



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025
EIGHTEENTH 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.*

*The Young family donates today's flowers in memory of John Allen Young (1938–2025), who will be interred here at FCCOG
next to his parents David Richard Young (1898–1975) and Hia Allen Young (1906–1992) this coming Tuesday at 10 am.*

PRELUDE

Sarabande
Gerald Near (b. 1942)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

CALL TO ANNUAL GIVING

Carolyn Paulus

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, your God is calling you.
All: **Speak, holy God, for we are listening.**
One: God calls us into the work of service, justice, and love.
All: **Like Samuel, we don't always recognize God's voice.**
One: We can't imagine it would actually be God who is calling to us.
All: **We might be afraid the work will be too hard.**
One: But God calls us by name, and gives us all we need.
All: **Let us answer with joy and thanksgiving.**
One: People of God, your God is calling you.
All: **Speak, holy God, for we are listening.**

†HYMN

Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones
30 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Adapted from Moira Laidlaw

God of grace, in the days when your word was rarely heard and when visions were scarce, you broke into Samuel's life and called his name, and he said, "Here I am, speak, for your servant is listening." We know that so many voices clamor for our attention that your word is once again hard to hear. Forgive us if you have called us to be prophetic witnesses or to use our gifts to serve you, and we have not heard, or have been unwilling to respond. Take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to your call on our lives.

**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, Hallehujah



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

(During the response, the children will return to their seats.)

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

1 Samuel 3:1-10

New International Version

Pat Larrabee

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

†Please rise in body or in spirit

ANTHEM

Lead Me, Lord
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)
The Chancel Choir
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Thomas Woodman, baritone

SECOND LESSON

1 Samuel 3:11-21
New International Version

And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” Samuel answered, “Here I am.” “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

MESSAGE

Called And Equipped
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

Lord God Of Hosts, Whose Purpose
411 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

Fred Laffan

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



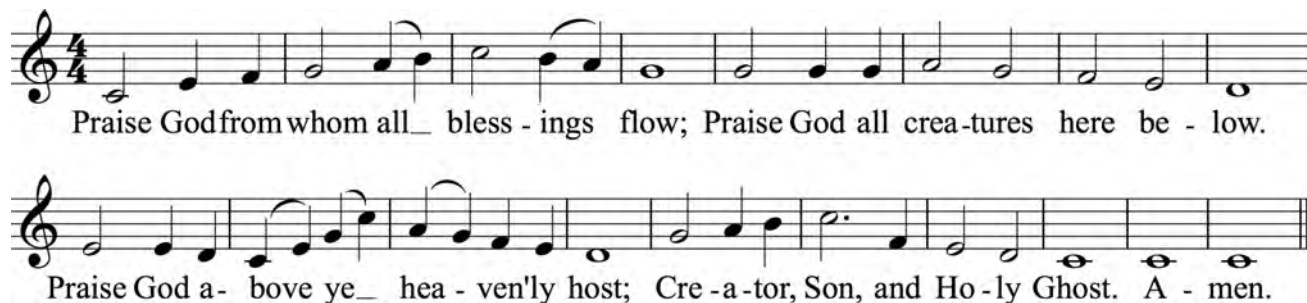
†Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Great Day
Arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)
The Chancel Choir
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Lead, Kindly Light
216 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Lasst Uns Erfreun
Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

†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 October are members of the Annual Giving Committee.

COMMUNITY
hour
HOUR

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, RN is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment. Email susana@fccog.org or call 203-637-1791 extension 821.

FIRST CHURCH, YOUR CHURCH – EXTENDED THROUGH OCT 31!



In September, we sent out a brief member survey with opportunities to connect, serve, and grow—both in faith and in friendship. From music to caring ministries, teaching children to welcoming newcomers, community outreach and more, there's a place here for everyone to belong.



Update from the Member Survey Task Force

Thank you for returning the Member Survey that was sent out last month. We have received 46 responses and are extending the survey due date until October 31 with the hope of receiving additional responses. We especially hope to hear from new members to find out how they would like to be involved in church activities. Task Force members are reviewing the responses and will convey your volunteer interests to committee chairs who will then follow up with you. Click on the QR code to complete the survey.

ROYALTIES FOR SPIRITUALS



If you received the email last week from the church, you were able to read the exciting news of our collaboration with the Adam J. Lewis Academy in Bridgeport. They will be the recipients of the monies collected online and during Sunday worship when spirituals are presented in worship, either by the congregation or from any of our First Church musicians. To donate this morning, use the QR code with your smartphone and log into MyFirstChurch, or drop a check off during the week in the church office. If you're not on the church email list, let Craig know and we will add your email address.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES


DINNER & BOOK STUDY

Join us Thursdays for a special faith formation opportunity with our friends at St. Paul's Riverside!

6 p.m. Dinner and 6:30-7:30 conversation around the book **Eve Isn't Evil**. Intertwining academic knowledge and candid, personal, and sometimes humorous stories, Julie Faith Parker helps readers engage biblical texts with both mind and heart-to learn the Bible's stories, explore theological ideas, question common assumptions, develop interpretive skills, and grow in their own faith.

