



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE 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 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 devices.*

### PRELUDE

*Choral Dorian*

*Jehan Alain (1911-1940)*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist*

### 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.*

### MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

*Rob Moore*

*Vice President of Community Impact, Greenwich United Way*

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Lauren Ghaffari, Pam Speer, Kate Collins*

*Christmas Tree Sale Co-Chairs*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: We have so many questions.*

*All: We want answers from Jesus.*

*One: Yet the answers we get confuse us,*

*All: And just bring up more questions.*

*One: Jesus, quiet our hearts and minds,*

*All: And assure us of the simplicity of your love.*

*One: There is nothing we need to do,*

*All: But see the signs of your presence in the world,*

*One: Receive grace upon grace in your name,*

*All: And put our trust in you.*

*One: Let us worship our God,*

*All: And marvel at God's love for the world.*

### †CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*O God Of Every Nation*

*756 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)*

† Please rise in body or in spirit



## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God,

We who have seen the signs of Jesus' presence in the world still fall into doubt and despair. We put our trust in ourselves and in the powers of the world, in material goods and finite and fallible people. Restore our faith, O God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and make us new creations each day, born anew out of your eternal love for us. Invite us deeper into the mystery of your world-transforming presence, that we might follow you more closely. In Jesus' 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.

## †RESPONSE (remain standing)

*Halle, Halle, Halle*



## ANTHEM

Laudamus Te  
Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816)  
The Genesis Choir  
Daniel Young, director

## 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## FIRST LESSON

*John 3:1-8*  
Common English Bible  
Joe McBride

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.” Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?”

Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

## ANTHEM

*God So Loved The World*  
John Stainer (1840-1901)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*John 3:9-21*  
Common English Bible

Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?”

“Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn’t judged; whoever doesn’t believe in him is already judged, because they don’t believe in the name of God’s only Son.

“This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are wicked. All who do wicked things hate the light and don’t come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God.”

## MESSAGE

*Over And Above*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN

*God Of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us*  
436 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

Clem Lepoutre

Using your smartphone messaging app, text FCCOG Donate to 73256  
or scan the QR code to donate.



### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Savior Of The World*  
John Goss (1800-1880)  
The Chancel Choir

### †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

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*  
744 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †BENEDICTION

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee*  
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

† 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 January are members of the Caring Ministries.

**COMMUNITY  
HOURL**

## 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.

## ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

We're well on our way for this year with 168 pledging units and nearly 85% of our goal! Thanks to all who have pledged. This figure is as of Jan 21.

It's not too late to make your pledge to First Church for the 2026 calendar year. You can scan the QR code below which will take you



to the website and make your pledge online, or you can use the pledge card in the rack in front of your seat and place it in the offering plate during the offering.

We are grateful for your generosity to continue the ministry that First Church is in the greater Greenwich community and throughout the world.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you signed up for offering envelopes, be sure to pick them up during Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship today.

## FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING



The Welcoming Committee is planning our February Friendsgiving events. We are looking for members who would be willing to host or co-host an event in their home or possibly in the Church lounge. We have several possibilities but would like to add more. Some ideas: cocktail party, pizza party, wine and cheese, trivia night, movie night, a book discussion. If you would be interested in hosting and/or co-hosting, please reach out to Cynthia De Riemer at [deriemer.cynthia@gmail.com](mailto:deriemer.cynthia@gmail.com) or Betsy Kreuter at [betsykreuter@hotmail.com](mailto:betsykreuter@hotmail.com)





## ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE SALE FUNDS

### **Greenwich United Way**

For over 90 years, the Greenwich United Way has been dedicated to every Greenwich resident having the opportunity to be healthy, educated and self-sufficient. Our mission is to identify unmet needs in the community, raise awareness and financial support, and work collaboratively with community partners to address those needs with effective solutions and programs that make lasting, positive impacts.

The Greenwich United Way has been a Christmas Tree Sale partner agency since 2024

### **Greenwich Alliance for Education**

The Greenwich Alliance for Education was launched in 2006 as the local education foundation supporting students in the Greenwich Public Schools. Since our founding we have dedicated \$5.6 million to funding innovation, expanding opportunities, and inspiring educators. We believe it is our shared community responsibility to leverage resources and build partnerships to guarantee all students achieve academic success and a promising future.

