing four churches in town. Classes are meeting the first two Sundays of each month before worship from October until May, with Confirmation occurring on the first Sunday in June 2026. For any who are interested in attending who did not receive a notice, please reach out to any member of the Faith Formation team, or email us at fccwfaithformation@gmail.com.

Volunteer opportunities for Confirmands include the Christmas Fair, serving at locations such as the Craft Station, the Cookie Walk, and assistance in the Dining Room:

December 5 (5:00-8:00 pm) and December 6 (9:00 am.-3:00 pm).

We are still Seeking a Director of Church School and Youth Ministry. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and professional references to Robin Davies at robin.davies419@gmail.com

Faithfully yours,

The Faith Formation Team: Robin Davies, Amanda Nesto, Gina Phillips, Ken Minkema, Lorraine Westervelt

For parents who wish to enroll their children use this QR code



We look forward to seeing you!

2025 Christmas Fair

First weekend in December

Friday - December 5th

5:00 - 9:00 during the Stroll

Outside Hot Dogs, Hot Cider &
Hot Chocolate

Smore's *new

Inside Fair Booths Open

Spaghetti Dinner*new

Saturday - December 6th

Booths open **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Booths and Cookie Walk Open
Santa Photos

Breakfast served 9:00 to 10:00 am

Lunch served 11:30 am to 1:30



Drop off by Wednesday, Dec. 5

- Raffle Basket items
- Gently used toys and treasures
- Crafts made at Home
- Books:
 - Newish adult books
(hardcover or paperback)
 - Classic books
 - Children books

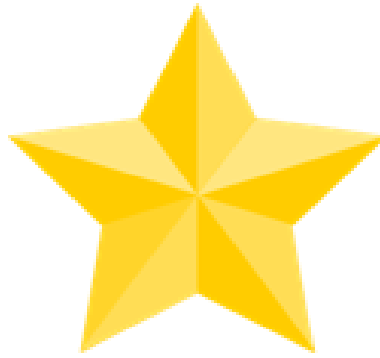
Drop off on Thursday or Friday
morning Dec. 4-5

- Cookies for Cookie Walk
- Baked Goods:
 - Muffins, brownies,
 - Cakes or pie to sell by the slice
 - Pumpkin, banana or other breads
- Food for meals served (pick up slip at Fair Table)

We would love for all to enjoy helping

We are seeking volunteers for booths and the kitchen, [Click to help](#)

Contact Fair Coordinator: Lorraine Westervelt 203-257-6964 with questions, offers, ideas, thoughts!



Music! 

Save the Date!



Star Ball

Help us cap off our 350th. Anniversary year by joining us for
a CELEBRATION!

Fellowship!

Revelry!

Where? Elks Club of Wallingford, Main St.

Cash Bar!

Dinner!

When? Saturday, January 10, 2026

Dancing!

More Information to follow!





The First Congregational Church
23 S. Main Street- Wallingford

Monthly Drives Team will be sponsoring the annual Angel Tree for The
Department of Children & Families.

Thank you to all who picked up an angel from our tree, gifts could
be dropped off at church anytime. Our final collection time will be:

Saturday, December 13 from 9-11am

Please attach the card to your unwrapped gift.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Janus at 203-265-5882 or
kjanus01@snet.net



2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FORM

The Flower Team is offering poinsettias for \$10 per six-inch pot. Plants may be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones. The poinsettias will be dedicated on Sunday, December 21st. You may purchase the plants to take home with you following the Christmas Eve services or to be donated to the Christmas Community Dinner attendees.

Please complete this form and return it with payment to the church office (23 S. Main Street, Wallingford 06492) or put it in the offering plate. Orders are due by **December 9th**. Questions? Contact Lori Folk-Barron at lorifolkbarron@gmail.com or 203-314-9885.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

The Flower Team



Number of poinsettias ordered: _____

Amount enclosed (@ \$10 each): _____

(Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church with "Poinsettias" in the memo line.)

