



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Psalm 85, by John August Swanson

September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
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) and are currently in session. New students are welcome. 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
Katie D'Angelo, cello
Jermaine Charles, Audio & Video
Deacon: Nathim Mughal & Michelle Nolan
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

Cwm Rhondda

Welsh, arr. Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Crashing Waters At Creation

***Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 103

One: Praise the Lord!

All: With all our hearts, we will praise God's holy name!

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Never forget the good things God has done for us.

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth—
everyone, everywhere!

All: We too will praise the Lord! Let us worship God together!

***Hymn**

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

18 *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

*** Passing of 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

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

***Hymn of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

New Testament Readings

Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

***Hymn**

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

23 New Century Hymnal

Joys and Concerns

*Today's flowers are donated by Frank, Heather, and Molly Martignetti in memory of their dear friend,
Charles Donovan.*

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Mi Chamochab (Who is Like You?)

Allan Naplan

Who is like you, O God, a
mong the gods that are worshiped?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, working wonders?
(Exodus 15:11)

*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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

4 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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

arr. Lani Smith

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Congregants Currently Receiving Hospice Care: Melissa Booker and Sarah Jewell, along with their families and loved ones.

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); Vanessa Donovan, (niece of Vanessa Rose), 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); Larry Gaddy (Connie Sargent's cousin); Nate Gifford (cousin of Connie Sargent); 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; 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). **Serving in the military:** James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Andrew Holms, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

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HELLO
my name is

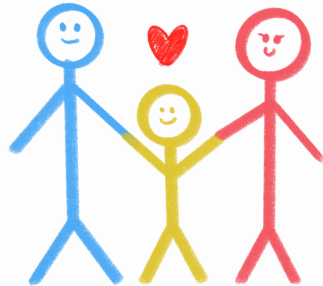
First Church Member!

Let's Be on a First Name Basis

As we begin a new church season, please wear your name tags (located on racks in the sanctuary foyer) so we can greet each other and help new, returning members and our guests feel welcome.

Don't have a name tag? Need a new one?

**Contact Beth in the church office at
office@firstchurchfairfield.org and we will get it done!**



Save the Date!

*Disciple Road's
Chasing Wonder:
Photo Bingo Challenge*

Intergenerational Family Event

Sunday, Sept. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Wakeman Hall Dining Room

 MUSIC
in the
MEETINGHOUSE
FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD



Two Poles: Music of Frédéric Chopin & Tomasz Kowalczyk
Benita Rose, piano
Sunday, Sept 27 at 4 p.m.

Tickets at the Door: \$30; \$20 seniors; \$10 students
First Church of Fairfield, 148 Beach Road, Fairfield
Contact fmartignetti@firstchurchfairfield.org for more information.