first congregational church of greenwich founded 1665

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
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.*

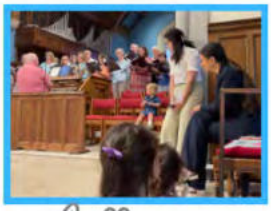
With Worship. A casual tone, stirring music, moving prayers, & a faith-invoking message. ***Prayer Book requests*** (in Narthex) are uplifted during the Prayers of the People.
With Inclusion. Open & Affirming (ONA). We make a point of meeting all and name tags are worn.
With Communion. The first Sunday 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. Ask Ushers for help with bluetooth enabling or use of physical devices.
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

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY — Reverend Patrick Collins

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — J and Marianna Sood

One: When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
All: we turn our eyes to the stars.
One: When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
All: we stand together, arm in arm.
One: When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
All: we cry out to God without holding back.
One: And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
All: we gather together to light the candle of hope.
One: Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
All: May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
One: Until God's promised day, may it be so.
All: Amen. Let us worship the God of hope.

MUSIC DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
Arr. James D. Kimball (1947-2011)
The Palmer Handbell Choir

†HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
93 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,
to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†Please rise in body or in spirit

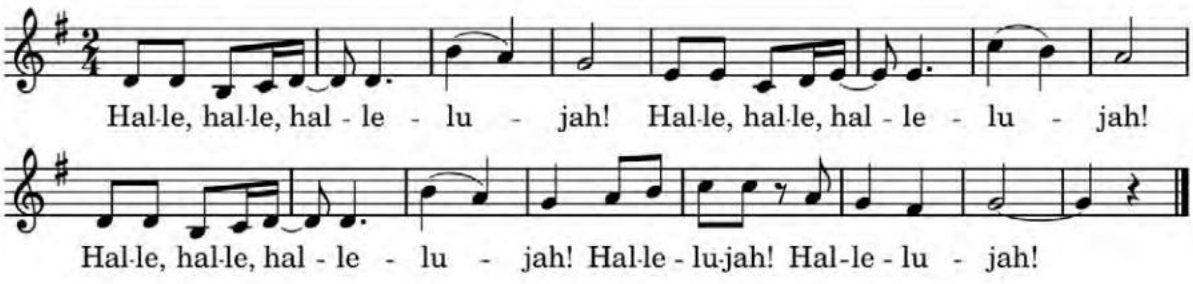
†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

†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.

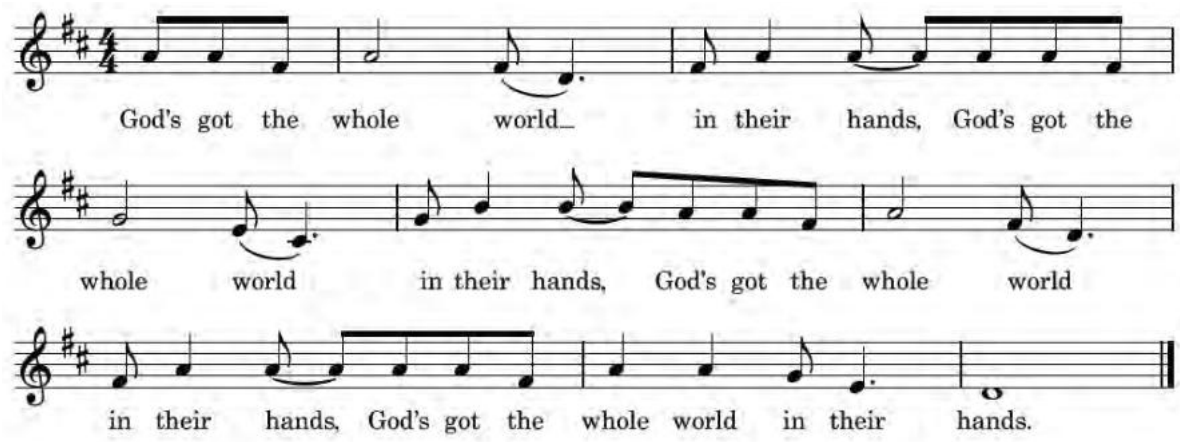
†RESPONSE (remain standing) *Halle, Hallelujah*



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RESPONSE *God's Got The Whole World In Their Hands*

(During the response, the children will return to their seats.)



FIRST READING *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
Juliet Primo Lee

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

ANTHEM

O Come, Redeemer Of The Earth
Brian Hanson
The Chancel Choir

SECOND READING

Isaiah 64:1-9
New International Version

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.
Yet you, Lord, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

MESSAGE

Crying Out For Hope
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

HYMN

Creator Of The Stars Of Night
84 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

