



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025
TWENTIETH 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.*

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds The Skies
Dale Wood (1943-2003)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

CALL TO ANNUAL GIVING

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is here, in this place —
All: **the glory of the Lord is all around and fills this house!**
One: Our Living God dwells here among the people —
All: **forever and ever, God is with us!**
One: Come, let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

When Morning Gilds The Skies
667 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God who lives in our midst, traveling with us this journey of life, we gather as your covenant people, thankful for your providing and hopeful about seeing your glory. Set our feet on your holy place, that we may celebrate your grace visible and tangible here and now. 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, 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 Kings 5 (selected verses)
New Revised Standard Version
Joe McBride

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend to David. Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until he put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God. Therefore command that cedars from the Lebanon be cut for me.

Hiram sent word to Solomon, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me; I will fulfill all your needs in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. My servants shall bring it down to the sea from the Lebanon; I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you indicate. I will have them broken up there for you to take away. And you shall meet my needs by providing food for my household."

King Solomon conscripted forced labor out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men. At the king's command, they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did the stonecutting and prepared the timber and the stone to build the house.

ANTHEM

You Are The Music
Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
The Chancel Choir
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
Dr. Bryan Chuan, piano
Eric Peterson, French horn

†Please rise in body or in spirit

SECOND LESSON

1 Kings 8:1-13, 27-29
New Revised Standard Version

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. So they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon said,
“The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever.”

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.

MESSAGE

Here Not There
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

I Sing The Mighty Power Of God
32 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

Elmer Segura

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



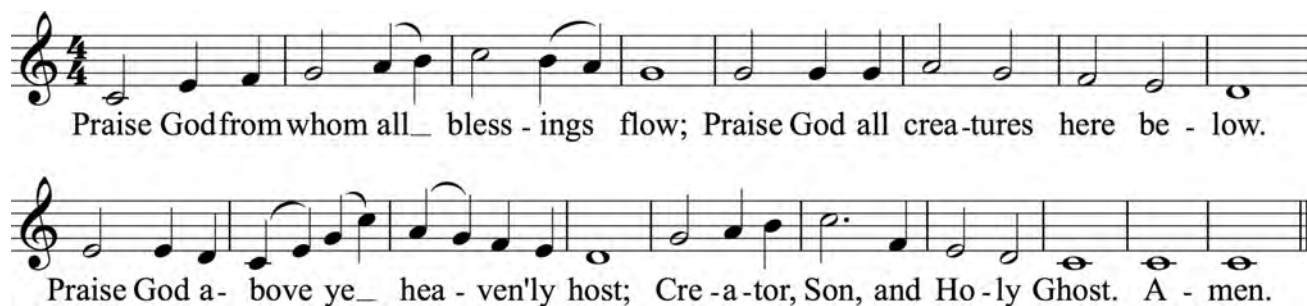
†Please rise in body or in spirit

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Adoration
Florence Price (1887-1953)

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Fight The Good Fight
846 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Soll Ich Meinem Gott Nicht Singen?
(Shall I Not Sing To My God?)
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

†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

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.

SECOND HOUR PRESENTATION – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 FOLLOWING WORSHIP



LOCAL AUTHOR TALK

EXTRAORDINARY REVELATIONS TO ORDINARY PEOPLE

2nd Hour
Nov 9, 2025
11:00 AM
LOUNGE

LOCAL AUTHOR LEE PAINE
Moments of revelation happen all the time.
What do they mean for us? Join Lee Paine for
a discussion on her book that seeks to de-
mystify and destigmatize these faith moments.

ROYALTIES FOR SPIRITUALS



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 and scroll to the bottom of the website and click the blue button.

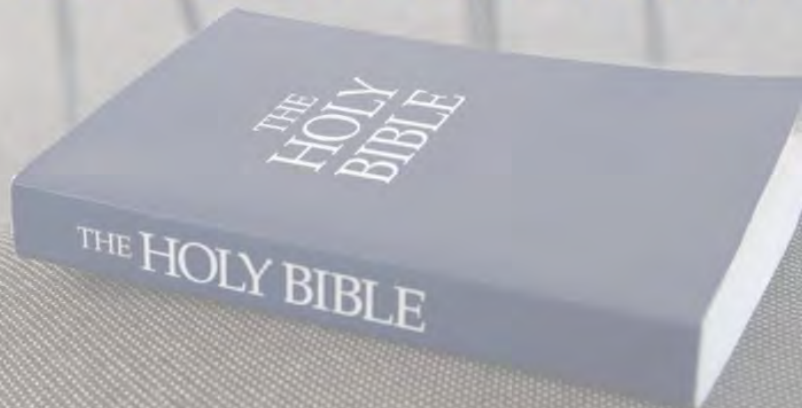


We have secured an organization which matches our goals and dreams for partnering with our initiative. **The Adam J. Lewis Academy (AJLA)** in Bridgeport, CT is the perfect school that educates underserved children in the eastern end of Fairfield County.

Adam J. Lewis Academy was established in 2011 as Adam J. Lewis Preschool, a not-for-profit early childhood center in the West End of Bridgeport. The Preschool's founders, longtime educators Patty Lewis and Julie Mombello, recognized both the profound life impact of a high-quality preschool experience and the staggering disparities in access and opportunity across Fairfield County. They were determined to build a more hopeful, equitable future.

- Weekly Choral classes for all students in Elementary and Middle School
- Creation of the Select Girls Choir at AJLA in partnership with The United Girls' Choir of New Haven. This elite choir program rehearses right at AJLA and admission will be by invitation or audition only and is open to all girls attending Elementary and Middle School at AJLA as well as girls in the Bridgeport community.
- In the early childhood program (PreK-K), music occurs twice a week and builds musical literacy through nursery rhymes, fine and gross motor practice, and simple melodies.

First Look Bible Study



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

Each Sunday morning, 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).



Spine Time with Dr. Arthur Jenkins Neurosurgeon Speaks about Protecting Your Back



Sunday, November 2 11:15 am -12:15 pm in the **Lounge**



CPR Training November 15

Choose one session:

10:00 am to 12:30 pm
or 1:00 to 3:30pm



- American Heart CPR course offered at a reduced cost to individuals who frequently attend First Church programs.
- Class is appropriate for beginners or repeat attendees.
- Class meets in the Lounge at First Church.
- Participants are asked to contribute \$25 toward the cost of the class.
- To inquire or register, contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse.
Susana@fccog.org



**WE ARE
HIRING !**

ASSISTANT CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

first church
congregational
of greenwich
founded 1655

- 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

SUN
NOV 2

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Remembering our faithful departed in the past year

SUN
NOV 9

ROYALTIES FOR SPIRITUALS SUNDAY

Patty Lewis from Adam J. Lewis Academy in Bridgeport will receive their first donation from our initiative

SAT & SUN
NOV 22 & 23

H.O.M.E. CRAFT FAIR

Auditorium - Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sunday following worship

SUN
NOV 23

HARVEST SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our annual celebration of filling the Meetinghouse with food donations for H.O.M.E. & Neighbor to Neighbor

SAT
NOV 29

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Hundreds of trees and wreaths go on sale around 9 a.m.
Sale is Sat & Sun 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. through December 7





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:

KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

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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
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

