



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

declares itself to be Open and Affirming (ONA); open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God.

We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.
We welcome you this day and are glad you made the choice to join us for this worship service.
May it be a blessing to you.

Welcome to Worship!

We welcome you this day and are glad you are here! May worship be a blessing to you.

First Church Welcomes *You.*

With Worship. A casual tone, stirring music, moving prayers, & a faith-invoking message. **Prayer Book requests** (in Narthex) are uplifted during the Prayers of the People.

With Inclusion. Open & Affirming (ONA). We make a point of meeting all and name tags worn.

With Communion. The first Sunday of each month, all ages share in the sacred meal together. We use juice & gluten-free bread!

With Care. We pass the Peace of Christ to one another. We are a mask-friendly, come-as-you-are, leave-as-a-friend community.



First Church Welcomes *Children.*

The PrayGround. In the Chapel space, guiding kids in worship.

Cherub Choir, Celebration Singers, & Genesis Choir. Children of all ages are welcome to offer music in worship!

Children's Message. A moment for kids & the child in each of us.

Church School. Faith learnings for the day continue in the Undercroft classrooms after the Children's Message.

Children's Take Home Library. Located by the PrayGround. Check out what interests you & bring it back next week!



First Church Welcomes *All.*

Sensory Sanctuary & Rocking Chairs. Focusing resources located in the back of the Meetinghouse.

Visual Worship Aids & Live captioning. Found on the monitors.

Audio Hearing Aids. To use, ask Greeters or Ushers.

Spaces in Meetinghouse for Wheelchair Users

Exterior Ramp. In the back of the Meetinghouse, driveway side.

Liftavators. Located inside, from Narthex to Auditorium Level & Outside in the Memory Garden.



Enjoy a cup of coffee, food, & fellowship at *Community Hour* after the service!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask should feel comfortable doing so.

*Please know our worshipping community gathers in-person and online via livestream
with multiple camera angles of the Meetinghouse and congregation.*

PRELUDE

If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee
Janis Dunson Wilson (b. 1958)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your row near the center aisle, then pass it back to the center aisle, noting the names of those worshipping near you so you may greet them at the end of worship.

If you are the person on the center aisle, please remove the completed sheet and place it in the plate during the offering.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Women's Fellowship

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to worship because we long for mercy.

All: **We long for community. We long for God.**

One: We come to worship because we need a good word.

All: **We need connection. We need moral reminders.**

One: We come to worship because we are in between:

All: **hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.**

One: So, we come to worship and God meets us here.

All: **Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Sing Praise To God
20 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Merciful God, When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

One: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: **And also with you.**

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Halle, Halle



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

FIRST LESSON

Righteousness & Mercy

Rev. Sarah Speed

Pat Larrabee

As children we were taught to tell the teacher.
(Justice was dealt when we spoke up.)
As children we were taught to always be kind.
(Friends were made when we spoke love.)
As children we were taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree.
(But we cut that tree down a long time ago.)
So what are the rules for this day and age?
Can we turn black and white into shades of gray?
Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake?
Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat?
As always, love is somewhere in between.

ANTHEM

Let This Mind Be In You

Amy Marcy Beach (1867-1944)

The Chancel Choir

Thomas Woodman, baritone

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of all. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God in heaven.

Philippians 2:5-11

†Please rise in body or in spirit

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

MESSAGE

Setting Things Right
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King
246 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.

*Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle,
receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Lynn Hawxhurst

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to **73256** or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage or scan this QR code to donate.



†Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Be Still, My Soul

Arr. Joel Raney (b. 1956)

Lynn Hawxhurst, Jennifer Gartner, Debbie Silverthorn, Julie Laicher, handbells

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

God Is My Strong Salvation

373 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

O Thou Of God The Father

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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† Please rise in body or in spirit



Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for April are members of the Faith Formation Committee.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular
Church School
Today

ALL AGES WORSHIP (AAW)

AAW is a Sunday morning experience for the whole family of faith to sing, pray, hear stories and partake in communion together!

April 13 – Palm Sunday

May 18 – Music Sunday

Kids and Youth can
sign up to read. Scan QR code to
the right to volunteer



EASTER USHERS

It's nearly that time where we need extra ushers for Easter Sunday worship. We need 4 ushers for the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services, and you can head to Signup Genius and put your name in a slot for either or both services. As always, you can sign up for any Sunday at Signup Genius to help in this important ministry on Sunday mornings.