Oct 16 @ FCCOG - read Ch. 8-9. Author Julie Faith Parker to join Oct 16!


Kindly purchase your own copy of the book from your preferred bookseller.



DINNER & BOOK STUDY

Join a joint book study between First Church Greenwich and St. Paul's Riverside on "Eve Isn't Evil" for 4 Thursday evenings this fall 2025. Kindly purchase your own copy.

Sept 25 - ST. PAUL'S RIVERSIDE
Oct 2- FCCOG
Oct 9- ST. PAUL'S RIVERSIDE
Oct 16- FCCOG



Author & Yale Divinity School professor, Julie Faith Parker, to visit!

DINNER | 6:00 PM
DISCUSSION | 6:30-7:30 PM

A New Bible Study



Just Drop-In: A First Look at Sunday's Scripture
9:00-9:45 a.m. in The Lounge

Starting Sunday, September 14, join Pastor Cydney on Sunday mornings for a drop-in time of conversation around the day'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

Each Thursday at 12 noon 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).



WE ARE HIRING!

ASSISTANT CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR



- Sunday Lead Teacher for 10-15 kids
- Support volunteers
- Help children grow in faith

JOIN NOW

SUBMIT YOUR CV
to cydneyv@fccog.org

Scan here to
read the job
description:



UPCOMING EVENTS

Click on this QR code to
RSVP for October 18
“A Night To Remember”

PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS AN
ADULT-ONLY EVENT.



**JOIN US
FOR A
NIGHT
OF
MUSIC
AND
JOY!**

**OCT
18
2025**

FIRST CHURCH
MEETINGHOUSE
6:00 - 10:00 PM
SATURDAY
OCT 18 2025



**A NIGHT
TO
REMEMBER**

OPEN TO ALL
BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND
FAMILY FOR AN EVENING
YOU'LL BE TALKING ABOUT
LONG AFTER IT'S OVER!

**BE THERE WHEN THE
SURPRISE UNFOLDS.**

HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES
AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.



Regional Youth Ministry Presents



PUMPKIN SMASH & MENTAL HEALTH TOOLS!



OCT
12TH

12 PM
- 2 PM

GRDS:
9-12

COME SMASH PUMPKINS, HANG WITH FRIENDS, & LEARN ABOUT REAL-LIFE TOOLS FOR HANDLING STRESS. FREE FOOD @ 275 RICHARDS AVE IN NORWALK!

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

TRUNK OR TREAT

🕒 Saturday, Oct 25
6 - 7:30 p.m.

📍 First Church Parking Lot
108 Sound Beach Avenue

\$20 PER FAMILY

All proceeds go to local charities



SERVICE

DECEMBER
12-14, 2025



LEARNING TRIP

(mini mission-trip-like weekend!)

\$200 WITH MANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING & WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Youth are invited to **48 hours** in **Providence, RI** learning about our local unhoused neighbors & putting our faith in action by serving others!

6TH -
12TH
GR.

FRI
12TH

LEAVE FOR RHODE ISLAND & ARRIVAL

Seekonk Congregational Church in Seekonk, MA

SERVICE WORK & FUN IN PROVIDENCE

Working with the Incredible Days organization!

SAT
13TH

SUN
14TH

CLOSING CIRCLE & HEAD HOME

Pick-up and Drop-off at 2CC Greenwich

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY



MORE INFO:

KHALEIGH@FCCOG.ORG

NEW TREE SALE OPPORTUNITIES ~ JOIN THE TREE SALE TEAM!

This year, we have divided the primary responsibilities for the sale into 12 small, separate jobs. These are jobs that take care of the details and organization and high-level running of the sale. They are in addition to the very valuable “day of” sales and cashier jobs.

Six of these jobs are remote. They can be done in 2 – 6 hours total from your home or anywhere at any hour convenient for you. Six of these jobs are on site for a portion of the sale but are not physical – you will not have to move a tree! Many of the jobs you can do with a partner.

All the jobs will have the support of Kate, Pam or Lauren. You will not be reinventing the wheel!

REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES

Internal Communication

- Eblasts and bulletins

External Communication

- Advertising and PR

Agency Communication

- With our charity partners

Print Communication

- Work with our designer for printing needs

Volunteer Organization

- Support volunteer signups

Inventory and Ordering

- Order trees, wreaths, stands

ON SITE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Coordinator

- Direct volunteers for half day

Loading Manager

- Direct trees from sales to loading for half day

Set Up

- Prep on Friday

Wreath Decorating

Wreath Tagging

- Tag with prices

Photographer

- Take pics and video

Come see us at Community Hour and get more details. If you cannot stay, please write your name and contact details below and we will reach out to you to give you any information you may need. Place this sheet in the offering plate.

NAME

PREFERRED CONTACT

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
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
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

