



SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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 are 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.
Audio Hearing Aids are available for your use during the service. See an usher to request a device.
Please silence all electronic devices.*

PRELUDE

Herzliebster Jesu
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

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.*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Early in the morning. Still getting the story straight.

All: **Truth is elusive.**

One: In and out. Back and forth.

All: **What is Truth?**

One: Religion and politics. Questions without answers.

All: **Yet Truth is here, waiting to be heard.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

The Church Of Christ In Every Age
320 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, your kingdom is not of this world. It is built on different foundations, made of different stuff, and follows different ways. Form us today in the norms of your kingdom that we might in turn re-form the systems of this world and so reveal your goodness here in this place. 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

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

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

Psalm 15
New Revised Standard Version
Joe McBride

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

HYMN (remain seated)

Great Are You, Lord
614 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

Choir will sing through once, then congregation will join and sing twice.

SECOND LESSON

John 18:12-27
New Revised Standard Version

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him

†Please rise in body or in spirit

according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not this man but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a rebel.

MESSAGE

Can You Handle The Truth?
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Lord, When I Came Into This Life
691 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

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

Using your smartphone messaging app,
text FCCOG Donate to 73256 or scan the QR code to donate.

Juliet Primo Lee



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Know That God Is Speaking
Kenneth Dake (b. 1961)
The Chancel Choir

*We know that God is speaking today as in the past; through dreamers and builders of visions that will last.
We’re keepers of the future, explorers of the now. As guardians of this treasure, our gifts the church endow.
We see that God is speaking through Jesus Christ, the Son; our singing and preaching and worshipping as one;
in fellowship and caring, with blessing and with peace, we gather ‘round the table with all who join this feast.
We hear that God is still speaking, O Holy Spirit, come and fill us with thanksgiving for all that You have done;
We listen still for guidance and for grace. We pray each day for grace to carry out our mission in this most sacred place.
Our hope is God still speaking is shared with saints above; when we reach out to others in justice and in love.
Our hist’ry is before us. Our future will be bright. Our journey is rejoicing in God’s eternal light.*

Gregory Chestnut

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

To God Be The Glory
634 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Fugue In D Minor
Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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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 March are members of the Personnel Committee.

COMMUNITY
hour
HOUR

**INVITING PEOPLE OF FAITH:
COME WITNESS
MORAL
Mondays**

MORAL MONDAYS AT STAMFORD SUPERIOR COURT
123 Hoyt Street, Stamford CT 06905 - 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Join us for this time of solidarity and witness. Spread the word!

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING – TODAY



High blood pressure is one major risk factor for stroke, which can lead to a multitude of disabilities, and affects nearly 800,000 people in the U.S. each year. Other common stroke risk factors are smoking, uncontrolled diabetes, and lack of regular physical exercise.

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, Sue is available by appointment. Email susana@fccog.org or call 203-637-1791 extension 821.

SECOND HOUR – TODAY – MARCH 15

MARCH 15 SECOND HOUR - 11:00 in the Lounge A CONVERSATION ABOUT END-OF-LIFE CHOICES

We are honored to welcome Susan Stout from Graceful Bridge for a thoughtful and compassionate conversation about end-of-life planning and education.

We will explore topics such as:

- ❖ Advance care planning
- ❖ Medical decision-making
- ❖ Hospice & palliative care
- ❖ Approaching end-of-life with clarity, dignity & peace.
- ❖ Advanced directive documents
- ❖ Medical aid in dying
- ❖ End-of-life doulas



Whether you are thinking about your own wishes, caring for aging parents, or simply wanting to be prepared, this conversation offers practical guidance and space for honest questions. All are welcome.

SECOND HOUR – NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 22

A Second Hour Event



THE LONELINESS EPIDEMIC:

AND WHAT THE CHURCH CAN DO ABOUT IT

NEW DATE: March 22nd, 11:15am in the Lounge

Guest Presenter: Joe O'Callaghan

Clinical Director, Greenwich Advanced Counselling

**2026 LENTEN OFFERING –
RISE AGAINST HUNGER**

Our Lenten Offering this year will once again support one of First Church’s most meaningful hands-on ministries, our Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event.