ACOLYTES



Would you like to be a person who helps signal the start of worship? We are looking to pull a group of young people together to light the candles on the altar each Sunday. It can be a single kid or youth, or it can be a pair. (they need to be old enough and strong enough to carry five pounds down the aisle, step on to the altar, light one or both candles, and exit by the PrayGround). A walk-through is available at any time! See Taira Atesman, Elmer Segura, or Craig Symons for more information or scan the QR code to sign up now.

WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY



Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. Using the Wired Word curriculum, each week we'll discuss a topic or headline from the week's news and ask ourselves how our faith applies through guided questions and discussion. Learn more at thewiredword.com.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE & ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

It's nearly April and that means the annual quilt raffle to benefit The Women's Fellowship is just around the corner. Tickets will be sold at community hour, the church front office, and The Rummage Room.

Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be held on Saturday, May 3 at The Women's Fellowship luncheon. Get your tickets soon!

Women of First Church – join us on Saturday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. for our Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We are looking for women who would like to get involved in planning our next year and serving on the Women's Fellowship Board. Please see us at Community Hour - we'll be next to the Quilt Raffle table. Reservations for the luncheon can be made beginning today. The fee for the luncheon is \$25 (cash or checks made out to Women's Fellowship FCCOG).



Some of our other upcoming events include our Summer Socials planned for the fourth Monday of June, July, and August - June 23, July 28, and August 25-beginning at 5:30 pm at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point with rain dates the following Tuesday evening.

BULLETIN COVER INSPIRATION – FROM THE ARTIST

Zacchaeus by Lauren Wright Pittman – Inspired by Luke 19:1-10 – Digital painting

I had a lot of fun discovering new layers to this familiar story. I learned that Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore fig tree, which was a food source for poor people because the fruit was bitter and generally undesirable. I had always imagined a fruitless tree, but the presence of fruit opened up interesting avenues to explore. The root word for sycamore tree is **σῦκον**, meaning “fig,” and as I did a study of other key words in the text, I noticed this same root word in **συκοφαντεω**, or “defrauded,” which was used to describe what Zacchaeus did to his community. It was curious to me that the root word for “defrauded” was “fig,” so I dug deeper to find that the Greek word was from the phrase “fig-informer” or a person who would notify authorities if one was exporting figs from Greece without paying a tax. It seemed that these “fig-informers” would use the threat of exposure to extort money from fig farmers. This is where the word “sycophant” comes from, which evolved to more generally describe a “malignant accuser from love of gain,” which perfectly describes Zacchaeus.

Jesus calls Zacchaeus out of his identity as “sycophant” into his new identity as “repentant host” who invites Jesus into his home and redistributes his ill-gotten wealth. Zacchaeus’s clothing holds a repeated pattern of four figs and halves of coins, referencing the fruits of his transformation.

The area where Zacchaeus sat in the tree is fruitless and dying. His actions were destructive and oppressive to his own community. The crowd is correct in grumbling about him; their anger is righteous, but Jesus offers mercy. In this visual metaphor, Jesus removes him from the tree so it has a chance to heal and nourish the whole community. Jesus’ clothing is patterned with suns, representing righteousness, and water, representing mercy, because it is through his merciful actions that righteousness for the community is achieved.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE EVENTS

The Friendsgiving gatherings were such a hit that members of the Welcoming Committee have been asked to continue the fun year-round! It's such a great way to get to know each other and build community. The idea is to have gatherings that are easy to execute; co-hosting and pot-luck parties are encouraged. Hosts choose what they want to do, the date & the number of guests they can handle.

A couple of FCCOG members have already offered to host spring events: a "s'mores-round-a-firepit-party" and an outing to Storm King Art Center. Details to follow in the upcoming weeks. Here are some additional ideas but feel free to suggest others:

- Build your own ice-cream sundae party
- Build your own taco (on a Tuesday of course!) party
- Potluck BBQ
- Movie and pizza (maybe even use FCCOG auditorium)
- Outing to a ball game
- Potluck dinner at the Susie Baker pavilion at Tod's Point
- Wine tasting
- A red party (everyone wears red)

Call/text Betsy (203) 832-8113 or Cynthia (203 918-1523) if you have any questions or would like to host.



