

Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Piero

September 1, 2024
15th Sunday after Pentecost
10:15 A.M.

Welcome!

Welcome to our guests! Thank you for being here. It is such a joy to worship with you. Please speak to any member of the Pastoral Team if you would like to explore how our church may become your spiritual home. As an **Open and Affirming** congregation we seek to extend the extravagant welcome of God to all people, all the time. Regardless of your race, class, ancestry, gender identity, marital status, ability, age, immigration status, or sexual orientation, you are always welcome at First Church. We affirm your inherent dignity as a child of God. God created you just as you are and loves you just as you are. We do, too!

Children's Ministries: Babies are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. We also have a nursery (accessible through the breezeway in the back of the Sanctuary). Our Sunday School, known as Disciple Road and Middle Road, is on summer break and will resume on September 8th. We hope to see you then! Email Kim (kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more information about our children's ministries & faith formation programs.

We have a **hearing assist system** for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids available and also have receivers with earpieces available. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Worship leaders speak the text in regular type.
All the People of God speak the text in boldface.

Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.

* Please stand if you are able.

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Prelude on "Pentecost"

William Barnett

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: What does the Lord require of you?

All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: What does God command of us?

All: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort, but to presence, and abundance and grace in our struggle.

All: Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us. Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way.

***Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

4 New Century Hymnal

***Prayer of Invocation and 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Passing the Peace

One: May the peace of God be with you!

All: And also with you!

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Sacrament of Baptism

Mateo David Kovacic, son of Rachel and Michael Kovacic

Godparents: Sue Raimondi, Aurora & Nate Marsh

Response of the Congregation: We celebrate this joyous moment as an affirmation of our faith. Thanks be to you, O Lord, for this young life and for sharing with us the power to create and to love. We enfold him in our love; we surround this family with our strength and resources. We commit our very selves to assisting them in telling and portraying the gospel of our Lord in our midst that he may ever know himself, as we do, to be yours.

Hymn:

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

338 *New Century Hymnal*

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

*Hymn of Praise

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen

Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18; Mark 1:1-11

Sermon

Our First Love, Last Love, and Self Love The Rev. David W. Spollett

Voluntary

Trio No. 2

Josef Rheinberger

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

The loose plate offering this morning will go to the work of the Deacons' Emergency Assistance Fund.

Offertory

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion Music

Meditation on "Ubi Caritas"

Alejandro Consolacion II

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have renewed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in you, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen

***Hymn**

Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed

328 *New Century Hymnal*

***Benediction and Response**

God Be With You

God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
With a shep-herd's care en-fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain. A - men.

Postlude

Ellacombe

arr. Albert L. Travis

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. David W. Spollett, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor
The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Deacons: Rita Skog and Michelle Nolan
Usher: Candace Meader

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; Glen Brown; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Linda Corby; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Penny Stevens; Joann Van Esselstyn; Kathy Verdier; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; and Edith Zambo. We hold in our prayers all those who face living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Andrew Holms, Charles Ikeda, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

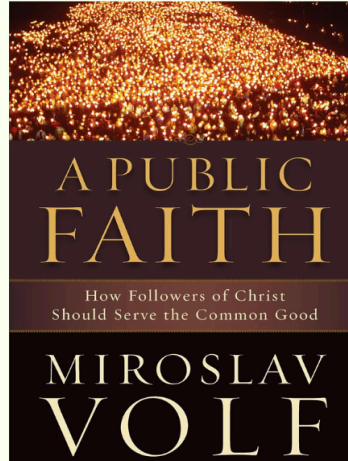
Family and Friends: Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); the family and friends of Helen Barnum; Diane Studwell Crawley; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Anthony Gentile, Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law); Catherine Grover; Walter Haenn (brother of Madeline Lee); Yochai Harel, Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Peter Hey (brother of Lin Clayton); Tiffany Hinton (friend of Rita Skog); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Erol Kephelas (cousin of Rita Skog); Nancy King (Friend of Paul Cahill); Janice Klein and the family of Lillian Klein; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Maloney; Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Andre Mirkine; Barbara Peterson (friend of Ted and Judy Andre); Artie Quinn; Dick Reese (father in law of Melissa Stanhewicz); Patty Roberts (cousin of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosalie Rutkauskas (Jessie's Grandmother); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousins); Stephen Stenberg (son of Jeanne Reed's college friend); Danielle Taal, daughter of Joe and Lauren Strickland, and their five grandsons in Libya; Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church), John Anderson (David Mckinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.); and John Walsh.

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A PUBLIC FAITH

A Nine-Week Election Season Book Discussion Series
with the Rev. Vanessa Rose



Beginning September 4
Wednesdays from 7-8:30 P.M.

Eunoia Room

Please RSVP to: VRose@FirstChurchFairfield.org

Disciple & Middle Road Classes Begin September 8

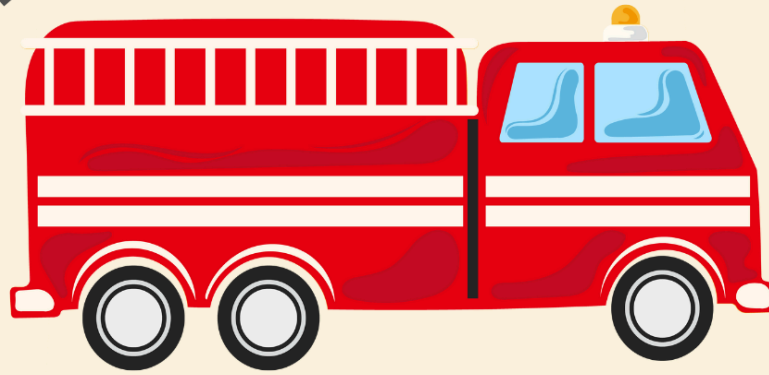


Children's Choir Begins Sept. 15.



To enroll in faith formation classes for children in elementary and middle school please email Kim Feeney at kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org. For choir sign-ups email Bethany Dupuis at BDupuis@firstchurchfairfield.org

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY



Sunday, September 8

Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

Join us for fellowship, kids' bounce houses and a delicious pizza lunch provided by the Fire Engine Pizza Co., baked here at the church in the ovens of a restored vintage fire truck. Salad and Italian ices too! (Gluten-free options available.) All are welcome as we begin the fall worship season.



The Borealis Wind Quintet



Sunday, September 15 at 4 p.m.

First Church of Fairfield