



Artwork by Lisle Gwinn Garrity

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

I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

Lyle Peterson

Steven Russell, guest organist/director

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Grayson & Jackson A.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

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: Our God is a shepherding God.

All: Our God knows us by name.

One: Our God will never stop searching for us. So, if you feel lost,

All: then know that God is seeking you.

One: If you feel found,

All: then know that God will never leave.

One: This is the promise of scripture.

All: This is the promise of God's love.

One: Let us worship our with-us God.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee

816 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

If God is a painter, let us be the brush.

If God is a musician, let us be the song.

If God is an architect, let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.

But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking, let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.

Our God is never far away.

Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†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.

†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

The Good Shepherd
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
Laura Erickson

Jesus said, "Who among you wouldn't leave the 99?"
Who among you wouldn't look for the one?"

Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes.
Someone squirmed and looked at their palms.
Someone sighed and thought to themselves,
"This man doesn't understand the business.
What fool would leave 99 to look for one?"

But maybe God was not talking about us.
Maybe God was talking about
her own reckless love.
Maybe God was talking about
her own willingness
to turn the world upside down
for me.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

ANTHEM

When Christ, Who Is Our Life
John Varley Roberts (1841-1920)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:1-9
New Revised Standard Version

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

MESSAGE

Seeking
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
435 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

Juliet Primo Lee

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.



ORGAN OFFERTORY

Lord, As To Thy Dear Cross We Flee
Donald Busarow (1934-2011)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

God Of Grace And God Of Glory
307 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Forty Days And Forty Nights
Willem Mudde (1909-1984)

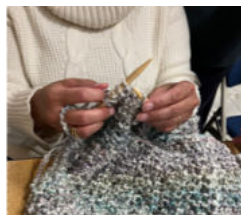
† Please rise in body or in spirit

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COMMUNITY HOUR

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.

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 7-PM IN RICK'S ROOM.



All are welcome to join. Learn more about the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Make some new friends and have a cup of tea. Even those who don't knit can find their niche (sewing labels or adding fringe perhaps). RSVP appreciated and any questions can be sent to Angela at angelamessinastevens@gmail.com



CHURCH SCHOOL

Special 2 weeks of Church School!

March 23 & March 30

2nd Gr. - Communion Class

3rd Gr. - Bible Class (taught by Cydney/Patrick)

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.

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 Craig Symons for more information or scan the QR code to sign up now.

NEW MEMBER CLASS THIS WEDNESDAY

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and joining as a full member, join us this Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. where you will get a chance to meet with the leadership of First Church in a fun and enlightening way.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. She will be in her office, just to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

Shopping hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., with the same hours for donation drop off.



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.



BULLETIN COVER INSPIRATION - WORDS FROM THE ARTIST

Lost and Found by Lisle Gwinn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 15:1-7

Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing

I began my artwork for this series by collaging torn strips of newspaper articles together, overlapping global headlines with photos of current events. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result, editing the photos in black and white. These photos would become the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains, divisions, and everything in between. The collage is also a reference to theologian Karl Barth's famous quote about reading the bible and the newspaper together. I wanted the gold leaf to represent God's presence in the spaces in between the events and forces that tear us apart.

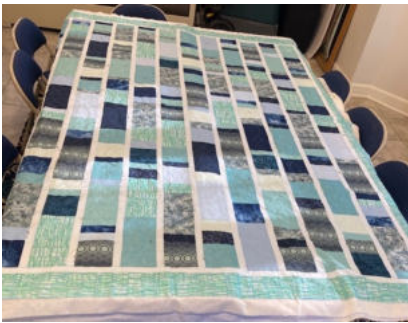
On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, then water, then cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and human lives.

We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn due to downed trees or power lines, or washed-out roads. Progressively, we found family and friends, greeting them with great relief and urgent questions: "Do you have enough water to drink? Do

you have water for flushing? Do you need any food?" It would be nearly 6 days before any emergency relief could arrive with food, water, and supplies. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters and first responders persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. In that process, I did not wish to become the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. But as I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk. The Good Shepherd steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found."

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE



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 May 3rd at The Women's Fellowship brunch. Get your tickets soon!

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.

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

April 13 | Palm Sunday

6:30 PM

April 17 | Maundy Thursday
6:30 PM Dinner - 7:30 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

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 Administrative Assistant

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