I will pick up my plant(s) after the Christmas Eve Services _____

Please give my plants(s) to attendees of the Community Dinner _____

The wording in the bulletin should read:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your Name _____

Phone number _____

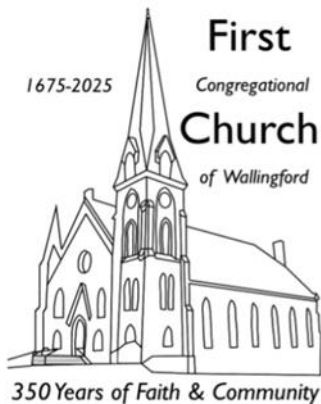
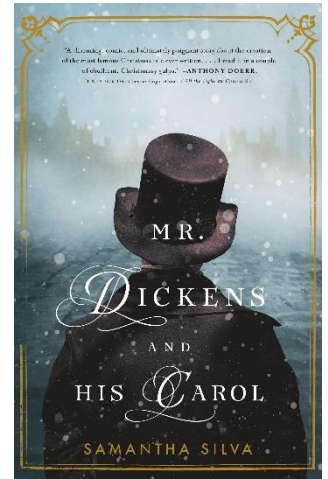


Book Club News

Once again we are celebrating our group with our annual Christmas gathering!

We will meet on Sunday December 14 after church. We will exchange our potluck gifts and discuss “Mr. Dickens and His Carol.”

Some appropriate seasonal treats will be provided.



First Congregational Church 350th Anniversary Voices of Devotion Project

Thank you to all who submitted a devotion to the 350th “Voices of Devotion” Project! The heartfelt, thoughtful, and spiritual devotions have been truly inspiring. All those who have lent their voices to this project are so appreciated. We are coming to the end of the 350th celebration year and are moving toward completion of this project. If you have been planning to submit a devotional but have not yet done so, please send it by December 7, 2025 for inclusion in the project. If you have submitted your devotion but have not received confirmation from the 350th Anniversary Team or have not seen it published during the year, please contact Lori Folk-Barron (203-314-9885).

Please use one of the following ways to submit your devotion by December 7, 2025.

- Email to fcc350devotionproject@googlegroups.com
- Use this Google sheet link to enter your devotion directly
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr6UXLI8h8weoxhhyoG23cKxWF0DXRD_i_4z-2oGzq-b84lcQ/viewform?usp=pp_url
- Mail to “Voices of Devotion” Project, First Congregational Church, 23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Have you missed reading some of the devotionals throughout the year? Don’t worry, a compilation of the devotionals will be published in early 2026 as a keepsake from the 350th Anniversary Year. Watch for it!

First Congregational Church

350th Anniversary Gift Registry - UPDATE

The 350th Anniversary Year is soon coming to a close, and what a year it has been! As you know, a 350th Anniversary Gift Registry has been part of this celebration. Our Administration Ministry identified a number of physical and technological projects to help FCC upgrade/update our facilities for future worship and fellowship. The list below has changed slightly due to newly identified needs and removal of others (thankfully) no longer needed. **THANK YOU to all who have already contributed to our registry!** Some of these fully funded gifts are already evident in our sanctuary and the church building. As the 350th year draws to a close, we are making an end of the year appeal to members and friends in the hopes that you will continue to prayerfully consider making a special 350th anniversary gift toward the gift registry.

An amazing **Matching Gift opportunity** remains through the end of 2025! An Angel Donor has offered a 20% match for every gift made towards the Registry. So, a \$1,000 gift adds \$200 in Matching Funds. The Matching Funds can be applied wherever there is a need on the gift registry. **Thank you to the Angel Donor for the matching funds already received!** The Angel Donor will offer this match up to a maximum donation on their part of \$60,000! This is an exciting opportunity to make a gift to this congregation that grows because of the Matching Funds of this Angel Donor!

