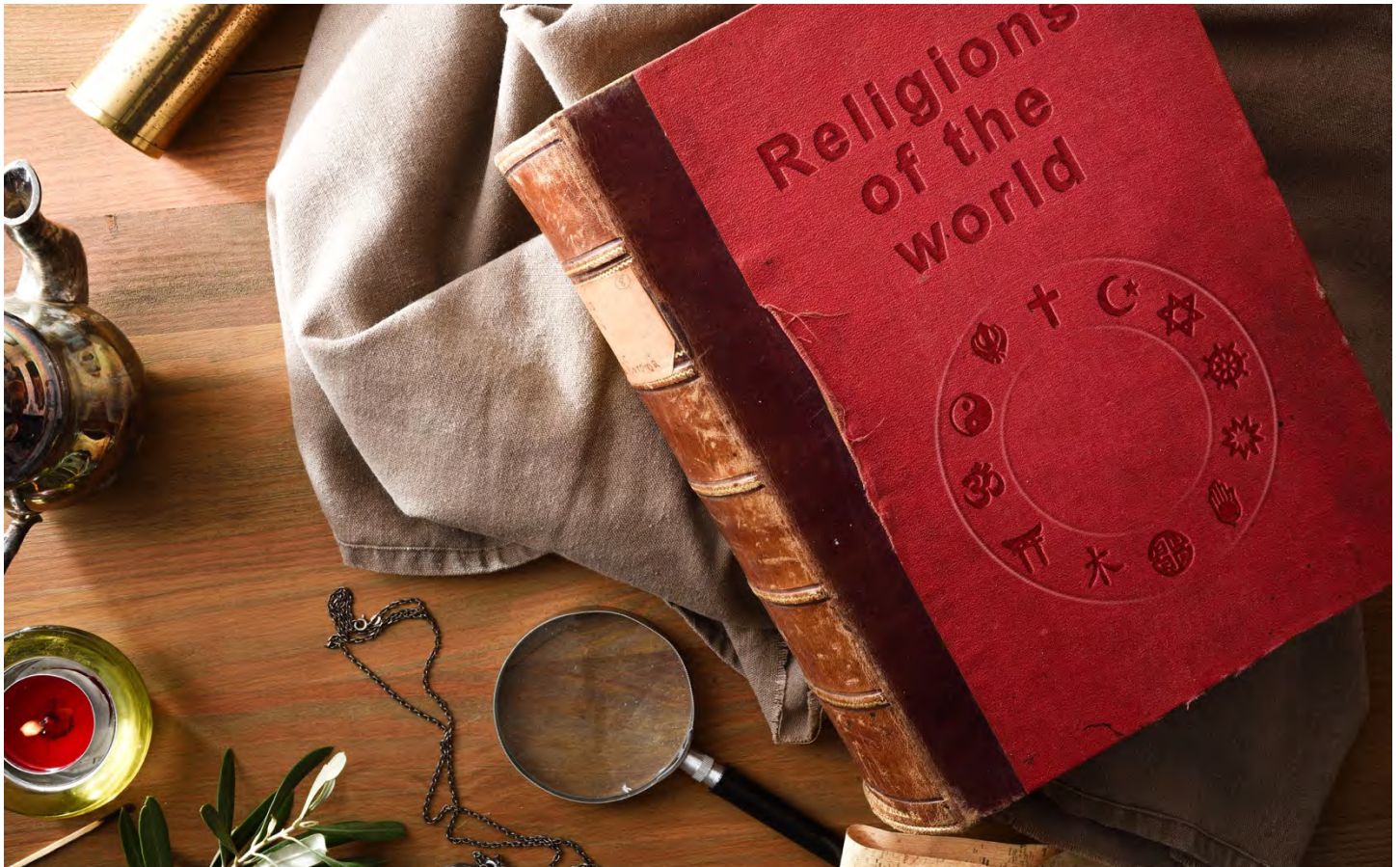




SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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

Solemn Prelude

John Marsh (1752-1828)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

†CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

My God Is So Big

The Cherub Choir

Lynn Hawxhurst, director

Carolyn Paulus, piano

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our God is a God who goes beyond — beyond our comfort, beyond our expectations, beyond our bubble.

