

A Journey To The Light
Mary Fike

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

declares itself to be open and affirming; 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.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

*God puts the wiggle in children
and calls it good... and so do we!*

At First Church, we believe the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, to the church, and to one another.

To welcome children as they are in worship, we have our **PrayGround**, located in the front right side of the Meetinghouse, where children and others of all ages can engage in worship through movement, sensory materials, and prayerful play.



The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Scan the QR code for FAQ and tips about our PrayGround.



GET THE FAMILY MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Using your smartphone camera, scan the QR code here to sign up for our weekly Family Ministry newsletter. You can read about Church School, Regional Youth Ministry, and more!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask should feel comfortable doing so.

PRELUDE

Fanfare
Healey Willan (1880-1968)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Charles Stuckey

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.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Lynn Hawxhurst

CHORAL INTROIT

Wings Of The Morning
Arr. Alice Parker
The Chancel Choir

*If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea.
Even then shall Thy hand lead me and Thy right hand shall hold me*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Pat Mendelsohn

One: For each step that I might take,

All: Be my guide, O Lord of life.

One: For each load that I might bear,

All: Be my strength, O Lord of life.

One: For each mountain I might face,

All: Be my power, O Lord of life.

One: For each river that I might impede,

All: Be my safety, O Lord of life.

One: For each place where I might rest,

All: Be my peace, O Lord of life.

One: For each sunrise and sunset,

All: Be my joy, O Lord of life.

†HYMN

God Is Calling Through The Whisper
410 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Fred Laffan

Beloved God, we come together before You with hearts filled with the desire to serve and uplift our community. You have called us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be instruments of Your peace and compassion in the world. Help us to see beyond outward appearances and to recognize the dignity and worth of every person.

As we create a new vision for First Church, grant us wisdom and discernment in our journey. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Empower us to become agents of positive change. Help us to widen our vision – to see beyond our everyday perspective and dare to make radical changes.

Embolden us to share our stories and get to know one another. Stories of our struggles and successes, our revelations and our disappointments. Stories that have led us here - seeking purpose, wisdom, solace, and community. Here, where strive for all to be valued, respected, and cared for.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE (in unison)

Charlie Stuckey

In Your name, God, we pray. May our hands be Your hands, our feet be Your feet, and our hearts be Your heart as we seek to serve others in Your name. Amen.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Charlie Stuckey

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

Each Sunday through Oct 27th, share your answer to the below questions (one per week) with everyone to whom you pass the peace of Christ. Hear their chosen answer, and let the Spirit move between you.

What do you cherish about the past? → Say, “I cherish _____ from my past.”

What brings you peace in the present? → Say, “I have peace when _____.”

What excites you about the future? → Say, “_____ excites me about the future.”

One: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Glory To God

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

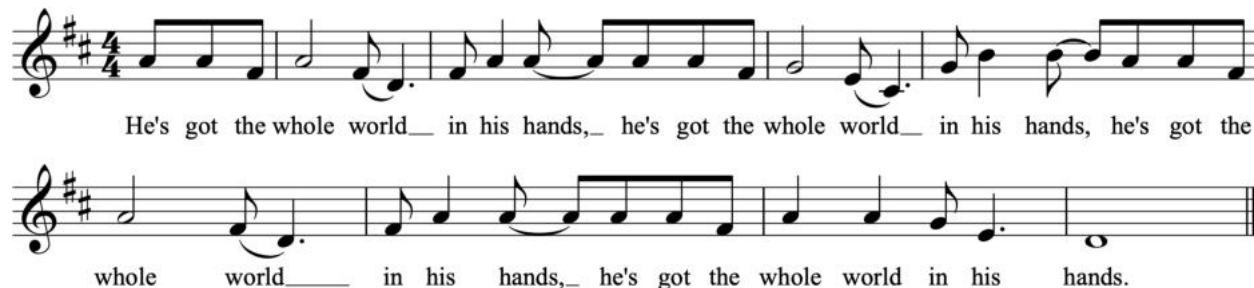
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After The Fall
Dan Santat
Bill DeHaven

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

He's Got The Whole World



FIRST LESSON

Words to Live By: Life's Little Lessons
God Never Blinks
Regina Brett
Steve Weigner

ANTHEM

And The Walls Came Tumblin' Down
Simon Andrews (b. 1958)
The Genesis Choir
Danny Young, director
Matt Stolfi, piano

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16
Common English Bible
Lynn Robertson

Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you, and instructing you. Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

MESSAGE

Order, Disorder, Reorder
Bill DeHaven

SOLO

If I Can Help Somebody
Alma Andrazzo
Carol Woodman, soprano

*If I can help somebody as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody he is traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain.*

*If I can do my duty as a Christian ought, if I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought
If I can spread love's message that the Master taught, then my living shall not be in vain.*

PRAYERS IN POETRY

Santiago
David Whyte
Betsy Kreuter & Juliet Primo

*The road seen, then not seen, the hillside
hiding then revealing the way you should take,
the road dropping away from you as if leaving you
to walk on thin air, then catching you, holding you up,
when you thought you would fall, and the way forward always in the end
the way that you followed, the way that carried you
into your future, that brought you to this place,
no matter that it sometimes took your promise from you,
no matter that it had to break your heart along the way:
the sense of having walked from far inside yourself
out into the revelation, to have risked yourself
for something that seemed to stand both inside you
and far beyond you, that called you back
to the only road in the end you could follow, walking
as you did, in your rags of love and speaking in the voice
that by night became a prayer for safe arrival,
so that one day you realized that what you wanted
had already happened long ago and in the dwelling place
you had lived in before you began,
and that every step along the way, you had carried
the heart and the mind and the promise
that first set you off and drew you on and that you were
more marvelous in your simple wish to find a way
than the gilded roofs of any destination you could reach:
as if, all along, you had thought the end point might be a city
with golden towers, and cheering crowds,
and turning the corner at what you thought was the end
of the road, you found just a simple reflection,
and a clear revelation beneath the face looking back
and beneath it another invitation, all in one glimpse:
like a person and a place you had sought forever,
like a broad field of freedom that beckoned you beyond;
like another life, and the road still stretching on.*

CALL TO OFFERING

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.

Karen Yancey



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Road Home
Stephen Paulus (1809-1847)
The Chancel Choir
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day
Through the air there's a calling from far away, there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me, come away is the call. With love in your heart as the only song.
There is no such beauty as where you belong; rise up follow me, I will lead you home.*

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mary Fike

†HYMN

The Long And Winding Road
John Lennon/Paul McCartney

The long and winding road, that leads to your door
will never disappear, I've seen that road before.
It's always leads me here - leads me to your door.

The while and windy night,
that the rain washed away,
has left a pool of tears, crying for the day.
Why leave me standing here, let me know the way.

Many time I've been alone
and many times I've cried,
anyway you'll never know the many ways I've tried.

And still they lead me back,
To the long winding road,
Don't leave me standing here,
lead me to your door.

(Instrumental Break)

But still they lead me back
to the long winding road,
you left me standing here a long, long time ago
don't keep me waiting here, lead me to your door.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†BENEDICTION

Mariann Ekernas

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Preludium In C
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

† 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 October are members of the Deacon Committee.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Oct 20 - Regular Church School

Oct 27 - All Ages Worship

Nov 3 - All Ages Worship

Nov 10 - Regular Church School



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS



Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. She will be in her office, just to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.



WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

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.

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.

Needs this week are:

Baby clothes 0-24 months, boys and girls

Winter scarves

Winter hats



VISIONING OUR FUTURE CREATIVELY IN WORSHIP – OCTOBER 27th



Our Visioning Process requires imagination, communal participation, and deep faith. Get your creative juices flowing in worship on October 27th as we explore the “Past,” “Present,” and “Future” of First Church through an interactive, less-mess, and easy, all-ages art experience.

Between now and then, pray on the below questions, and imagine your answers visually represented. The final product will be a beautiful mix-media collage made by all of our hands. (Think overlapping photos, print media clippings, drawings, music, stamps, etc.)

Questions:

What do you cherish about the past?

What brings you peace in the present?

What excites you about the future?

We'll provide all supplies, but if you have old photos (related to First Church or otherwise) that you'd like to additionally donate to the cause, bring them with you to worship!

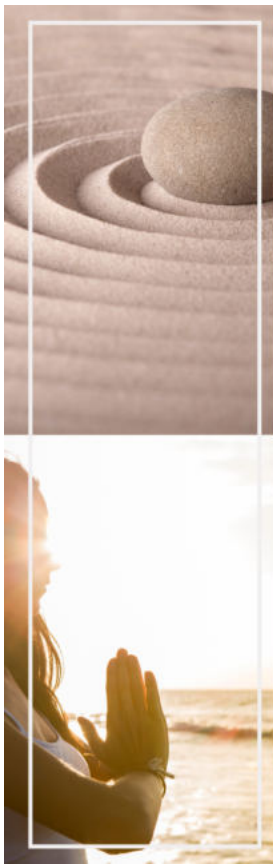
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Can you knit a basic stitch? If so, please consider knitting a prayer shawl for our ministry. It will bless you and the recipient. The few stolen moments of knitting a few rows while saying a prayer to the future recipient is peaceful and uplifting, I promise.

Join us in creating these prayer shawls, knitting into them our prayers, love and support. These shawls are then distributed to those experiencing a crisis or loss – and truly are beloved. No expertise needed as we use very forgiving yarn, larger needles and one basic stitch. **We meet this Wednesday October 23 at 7pm in**

Rick's Room of First Church. We can supply the needles and yarn. Contact Angela Stevens for more information. angelamessinastevens@gmail.com Hope to see you soon!



Soothing 2nd Hour Series

11AM in the Auditorium

Experience soothing spiritual practices to de-stress from the busyness of life, the election season, and your troubles.

Updated

FOUR sessions



OCT 27: Sound Bath Meditation with Lisa Cooper: an immersive, sensory experience of vibrational energy (sound) that elicits relaxation, shifting the state of the nervous system.



NOV 3: Taizé Singing Prayer with Craig Symons: short songs, repeated again and again, provide a meditative character aimed at praising God and drawing us deeper into relationship with the divine.



NOV 10: Tai Chi with Will Morrison: called "meditation in motion," gentle movement aimed to concentrate and balance the body's qi (vital energy), providing benefits to mental and physical health.



NOV 17: Guided Meditation with Derek Kolleeny: instructor's voice helps to focus on the present moment, producing stress relief, relaxation, improved focus and clarity, and enhanced emotional well-being.

Other Opportunities

Sung Compline Service
Oct 27 & Nov 10, 5-5:30 PM
Christ Church, Tomes-Higgins House

Tai Chi Drop-In Class
Mondays, 9:30 AM
First Church Auditorium

Yoga Class
Wednesdays, 4 & 5:30 PM
First Church Daniel Center

A moment of inner peace awaits.



Floral border with flowers and leaves

FIRST CHURCH

Invites You To A

Historic Landmark Celebration

November

Saturday | 2nd | 5 pm - 6 pm

2024

In The Meetinghouse,
First Congregational Church
Of Greenwich,
108 Sound Beach Ave,
Old Greenwich

Ribbon Cutting at 5:30 pm
Enjoy Bubbly and Small Bites



VISIONING DATES

Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour with Convergence

Sunday, Oct 20, 11am to 12.30pm - Lounge or
Tuesday, Oct 22, 7-8pm - Lounge or
Wednesday, Oct 23, 9.30-11am - Lounge

Creative Vision Worship with Pastor Patrick

Sunday, Oct 27, 10-11am - Meetinghouse

Futures Lab with Convergence

Saturday, Nov 16, 10am to 2pm - Auditorium

**CHILDCARE AND REFRESHMENTS ARE OFFERED AT ALL SATURDAY
AND SUNDAY EVENTS**



Upcoming Dates 2024

Oct. 20, 11-12:30 pm Visioning Webinar Two
Oct. 22, 7 - 8 pm Visioning Web Two Repeat
Oct. 23, 9:30 am Visioning Web Two Repeat
Oct. 26, 6-8 pm Trunk or Treat
Oct. 27, 11-12 pm Soothing Second Hour 1
Nov. 2, 5-7 pm Landmark Hist Celebration
Nov. 3, 11-12 pm Soothing Second Hour 2
Nov. 10, 11-12 pm Soothing Second Hour 3
Nov. 16, 10 - 2 pm Futures Lab
Nov. 17, 11-12 pm Soothing Second Hour 4
Nov. 23, 9 am-4 pm H.O.M.E Craft Fair
Nov. 24, 10 am Harvest Sunday, H.O.M.E.
Nov 30-December 8 Christmas Tree & Wreath
9am-4pm Sale
Dec. 1, 11-12 pm Advent Craft Fair
Dec. 8, 5 -7:30 pm Christmas Party
Dec. 14, 4 -5:30 pm Messiah
Dec. 24, 10 am, Christmas Eve Worship
3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm

Scan here to sign up to decorate your vehicle.



Can't decorate your vehicle and want to help?

first church
congregational
of greenwich
founded 1655

TRUNK OR TREAT

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26
6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Music - Food Trucks - Candy

First Church Parking Lot,
108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich, CT

\$20 Per Family

**Special Appearance -
Back To The Future Delorean**

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!



CAN YOU HELP?

WE ARE HOSTING OUR ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT ON
SATURDAY OCTOBER 26 AND WE ARE IN NEED OF
WRAPPED-CANDY-DONATIONS. WE ANTICIPATE EACH
VEHICLE WILL BE HANDING OUT OVER 700 PIECES OF
CANDY SO IF YOU CAN DONATE SOME, THAT WOULD
BE AWESOME! DROP TO CHURCH OFFICE ANY TIME!
THANK YOU

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 FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry

Parish Nurse

Church Office Coordinator

Financial Administrator

Administrative and Communications Colleague

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

PrayGround Supervisor

Facility Manager

Senior Sexton

Junior Sexton

First Church Preschool Director

First Church Preschool Assistant 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

Carolyn Samuel

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Amalia Samuel

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Brandon Speight Gay

Beth Genovese

Kayla Vozzella

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove

