



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Born Again, Lauren Wright Pittman

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

10:15 AM

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 our Minister of Children and Families 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. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children and Families
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Amy Griswold & Darwin Shen, violin
Chancel Choir

Deacons: Ainsley Louise Dolan, Celeste McGeehan & 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 *If You But Trust In God to Guide You* arr. Bradley Sowash

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *He Came Down* Cameroon, arr. John Bell

***Call to Worship**

One: Blessed be the name of God
from this time on and forevermore.

**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of God is to be praised.**

One: It is good to give thanks to God,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

**All: To declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.**

***Hymn** *The God of Abraham Praise* 24 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!

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

All: And also with you!

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

*Kyrie

Mass of St. Augustine

Leon C. Roberts

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line containing three phrases and the second and third lines containing two phrases each. The first line of lyrics is: "1. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have"; "2. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have"; "3. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have". The second line of lyrics is: "mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have"; "mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have"; "mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have". The third line of lyrics is: "mer - cy." (with a first ending bracket) and "mer - cy." (with a second ending bracket).

Scripture

John 3:1-17

Sermon

The Rev. Kathy Williamson

*Hymn

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

410 *New Century Hymnal*

Joys and Concerns

The flowers this morning are given by Ben Lee and Emily Tang-Lee in loving memory of their infant son, Nathaniel Leavenworth Lee. Nate is dearly missed by his brother and sister, Matthew and Claire, his grandparents James and Madeline Lee, and Minh and Tuyet Tang, and all his aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Today's loose plate offering will go to the work of the Deacon's Emergency Assistance Fund.

Offertory

Psalm 121

Heather Sorensen

I lift my eyes unto the hills,
the hills from where my help is come.
My help, it cometh from the Lord
Who made heaven, heaven and earth.

The sun shall not smite thee by day;
the moon shall not smite thee by night.
The Lord shall protect thee from ev'ry evil,
He shall preserve thy soul forever.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved,
neither will He sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper,
The Lord is thy shade.

I lift my eyes unto the hills,
the hills from where my help is come.
My help, it cometh from the Lord;
Who made heaven, heaven and earth.
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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Anthem

Gift of Finest Wheat

Robert Kreutz, arr. Latona

***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**

It Is Well With My Soul

438 *New Century Hymnal*

***Benediction and Response**

Great Work Has Begun in You

Great work has God begun 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

Andante in Bb

Lefébure-Wély

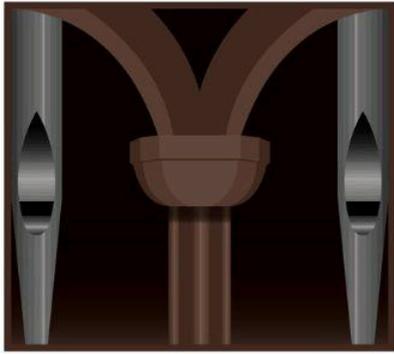
PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Congregants: LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Pertrinea Cash; Cheryl Camarota; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Gloria Evans; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Elizabeth Saint; Penny Stevens; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; Edith Zambo; and all those living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

Family and Friends: Ed Allen (friend of Patty Bilotto); Alison Babycos (friend of Kim Henry); Hal Burdick (Friend of David McKinnis); Bob Buyiteck (friend of Bill Sargent); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); Art Christiani (friend of Bill Sargeant); Diane Studwell Crawley; Donna, her husband and daughter (friends of David McKinnis), Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Mary Lou Earnshaw, (sister of Nancy Weber); Janet Faller (sister-in-law to Michael Traum); Carter Faustini; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Jeff Fischer (friend of Charlotte Dyslin); Marianne and Larry Gaddy (Connie Sargent's cousins); The Grover Family; Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law); Nancy Hamlin (sister of Charlotte Dyslin); Walter Haenn (brother of Madeline Lee); Jimi Han (friend of the Choir); Yochai Harel; Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); K.B. (friend of Robin Griskus); William Kennedy (friend of David McKinnis); Michael Kelly; Scott Kimmel; John Mastropietro; 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); Jean Rita Powers, Artie Quinn; Helen Ranholm (cousin of Connie Sargent); Dick Reese (father in law of Melissa Stanhewicz); Nasir Reid (friend of Rita Skog); Patty Roberts (cousin of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosalie Rutkauskas (Jessie's Grandmother); Darlene Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousin); Marcia Stein (friend of Nancy Weber); David Skog (son of Rita Skog); Sandy Suarez, Cleo Vernon (the Rev. Kathy Williamson's mother); Dr. Abraham Yale; and Marshall (friend of Jon Skog.)

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MUSIC
— in the —
MEETINGHOUSE

Annual Lenten Recital Series

*Five Weeks, Five Talented Musicians
Performing on our Renowned Klais Organ*

Wednesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Feb. 25 through March 25

First Church Sanctuary

Join us after the concert for lunch!

Concert admission is free, donations greatly appreciated



Disciple Road's Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday/April 5, 10:15 a.m.

First Church Congregational, 148 Beach Road

All kids ages 4 to 10 are welcome