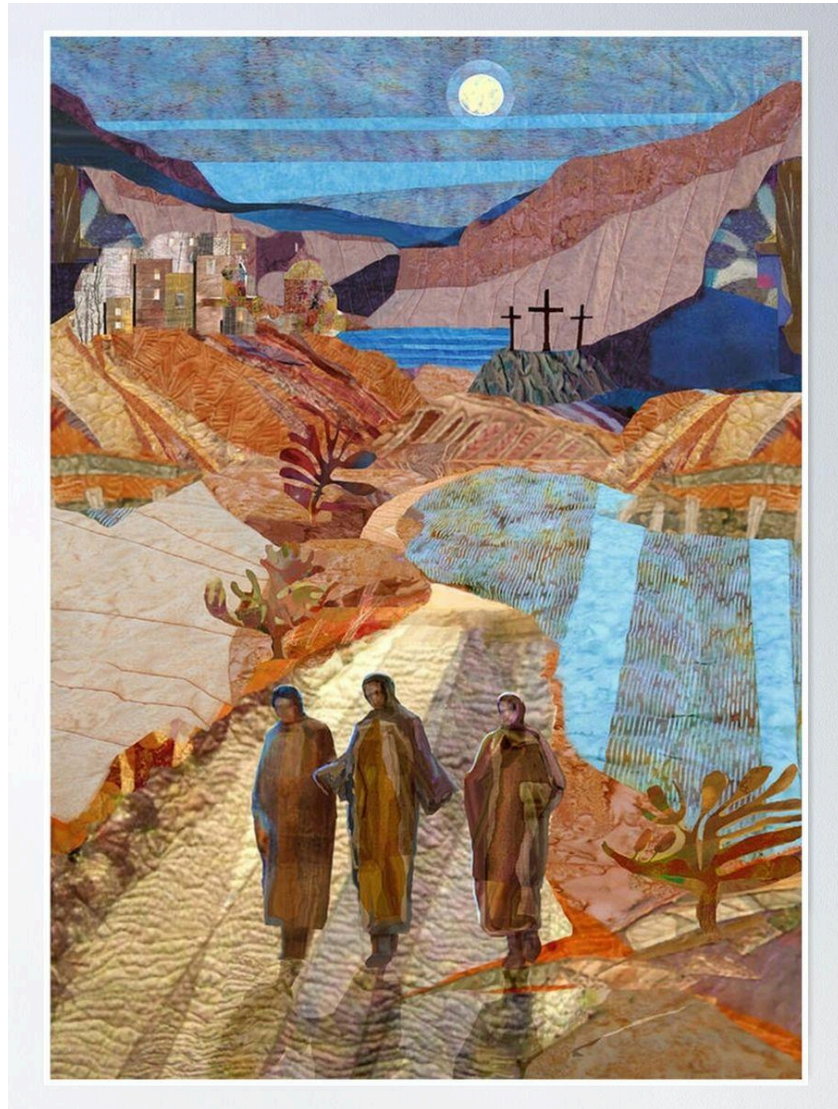




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Road to Emmaus, Wood Print by Michael Torevell

April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter
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. Vanessa Rose, Senior Pastor,

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Noah Held, clarinet

Lindsey Ogilvey, flute

Ray Weber, percussion

Deacons: Tom Croarkin, Pertrinea Cash, Nathim Mughal, David McKinnis

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

Day of Arising

arr. Nancy Raabe

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Jesus Is Here Right Now

Leon C. Roberts

***Call to Worship**

based on Luke 24:13-35

One: For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.

All: We need your presence on the long road, Lord.

One: The road between fear and hope,
the road between the place where all is lost
and the place of resurrection.

**All: Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,
we are in need of your company!**

One: Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,

All: Let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour.

***Hymn**

The Church's One Foundation

386 *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.

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

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Scripture Readings

Acts 2:14-41

Hymn of Praise

A Joyful Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Assembly: *Cantor:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Assembly: *Cantor:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Assembly: *Cantor:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Assembly:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-49

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

***Hymn**

Day of Arising

Raabe and Cherwien

1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un - known com -
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ's
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -

(Amaj7) (F#m7) (B7) (Esus) (E)
 Bbmaj7 Gm7 C7 Fsus F

pan - ion walks with his own. When they in - vite him,
 sad - ness, slow - ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us,
 prom - ise, this is Christ's sign: when the church gath - ers,
 pas - sion, o - pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion,

(B) (E) (Amaj7) (B7) (E)
 C F Bbmaj7 C7 F

as fades the first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
 ev - er a - wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
 when bread is bro - ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.
 set all hearts burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given by Joy Nazarro and dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of her husband, Stu and brother Mal.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering Today's loose plate offering will support the Connecticut Food Bank.

Offertory

On Emmaus' Journey

arr. John Ferguson

Show me your hands, your feet, your side;
 I will not be deceived.
 Unless I see, how can I trust
 The news that I've received?
 "Fear not! Let peace be in your soul.
 Reach out and touch and know
 I died and yet I am alive

With wounds that ever show."
 Not even Easter takes away
 The marks that Jesus bears.
 The risen Christ still wears the wounds
 Of scourge and nail and spear.

So blessed are those who have not seen
Yet cry, "My Lord and God!"

Who touch earth's pain in Jesus' name
And tell good news abroad.
—Sylvia Dunstan

***Doxology**

Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath. Amen.
— John H. Danner

***Prayer of Dedication**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

***The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Anthem

Come Share the Lord

Bryan Jeffery Leech, arr. Lloyd Larson

Prayer After Communion

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

Be Known to Us In Breaking Bread

342 *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

Sonata in F, Wq 70 No 3
I. Allegro

C. P. E. Bach

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Congregants: LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Pertrinea Cash; Cheryl Camarota; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destrugé; 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); Henry (friend of Laura Gnidék); 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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Vacation Bible School

June 22-26 2026

Registration Now Open

for kids ages 4-10

Click on this image to register or
email Kim Feeney at kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org for details

41st Annual
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HOLOCAUST
COMMEMORATION
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
7:30 PM
First Church Congregational
148 Beach Road, Fairfield

Please arrive early,
as we will start promptly.

Registration Required
Please see the Weekly Word for details and a
registration link.



Music in the Meetinghouse
Proudly Presents...



Andrew Smith, violin
Christopher Ungerer, piano
Sunday, April 19 at 4 p.m.
First Church Sanctuary

Tickets: \$30/\$20 for seniors/\$10 for college
students at the door. 18 and under free.