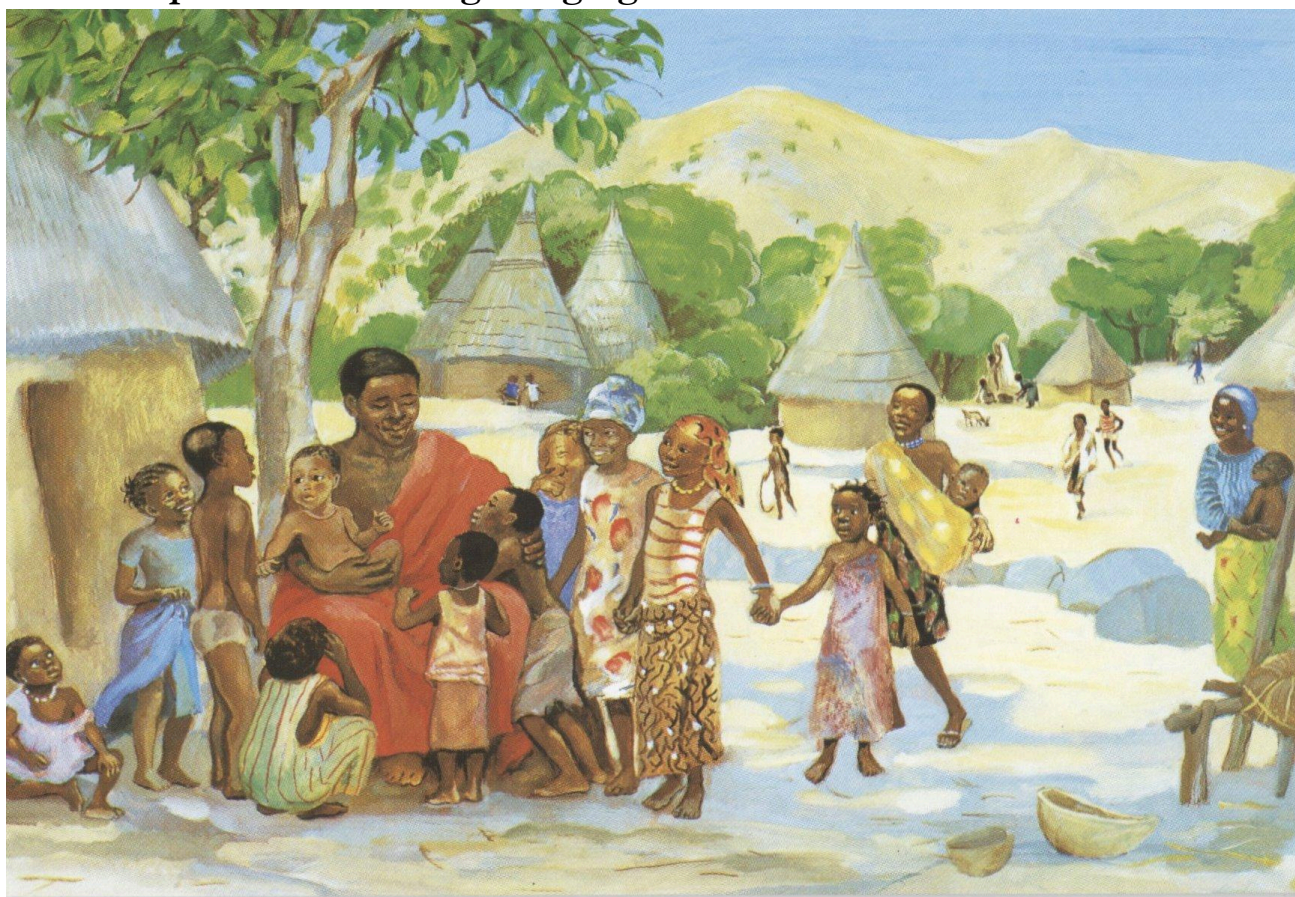




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Jesus Welcomes the Children, Vanderbilt University Collection

September 22 , 2024
18th 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: Children's Ministries: Babies are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. We also have a nursery (accessible through the "baby breezeway" in the back of the Sanctuary). First Church offers child care (for ages 3 months to 3 years) with professional nursery staff on Sundays @ 9:45am-11:45am. Sunday School classes are known as "Disciple Road" (age 4 through 5th grade) and "Middle Road" (6th grade and up). We also have a children's choir. Reach out to Kim Feeney (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.

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Jake Joseph

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Kim Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Deacons: Heather Hodgeman and Celeste McGeehan

Ushers: Alan Fuehring and Dave Welchman

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

Ar hyd y nos

Welsh, arr. Owens

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African-American Spiritual

Call to Worship

Bruce Sanguin

One: Mighty and tender God, you, the deep within all,
you, the encompassing heart of all,
we enter now into your kin-dom,
your community of wholeness, a realm of peace.

All: **We bring our hunger, and the hunger of our world.**
We bring our inner stranger, and the exiled of the world.
We bring our hurting selves, and the hurting of the world.
We open to healing.

Inspired, we dare to imagine integrity in our inner life,
our relationships, our planet, and our political systems.
We dare to imagine your heart for an unfolding cosmos.
Amen.

***Hymn**

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning
(Sung to the familiar tune *Hyfrydol*)

411 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.

Children's Sermon

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.

