



SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025  
THIRD 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.

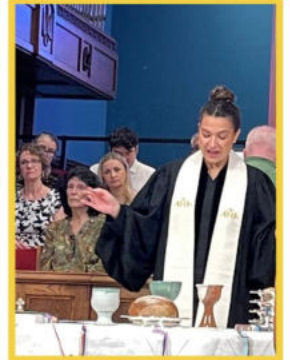
## First Church Welcomes *You.*

**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

Contemplation

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

*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.*

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ: "Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

**All: We come to this place, to this time, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

One: In the name of Christ,

**All: we accept the invitation to discipleship.**

One: In the name of Christ,

**All: as his disciples, we worship and praise God.**

One: In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

**All: we proclaim the God of Compassion.**

One: In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples,

**All: we proclaim the God of Hope.**

One: In the midst of indifference and apathy,

**All: we proclaim the God of Love.**

One: Come, let us worship together

**All: and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.**

## †CHORAL INTROIT

## †HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

39 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, you call us all, as individual believers and as a community of faith. When you call us, forgive us when we do not listen. May we not ignore your whisper in favor of listening to the voices of this world. And when you call us, forgive us when we say no in word or deed. May we not choose a different path that follows our own devices. For you call us:

to be your voice in this world, to be your hands in this world, to be your feet in this world, to proclaim your peace, your comfort, forgiveness, healing, love, and grace. Open our ears, call us again, and use us for your will. 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

*Psalm 138*

*New International Version*

*Pat Larrabee*

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;  
before the "gods" I will sing your praise.  
I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and will praise your name  
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,  
for you have so exalted your solemn decree  
that it surpasses your fame.  
When I called, you answered me;  
you greatly emboldened me.

May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,  
when they hear what you have decreed.  
May they sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for the glory of the Lord is great.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;  
though lofty, he sees them from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life.  
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;  
with your right hand you save me.  
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your love, Lord, endures forever—  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

## ANTHEM

*Create In Me A Clean Heart*  
Carl Mueller (1892-1982)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Luke 5:1-11*  
Common English Bible

One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word. Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, "Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch."

Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

## MESSAGE

*In The Deep*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN

*Lord, You Have Come To The Lakeshore*  
721 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

Carolyn Paulus

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

*Awake, My Soul, And Sing*  
Allen Pote (b. 1945)  
The Chancel Choir

### †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures  
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

### †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### †HYMN

*Live Into Hope*  
772 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## †BENEDICTION

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty*  
W. G. Walther (1684-1748)

† 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 January are members of the Caring Ministries Committee.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Be sure to pick up your offering envelopes in Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship today.



### CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular Church School

January 26  
February 9  
February 16  
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!



February 2 - March 2 - April 13 - Palm Sunday

## 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

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](http://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.



## CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY



As we begin a new year, this is the great time to join a choir! Even if you can only be part of the group for a few months, this is your chance to explore what it means to share your voice with a wonderful group of friends. Check us out today!!

**Cherub:** K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Carol Woodman, director - Silver Door (Preschool level) 11:15-11:45

**Celebration Singers:** 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade - Craig Symons, director - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Music Room 11:15-12:00

**Genesis Choir:** 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade - Danny Young, director - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Choir Room 11:15-12:15

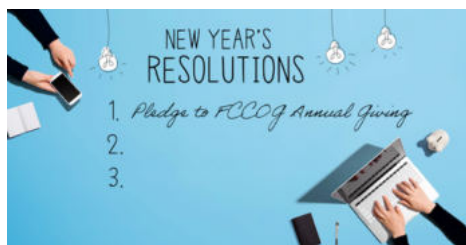
## SAVE THE DATE – QUARTERLY MEETING - NEXT SUNDAY, FEB 2

Plan to attend the quarterly meeting following the worship service to hear important updates in the life of First Church from your Church Council.



## 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 membership classes on Sunday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m. & Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.



## THE 2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

As of January 22, we have received 183 pledges (83% of potential giving units) for over \$622,388 (almost 96%) toward our goal of \$650,000 for 2025. 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](http://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.



## THE 2025 "SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE

Calling all cooks! It's time to show off your soup-making skills once again by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or quarts) of soup or chili to benefit the First Church Women's Fellowship!

The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday, February 9, 2025 following worship. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each.



Please sign up to donate after church in the auditorium today, and for the next several Sundays. Or you may scan the QR code on the left. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up. This annual event has proven to be easy, inexpensive and popular for both those who love to cook and those who love to eat! This is the only Women's Fellowship fundraiser for the year. Please contact

Sue Wilder for more information [swilder102@gmail.com](mailto:swilder102@gmail.com)

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – RESCHEDULED TO JAN 29!



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 again on Wednesday January 29 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](mailto:angelamessinastevens@gmail.com) Hope to see you soon!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Calling all the men of the church! We are prepping, hosting and serving a luncheon for all the women of First Church at noon on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> which is International Women's Day Luncheon. Please see Pastor Patrick to volunteer or sign up online.



# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Have you ever experienced a moment where you felt God calling you to step outside your comfort zone and trust in God's plan?

- When have you felt the most profound sense of God's grace and forgiveness, similar to Simon Peter's experience?

- What calls have you felt on your life so far? (career, parenthood, friendship, certain values, etc). How has God helped you when those calls have been challenging?

- What might be the "nets" in your life that you need to let go of to fully follow Jesus?

- How does this story challenge your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?



# **February Friendsgiving**

**Do you have a home you would like to open up for a February Friendsgiving event, or are you willing to co-host with someone who is?**

**We'd love to have a number of hosts, each hosting as many people as you'd like - from 6 to 20 - for an occasion of your choice to create a number of intergenerational, casual events where First Church members can get to know each other better.**

**Suggested ideas:**

**Pizza dinner  
Morning coffee  
Beer or wine tasting  
Cocktail party  
Brunch  
Tea  
Dinner  
Dessert party**

**To sign up as a host or co-host, please contact  
Cynthia De Riemer at 203-918-1523  
or  
Betsy Kreuter at 203-832-8113.**

## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://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  
Livestream Director  
Audio Technician  
Database Administrative Assistant  
Facility Manager  
PrayGround Supervisor  
Sexton  
Junior Sexton  
Junior 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  
Joseph Cicchelli  
Jose Jolon  
Beth Genovese  
Melanie Garnett  
Reverend Sally Colegrove



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a just world for all