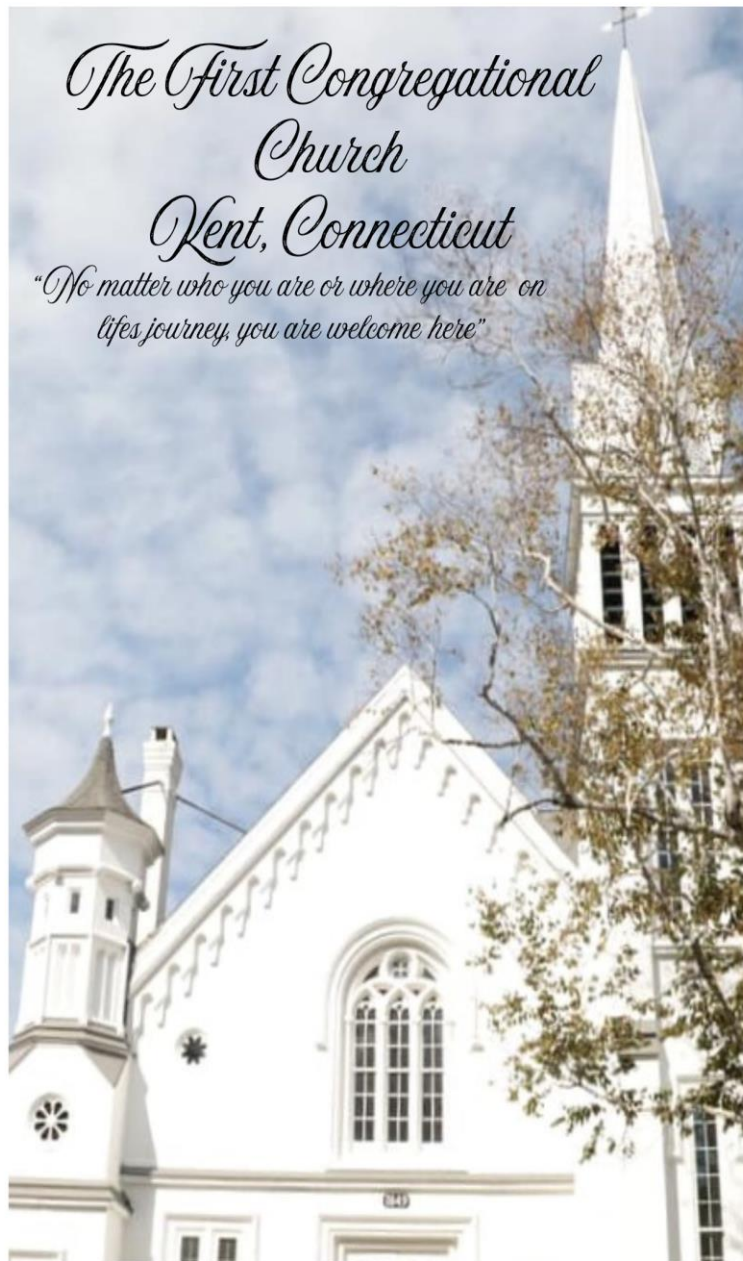




The First Congregational Church

Kent, Connecticut

October 12, 2025

10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Quiet your mind, still your restlessness. Come before God.

People: Like a bird that lights on a branch, we come to the pause of God.

Leader: Warm up your heart, stir up your spirit. Come before God.

People: Like flame dancing on a candle's wick, we dance to the dance of God

Leader: Open your hands, meet the eyes of your neighbors. Come before God.

People: Like rustling leaves blowing in the wind, bright with color, deep when gathered, we fall into the presence of God.

*HYMN #70

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old, for this and every nation,
Lord, of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in loving power remake us-
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Oh God, we turn and face you in the midst of the storm. Help us this hour to hear you speak to us — not in the wind, or the thunder, nor even in the upheaval of the ground beneath us. Help us to hear you speak to us, in our heart of hearts, as that still, small voice amidst the maelstrom, which gives us direction, and peace, and hope. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, the turning of the season reminds us of our frailty. As nature goes through change and decay, the morning mists softening the landscape, the days draw shorter and the nights colder, let all creation sing your praise! Dear God, we come before you now, all too aware of our smallness and our brokenness. All too aware that our insecurities, our selfish thoughts, and our secret desires are an open book to you. Dear God, forgive us if our words and actions have injured others. Forgive us if our silence and inaction have injured others. Forgive us if we have failed to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you. God of mercy, forgive us and renew us. Help us to live in each moment and in every circumstance lives of generosity and peace. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***GLORIA PATRI (#734)**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE:

1 Kings 19:1-9

SERMON

***HYMN #477**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear out eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit lest us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, 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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Anthem:

Doxology (#34)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

***HYMN #501**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O though great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want to more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ministers: Community of Faith
Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt
Worship Leader: Bethany Keck
Organist: Erica Bernardini
Deacon of the Month: Kathleen Robey
Video Team: Ben Ewers

WE WELCOME ALL who are worshipping with us via the internet
and in person. Guests are invited to sign the guest book in the back of
the sanctuary and/or fill out a Pew Card and place it in the offering
plate.

Prayer List: Peggy, Bill, Betty, Joel, Our Community, Those affected
by natural disasters, those whom we hold in our hearts.

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Church office hours:
Monday/Thursday 1:30-3
Tues/Wednesday/Friday 9am-1pm
Pastor John's Office hours: In office Tues/Wednesday 11am-1pm
Thursdays at Wilson's 2-4pm

Coffee Hour- What does coffee hour mean to you? For most it is
about fellowship. Please sign up to host and support the fellowship of
our church. Nothing fancy is needed. Just start the coffee add some
cheese and crackers or cookies and let the conversations start.

Bible Study- Meets every Monday at 7pm via zoom. If interested in
joining let Pastor John know.

**Book Club- The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of
Homecoming.** The meeting is scheduled for October 29th.