THE 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

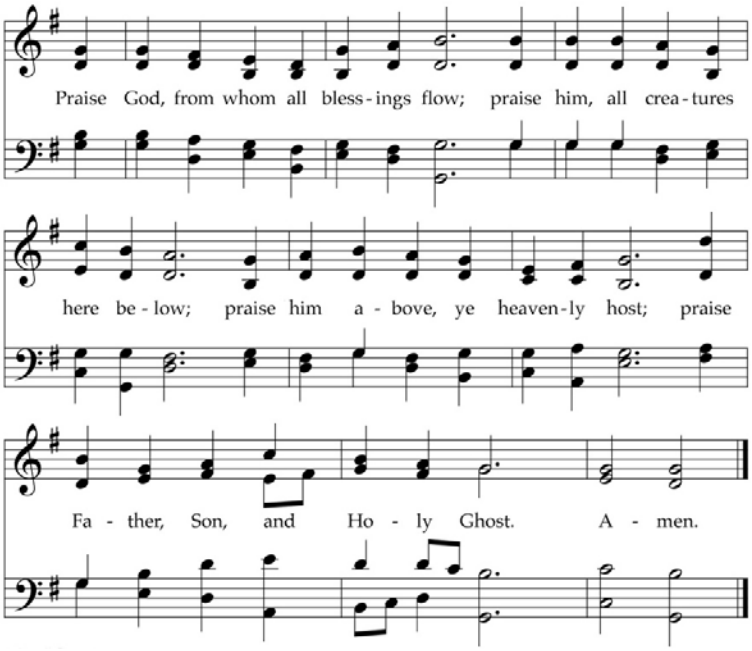
Using your smartphone messaging app, text FCCOG Donate to 73256
or scan the QR code to donate.

SOLO

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
Carolyn Paulus, soprano

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Prepare The Way, O Zion
106 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

O Thou Of God The Father
J. S. Bach (1884-1968)

†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. Please sign up to help bring treats and clean up each week. Scan the QR code to volunteer!

COMMUNITY HOUR

DONATE FRESH FOOD FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

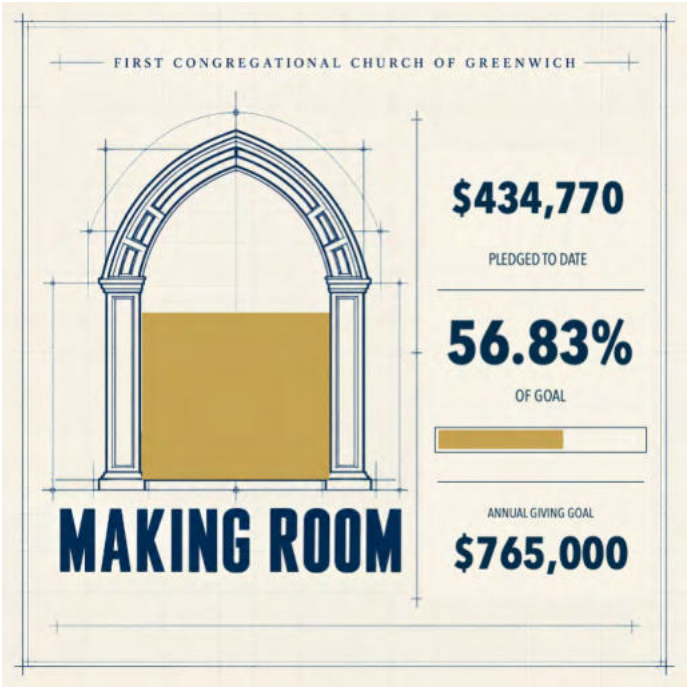
Use the online option to shop for fresh food donations from the comfort of your home through December 31. The fresh selections will be delivered to Neighbor to Neighbor as they need so nothing spoils! Scan the QR to shop online at #GIVEHEALTHY for fresh food donations requested by Neighbor to Neighbor.

60TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE –

The 2026 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale ends today! Stop by after worship to pick up your tree or wreath if you haven't already done so.







WELCOME TO OUR TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

Take a tag, write the name of your loved one and hang it on our tree - write as many as you would like.

For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death
Psalm 48:14


The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
presents the 61st annual
Messiah
Saturday, December 12 - 4 p.m.
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Cidalia Kettles, mezzo soprano
Austin Turner, tenor
Edward Pleasant, bass
First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, conductor
No tickets required - Freewill offering received
108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich, CT
www.fccog.org


YOU ARE INVITED!
The First Church
Christmas Party
SUNDAY
DEC 13
5:00-7:30 PM
In the Meetinghouse
Hors d'oeuvres & beverages -
and a carol sing-a-long!
Adults only

FREE CHURCH WIDE EVENT:

Advent Craft Fair

Hosted by FCCOG Church School in Auditorium

December 6th at 11 am

Cocoa and crafts for ALL, kids and adults alike!

Photos with Santa!

REGISTER TO ENSURE SUPPLIES

fccog.org/events





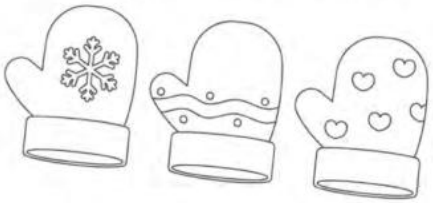


REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

R Y M

Donate to our 2026 coat drive!

November 15th - December 19th





GENTLY USED, CLEAN, COATS, HATS, GLOVES, AND SCARVES ACCEPTED

Sponspored by RYM

Medicare Part D

Prescription Drug Insurance

Part D

- Open enrollment is Oct 15 to December 7.
- Evaluating every year is advised.
- Counseling, including navigating the Medicare.gov website, is available.
- For an appointment with Parish Nurse Sue Asselin call church ext 821.
- For an appointment with trained Town of Greenwich counselors call the Commission on Aging at 203-862-6707.



