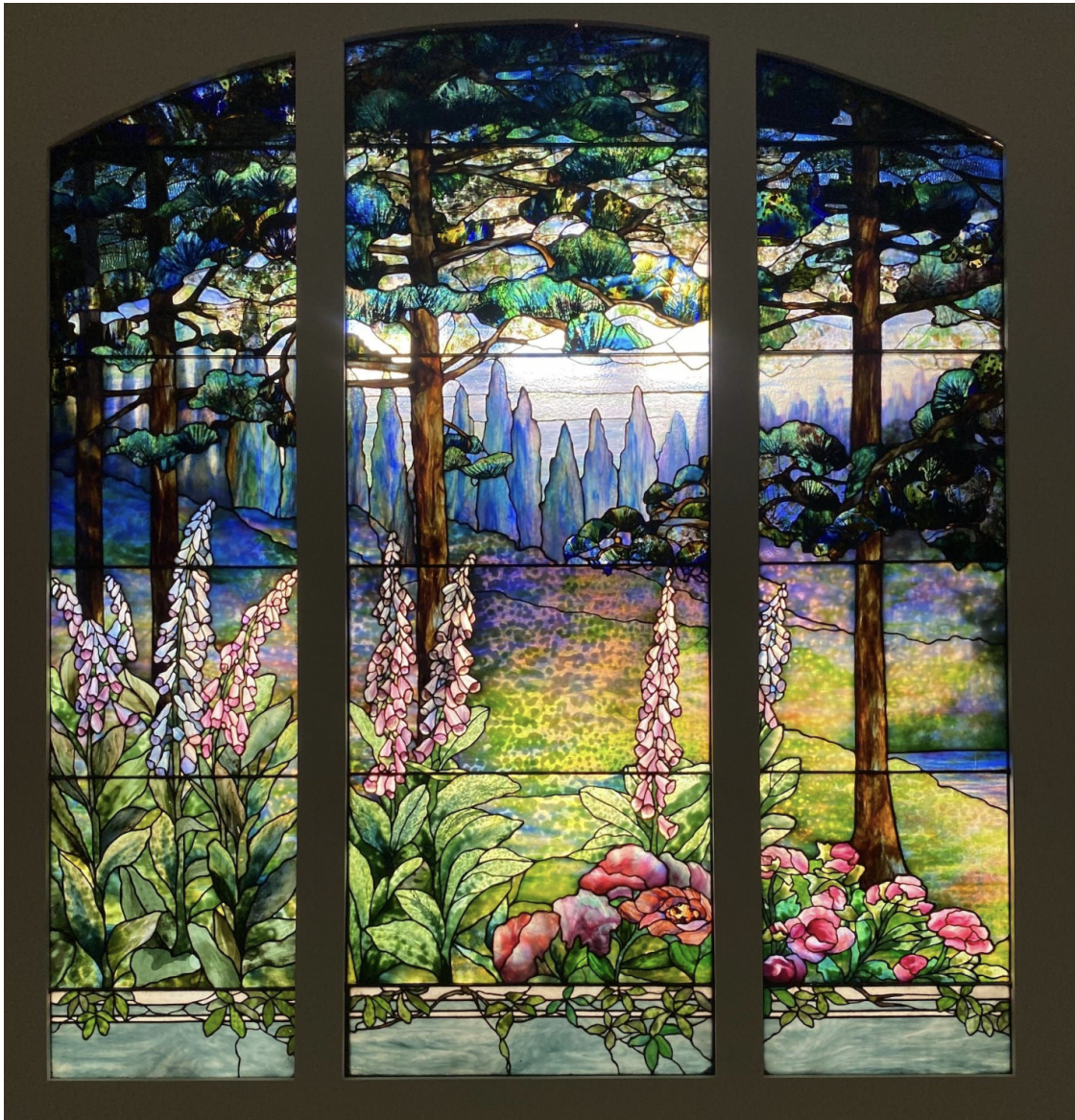




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Garden Landscape, Agnes Northrop for Tiffany Studio, 1912

September 6, 2026
Creation in Christ Sunday
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 on summer break until September 13th. 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. Vanessa Rose, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Jermaine Charles, Audio & Video
Deacons: Heather Hodgeman
Usher: Candace Meader

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. Johnie Dean

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Adapted from Psalm 148

One: We gather to praise you O God,
for all the things we can see, and sometimes understand:
the sun, moon and stars; the clouds and changing weather:

All: We join in their eternal chorus of praise to God.

One: We gather to praise you, O God,
for all the things that we cannot see or understand:
all heaven's angels, outer space; and the skies above us;

All: We join in their eternal chorus of praise to God.

One: We gather to praise you O God,
for all the things in life that we experience:
the created world, people of all ages and circumstances,
all of your creations.

**All: We join in their eternal chorus of praise to God:
whose name is glorious, and whose ways are holy. Amen.**

***Hymn**

Praise to the Living God

8 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 Moment**

Blessing the Backpacks

*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

Genesis 1:1-2:3

*Hymn of Praise

Halle, Halle, Halle



Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly
Sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken"

Shirley Erena Murray

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of
disaster—
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
Let there be greening, birth from the

burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's
children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the
sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given anonymously in honor of the church's music programs and to Frank Martignetti.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

If the Fields Are Parched

Chris Juby

If the fields are parched
and the trees are felled
will the rocks cry aloud on their own?
If the birds are starved
and the beasts are killed
will the bones in the dust lift a song?

Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Forgive our broken ways.
Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Renew the world you made

As the oceans rise
and the wells run dry
do we care if disaster is near?
If our children starve
will they cry to God?
will they curse us for closing our ears?

Still a day will come
when the Lord returns
and the earth will be perfect again
No more greed or war,
no more tooth and claw,
for the wolf and the lamb will be friends.

*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

God, the Sculptor of the Mountains

Amanda Husberg

God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation,
we are formless; shape us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
you are host at every table,
we are hungry; feed us now.

God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar of the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
you are gate of all deliv'rance,
we are sightless; lead us now.

God the unexpected infant,
God the calm, determined youth,
God the table turning prophet,
God the resurrected Truth:
you are present every moment,
we are searching; meet us now.

— John Thornberg

*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

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

558 *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

Prelude and Fugue in F, BWV 556

J. S. Bach

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); 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); 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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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!



Welcome Back!

Disciple Road & Middle Road

- Sessions begin on Sunday, Sept. 13!
- Stay for the church picnic after the service!
- Taco Truck, Bounce Houses, Lawn Games!