The Greenwich Alliance for Education has been a Christmas Tree Sale partner agency since 2024.

### **Mothers for Others**

Mothers for Others supports the well-being of low- and limited-income families by providing diapers for children from birth to three years old. It is the largest independent diaper bank in Fairfield County, and the only dedicated diaper bank serving the town of Greenwich. In July 2024, we celebrated the distribution of our one-millionth diaper.

Mothers for Others has been a Christmas Tree Sale partner agency since 2020. They have also been the beneficiary of FCCOG's annual Mother's and Father's Day Diaper Drive and the annual diaper drive in the First Church Preschool.

### **The YWCA Harmony Project**

YWCA Greenwich has been providing critical domestic abuse services in Greenwich for over 40 years. Over the last decade, we have launched a more comprehensive response to violence and abuse in our community to include public awareness, professional training, violence prevention programs, and sustainability services such as housing, civil legal guidance, and financial empowerment. We are proud to offer services and support to victims and survivors of sexual violence through the Harmony Project.

The YWCA Harmony Project has been a Christmas Tree Sale partner agency since 2024.

### **Call A Ride**

Established in 1975, Call A Ride, provides free, safe and secure transportation for 60+ seniors to and from anywhere in Greenwich. Our mission is to help Greenwich seniors maintain their independence and live full and active lives.

Call a Ride has been a Christmas Tree Sale agency partner since 2015. The roster of 52 current volunteer drivers includes many First Church members.

### **Pacific House Young Adults Program**

For 40 years, Pacific House has been a leader in preventing and ending homelessness in Fairfield County. The agency provides emergency shelter for men and young adults and develops and operates permanent supportive housing. Pacific House's portfolio totals 15 homes throughout Stamford, Darien and Norwalk. The Pacific House Shelter is committed to offering a safe and welcoming space with beds, meals, showers, laundry, and on-site case management to men and young adult males. The Young Adult Programs (ages 18–24) tailors programming with life-skills support, shelter diversion, and housing opportunities.

The Pacific House Young Adults Program has been a Christmas Tree Sale partner agency since 2013. The history of First Church's support of Pacific House is far longer. For instance, in 1991 we assisted the Stamford Shelter for the Homeless (now Pacific House) by housing winter overflow of homeless men in the area in the Daniels Center for two weeks. 83 volunteers helped with this project.

### **The Undies Project**

The mission of The Undies Project Inc.(est. 2015) is to provide new underwear to men, women and children in need to improve their lives. We also aim to educate communities about this true, unmet need. Underwear is the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing. The Undies Project donates underwear through its partner organizations who serve those who are homeless, living in shelters or who are on a low income.

First Church's support of The Undies Project (est. 2015) began with the annual Undies Sunday underwear drive and has evolved into monetary support from the Christmas Tree Sale since 2024.

### **New Covenant Center**

New Covenant Center is focused on hunger prevention and social services for a better life. Our facility in Stamford provides expanded basic need services to our guests. The soup kitchen serves 300 healthy, hot, nutritious meals daily.

First Church has been providing and serving a hot meal once a month since 1989. Beginning with homemade chili, brown bag meals during the COVID-19 lockdown and now with a hot chicken and vegetable dinner 4 volunteers each month provide a meal served with a smile.

The Christmas Tree Sale has funded this monthly meal since 2020.



All are Welcome to Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Come knit, affix fringe or tags, and visit with friends.

Next Meeting: January 28, 7-8:30 pm, in Rick's Room.



Contact Angela Stevens [angelamessinastevens@gmail.com](mailto:angelamessinastevens@gmail.com)

or Sue Asselin [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org) for more information.

#### THE 2026 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE



Do you have a favorite soup recipe, or a love of cooking? It's time to dust off your soup-making-skills by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or several quarts!) of soup or chili to the FCCOG Women's Fellowship Fundraiser.

