



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Autumn Wheat, by Angela Porter

September 20, 2026
Seventeenth 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. Jake Joseph, Preacher in Residence
The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families
Daniel Romero, Guest Organist and Director
Chancel Choir
David McKinnis & Tanner Behboudi, Audio & Video
Deacons: Heather Hodgeman & Michelle Nolan
Usher: Rita Skog

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

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Take my Gifts

Colin Gibson

*Call to Worship

One: When fear casts its shadow, Christ meets us with light.

All: We come to receive the light of Christ.

One: When the journey is difficult, God gives us companions for the way.

All: We walk with one another.

One: When we need courage, Christ reaches out in the form of community.

All: We come to give and receive God's signs of peace.

One: Let us worship together.

All: Let us worship God with joy.

*Hymn

Sing Praise to God!

22 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 Sermon

* 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.

Candle of Witness:

Allyx Schiavone, CEO, Friends Children Circle

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

*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.

Gospel

John 3:13-17

Sermon

Holding the Christ-Light

The Rev. Jake Joseph

*Hymn

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

539 *New Century Hymnal*

Joys and Concerns

*The flowers are given today by Martha Jane and Robin Wakeman in loving memory of their parents,
Norman Burr Wakeman and Muriel Evitts Wakeman.*

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

arr. John Ferguson

Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true
word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever be
fall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all. 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

*Hymn

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

307 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

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); 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).

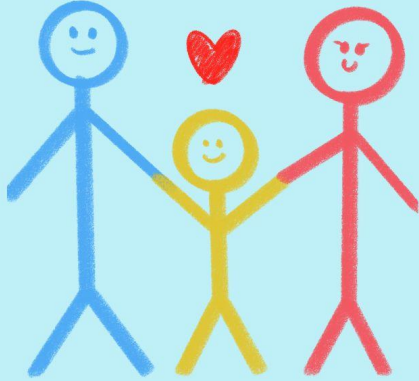
Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Andrew Holms, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

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Disciple Road's

Chasing Wonder: Photo Bingo Challenge



**Intergenerational Family Event
Sunday, Sept. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m.
Wakeman Hall Dining Room**

Kids, parents, grandparents, caregivers all welcome!

RSVP to kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org by 9/24



**Please join us!
Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Sept. 26
8 a.m., Southport Diner**

All First Church men are welcome to join this informal monthly breakfast gathering.

 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.