Our wish list items, estimated costs, and current funding status include:

Project	Cost	Funding Status
Chancel Carpet	\$6,700	Fully Funded! 😊
Flooring between Guild Room & Congregational. Hall	\$3,200	Fully Funded! 😊
Hearing Assist Devices (6)	\$930	Fully Funded! 😊
Kitchen Floor	\$6,650	Fully Funded! 😊
Music Room –4 Fluorescent Fixtures	\$400	Fully Funded! 😊
Office – Fluorescent Fixture	\$100	Fully Funded! 😊
Railing for Chancel Stairs	\$1,000	Fully Funded! 😊
Video Screens – Sanctuary	\$55,300	Fully Funded! 😊
Front Sign – Parade Grounds	\$6,000	Funds Needed (\$3,000 received to date)
Hallway (Near Office) – Paint (\$65/Gal)	\$130	Funds Needed
Large Chairs (2) in Sanctuary - Reupholster	\$1,250	Funds Needed
Small Chairs (2) in Sanctuary - Reupholster	\$ 1,050	Funds Needed
Library Paint (\$65/Gal)	\$130	Funds Needed (\$15 received to date)
Light Fixture Near Office	\$150	Funds Needed
Office – Paint (\$65/Gal)	\$130	Funds Needed
Pew Cushions***	\$35,000***	Funds Needed (\$2,000 received to date)
Sanctuary – Refinish Hardwood	\$24,000	Funds Needed
Sanctuary Insulation	\$40,000	Funds Needed
***Please note – additional bids are pending to refine estimate.		

Please use the form below and mail your gift payable to First Congregational Church (23 S. Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492) Please include “350 Gift Registry” in the memo line. Gifts can also be made on-line at www.firstchurchwallingford.org or using the QR code below. Thank you for considering a registry gift!

Please specify: **Happy 350th Anniversary, First Congregational Church!**

_____ Use this gift of \$_____ towards the following registry project(s): _____

_____ Use this gift of \$_____ towards any project as needed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number or Email Address: _____



MISSION MONEY AT WORK

As the scripture says: “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13: 1-2

Your Mission Funds Distribution Team was at work this month using your mission money to support organizations that are consistent with First Congregational’s Vision and Mission. This month we focused on disaster relief, food insecurity, and housing insecurity.



Church World Service – Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. This month we donated \$500 for Hurricane Melissa disaster relief.

Columbus House/Wallingford Homeless Shelter – The shelter is opening on December 1, 2025. We donated \$300 to assist with providing meals to the unhoused.



FCC Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt – Each year, members of the congregation, via the Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt at First Congregational Church, help to provide Thanksgiving dinners to families supported by the Meriden/Wallingford Department of Children and Families. This year the need is great, and many more meal requests have been received. We decided to assist given the great need by donating \$500 to the Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt efforts.

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.



Wallingford Workcamp Team

Bringing A Community Together



Apply by clicking here to get a home repair!
Pray for residents to say yes to having repairs done to their homes

Cosponsors: First Congregational Church Wallingford
and Group Workcamps Home Repair

Wallingford Workcamp Free Home Repair for Our Community

June 28 – July 4, 2026

Help us find homeowners

Donate Here!

Volunteer Here!



Discover Beautiful Scotland!

The First Congregational Church of Wallingford is sponsoring a 10-day trip to Scotland, September 14 – 23, 2026. Highlights of this Collette tour include: Bagpipe demonstration; Whiskey tasting; Isle of Skye; Loch Ness; Orkney Islands (Skara Brae and Standing Stones of Stenness); Dunrobin Castle; Sheepdog demonstration; Edinburgh Castle; Scottish Cooking demonstration and more! The tour also includes transportation to the airport, roundtrip airfare and hotel transfers.



