

In Our Prayers

Kim Baldwin (friend of Lori Folk-Barron's friend, newly diagnosed with cancer)**Those recovering from natural disasters**Thanksgiving for the lives of Darlene Kubeck, Ruby Heilman and Sharon Hazelwood and those who mourn their losses**Diane Geiss** Dorothy Burdick** Shirley Breedlove (Tina Caldwell's mom)** Sharon Geil**Sally Coleman** Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run** Megan Perkowski **Alexander Karacsonyi **Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) **A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Charmaine Craggs** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)** Pam Savanelli** Hayden Steinhilper (serving our country)**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)** Cathy Kovi** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuael Arce and Deborah Sinon)** Kyle Denson (friend of Kristen Hinckley)** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman** 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.



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

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



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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First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



Seventeenth Sunday

After Pentecost

September 24, 2023

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Love* DOWN AMPNEY' David Evan Thomas
Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Meditation on "Llanfair"*
Brenda Portman / Tine: LLANFAIR by Robert Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come from far and near to this community of faith.

P: Lord, draw us together in celebration of your love.

Choir: Singing verse 1 of "Gather Us In"

L: We are young, older, middle aged.

P: We are rich, comfortable, poor, struggling,

Choir: singing verse 2 of "Gather Us In"

L: Now is the time of Celebration! God is with us!

P: Now is the time of Rejoicing! God's love is poured over us!

ALL: Not in the dark of buildings confining;

Not in some heaven light years away:

Here in this place a new light is shining;

Now is the kingdom and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;

Gather us in and make us your own.

Gather us in, all peoples together,

Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

+HYMN Sing Praise to God Our Highest Good NCH #6

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your

ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

CLEARING OUR CONSCIENCE WITH GOD

WORDS OF GRACE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
(Pew Bible OT p. 566)

ANTHEM *Listen With Your Heart* Brad Nix

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES Matthew 20:1-16
(Pew Bible NT p. 20)

MESSAGE – Justice and Kindness

+HYMN Your Ways Are Not Our Own NCH #170

PRAYERS OF THE 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.**

CALL TO SHARE

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Come, Come Unto Me* Ken Dosso
*THE DOXOLOGY NCH #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Lead Us From Death to Life NCH # 581

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

+ RESPONSE

Now Go in Joy

GTG # 745

POSTLUDE

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

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 memory of our beloved son and brother, Nate, by the Davies Family.

Serving the church today are: Kathy Filkins and Greg Whitehouse, Greeters; Greg Whitehouse, Liturgist; Lois Doherty, Steve and Cathy Knight and Bruce and Katherine Ollodart, Ushers; Bernie Annunziata, Chimes.

Next Sunday is **World Wide Communion Sunday** when we will celebrate our unity in Christ as we celebrate Communion. Do you speak a language other than English? We would like to include other languages in next week's worship. If you could help with that, please speak with Pastor Meredith today.

Next Saturday, September 30, is the **16th Annual First Congregational Church Golf Tournament**. The event starts at 9 am at the Miner Hills Family Golf in Middletown. Profits will benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the Family Life Fund. Sign up at Coffee Hour.

Ticket money is due by October 1 for tickets to **Come From Away** at the Schubert Theater in New Haven November 11 at 2.. Tickets are \$84. We have 4 tickets remaining. Reserve with pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org today!

Are you interested in **Bible Study**? We will be offering two opportunities for Bible Study beginning in October. Bible Study will be offered Tuesdays, October 3, 10, and 17, in the Guild Room from 7-8:15 pm. Bible Study will also be offered at Ashlar Village Wednesdays at 10 am. For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Meredith at pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org or (914) 255-1690

Coming Soon – Celebrate Wallingford and our Semi-Annual Rummage Sale!