



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
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

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
Arr. Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)
Palmer Handbell Quartet
Jennifer Gartner, Mary Fike, Bob Small, Angela Stevens
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

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 worshiping 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

Based on Psalm 40:1-5

One: If you have waited, hoped, and longed for God's presence.
All: God bends toward us and hears our cries.
One: When we feel stuck in places of despair or uncertainty,
All: God lifts us, steadies us, and sets our feet on solid ground.
One: God places new songs within us—songs of gratitude, wonder, and praise.
All: We come ready to sing, pray, and worship together.
One: Blessed are those who place their trust in God, who turn away from empty promises and false paths.
All: We choose trust. We choose hope. We choose God's way of life.
One: Countless are the works of love God has done. Endless are the ways God cares for creation and for us.
All: With grateful hearts, we gather to remember, to celebrate, and to worship our God.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Rejoice, The Lord Is King
363 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of restoration, healing and wholeness come from you. Bless the work of all who strive for the healing and wholeness of individuals, communities, nations, human society, and the natural world, that their work might be your work through them, for the sake of all that you have made. 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



Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah! Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah!

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will 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 READING

John 4:46-54

New International Version
Betsy Kreuter

Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

“Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed. This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

ANTHEM

I've Been In De Storm So Long
Arr. Henry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949)
The Chancel Choir
Carolyn Paulus, soprano

SECOND LESSON

John 5:1-18
New Revised Standard Version

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." But he answered them, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I also am working." For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

MESSAGE

In Whom Do We Trust?
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

HYMN

My Lord! What A Morning
352 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.

Jennifer Gartner



†Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY SOLO

Sit Down, Sister
Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

†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

The Church Of Christ Cannot Be Bound
766 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

I Will Sing My Maker's Praises
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

† 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 February are members of the Budget Committee.

COMMUNITY

HOUR

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.

ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

We're well on our way for this year with 178 pledging units and over 87% towards our goal! Thanks to all who have pledged. This figure is as of Feb 4.

It's not too late to make your pledge to First Church for the 2026 calendar year. You can scan the QR code below which will take you to

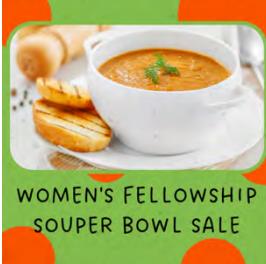


the website and make your pledge online, or you can use the pledge card in the rack in front of your seat and place it in the offering plate during the offering.

We are grateful for your generosity to continue the ministry that First Church is in the greater Greenwich community and throughout the world.



THE 2026 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE



The sale is TODAY following worship. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each. You may pay with cash or check. There is a varied selection of items guaranteed to delight your palate!

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE GIFT PRESENTATION.....RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 22



Due to the storm last week, the presentation of tree sale gifts has been changed to February 22 David Rabin of Greenwich United Way will be speaking.

But, we don't want to hold onto the good news until then. The Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale reports record proceeds for the 2025 sale. We will be able to give gifts amounting to \$60,014 (+4.8% over 2024). Please join us on February 22 to hear the details and meet our agency partners.

INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECT –

SACRED SITE VISIT TO FIRST CHURCH OF ROUND HILL, SUNDAY FEB 22, 2 – 4:30 P.M.

Build community relationships through a campus tour, the church's history in Greenwich, and a Methodist denomination overview. Q&A time. Light fare provided. RSVP by Feb 15th by scanning the QR code.

We return the favor and host First Church Round Hill and the wider community on Tuesday, March 3rd from 6 – 8:30 p.m. More details to come soon.



FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING



Our February Friendsgiving events are open to sign up! There are a limited number of spaces per event, so sign up soon so you're not disappointed and help the hosts can plan their get-together.

You can sign up at Community Hour, on Signup Genius, or call Betsy (203) 832-8113 or email betsykreuter@hotmail.com - Cynthia (203) 918-1523 or email deriemer.cynthia@gmail.com. Scan the QR code to sign up today!