Have a Pile of Bags Taking Up Space in Your Closet?

The GHS Community Pantry is in need of reusable bags, like Target bags or other similar-sized grocery totes. If you have any to donate, please bring them in!

We're only able to accept reusable bags at this time, no paper or plastic. Sturdy bags hold up better and make it easier for the students to carry everything home.

There is a collection box at the entrance to the Meetinghouse from the cemetery side of the building.

Thank you for taking care of our GHS community!

Greenwich High School PTA
10 Hillside Road
Greenwich, CT 06878
ghspta@ghspta.org

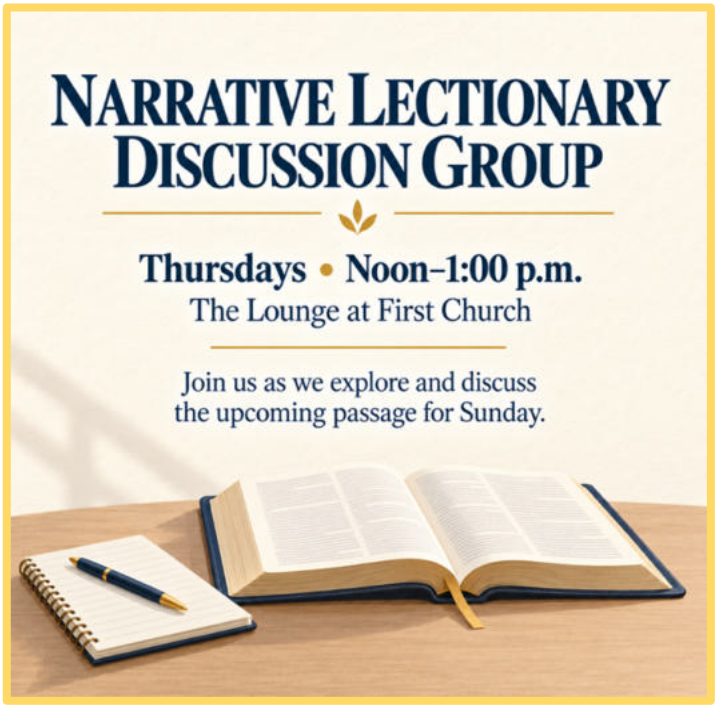
First Congregational Church Of Greenwich

COMING EVENTS

60th Annual Tree & Wreath Sale	**Friday, Nov. 27, Saturday Nov. 28, Sunday, Nov. 29 ONLY** Front Lawn All proceeds go towards local charities
Advent Craft Fair	**Sunday, Dec. 6 – 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Crafts for all ages! Auditorium
Women's Fellowship Holiday Lunch	**Wednesday, Dec 9 – 12 noon** Bosco's Old Greenwich – RSVP by Dec. 2
Gingerbread House Decorating	**Friday, Dec. 11 – 6-8 p.m.** Fully assembled gingerbread house $35 Lounge (adults only) RSVP by Dec. 3
61st Annual Messiah	**Saturday, Dec. 12 – 4 p.m.** First Church Festival Chorus & Orchestra Meetinghouse
Christmas Party	**Sunday, Dec. 13 – 5-7:30 p.m.** Meetinghouse (adults only)
FCCOG & Pilgrim Towers Christmas Party	**Sunday, Dec. 13 – 12 noon** 25 Washington Ct. Stamford
Family Worship	**Sunday, Dec. 20 40 minutes at 4 pm** Music, Interactive, All-Ages St. Paul's, Riverside
Christmas Eve Worship	**Thursday, Dec. 24** 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

first congregational church of greenwich *founded 1665*





Christmas Meetinghouse Decorations & Brass

The Deacons invite contributions for decorations and brass music for the Meetinghouse this Christmas. Any amount is welcome. Please place the completed form with your check in the offering plates or deliver to the church office on or before Monday, December 21, 2026. Thank you!

Please check one of these choices:

❑ Flowers ❑ Brass ❑ In Memory of ❑ In Honor of

Please print legibly to minimize spelling errors.

Name: _____

_____

By: _____

Enclosed is my check for $ _____ made out to **First Congregational Church of Greenwich**
(with "Flowers" in the memo line of the check)

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	Reverend Patrick Collins
Associate Pastor	Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Minister of Music	Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Parish Nurse	Susan Asselin, RN
Director of Operations	Wendy Spezzano
Director of Finance & Administration	Greg Girolamo
Livestream Director	Daniel Lepoutre
Audio Technician	Bob Small
Database Administrative Assistant	Sue Wilder
Buildings and Grounds Supervisor	Johnny Ramos
Facility Supervisor and Sunday Sexton	Julio Yika
Sexton	Joe Vartuli
Sexton	Curtis Gay
First Church Preschool Director	Beth Genovese
First Church Preschool Assistant Director	Melanie Garnett
Pastor Emerita	Reverend Sally Colegrove

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all