On **Sunday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m.**, we will gather to pack 20,000 meals for communities around the world facing food insecurity. But before we pack, we give. Throughout Lent, we invite you to make a special Lenten gift to help underwrite the cost of these meals. You can donate online for this important ministry. In your ACS online giving, choose “Rise Against Hunger” from the pull-down menu.



Each meal costs just \$0.40 and every donation makes a real, tangible difference.

“Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness...” (Isaiah 58:10)



Discover community activities in 2026

All women of the church are welcome!

Scan the QR code for the **GroupMe** app or go to **www.GroupMe.com** from your desktop for Women's Fellowship activity updates.

For questions, email **Sara Stuckey (sdstuckey@gmail.com)**



Scan here with your smartphone camera!



Click **HERE** for the **GroupMe** webpage for Women's Fellowship activity updates.

For questions, email **Sara Stuckey (sdstuckey@gmail.com)**

March

Tuesday, 3/3 @ 12pm
walk at Tod's Point**

Wednesday, 3/25 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco's
(148 Sound Beach Ave,
Old Greenwich)

Friday, 3/20 @ 10am
Coffee at Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

**Greenwich residency not required

April

Monday, 4/6 @ 12pm
walk at Tod's Point**

Friday, 4/17 time TBD
NY Botanical Garden
Save the date!

Tuesday, 4/21 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco's
(148 Sound Beach Ave,
Old Greenwich)

Wednesday, 4/29 @ 10am
Coffee at Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

Hosted at RYM Partner Organization: First Congregational Church Greenwich
108 Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich

RYM Baked Ziti Fundraiser Dinner & Bake Sale

March 22nd, 2026 from 6:00-7:30 pm

Raise \$3,000 for our Service Trip!

ALL
VEGETARIAN
MEALS,
GLUTEN
& DAIRY
FREE
OPTIONS
AVAILABLE



YOUTH &
ADULTS
SETTING
UP AND
SERVING
WILL BE
FED BY
RYM

director@
myrym.org
MYRYM.ORG

QR CODE FOR TICKETS



SINGLE TICKET \$30 FAMILY OF FOUR \$100 FAMILY OF FIVE \$130 FAMILY OF SIX \$150 FAMILY OF SEVEN \$180 OR SPONSOR A MEAL \$30 + MORE WAYS TO GIVE!

COME FORTH: A LENTEN STUDY

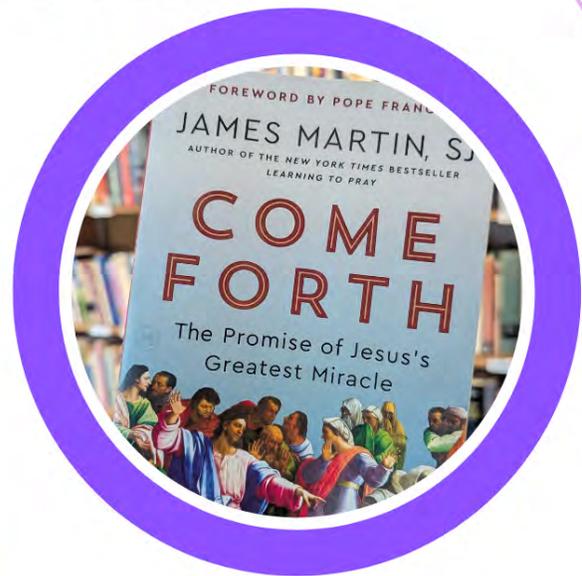
Wednesdays
February 25 - March 25
7:00 pm
First Church Lounge

COME FORTH
BY JAMES MARTIN, SJ

An engaging exploration
of John's Gospel that
brings the story of Jesus
to life today.

GET YOUR BOOK

Limited number of books
are available in the church
office or purchase online.



EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse for Easter Sunday.
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, March 30 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 Church School/ Regional Youth Ministry
Parish Nurse
Director of Operations
Director of Finance & Administration
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
Joe Vartuli
Curtis Gay
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

See more about the stories of our
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -
People of Note

