



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER 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 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

Prelude In Eb
Félix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

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.*

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Michelle Fanwick
Development Director, Pacific House

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Lauren Ghaffari, Pam Speer, Kate Collins
Christmas Tree Sale Co-Chairs

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come with your faith and your hope,

All: Come with your questions and your doubts,

One: Come with your wondering and your certainty,

All: Come with your expectations and your open mind,

One: Come and see what Jesus is doing, and let the good news live in you.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy
1 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Living God, you came among us as Jesus, your Word made flesh, and even today you are among us as Holy Spirit, breath of life. Forgive us when the job description we have written for you is too restrictive, and forgive us, too, when we think you'll actually stick to what we think you should do. Forgive our narrow vision, our childish games that miss the point, and our arguments about what we think about you while we ignore what you call us to do. Set us free from our need to figure everything out before we allow you to act, and give us the vision to recognize your kingdom at work, even in ways we do not understand. We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, your Word made flesh. 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

Luke 7:18-13

New Revised Standard Version

Pat Larrabee

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?' " Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight; the lame walk; those with a skin disease are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

ANTHEM

O Ye That Love The Lord

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

The Chancel Choir

O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil.

The Lord preserveth the souls of his saints; he shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'
"I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, having been baptized with John's baptism. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law, not having been baptized by him, rejected God's purpose for themselves.)
"To what, then, will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,
'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not weep.'
"For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

MESSAGE

Meeting Expectations
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Soon And Very Soon
384 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

Mary Fike

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

He's Got The Whole World/This Is My Father's World
Arr. Joel Raney (b. 1956)
The Chancel Choir

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: '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.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on 'Amen'.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Guide My Feet
741 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Psalm 76
Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

† 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 February are members of the Budget Committee.



CHURCH SCHOOL
Regular Church School
February 16
(One-Room Schoolhouse)
February 23

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!

March 2

April 13 – Palm Sunday



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

The results for the Christmas Tree and Wreath sale are in! Our net profit was \$58,650 (7.5% over 2023). We have the honor of presenting our gifts to our charity partners on today during the 10 a.m. worship service. Michelle Fanwick of Pacific House will also offer brief remarks on the Young Adult Program.

Please help us welcome representatives from:

The Greenwich Alliance for Education

Kids in Crisis

Mothers for Others

New Covenant Center

Pacific House Young Adults Program

The Undies Project

The United Way Youth Mental Health Initiative

The YWCA Harmony Project

Thank you again to everyone who volunteered their time, effort and expertise! You sold 528 trees, 300 wreaths and 28 spools of roping. Without your help, making these gifts to local charities would not be possible! If you would like to learn more about any of our partners and the programs we support, scan the code to the right.



THE 2025 “SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE

The sale is **TODAY** Sunday, February 16, 2025, 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!



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.

BYO lunch optional.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and joining as a full member, please save the date for our upcoming new member classes on Sunday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m. & Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.



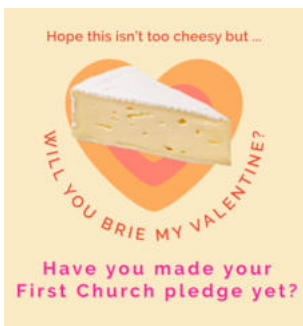
COMMUNITY HOUR VOLUNTEERS STARTING IN MARCH



Please join us in making community hour a warm and welcoming gathering after the 10 a.m. service each Sunday supplementing food/help with a committee already assigned to that particular month. You can drop off your food to the upstairs kitchen before the service and the sextons will take it from there. You may also drop off your food during the week - just label it for community hour. Scan the QR code to head to Signup Genius.



2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN - LET'S MAKE OUR GOAL THIS WEEK!



As of February 12, we have received 197 pledges (89% of potential giving units) for over \$644,353 (99.13%) toward our goal of \$650,000 for 2025. Let's make our goal this week!! Click on the QR code on the right for instructions on how to pledge online. You can schedule your giving for 2025 in weekly, monthly, or other ways, because First Church has the capability of auto-payments from your bank account or credit card! Please use the QR code on the right to access the church's ACS system and enter



the necessary information.

If you set up, changed, or plan to continue your automatic monthly online through MyFirstChurch.com for 2025, please know that **you still need to submit a pledge form.** Pledges can be submitted through the digital pledge form at www.fccog.org or by returning a paper pledge card to the office. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Girolamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.



LENTEN STUDY GROUP

ENTERING THE PASSION of JESUS

DIVE INTO THE HISTORY OF THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS

What if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events... the women around Jesus? Or the "bad" guys... Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas?

Join us for this discussion led by videos from Amy-Jill Levine as she looks closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during his last days.



DATES  **March 9 - April 13**

TIME  **11AM - 12PM**



LUNCHEON TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SATURDAY 12:00 P.M. | **8 MAR** | **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Calling all the men of the church!
We need you to help prep, host and serve a luncheon for all the women of First Church
Please see Pastor Patrick to volunteer or sign up online.

Scan this QR code and sign up to volunteer!





FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING

FEB 20 | Thursday 12:00 p.m.
Lunch - Edgehill. Host: Prill Meyer
co-hosts, Persis Alden & Bobbie Hopkins

FEB 21 | Friday 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Beer Tasting and Nibbles
(alcoholic and non-alcoholic)
First Church Lounge

FEB 27 | Thursday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tea & Art Viewing - Candace & Ernest Garthwaite

There are a limited amount of spaces per event.
Please sign up soon so you're not disappointed and
to 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
Cynthia (203) 918-1523



Scan this QR code and sign up to attend a gathering!



 **SERVICE**

**MAY 30 -
JUNE 1, 2025**

 **LEARNING TRIP**

 (mini mission-trip-like weekend!)

\$100 WITH MANY
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING & WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Youth are invited to **48 hours** in New Haven, CT learning about our local unhoused neighbors & will put our faith in action by serving others!

**6TH -
12TH
GR.**

**FRI
30**

**LEAVE FOR NEW
HAVEN & ARRIVAL**

Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden

**SERVICE WORK & FUN
IN THE COMMUNITY**

Working with the Incredible Days organization!

**SAT
31**

**JUNE
1**

**CLOSING CIRCLE &
HEAD HOME**

Pick-up and Drop-off at FCC Greenwich

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY



MORE INFO:

KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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

PrayGround Supervisor

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

Amalia Samuel

Curtis Gay

Jose Jolon

Beth Genovese

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all