



SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026  
THE THIRD 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

*Andante*

Richard Lloyd (1933-2021)  
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 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: Inside and outside,

All: **the story unfolds;**

One: In dark back rooms and in the public eye,

All: **the story unfolds;**

One: In human hearts and imperial schemes,

All: **the story unfolds;**

One: In probing questions and in flickering shadows,

All: **we watch... and find ourselves undone as the story unfolds.**

One: Yet the story does not end with denial, betrayal, or death,

All: **so we walk through it all the same, knowing God's promises are not done unfolding.**

### †HYMN

*Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation*  
263 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, you are faithful even when we act faithlessly. You call us and claim us even when we live as though we do not know you. Remind us who we are, and whose we are. When we forget your promise to care for us, and in our fear, make choices that hurt us, those around us, and even those we do not know, restore us to wholeness. Renew in us a commitment to follow in the way of Jesus each day of our lives. In his 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, Halle, Halle

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!

ANTHEM

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

The Celebration Singers - Emma S., Grayson A. soloists- 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

Psalm 17:1-7

New International Version

Carol Woodman

Hear me, Lord, my plea is just;  
listen to my cry.  
Hear my prayer—  
it does not rise from deceitful lips.  
Let my vindication come from you;  
may your eyes see what is right.

Though you probe my heart,  
though you examine me at night and test me,  
you will find that I have planned no evil;  
my mouth has not transgressed.  
Though people tried to bribe me,  
I have kept myself from the ways of the violent  
through what your lips have commanded.  
My steps have held to your paths;  
my feet have not stumbled.

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;  
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.  
Show me the wonders of your great love,  
you who save by your right hand  
those who take refuge in you from their foes.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

## ANTHEM

*If You Love Me*  
John Ness Beck (1930-1987)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*John 18:12-27*  
New Revised Standard Version

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

## MESSAGE

*The Promise Continues*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN

*O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*  
418 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## 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.

Julie Laicher



## OFFERTORY SOLO

*Beside Still Waters*  
Bernard Hamblen (1877-1962)  
Carol Woodman, soprano

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures  
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

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
93 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## †BENEDICTION

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*Allegro Moderato*  
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 March are members of the Personnel Committee.

**COMMUNITY**  
*hour*  
**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](mailto:susana@fccog.org) or call 203-637-1791 extension 821.

## SECOND HOURS TODAY – MARCH 8

A hand holding a red heart against a teal background. The heart is the central focus, symbolizing love and care.

**A Second Hour Event**

# THE LONELINESS EPIDEMIC:

*AND WHAT THE CHURCH CAN DO ABOUT IT*

**NEW DATE: March 8th, 11:15am in the Lounge**  
**Guest Presenter: Joe O'Callaghan**  
*Clinical Director, Greenwich Advanced Counselling*

## NEXT SUNDAY – MARCH 15

### MARCH 15 SECOND HOUR - 11:00 in the Lounge A CONVERSATION ABOUT END-OF-LIFE CHOICES

*We are honored to welcome Susan Stout from Graceful Bridge for a thoughtful and compassionate conversation about end-of-life planning and education.*

*We will explore topics such as:*

- ❖ Advance care planning
- ❖ Advanced directive documents
- ❖ Medical decision-making
- ❖ Medical aid in dying
- ❖ Hospice & palliative care
- ❖ End-of-life doulas
- ❖ Approaching end-of-life with clarity, dignity & peace.



*Whether you are thinking about your own wishes, caring for aging parents, or simply wanting to be prepared, this conversation offers practical guidance and space for honest questions.*

*All are welcome.*

## FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING

Our final 3 February Friendsgiving events are upon us and 2 of those events are at capacity! The Robert Burns Night that was previously offered, has been rescheduled for Saturday March 14. You can sign up at Community Hour, on Signup Genius, or call Betsy (203) 832-8113 or email [betsykreuter@hotmail.com](mailto:betsykreuter@hotmail.com) – Cynthia (203) 918-1523 or email [deriemer.cynthia@gmail.com](mailto:deriemer.cynthia@gmail.com).



**February Friendsgiving**

**Sunday, March 8 - 12 noon Old Greenwich**  
Brunch: Hosts Donald & Ginny Breismeister

**Saturday, March 14 - 1 - 3 p.m. Old Greenwich**  
Tea and Art Viewing: Hosts Ernest & Candace Garthwaite

**Saturday, March 14 - 6 - 8 p.m. First Church Auditorium**  
Poetry, Piping & a Wee Dram : A Lively Night Celebrating  
Scottish Poet Robert Burns  
Hosts - Joe McBride & Patrick Collins

**SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP**



## 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.

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)*





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 (sdstuckey@gmail.com)**



Scan here with your smartphone camera!



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

For questions, email **Sara Stuckey (sdstuckey@gmail.com)**

## March

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

**Saturday, 3/14 10a-12p**  
Women's Health Day  
FCCOG Auditorium

**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\*\*

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

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

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

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### JUST DROP-IN: A FIRST LOOK AT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Sundays 9:00 a.m. in the First Church Lounge

Join Pastor Cydney for a drop-in time of conversation around Sunday's scripture. Together we'll explore the passage, gain context, and notice fresh insights before entering worship.

No need to prepare—just bring yourself. Come for the whole time, or even 15 minutes, and trust that God will give you something good to carry into worship and beyond.

### NARRATIVE LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays 12 p.m. in the First Church Lounge

Pastor Patrick leads a group in a new adult education opportunity. We'll dive into the Narrative Lectionary daily readings, opening space for honest conversation, fresh insights, and shared discovery.

For the past 2-3 years, First Church has been using the Narrative Lectionary as our primary scripture focus in Sunday worship. Whether you are brand new to Bible study or a seasoned reader, you'll find a welcoming circle to explore how God's story connects with our own.

Come as you are, bring your questions, curiosity, an open heart, and your lunch (optional).

Hosted at RYM Partner Organization: First Congregational Church Greenwich  
108 Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich

# RYM Baked Ziti Fundraiser Dinner & Bake Sale

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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!**

# COME FORTH: A LENTEN STUDY

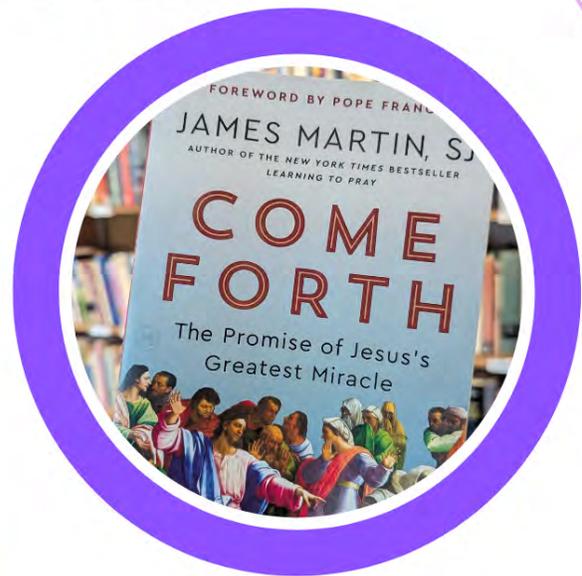
Wednesdays  
February 25 - March 25  
7:00 pm  
First Church Lounge

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.



## 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  
Facility Manager  
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  
Julio Yika  
Joe Vartuli  
Curtis Gay  
Beth Genovese  
Melanie Garnett  
Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

See more about the stories of our  
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -  
People of Note

