



SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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

Voluntary #4

Samuel P. Jackson (1818-1885)

Steven Russell, guest organist/director

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come carrying joys we have chosen and burdens we never expected.

All: **God meets us on every road we travel.**

One: When the way is heavy, Christ walks beside us.

All: **When the way is uncertain, God opens our eyes.**

One: Come, let us bring our whole lives into the presence of God.

All: **Let us worship with open hearts, ready to be changed.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

For The Beauty Of The Earth

14 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of every road, you meet us in the lives we planned and along the paths we never expected to walk. Receive all that we carry this morning: our gratitude and grief, our hopes and disappointments, our strength and weariness. Open our eyes to your presence among us. And through our worship, change the way we see ourselves, one another, and 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, Hallelujah



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

Heavy
Mary Oliver
Pat Larrabee

That time
I thought I could not
go any closer to grief
without dying

I went closer,
and I did not die.
Surely God
had his hand in this,

as well as friends.
Still, I was bent,
and my laughter,
as the poet said,

was nowhere to be found.
Then said my friend Daniel,
(brave even among lions),
“It’s not the weight you carry

but how you carry it—
books, bricks, grief—
it’s all in the way
you embrace it, balance it, carry it

when you cannot, and would not,
put it down.”
So I went practicing.
Have you noticed?

Have you heard
the laughter
that comes, now and again,
out of my startled mouth?

How I linger
to admire, admire, admire
the things of this world
that are kind, and maybe

also troubled –
roses in the wind,
the sea geese on the steep waves,
a love
to which there is no reply?

ANTHEM

O Wondrous Type
Arlen Clarke (b. 1954)
The Summer Choir

SECOND LESSON

Mark 15: 16-27
New Revised Standard Version

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left.

MESSAGE

What We Never Meant To Carry
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
310 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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.*



ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Voluntary #3
Samuel P. Jackson*

†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 heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads
93 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)*

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

*Voluntary #6
Samuel P. Jackson*

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (weather permitting) where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack.

COMMUNITY
~~~~~
HOUR

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service in the Memory Garden weather permitting, or 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.



Final Beach Service

August 30

8 A.M. AT GREENWICH POINT PARK
ALL ARE WELCOME - SIMPLY SAY YOU'RE THERE FOR FIRST CHURCH SERVICE
BRING YOUR BEACH CHAIR OR BLANKET



Discover community activities in 2026

All women of the church are welcome!

Scan the QR code for the **GroupMe** app or visit **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!



SUMMER BEACH OUTINGS

Monday, August 24 @ 5:30
rain date August 25th

We plan 3 monthly beach outings this summer!
All women in our Church and your guests are invited to bring your own picnic and beverage.

For those who live outside Greenwich, we will meet to carpool in the Church parking lot at 5:15pm in the car of a Greenwich resident with a beach pass.

****IF YOU NEED TO CARPOOL****
please let Pat Larrabee know. Her email is
patlarrabee@hotmail.com

Location: The Sue H. Baker Pavilion at The Old Barn at Greenwich Point

Ladies, *we need to talk*

perimenopause • menopause • hormones
Nothing is off limits

Thursday Night
September 10, 7-9pm

Q&A with local experts

Dr Shieva Ghofrany, MD
Board Certified OB/GYN &
Women's Health Specialist

Dr Rosella Menta, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist &
Bioidentical Hormone
Therapy Specialist

Scan here
to reserve your space



Hosted by the Women's Fellowship
First Congregational
Church of Greenwich
108 Sound Beach Ave
FCCOG.org for more info

ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING



RUN

HIDE

FIGHT

MONDAY, AUGUST 24 • 10:00 - 11:30 AM

First Congregational Church of Greenwich
108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich

Hosted by the First Church Deacons.
Organized by Juliet Primo Lee, Senior Deacon.

UJA★JCC
greenwich

COMMUNITY
SECURITY
INITIATIVE

first
church
of greenwich
judaism

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Scan the QR
code to sign up
today!



FIRST CHURCH GREENWICH

**PACK FOR
OTHER KIDS**



**BRING YOURS
TO CHURCH!**

**BACKPACK
FILLING PROJECT**
AUG 23 @ 10 AM
DURING CHURCH SCHOOL

**BACKPACK
BLESSING**

AUG 30 @ 10 AM
DURING CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

?: KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG