first congregational church of greenwich founded 1665

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
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

Arioso
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

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 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

One: Come as you are, carrying all that this week has held,
All: the joys, the worries, the choices we've made along the way.
One: Come and meet the One who sees us fully and loves us still,
All: who gently calls us beyond fear and into deeper trust.
One: We don't have to have it all figured out to be here,
All: we come ready to receive the power and grace that come from above.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

O God, Who Gives Us Life
53 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Gracious God, we come as we are, carrying the weight of our choices and the pull of what feels safe. Gather the scattered parts of us and gently call us back to what is true. Where we have gone along without noticing, awaken us; where we have held on too tightly, soften us. Center us in your love, and lead us into the wholeness that comes from you. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

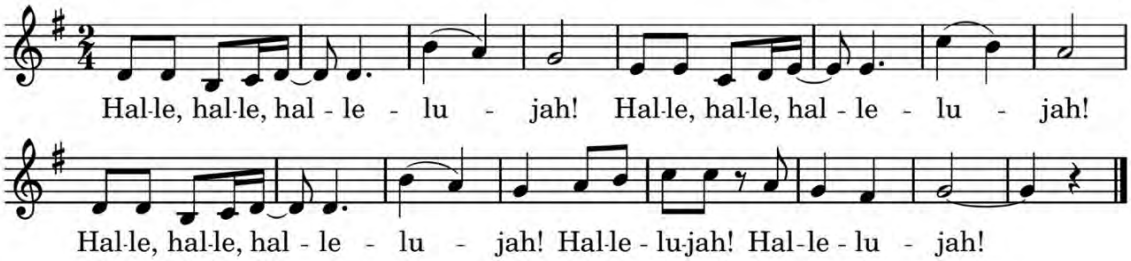
†PASSING OF THE PEACE

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, Halle, Hallelujah*



REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY COVENANT SIGNING

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 *Philippians 2:5-11*
New Revised Standard Version
Betsy Kreuter

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

ANTHEM *The Appeal Of The Crucified* (from *The Crucifixion*)
John Stainer (1840-1901)
The Chancel Choir

†Please rise in body or in spirit

SECOND LESSON

John 19:1-16a
New Revised Standard Version

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.
So they took Jesus.

MESSAGE

The Choices We Make
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

In The Bulb There Is A Flower
250 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

Fred Laffan

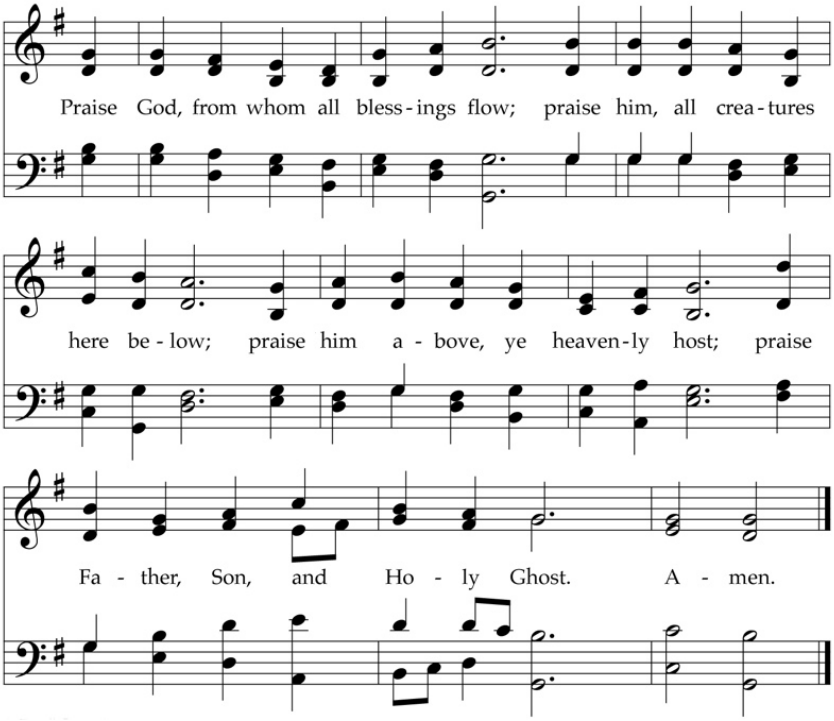
Using your smartphone messaging app,
text FCCOG Donate to 73256 or scan the QR code to donate.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God So Loved The World
John Stainer
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

We Give Thee But Thine Own
708 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Con Moto
Josef Rheinberger

†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 March are members of the Personnel Committee.

