

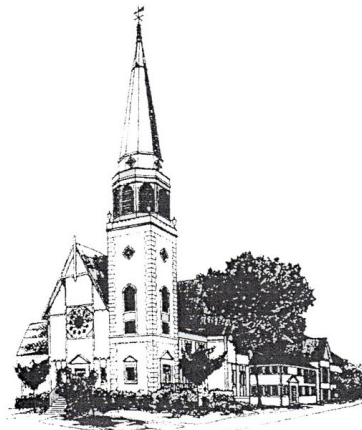


The Rev. Adam Blakeman was born in Gnosall, Staffordshire, England on June 10, 1598. In May 28, 1617, he went to Christ Church College at the University of Oxford, England. He was a preacher for some years in Great Bowden, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. In 1638, he voyaged across the Atlantic Ocean to Connecticut.

In 1639, he led the original settlers of Stratford, Connecticut and served as the first minister of the church until his death on the 7th day of September in the year 1665.

Like a number of other New England towns during that time; Stratford was founded as a Utopian community by the Puritans fleeing religious persecution in England. The town's minister was also its political leader and ruled both his flock and his town as the unquestioned representative of God.

Source: Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam\\_Blakeman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Blakeman)



Gathered 1639

The first church or meetinghouse was erected at Mac's Harbor where the first settler's along with Rev. Adam Blakeman landed in 1639.

On Nov. 18, 1678, the freedmen of the town voted to build a new meetinghouse. The *third* meetinghouse was built in 1743 and burned in 1785 after it was struck by lightning. The fourth meetinghouse was completed just 25 weeks after its construction began on Main Street. On Sunday Nov. 12, 1786, in the forenoon, the congregation met in it for public worship. This fourth meetinghouse stood for seventy-five years.

The present church is the fifth building of the Congregational Church of Stratford. The movement for its construction began at a meeting of the First Ecclesiastical Society on June 20, 1857. The dedication services of the new church were held on Oct. 27, 1859 and were attended by more than 900 people.

The architect of this current church was Leopold Eidlitz of New York. The First Congregational Church of Stratford is a fine example of the Gothic Style.

## *First Congregational Church of Stratford, CT*



***No matter who you are  
or where you are  
on life's journey,  
YOU are welcome here!***

Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

First Congregational Church  
of Stratford, CT  
2301 Main Street  
Stratford, CT 06615  
203-378-2644

***Senior Minister, Rev. Ed Rawls***

[www.firstchurchstratford.org](http://www.firstchurchstratford.org)

## CHURCH PROGRAMS

### OUTREACH

Habitat for Humanity  
CROP Hunger Walk  
Lord's Kitchen & Nourish Bpt.  
SPF – The Bridge – Helping the Homeless  
Clothing Collections  
Sterling House Food Pantry  
Scholarships  
Orphanage in Zambia, Africa  
Donkorkrom, Ghana Legacy Project  
Christmas Gift program  
Annual Church Fair & Tag Sale – Nov.  
Main St. Festival Day - June

### ADULTS & FAMILIES

All-Church Picnic  
All-Church Retreat - Camp Bethel  
Silver Lake – PF Retreats  
Confirmands – St. John Divine NYC Trip  
Weekly Bible Study Group  
Fundraisers & Pot-Luck Dinners  
Sunday School & Safe Church Program  
Scholarships  
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts  
Easter Egg Hunt  
PF Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins

### CHURCH VISION

Praising God and meeting the needs of people through worship, study, outreach and fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ.

### CHURCH MISSION

The object of this church is to bring together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing in the worship of God and in making God's will dominant in the lives of people, individually and collectively, especially as that will is set forth in the life, teachings, death, and living presence of Jesus Christ.

### MUSIC PROGRAM

Chancel Choir  
Youth & Sunday School Choirs  
Handbell Choir  
Valentine's Day Dinner & Talent Show  
Palm Sunday Oratorio Concert  
Rose Window Concerts  
Contemporary Worship Services



*Please consider giving by EFT.  
The EFT form (Electronic Funds Transfer) is  
available for printing on the church website.*

[www.firstchurchstratford.org](http://www.firstchurchstratford.org)

## Planned Giving

Another important way for you to give to First Congregational Church of Stratford, CT is through our FCC Endowment Fund via a planned giving gift. You will be leaving far more than just money. Your legacy gift will continue to strengthen our church, its ministry and its mission and improve countless lives. Your generous gift will provide a legacy that reaches beyond today and will impact generations in Stratford, CT for years to come.

### WAYS TO GIVE INCLUDE:

- ❖ Bequests of Estates
- ❖ Life Insurance Beneficiary
- ❖ Real Estate & Property
- ❖ Stocks & Other Securities
- ❖ Trusts & Annuities
- ❖ Monetary Gifts & Grants

*Your legacy gift is a special  
opportunity to help shape  
the future of our church!*

**Remember the Church  
in Your Will.**

**For more information -**  
Contact the chairperson of  
Trustees or Stewardship