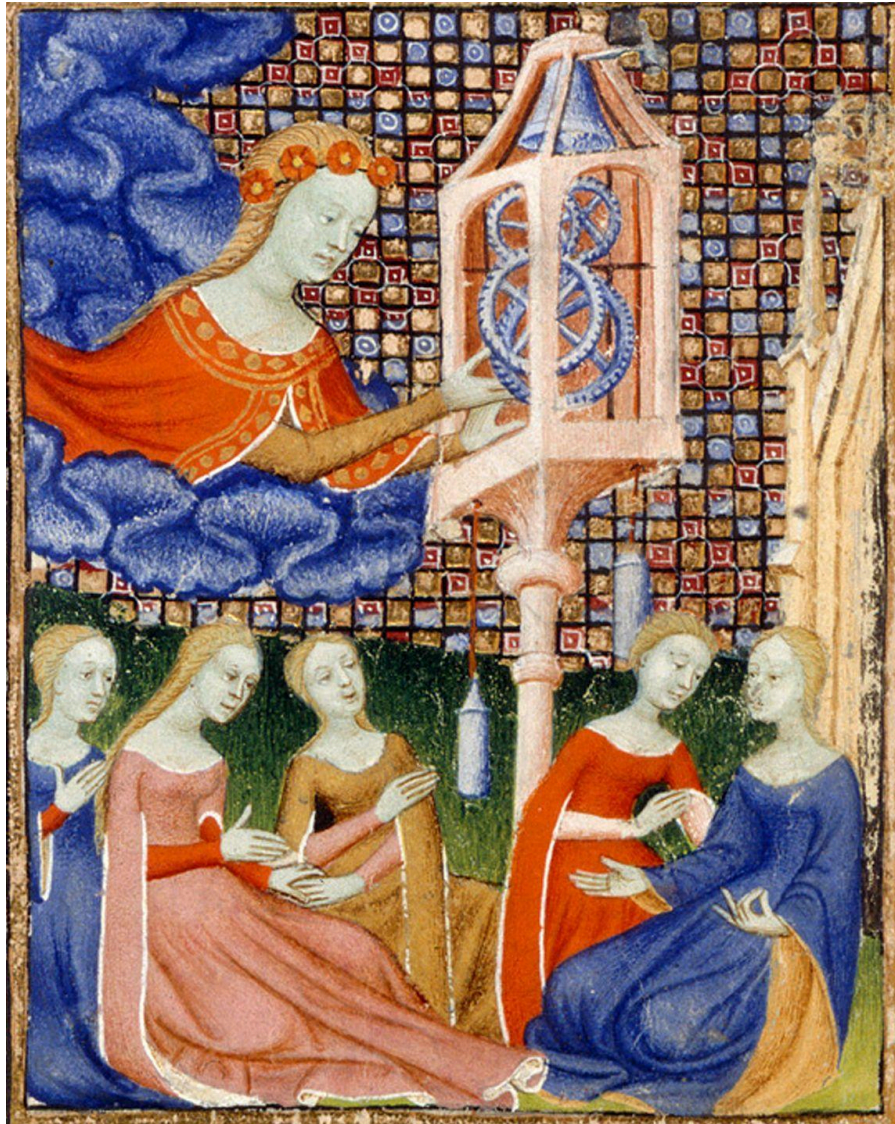




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Wisdom, Prudence & Knowledge, Master of the Cite des Dames. 1400

August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
10:15 a.m.

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). During the program year, First Church offers child care (for ages 3 months to 3 years) with professional nursery staff on Sundays @ 9:45am-11:45am. In the summer, the nursery is available for parents and children to use. Our Sunday School and children's choir are currently on summer break. 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 which extend from age four and up.

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
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Jermaine Charles, Audio & Video
Deacon: Tom Croarkin
Usher: Amy-Alison Ward

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

Classic-Style Variations on "Ellacombe"

Jon Spong

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Adapted from Psalm 104

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul

All: Lord my God, you are great; you are clothed with splendor and wonder

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul

All: You make winds your messenger; flames of fire your servant

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul

All: You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul

All: How many are your works God. In wisdom you made them all

One: The earth is full of your creatures; there is the sea, vast and spacious

All: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works

One: May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul. Let us Praise the Lord together

***Hymn**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

12 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

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45

*Hymn of Praise

Halle, Halle, Halle

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon

A Welcomed Presence

The Rev. Kathy Williamson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY WORD

*Hymn

We Walk By Faith

256 New Century Hymnal

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

arr. Benjamin M. Culli

I. "Theme"

III. "...above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet,
though far-off hymn that hails a new creation."

*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

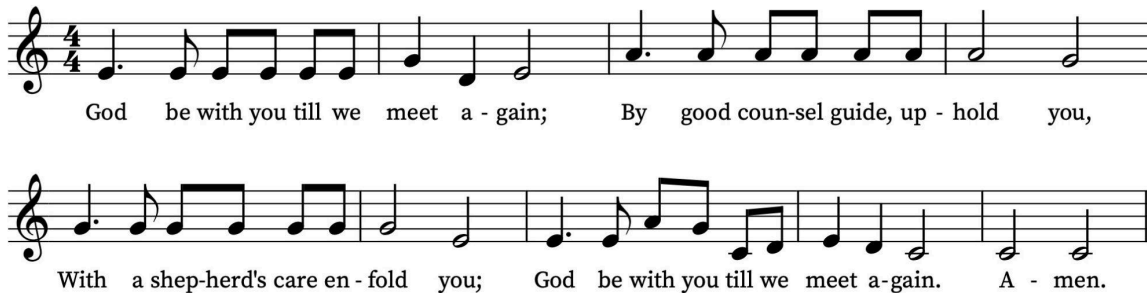
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

476 New Century Hymnal

*Benediction



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

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

arr. Benjamin M. Culli

II. "My life flows on in endless song..."

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; The Rev. David Spollett; Penny Stevens; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber. 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); Ellen Cahill; 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 Gnidek); 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); Diane Marble (sister-in-law of Charlotte Dyslin); Debra McLeod; Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); The Motkin Family; Mike Palmer; Lisa Marie Petersen; 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); 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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Summer Beach Services

8:15 a.m., Sasco Beach, Southport

Now Through Labor Day

*In Partnership with
Southport Congregational Church*

August 9 - First Church

August 16 - Southport

August 23 - First Church

August 30 - Southport

September 6 - First Church



School Supply Drive

for the Madison School in Bridgeport

Most wanted items:

- Ticonderoga Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Notebooks
- Markers
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Copy paper

Please leave donations in the designated box in the church foyer

Save the Date!

Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 13



Following the 10:15 a.m. service
Featuring lunch by the Taco Loco food
truck, fun, fellowship and more!



Summer Hiatus:

Aug. 9-28

Reopening:

Saturday, Aug. 29

No donations accepted until we reopen