Children may go with their friends and teachers to Disciple Road and Middle Road.

Candle of Witness Two Houses, One Home Rita Skog & Wendy Williams Brown

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

Mark 9:30-37

Sermon

This Memory Thing: Memory Communities and Jesus

The Rev. Jake Joseph

Hymn

The Servant Song

539 *New Century Hymnal*

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Norman Burr Wakeman and Muriel Evitts Wakeman by their daughters, Martha Jane and Robin.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *What Shall I Render to My God?* Austin Lovelace Text by Charles Wesley

What shall I render to my God
For all His mercy's store?
I'll take the gifts He hath bestowed,
And humbly ask for more.

My vows I will to His great name
Before His people pay,
And all I have, and all I am,
Upon His altar lay.

Thy lawful servant, Lord, I owe
To Thee whate'er is mine,

Born in Thy family below,
And by redemption Thine.

The God of all-redeeming grace
My God I will proclaim,
Offer the sacrifice of praise,
And call upon His name.

Praise Him, ye saints, the God of love,
Who hath my sins forgiven,
Till, gathered to the Church above,
We sing the songs of heaven. Amen.

***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**

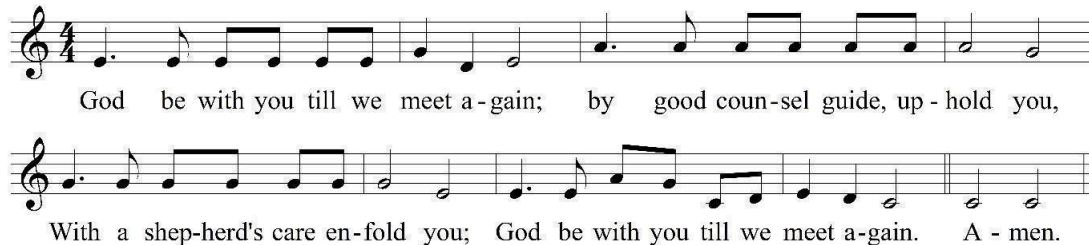
***Hymn**

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

82 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

Processional in E-flat

David N. Johnson

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); 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); David Skog (son of Rita Skog); 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.

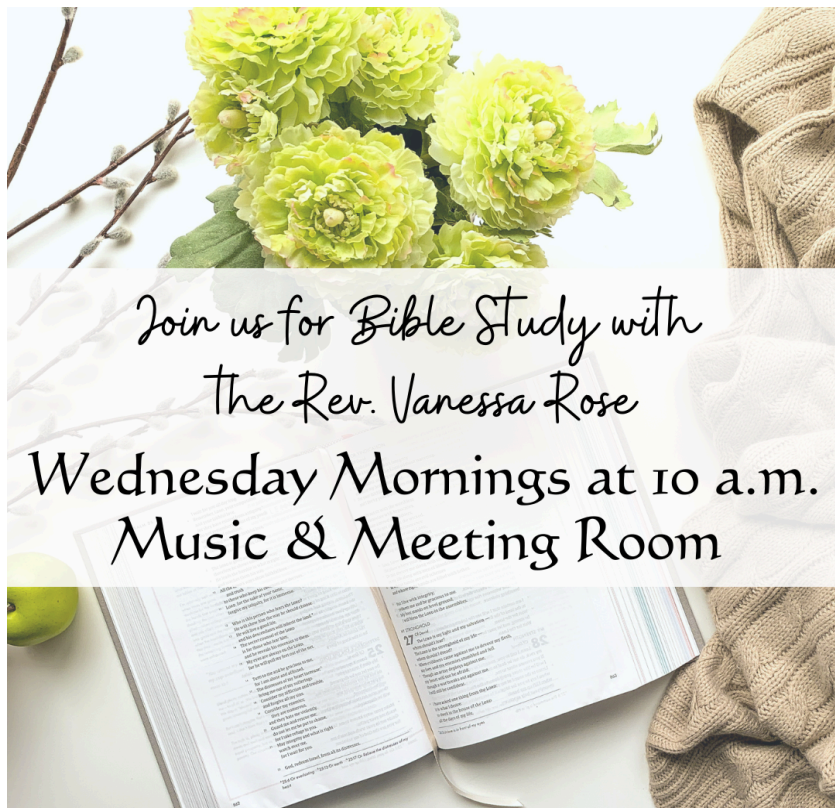
Permissions

Ar hyd y nos, Welsh folk tune arranged by Sam Batt Owens. © 1998 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers. *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* by Richard Gillard © 1977, Capitol Cmg Genesis o/b/o UMPG - Brentwood Benson Publ. *Go, My Children With My Blessing* © by Jaroslav J Vajda. *Processional in E-flat* by David N. Johnson @ 1970 Augsburg Fortress. Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937. Call to Worship Adapted from Imagine Integrity by Bruce Sanguin.

Please stay for Fellowship Hour
in the Webb Room following this
service of worship



All are welcome!



*Join us for Bible Study with
The Rev. Vanessa Rose*

**Wednesday Mornings at 10 a.m.
Music & Meeting Room**



Connect: A Retreat for UCC Men

Led by The Rev. David Spollett, First Church Pastor Emeritus
November 15-17, Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT.

For more information or to register contact:
David McKinnis at david@bethanddavid.org

Save the Date for Two Houses, One Home



Sunday, October 6

10:15 a.m. service at First Church