



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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.*

PRELUDE

Quiet Praise
Dan Edwards (b. 1951)
The Palmer Handbell Choir

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

CALL TO ANNUAL GIVING

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the world tells us to bow down to power,

All: **We will stand tall in faith.**

One: When culture calls us to forget who we are,

All: **We will remember whose we are.**

One: When the heat of trial blazes around us,

All: **We will trust the One who walks with us in the fire.**

One: Come, let us worship the God of courage and faithfulness.

All: **Come, let us keep the faith together.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

For The Beauty Of The Earth
14 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of steadfast love, In every place and season, you call us to remember who we are. When the world tempts us to blend in or bow down, keep our hearts true, our courage strong, and our faith alive in you. Help us to live with integrity and hope, trusting that you walk with us through every fire and every trial. 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, Hallelujah

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff has lyrics: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!'. The second staff has lyrics: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!'. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with some rests.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

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

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

Identity

Julio Noboa Polanco

Pat Larrabee

Let them be as flowers,
always watered, fed, guarded, admired,
but harnessed to a pot of dirt.

I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed,
clinging on cliffs, like an eagle
wind-wavering above high, jagged rocks.

To have broken through the surface of stone,
to live, to feel exposed to the madness
of the vast, eternal sky.
To be swayed by the breezes of an ancient sea,
carrying my soul, my seed,
beyond the mountains of time or into the abyss of the bizarre.

I'd rather be unseen, and if
then shunned by everyone,
than to be a pleasant-smelling flower,
growing in clusters in the fertile valley,
where they're praised, handled, and plucked
by greedy, human hands.

I'd rather smell of musty, green stench
than of sweet, fragrant lilac.
If I could stand alone, strong and free,
I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed.

ANTHEM

O Lord, My God
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Daniel 3 (Selected Verses)
New Revised Standard Version

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire... the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

MESSAGE

Keeping The Faith
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine
282 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

Lynn Hawxhurst

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Be Joyful In The Lord
Charles Wood (1866-1926)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.
Praise God a- bove ye_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

I Love To Tell The Story
462 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Festival Fanfare
Jason W. Krug (b. 1978)
The Palmer Handbell Choir

†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 November are members of the Deacon Committee.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



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

SHELF STABLE FOOD FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR AND H.O.M.E.

We will hold our traditional collection of shelf-stable food during the 10 a.m. service on Harvest Sunday, next Sunday, November 23. Shopping bags will be available in the Meetinghouse today. No bag? No problem. Use any paper or reusable bag.

If you prefer, food may also be delivered to the drive by drop-off on Sunday, November 23 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the church parking lot.

Suggested food:

Canned Meats, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Pasta and Sauce, Oatmeal, Rice, Beans, Canned Vegetables, Coffee, Tea

DONATE FRESH FOOD FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Use the online option to shop for fresh food donations from the comfort of your home. 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Last meeting of the year is November 19, 7-8:30 pm, in Rick's Room.

All are welcome to make friends, knit & fringe shawls.



Contact Sue Asselin Susana@fccog.org or Angela Stevens for more information.



GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL - FOLSOM CARE CLOSET

Students in our community, who receive free/reduced price meals at school during the week, are going without food and basic essentials each weekend. GHS teachers are addressing this need through creation of the Folsom House Care Closet, open on Friday afternoons at dismissal, where they're working to provide provisions weekly for around 45 students. Please consider donating non-perishable food and hygiene items in the bin at the back of the Meetinghouse. **This will be an ongoing drive.** Suggested items include dried 11lb bags of white rice, dried 11lb bags of red or black beans, canned tuna, pasta, tomato sauce, granola bars, shampoo, and soap/body wash.



Larger orders can be shipped directly to Folsom House Care Closet at Greenwich High School at 10 Hillside Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830. Financial donations can also be made to the GHS PTA - Folsom Care Closet Donations by clicking on the QR code with your smartphone.

Questions or if you would like to help with drop-off, please reach out to Pam Speer pspeer22@gmail.com or Kristin Toretta ktoretta@gmail.com . Thank you!

GIVING TREE FOR H.O.M.E. & PILGRIM TOWERS



The Giving Tree for H.O.M.E. and Pilgrim Towers is underway. In the back of the Meetinghouse, the trees will be displayed with Christmas gift tags You may also make your selections online via SignUp Genius by scanning the OR code below.



All gifts should be returned to the stage in the auditorium before or after the 10 am services today, on Sunday November 16 , November 23' or to the Harvest Sunday food drive-by drop off on Sunday November 23 between 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. they can also be dropped off at the Church office hours during the week or in the big bin by the office entrance

Thank you in advance for making a holiday wish come true for a client of H.O.M.E. in Orland, ME or a resident of Pilgrim Towers in Stamford, CT.

59TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

Tree Sale Volunteers - Sign Ups Now Open



The 2025 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale begins on Saturday, November 29th and runs through Sunday, December 7. Volunteers are the **KEY** to the success of the sale, which raised over \$52,000 for local charities last year. It is also a wonderful introduction to First Church for new residents in the community. There are jobs for ALL volunteers - welcoming greeters, cashiers, and salespeople. Please sign up by using the QR code or log in SignUp Genius. Help us help those in need and make First Church shine!



You're invited to a

H.O.M.E CRAFT FAIR

Pre-Sale Party For Members
Nibbles and Beverages

Friday, November 21
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

First Church Auditorium



HARVEST SUNDAY

Sunday, November 23

**ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS
ARE ACCEPTED**

Suggested items include

SPAM, Tuna, Chili, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Dried Pasta, Pasta
Sauce, Oatmeal, Rice, Beans, Canned Vegetables, Tea, Coffee

**Please bring donations to the
HARVEST SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10 A.M.**

OR

**To The Drive-By Drop Off In The Parking Lot On
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

CAN'T ATTEND HARVEST SUNDAY? TRY THE ONLINE OPTION:

**From November 1 to December 31, donate fresh food
requested by Neighbor to Neighbor - you buy now and
they pick it up as they need it so it stays fresh!**

Purchase by scanning the QR code below:



**The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Annual Food Drive Benefiting Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E.**



**First Congregational Church Auditorium
108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich**



H.O.M.E. CRAFT FAIR



**Gifts, Toys,
Homewares,
Food
Preserves,
& more!**

NOV 22: 9AM - 4PM

NOV 23: 11AM - 1PM



**Benefitting H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine
offering support for housing, food,
clothing, hygiene, and more.**

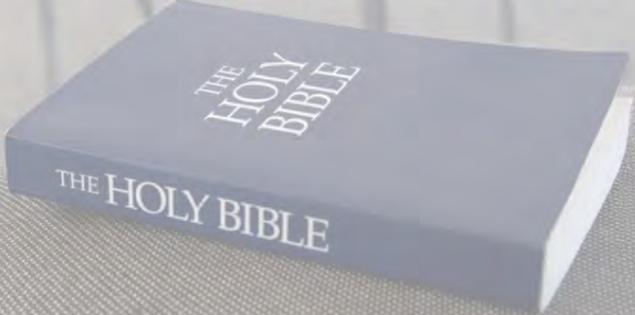
More Info:

**First Church: 203-637-1791
www.homemmausa.org**



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Look Bible Study



Just Drop-In: A First Look at Sunday's Scripture
9:00-9:45 a.m. in The Lounge

Each Sunday morning, join Pastor Cydney on Sunday mornings for a drop-in time of conversation around the day's scripture. Together we'll explore the passage, gain context, and notice fresh insights before entering worship.

No need to prepare—just bring yourself. Come for the whole time, or even 15 minutes, and trust that God will give you something good to carry into worship and beyond.

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY



Each Thursday at 12 noon in the First Church Lounge, Pastor Patrick leads a group in a new adult education opportunity. We'll dive into the Narrative Lectionary daily readings, opening space for honest conversation, fresh insights, and shared discovery.

For the past 2-3 years, First Church has been using the Narrative Lectionary as our primary scripture focus in Sunday worship.

Whether you are brand new to Bible study or a seasoned reader, you'll find a welcoming circle to explore how God's story connects with our own.

Come as you are, bring your questions, curiosity, an open heart, and your lunch (optional).



UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>SAT & SUN NOV 22 & 23</p>	<p>H.O.M.E. CRAFT FAIR Auditorium - Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sunday following worship</p>
<p>SUN NOV 23</p>	<p>HARVEST SUNDAY WORSHIP Our annual celebration of filling the Meetinghouse with food donations for H.O.M.E. & Neighbor to Neighbor</p>
<p>SAT NOV 29</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS TREE SALE Hundreds of trees and wreaths go on sale around 9 a.m. Sale is Sat & Sun 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. through December 7</p>
<p>SUN DEC 7</p>	<p>ADVENT CRAFT FAIR Happening during Community Hour after worship until 12:30 p.m.</p>
<p>SAT DEC 13</p>	<p>60TH ANNUAL MESSIAH CONCERT 4 p.m. in the Meetinghouse</p>
<p>SUN DEC 14</p>	<p>FIRST CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse</p>

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