February Friendsgiving

Saturday, Feb 7 - 6 - 8 p.m. First Church Auditorium
Poetry, Piping & a Wee Dram : A Lively Night Celebrating
Scottish Poet Robert Burns
Hosts - Joe McBride & Patrick Collins

Thursday, Feb 12 - 1 - 3 p.m. - Old Greenwich
Coffee drop-in: Hosts - Juliet Primo & Betsy Kreuter

Friday, Feb 20 - 5 - 8 p.m. First Church Auditorium
Bingo: Hosts - Women's Fellowship

Saturday, Feb 21 - 12 p.m. Edgehill
Lunch: Hosts - Prill Meyer & Bobbie Hopkins

Saturday, Feb 21 - 6 p.m. Byram
Dinner: Hosts - Gordon & Mary-Ann Assing

Friday, Feb 27 - 5 - 8 p.m. First Church Auditorium
Family Fun & Pizza - All Families Invited
Hosts - Khaleigh & the Faith Formation Committee

Saturday, Feb 28 - 6 - 8 p.m. Old Greenwich
Pizza Dinner: Hosts - Pat & Tad Larrabee

Sunday, March 8 - 12 noon Old Greenwich
Brunch: Hosts - Donald & Ginny Breismeister

Saturday, March 14 - 1 - 3 p.m. Old Greenwich
Tea and Art Viewing: Hosts - Ernest & Candace Garthwaite

SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

JUST DROP-IN: A FIRST LOOK AT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Sundays 9:00 a.m. in the First Church Lounge

Join Pastor Cydney for a drop-in time of conversation around Sunday'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 LECTERNARY BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays 12 p.m. 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).

ROYALTIES FOR SPIRITUALS IN FEBRUARY



First Church is proud to launch Royalties for Spirituals, an initiative to honor the legacy of Black spirituals and invest in the future of Black musicians. Rooted in our commitment to racial justice and the power of sacred music, this effort will provide ongoing financial support to organizations that educate and empower Black students in music.

The initiative was unanimously approved by our Church Council and emerges from thoughtful conversations held earlier this year. As a congregation that regularly sings and celebrates music from the Black church tradition, we recognize that these songs—many born from the suffering and resilience of enslaved people—were never compensated. It's time to pay that debt forward.

To donate to Royalties for Spirituals, click on the QR code and donate online, or go to www.fccog.org and scroll to the bottom of the website and click the blue button.



We have secured an organization which matches our goals and dreams for partnering with our initiative. The Adam J. Lewis Academy (AJLA) in Bridgeport, CT is the perfect school that educates underserved children in the eastern end of Fairfield County.



February is Black History Month and we are using this time to highlight our Royalties For Spirituals initiative. We will be singing spirituals and gospel songs throughout the month.

Please consider giving generously to this program that supports the music program at Adam J. Lewis Academy in Bridgeport. Click on the QR code below to learn more about this initiative.





Discover community activities in 2026

All women of the church are welcome!

February

Tuesday 2/17 @ 12pm
walk at Tod's Point**

Friday, 2/20 5p-7p
Feb Friendsgiving:
All Church Bingo Night*
FCCOG Auditorium

Tuesday, 2/24 @ 10am
coffee at Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

Wednesday, 2/25 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco's
(148 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich)

March

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

Saturday, 3/14 10a-12p
Women's Health Day
FCCOG Auditorium

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

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

*** Greenwich residency not required*

**Women's Fellowship sponsored event: free and open to all of FCCOG*

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!

COME FORTH: A LENTEN STUDY

Wednesdays

February 25 - March 25

7:00 pm

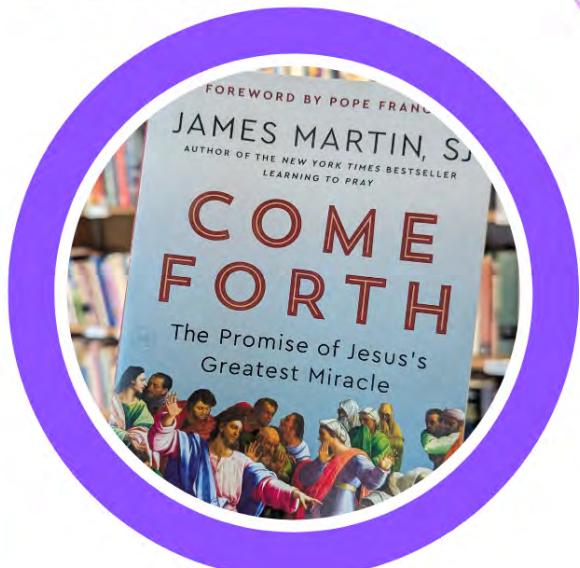
First Church Lounge

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.



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
Director of Church School/ Regional Youth Ministry	Khaleigh Laicher
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
Facility Manager	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

See more about the stories of our
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -
People of Note