CALL-A-RIDE GREENWICH - FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS AND MORE



At CALL-A-RIDE we provide free transportation weekdays for seniors age 60 or over within the Town of Greenwich. Our volunteer drivers also serve to create an atmosphere of understanding and camaraderie aiding seniors toward a full enjoyment of life.

We currently have a roster of volunteer drivers who cover 24 shifts Monday through Friday each week. Morning shifts run from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and afternoon shifts run from 12:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Some drivers have regularly committed weekly shifts and others are available on a substitute basis. Drivers must be 25 years of age or older, possess a valid driver's license and be approved by C-A-R's automobile insurer. Many current drivers have volunteered with C-A-R for many years and derive a high degree of satisfaction from their service to others through C-A-R.

We are always looking for volunteer drivers - hopefully you will be so inclined and, in that event, kindly make initial contact with our office.

CONTACT US

CALL-A-RIDE OF GREENWICH, INC.

37 Lafayette Place Greenwich, CT 06830

Phone: (203) 661-6633

Dispatchers: Ron March, Hilary Gunn

E-mail: call-a-ride@optimum.net

<https://callaridegreenwich.org/our-service/>

INVITATION FOR SEDER MEAL AT TEMPLE SHOLOM



Saturday, April 12 at 6:30 pm,

Temple Shalom, 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

Our friends at Temple Shalom have invited anyone from First Church to join Rabbi Mitch and artist-in-residence Sheldon Low for a musical, traditional Passover seder. The cost to participate is \$60 per person for Temple Members, \$90 per person for Non-Members and \$20 per child ages 12 and under (regardless of membership).

To register: <https://www.templesholom.com/form/passover-seder-2025>

LENTEN STUDY GROUP

ENTERING THE PASSION of JESUS

DIVE INTO THE HISTORY OF THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS

What if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events... the women around Jesus? Or the "bad" guys... Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas?

Join us for this discussion led by videos from Amy-Jill Levine as she looks closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during his last days.

SUNDAYS
March 9 - April 13

TIME
11AM - 12PM

RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT – SUNDAY MAY 4 AT 10 A.M.



During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's vision of a world without hunger, which distributes meals in 38 countries to schools, health clinics and communities hit by disaster. The meals help keep children in school and aid communities in the short term as they develop long term food security.



The cost of underwriting The Rise Against Hunger meal packing and the meal packing event will be our 2025 Lenten Offering and Lenten Project. Scan the QR code to donate and support this project. Please join us for a fun, energized, music-filled morning when we will experience the joy of working together to help the least among us! Bring friends to show them First Church in action!

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
DINNER AND WORSHIP**

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17
WE WILL GATHER FOR
DINNER AND COMMUNION
IN THE AUDITORIUM AT 6 PM.

SOUP, MAC & CHEESE,
AND BREAD WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE

AT 7 PM WE MOVE TO THE
MEETINGHOUSE FOR THE SERVICE OF
TENEBRAE AND WASHING OF THE FEET

JOIN US FOR THIS MEANINGFUL
COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST SUPPER

**EASTER EGG
DYEING & HUNT**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
10-12 PM DYEING & 11:30 AM HUNT

(AGES 0 TO 6TH GR)
REGISTER AT EVENT

**DONATE
CANDY TO
OFFICE BY
4/13**

- HUNT IN AGE GROUPS
- BYO HARD BOILED EGGS
& A BASKET

first church
of greenwich

FCCOG.ORG/EVENTS

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

10:00 AM	April 13 Palm Sunday
6:00 PM	April 17 Maundy Thursday 6 PM Dinner - 7 PM Worship
7:30 PM	April 18 Good Friday
10:00 AM	April 19 Egg Dyeing & Hunt
6:00 AM	April 20 Easter Sunday Greenwich Point
9:00 AM	April 20 Easter Sunday Meetinghouse
11:00 AM	April 20 Easter Sunday Meetinghouse

www.fccog.org 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse this Easter.
You may give to either one or both. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before **Monday, April 14 at 12 noon** in order to be included in the bulletin listing.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund _____ Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870
203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

Ministers - All Members Of The First Congregational Church Of Greenwich

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry
Parish Nurse
Church Office Coordinator
Financial Administrator
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Facility Manager
Sexton
Sexton
First Church Preschool Director
First Church Preschool Assistant Director
Pastor Emerita

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Khaleigh Laicher
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Greg Girolamo
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
Julio Yika
Curtis Gay
Jose Jolon
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all