COMMUNITY HOUR

INVITING PEOPLE OF FAITH: COME WITNESS MORAL Mondays

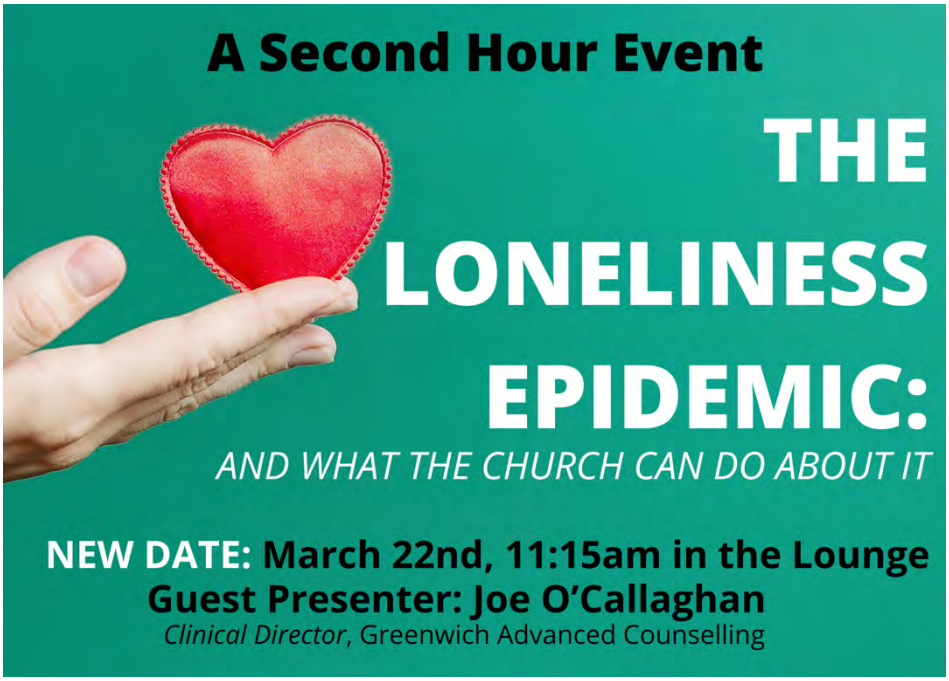
MORAL MONDAYS AT STAMFORD SUPERIOR COURT
123 Hoyt Street, Stamford CT 06905 – 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Join us for this time of solidarity and witness. Spread the word!

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.

SECOND HOUR – TODAY – MARCH 22



2026 LENTEN OFFERING – RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Our Lenten Offering this year will once again support one of First Church's most meaningful hands-on ministries, our Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event.

On **Sunday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m.**, we will gather to pack 20,000 meals for communities around the world facing food insecurity. But before we pack, we give.

Throughout Lent, we invite you to make a special Lenten gift to help underwrite the cost of these meals. You can donate online for this important ministry. Click on the QR code on the left and choose "Rise Against Hunger" as the category to direct your donation. Each meal costs just $0.40 and every donation makes a real, tangible difference.

"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..." (Isaiah 58:10)

Hosted at RYM Partner Organization: First Congregational Church Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich

RYM Baked Ziti Fundraiser Dinner & Bake Sale

March 22nd, 2026 from 6:00-7:30 pm

Raise $3,000 for our Service Trip!

ALL VEGETARIAN MEALS, GLUTEN & DAIRY FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

YOUTH & ADULTS SETTING UP AND SERVING WILL BE FED BY RYM

director@myrym.org

MYRYM.ORG

QR CODE FOR TICKETS

SINGLE TICKET $30 FAMILY OF FOUR $100 FAMILY OF FIVE $130 FAMILY OF SIX $150 FAMILY OF SEVEN $180

OR SPONSOR A MEAL $30 + MORE WAYS TO GIVE!

Women's Fellowship

FCCOG

Discover community activities in 2026

All women of the church are welcome!

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 (sdstuckeysgmail.com)

Scan here with your smartphone camera!

Click **HERE** for the **GroupMe** webpage for Women's Fellowship activity updates.

For questions, email
Sara Stuckey (sdstuckeysgmail.com)

March

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

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

April

Monday, 4/6 @ 12pm
walk at Tod's Point**

Tuesday, 4/21 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco's
(148 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich)

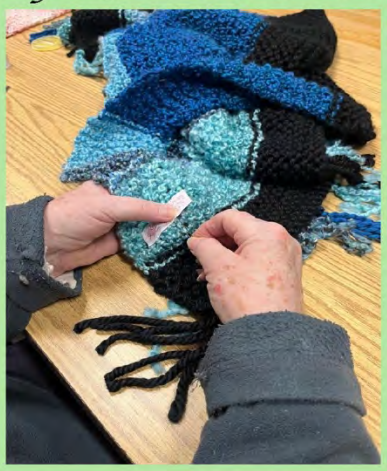
Friday, 4/17 time TBD
NY Botanical Garden
Save the date!

Wednesday, 4/29 @ 10am
Coffee at Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

All are Welcome to Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Come knit, affix fringe or labels, and visit with friends.

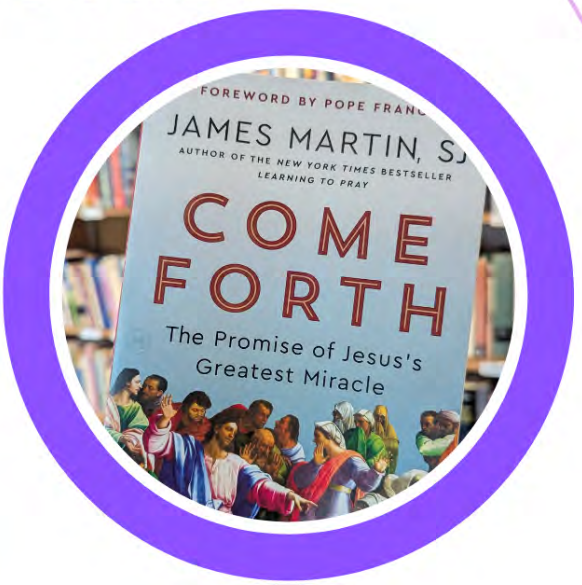
Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 7-8:30 pm, in Rick's Room.



Contact Angela Stevens angelamessinastevens@gmail.com
or Sue Asselin susana@fccog.org *for more information.*

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.

EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse for Easter Sunday. 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, March 30 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

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