All: Come, let us worship the God who goes beyond.

One: Ours is a God who calls us out of comfort zones

All: And shows us who we are to meet, what we are to learn, and how we are to share.

One: Our God is found in the most unexpected places, in the most unexpected faces.

All: Open our hearts, Lord, to recognize you.

One: Our God's good news is meant to be shared,

All: Whose grace carries us beyond what we thought possible.

One: Give us words, give us grace, give us hearts to go beyond as well.

All: Come, let us worship the God who goes beyond.

†HYMN

I Come With Joy

515 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of all, you are present in all places and in all peoples, and the gospel story is spoken in all languages. Open our hearts and our minds to traditions different than our own, that we might learn from them, grow toward you, and become one unified Body of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 2/4 time, key of D major. The first staff has a melody with lyrics: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!'. The second staff has a similar melody with lyrics: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!'.

ANTHEM

I Was Glad

Gwendolyn Emery-Owings (b. 1948)

The Celebration Singers

Vance Briceland, piano

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 LESSON

Acts 17:16-21

New International Version

Bob Mendelsohn

While Paul was in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

ANTHEM

Rejoice, The Lord Is King

Michael Larkin (b. 1951)

The Chancel Choir

†Please rise in body or in spirit

SECOND LESSON

Acts 17:22-31
Common English Bible

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, “People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn’t live in temples made with human hands. Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn’t far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, ‘We are his offspring.’

“Therefore, as God’s offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. God overlooked ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

MESSAGE

A Very Good Place To Start
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

We Come As Guests Invited
504 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.

Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.

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

Pat Mendelsohn

†Please rise in body or in spirit

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Voluntary In C Major
William Boyce (1711-1779)

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
39 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Postlude
Arnold Cooke (1906-2005)

†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 May are members of the Asset Management 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.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING – TODAY



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY MAY 3 - FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT 11:15 A.M.

At this meeting, we will introduce a proposed set of changes to our bylaws that will shape how we organize our leadership and structure our governance in the years ahead. These updates are intended to create a model that is more flexible, sustainable, and better aligned with who we are and who we are becoming. These changes will then be brought forward for a congregational vote at our Annual Meeting in June.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE & ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON



It's May and that means the annual quilt raffle to benefit The Women's Fellowship is coming up soon. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at community hour, the church front office, and The Rummage Room and the drawing will be held during the luncheon.

LUNCHEON DETAILS

The Women's Fellowship luncheon and meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 11:30 – 1:30. The cost for the meeting is \$25, which includes a catered lunch and speakers from two of the agencies that received grants from us this year. Advance registration and payment are **REQUIRED**. **The deadline for registration and payment is Thursday, May 14th, 2026.** We hold a brief business meeting, elect our slate of officers, vote on Charitable Allocations and hear speakers from two of our recipient agencies.



Caregivers Support Group - First meeting May 6

This group is designed for those who find themselves the primary caregivers to aging parents, ailing spouses, or have otherwise had their lives impacted by the care needs of others.

Weekly meetings will begin on Wednesday May 6, 1:30-2:30 pm, in the Lounge at First Church.

The group is facilitated by Dedee Rigg, an experienced pastoral counselor and long-time caregiver to her husband Jerry. Dedee graduated from Union Theological Seminary and was ordained to pastoral counseling ministry here at First Church in 1981. After clinical training, she practiced psychotherapy & pastoral counseling in Greenwich for 40 years. Dedee initially worked with adults and couples suffering from both individual and marital issues and later, after the loss of a son, she specialized in grief counseling. For 19 years she was the primary caretaker for her husband Jerry who died of Alzheimer's disease. She offers her experience as a therapist and a caretaker in this support group.

To learn more, contact Pastors Cydney or Patrick, or Parish Nurse Sue Asselin.

INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECT: GREENWICH SACRED SPACES SITE VISITS

① **Sunday, April 26th | 2-4:30 PM**
First Church of Round Hill (Methodist)
464 Round Hill Road, Greenwich
Learn about their history & denomination, tour the church, and connect with other people of faith through stories & lite fare.
RSVP by April 19th.

② **Tuesday, May 5th | 6-8:30 PM**
FCCOG's Soup Supper & Tour of Meetinghouse & Auditorium
Our turn to share history of FCCOG & the UCC, showcase our building, and share stories of faith. Help us welcome the interfaith community!
RSVP by May 1st.



The Knollwood Garden Club of Greenwich

invites you to attend

Let Freedom Ring!

Celebrating America at 250



photograph by Joanne Bouknight

A Festival of Handbell Choirs

Benefit to Support Restoring the Seaside Garden

Commissioned work "Let Freedom Ring" by Jonathan Vaughn

Saturday, May 9 – 4 p.m.

Seaside Garden, Greenwich Point, Old Greenwich

Rain Date Saturday, May 16 – 4 p.m.

reception following the concert

Featuring the Handbell choirs from Christ Church,
First Congregational, First Presbyterian

Ticket price: \$50 – donations welcome

For reservations email Marie Williams at apalladio@mac.com
or visit knollwoodgardenclub.org and click on Events

Sponsors – Bucknall Family Foundation and Eda Peterson and Family

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets for the
Festival of Handbell Choirs



FAITH IS A JOURNEY WE STEP INTO.
MEMBERSHIP IS SIMPLY ONE WAY
OF SAYING:

**"I WANT TO KEEP WALKING THIS
ROAD TOGETHER."**

IF YOU HAVE BEEN WORSHIPING,
WONDERING, GROWING, SERVING,
OR SEARCHING ALONGSIDE US,
PERHAPS THIS IS YOUR NEXT STEP.

AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH,
BECOMING A MEMBER IS SIMPLE:

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ONE
OF OUR PASTORS ABOUT YOUR
FAITH JOURNEY AND DESIRE TO BE
PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.



JOIN THE JOURNEY

TAKE THE NEXT STEP
AND BECOME A MEMBER
OF FIRST CHURCH



2ND GRADE COMMUNION

KHALEIGH
@FCCOG.ORG

A FCCOG CHURCH SCHOOL TRADITION:
THE YEAR WE FOCUS ON THE EUCHARIST

9 am

Prep Classes: April 26, May 3, 10 & 24

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL UNDERCROFT
Celebration Sunday: June 14

3RD GRADE BIBLE

A FCCOG CHURCH SCHOOL
TRADITION: THE YEAR WE
FOCUS ON THE BIBLE

All Preparatory Classes:
April 26, May 3, 10, & 24

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL UNDERCROFT
Celebration Sunday: June 14

Both at 9:00 am



FAMILIES: PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND 3 CLASSES!



Join the
conversation
about

Women's Health

through all stages of life

Sunday, May 31st
11-1 in the auditorium
light snacks provided



Please RSVP

or scan

[Click HERE!](#)



Contacts:

Sara Stuckey sdstuckey@gmail.com

Meg Dempsey megdempseyconsulting@gmail.com



EVENT CALENDAR

SPRING 2026

5/5



First Church Greenwich
Sharing Sacred Spaces Tour 6-8:30 p.m.

5/17



Music Sunday
Celebrate the conclusion of another season
of our music ensembles -
fruit, croissants, and whipped cream after
worship

5/29-31



RYM Service Learning Trip
Youth travel to New Haven to work with
Incredible Days and their ministry in
the community

5/31



Women's Health Event
Enjoy a conversation about women's health
in all the stages of life 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

6/7



Confirmation Sunday
Join us as our youth are welcomed into
full membership of the church

6/14



Celebration Sunday
A joy-filled morning recognizing the
conclusion of another year of Church School



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
Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
Facility Supervisor and Sunday Sexton
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
Johnny Ramos
Julio Yika
Joe Vartuli
Curtis Gay
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

