



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Moses, John August Swanson

10:15 a.m.
March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent

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 "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. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Chancel Choir

Deacon: Michelle Nolan

Usher: Heather Hodgeman

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

Récit de Hautbois

Louis-James Alfred Lefébure-Wély

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Come Down, O Love Divine

Ralph Vaughan Williams

***Call To Worship**

One: We've come to worship God,

**All: Who makes streams flow from rock,
Who turns the parched earth into springs of water,
Who sends the rain from heaven
And makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.**

One: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,

**All: So we thirst for You, O God.
Come, let's worship our life-giving God,
Who pours out living water on all who thirst.**

***Hymn**

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer.

18 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.

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

Candle of Witness

The Creation Care Pathway's Sustainable Supper

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Kyrie

Mass of St. Augustine

Leon C. Roberts

1. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
2. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have
3. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have

1., 2. 3.
mer - cy. mer - cy.

Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-9

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

23 New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

The flowers today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Terry "Poppy" Rees by the McKinnis Family.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

All You Who are Thirsty

Michael Connolly

All you who are thirsty, come to the water.
All you who hunger, come receive grain.
All without money, come without paying.
All you who heed me, come for rich fare.

Come now and listen, that you may have life,
My covenant I will renew.
This covenant shall be eternal,

as I promised to David.

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
Your wages for what fails to satisfy,
Heed my commandments, and you shall eat well;
You shall delight in rich fare.

—Isaiah 55, adapted Michael Connolly

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

Rock of Ages

596 New Century Hymnal

*Benediction and Response

Great Work Has God Begun in You

Great work has God be - gun in you; take
on God's love _____ in all you
do, And may that love in you in - crease now,
with God's bless - ing, go in peace. A - men.

Postlude

Prelude in A Major, BWV 536

J. S. Bach

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Please hold our Sexton, David Robinson, in your prayers as he recovers at home following a recent injury and surgery he had on Friday.

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destrugue; Gloria Evans; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Beth McKinnis, Penny Stevens; Julie Traum; Doug Van Esselstyn and the family and friends of Joann Van Esselsteyn; 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: Hal Burdick (Friend of David McKinnis,) Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); Catherine Brawer; Diane Studwell Crawley; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; Jackie Fenley; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); 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 (borthor of Lin Clayton); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Scott Kimmel; Nancy King; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); John Mastropietro, Harry Lee, Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis); Heather McNicholl (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosie Perera (friend of David McKinnis,) Barbara Peterson (friend of Ted and Judy Andre); Artie Quinn; Helen Ranholm (cousin of Connie Sargent), 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); Tedi Spotswood (David McKinnis' aunt,) John Anderson (David Mckinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.), Cleo Vernon (the Rev. Kathy Williamson's mother,) Dr. Abraham Yale.

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Fellowship Hour Volunteers Needed

Our fellowship committee needs some
extra hands on:



**Sundays, March 30
May 4 & May 11**

Helping with fellowship hour is a great way to meet other church members and be of service. To signup or learn more email Cathy Kane at ckfellowship.coffeehour@gmail.com



Covenant to Care Easter Basket Signups

Sundays, March 30 & April 6

Please consider volunteering to make an Easter basket for a child in need to make their holiday special. Signups will take place after the 10:15 a.m. services on March 30 and April 6.

Baskets will be due for drop-off on April 13.

Questions may be directed to Marilyn Henry at 203-255-5296.

The Creation Care Pathway Presents:

Sustainable Supper an Eco-Friendly Potluck



**Sunday, April 6 at 5 p.m.
Wakeman Hall**

**Featuring guest speakers Mary Hogue and Kiersten Chou of
*Sustainable Fairfield.***

**Play Earth Jeopardy to test your sustainability knowledge. Prizes, too!
Share a delicious earth-friendly meal with the congregation.**

**Signups after services on Sundays, March 23 & 30th.
Watch the *Weekly Word* for an online signups option.**



LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

MARCH 5
BABBITT

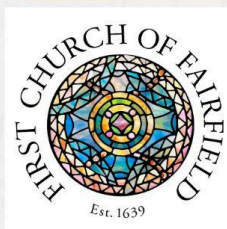
MARCH 19
MARTIGNETTI

MARCH 26
SYMONS

MARCH 12
HAMAN

WEDNESDAYS
12:15-12:45

APRIL 2
SZABÓ



148 BEACH RD., FAIRFIELD, CONN.
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