The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday February 8, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each. Please sign up to donate after church in the auditorium. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up.

This annual event is easy, inexpensive and popular for 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)

## 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).



## ROYALTIES FOR SPIRITUALS IN FEBRUARY



First Church is proud to launch Royalties for Spirituals, an initiative to honor the legacy of Black spirituals and invest in the future of Black musicians. Rooted in our commitment to racial justice and the power of sacred music, this effort will provide ongoing financial support to organizations that educate and empower Black students in music.



The initiative was unanimously approved by our Church Council and emerges from thoughtful conversations held earlier this year. As a congregation that regularly sings and celebrates music from the Black church tradition, we recognize that these songs—many born from the suffering and resilience of enslaved people—were never compensated. It's time to pay that debt forward.

To donate to Royalties for Spirituals, click on the QR code and donate online, or go to [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org) and scroll to the bottom of the website and click the blue button.



We have secured an organization which matches our goals and dreams for partnering with our initiative. **The Adam J. Lewis Academy (AJLA)** in Bridgeport, CT is the perfect school that educates underserved children in the eastern end of Fairfield County.

February is Black History Month and we are using this time to highlight our Royalties For Spirituals initiative. We will be singing spirituals and gospel songs throughout the month.

Please consider giving generously to this program that supports the music program at Adam J. Lewis Academy in Bridgeport. Click on the QR code below to learn more about this initiative.



## GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD® SUPPORT GROUP

The Action Program for Healing From Death and Other Losses  
Led by Nancy Sadock, LMFT

**WHEN:** Wednesdays  
starting 1/28. The group  
will run for eight weeks.  
Note: there is no meeting  
on February 25.

**TIME:** 1:00pm to 2:30pm

**COST:** \$300  
Scholarship is available.

**LOCATION:**  
Greenwich Advanced Counseling  
237 Taconic Road, Greenwich, CT 06831

**CONTACT & REGISTRATION:**  
[nancy@greenwichadvanced.com](mailto:nancy@greenwichadvanced.com)



Loss can take many forms. It is not only death, but also a divorce or a breakup, a job termination, relationship ruptures that compromise trust and safety, a difficult diagnosis, the loss of a pregnancy. These and many more life events can cause deep and sometimes lasting grief.

People say you have to let go and move forward, but what that looks like can be different for everyone.

In this group, grief specialist and licensed therapist, Nancy Sadock will walk you and others like you through specific actions you can take to find healing.



[www.greenwichadvanced.com](http://www.greenwichadvanced.com)



### GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL PANTRY

We are collecting long-life food items & hygiene products to support local students.

<b>Food Products</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Shelf stable Milk (whole milk or 2 %)</li> <li>-Pasta Sauce</li> <li>-Pancake Mix (add water only)</li> <li>-Pancake syrup</li> <li>-Cereal</li> <li>-Mac and Cheese</li> <li>-Cup of Ramen</li> <li>-Red Beans</li> <li>-Condiments (salt, pepper, ketchup, mustard)</li> <li>-Snacks (Takis, Lays chips are favorites)</li> </ul>	<b>Personal Hygiene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lotion</li> <li>-Shampoo</li> <li>-Conditioner</li> <li>-Shaving cream (men and women)</li> <li>-Body Wash</li> <li>-Toothpaste</li> <li>-Feminine Pads</li> <li>-Lip balm</li> </ul>
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for financial donations

For more information  
Maureen Harper  
[vp.programs.services@ghspta.org](mailto:vp.programs.services@ghspta.org)



# Free Film Screening & Panel Discussion

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## with Panelists:

Suzanne Bona, WSHU host  
Christine Howlett, conductor  
Beth Willer, conductor

Saturday,  
Jan 31, 2026  
3:00 PM

First Congregational  
Church of Old Greenwich  
108 Sound Beach Ave  
Old Greenwich, CT  
06870

## Antonia Brico: A Portrait of the Woman

Directed by  
Jill Godmilow  
& Judy Collins

Free & open  
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## Greenwich Choral Society

Free tickets available at  
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## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870

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### 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  
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Bob Small  
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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

