

NO NAME OTHER

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR • MIGHTY GOD
EVERLASTING FATHER • PRINCE OF PEACE • IMMANUEL

Over the years, the tagline for the Master's golf tournament has been: "A traditional unlike any other." That tagline changed this year because of COVID, and became: "A Masters like no other." This year, I think we can safely say we will celebrate, "A Christmas like no other."

As you might expect, we are not be able to have services in the Meetinghouse on Christmas Eve. There's just no possible way to accommodate the one thousand people who usually attend, safely. Instead, we are putting all of our efforts into an online service we will record and make public that night,

much like we did for Easter. Also, weather—and restrictions—permitting, we will have an outdoor brass and carol service on the front lawn at 5 PM.

While this Christmas might feel different, it's similar to the first Christmas. If you remember the story, there was grumbling over government decisions based on a census. While we might not have a census (Oh, that's right we do!), but we do have restrictions, quarantines and grumbling. I think we can use today's experiences to better appreciate the world Jesus was born into.

In the midst of the frustrations, hope was born! God brings hope to us in the midst of trials, census, and coronavirus. There is no situation where He doesn't want to bring His hope.

Yes, we might be separated, but we have many reasons to celebrate. He is Immanuel. He is in our midst. Hope has come. The darkness can never push back the arrival of the light of the world!

—Pastor Deryk

GIVING GREAT THANKS!

Amid this season of change and uncertainty, we want to give a huge shout out of thanks to **Pastor Todd** and the over **40 volunteers** who helped him either prep, cook or distribute **170 meals** to the community this Thanksgiving. Thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow!

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

This year, because we are unable to do flowers for those in our community who are bereaved and missing their loved ones, we are going to be giving out these beautiful candles. Please know that you are in our prayers and hearts during this challenging season.



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



This Christmas season, we have the unique opportunity to bless Community First School by gifting them much-needed books for their classrooms. In our Connector, we have set up a Christmas Book tree, decorated with book shaped ornaments. On each ornament, there is listed the title, author name, and ISBN number of a specific book. In some cases, the school is in need of multiple copies of the same title. **Stop by**

and pick an ornament—(or two), purchase the book listed, and return your unwrapped purchase to our book bin located next to the tree. After the holidays, we'll deliver the new books to Tim Goodwin and his team. To learn more about Community First School, their program and hopes for the future, you can read more on our website, under the **GIVE** tab and/or browse their website at www.communityfirstschool.org.



BOOK OF LIFE ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

Peggy Stumbers, April 8, 2020

Donna Oman, July 19, 2020

Mike Baldwin, September 28, 2020

Roberta Dalanta, November 3, 2020

Rev. Dr. J. Jey Deifell, November 6, 2020

James Griswold, November 16, 2020

We rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. ~Romans:12:15

First Church

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WETHERSFIELD
CONGREGATIONAL

860.529.1575 | Fax: 860.721.7861
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109
firstchurch.org

Email: info@firstchurch.org
The Spire online: firstchurch.org/spire
facebook.com/FirstChurchPage
[IG/ first_church_wethersfield](https://www.instagram.com/first_church_wethersfield)

OUR MISSION

We are a community of Jesus followers who love God, love one another, and make disciples.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Service:

9 AM (the Meetinghouse)

Contemporary "Wind" Service:

10:00 AM (Keith Jones Hall)

GIVING—For info about **e-giving**—contributing via a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account—call the Finance Office, 860.529.1575 x221. You can also **give online**, at firstchurch.org (the **ONLINE GIVING** tab).

Diane GallowayDirector of Caring Ministries
Wayne LumanAssociate Minister
Sean McCarthyDirector of Music
Deryk RichenbourgSenior Minister
Lisa RoncaioliInterim Director of Preschool
Andrew ShattuckChurch Administrator
Todd WillardAssociate Minister

DAZZLING DOZEN

IN SUPPORT OF THE

Wethersfield
FOOD BANK

Attention Church, December is our month! Throughout the month, we're invited to make an extra push in our giving to the Food Bank. Bring your non-perishable food donations to the white bin in the Wells Area at any point during the week when the church building is open. Let's help the Wethersfield Food Bank finish 2020 strong. Working together, we can fill their shelves early and see to it the needs of our community are covered for the weeks ahead. For more information and what the needs are, please check our website, under the **GIVE** tab.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Last month, Minister Emeritus Dr. J. Jey Deifell passed to his heavenly home. For thirteen years, Jey lead us with a steady and loving hand.

We are grateful for his legacy of faithful service and stewardship. Let us join together in thanking God for Jey and his time with us, as well as lifting his family up as they grieve his passing.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!

LIVE SERVICE—Outdoor Carol and Brass Service—5 PM

VIRTUAL SERVICE—YouTube channel: First Church Wethersfield

JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

A Christmas at First Church concert video will be released later this month featuring Director of Music, Sean McCarthy at the organ, with guest performances from: soprano, Jennifer Groves; baritone, Jonathan Stinson and violinist, Jaroslav Lis. A link to the YouTube video will be announced and posted on our website once filming is complete. Sean sees the project as an opportunity, during this year of travel restrictions, to take us all on a musical Christmas vacation through Europe, with stops in Germany, France, and England. We hope this recording of *Christmas at First Church* will brighten your holiday season. Merry Christmas!

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING | Offerings — November 2020

	Actual this year	Budget this year	Discrepancy
Month to Date	80,738	97,335	(16,597)
Year to Date	416,011	452,020	(36,009)