



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Extravagant Love, Miller

10:15 a.m.

April 6, 2025

Fifth 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

Deacons: Dave Welchman, Celeste McGeehan, Michelle Nolan

Ushers: Candace Meader and Cheryl Camarato

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

*Today the Children may begin in Disciple Road and Middle Road.
They will join us for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper later in the worship service.*

Prelude

Five Meditations on Wondrous Love

Ronald Perera

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign and pass the welcome books, sharing contact information if you would like to receive church news.

Introit

A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar

Brian Wren

***Call To Worship** **adapted from Psalm 148**

One: Praise God from the heavens!

Praise God from the skies above!

All: Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

Praise God, sun and moon, and shining stars!

One: Praise God, all creatures great and small,

Praise God, animals and birds, reptiles and fish!

All: Praise God, kings of the earth and people everywhere,

Praise God, elders and children!

One: Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord,
at whose word creation came into being.

All: We gather to praise and worship our God!

***Hymn**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

224 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.

Candle of Witness

The Crop Walk

Debby Dwyer

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 43:16-21, John 12:1-8

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

A Woman Who Did Not Count the Cost

206 New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Jerry Kuroghlian, who loved Life and Learning, by his wife, Ellen Green Kuroghlian.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Give Me Jesus

Spiritual, arr. Roland Carter

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

Voluntary

Give Me Jesus

Spiritual, arr. Rachel Trelstead Porter

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

Guide My Feet

497 *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

Five Meditations on "Wondrous Love"

Ronald Perera

Please Hold in Your Prayers

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; Nancy Hamlin (sister of Charlotte Dyslin); 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); Scott Kimmel; Nancy King; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Booth Lee (James Lee's brother); Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); John Mastropietro, Peter Booth Lee, Harry Lee, Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis) Debra McLeod, Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Mike Palmer, 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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Sock Drive for Refugees

We are collecting socks for the clients of the Connecticut Institute of Refugees & Immigrants (CIRI) in the box located outside the sanctuary. New socks boys and girls and men and women are gratefully accepted. Read more about this project in the April *Herald* and *Weekly Word*.

The Creation Care Pathway Presents: A 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

A round of Earth Jeopardy to test your sustainability knowledge
A delicious earth-friendly meal shared with the congregation

See the *Weekly Word & Herald* for an online signup



Covenant to Care Easter Basket Signups

Sunday, 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 April 6. Baskets will be due for drop-off on April 13.

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



Please Join Us for

PALM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, April 13

Immediately after 10:15 a.m. worship

We'll Be Celebrating with a special cake, coffee, tea and refreshments. All are welcome.



YOU ARE INVITED!

First Church of Fairfield's

EGG HUNT!

1000S OF EGGS!

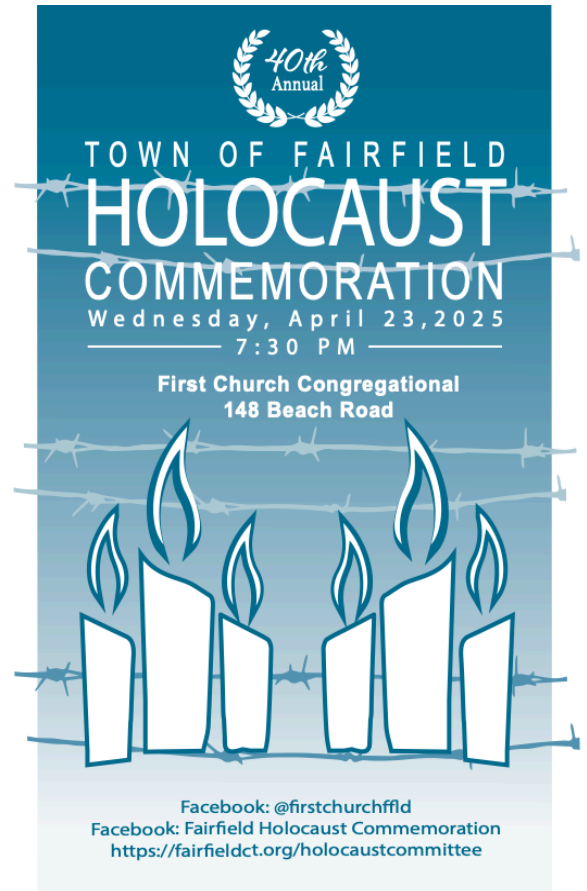


Ages 0-10!

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20 @ 10:00AM

For more info, email Kim Feeney
(Minister of Children & Families)
at kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org

148 Beach Road | Fairfield, CT
Meet on the front lawn of the church
@ 10:00am sharp




40th Annual

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

Wednesday, April 23, 2025
7:30 PM

First Church Congregational
148 Beach Road



Facebook: @firstchurchffd
Facebook: Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration
<https://fairfieldct.org/holocaustcommittee>



Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday - 10:00am	Easter Sunday
Maundy Thursday - 7:30pm	Beach Service - 5:45am
Good Friday - 12:00pm	Sanctuary - 9:00am & 11am

All are Welcome!