This tour not only offers a fabulous travel opportunity, it is a fundraiser for our church! The First Congregational Church will receive a commission based on the number of travelers. A limited number of seats has been reserved, and to take advantage of the special reduced rate, registration must be made by March 15, 2026. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Join us in Congregational Hall on **Thursday, January 8, 6:00 p.m.**, for a travel presentation by a Collette representative outlining the details of this great tour. The trip is not limited to First Church members. Invite your friends!

Travel brochures are available in Congregational Hall. For additional information and/or to register, go online to:

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1393031>

Questions? Contact Debby Voelker at debvoelker@sbcglobal.net.



Congregational Care

We Would Like to Be There When You Need Us!

Sometimes, things happen in life leading to someone needing special care – the loss of a loved one, a hospitalization, a nursing home stay, a prolonged illness, an unsettling life transition, becoming homebound... If you are in need of care or would like to be added to the Prayer List, please call Pastor Meredith at 914-255-1690 or the church office at 203-265-1691. They will share your request with the Visitation Team Coordinators Charlene Bruce and Cliff Castellano. If you would like to be a visitor and join the Visitation Team, contact Charlene at charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net or Cliff at cliffc45@yahoo.com

Helping Hands Deliver Meals

As many of you may or may not know, we have been providing meals to some members of our church family, who through various circumstances are receptive to having a meal delivered to them.



If you know of someone in our church, who either on a short or long term basis, could benefit from a delicious dinner, please let us know. Also, if you wish to have your name added to our list of folks who have volunteered to make a meal, please let us know. We'd be happy to have you join us!

Helping Hands is just one of many "behind the scenes" groups within our congregation that provide comfort and support to our fellow brothers and sisters. If there is a need or if you are willing to cook, please contact either Louise Zemina at 203-988-2517 or Bernie Annunziata at 203-415-9809.

A Message from the Flower Team

Thank you to all of the generous sponsors who provided altar flowers to enhance worship in 2025!

The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar will be available in the narthex by late November 2025.

The Christmas Poinsettia order form is located elsewhere in this Spire. Please submit your orders as soon as you are able.



Direct donations to the Flower Fund are always appreciated to allow us to place flowers on the altar on those weeks when we do not have sponsors, to help provide holiday flowers to our homebound members, to provide flowers to our baptismal families, and for special occasions. Thank you!



Do you have a loved one, a friend, an acquaintance with health, family, personal issues? The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful comforting shawls, lap robes, and blankets for you to give to your loved ones in need. There is always a selection appropriate for men, women, children, parents, caregivers. We have a variety of colors and sizes for you to give. Please ask one of the Care Team (Charlene Bruce, Cheryl Naski,

Cliff Castellano, Joan Bushey and Ann Gygax), Pastor Meredith or Kathy Janis for a shawl. All are created by loving hands, blessed in our group and just waiting to give to someone in need of that loving touch, that reminder that they are cared for and cared about through whatever is going on in their lives.

We also create all the Baptismal blankets that are given to each child baptized in our church. Please consider asking for a special blanket for a child in need. Again, we have many sizes, colors and patterns for any child. Perhaps a parent who needs a Prayer Shawl and a special blanket for their child?

Please call or text Kathy Janis 203-376-1173 or email kathrynmjanis@gmail.com with any questions or requests.

The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the church, nevertheless the usher performs a major role in ensuring that people see and experience that.

People feel invited to serve the church through a welcoming ministry. The church usher duties can be summed up in a few words – making people feel welcome at church, assisting the Pastor with people management, assisting with seating, collecting offering and maintaining a safe environment. Currently, we have five rotating teams. Usher teams are only needed no more than once a month.



If you are interested in joining the ushering ministry, please contact Tony Annunziata at (203) 500-9542



With
Deepest
Sympathy...

Death

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Carol Blouin, who passed away November 10, 2025. A Graveside Celebration of Carol's Life was held November 14, 2025 at In Memoriam Cemetery.

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

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

Email the church office at:
officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org