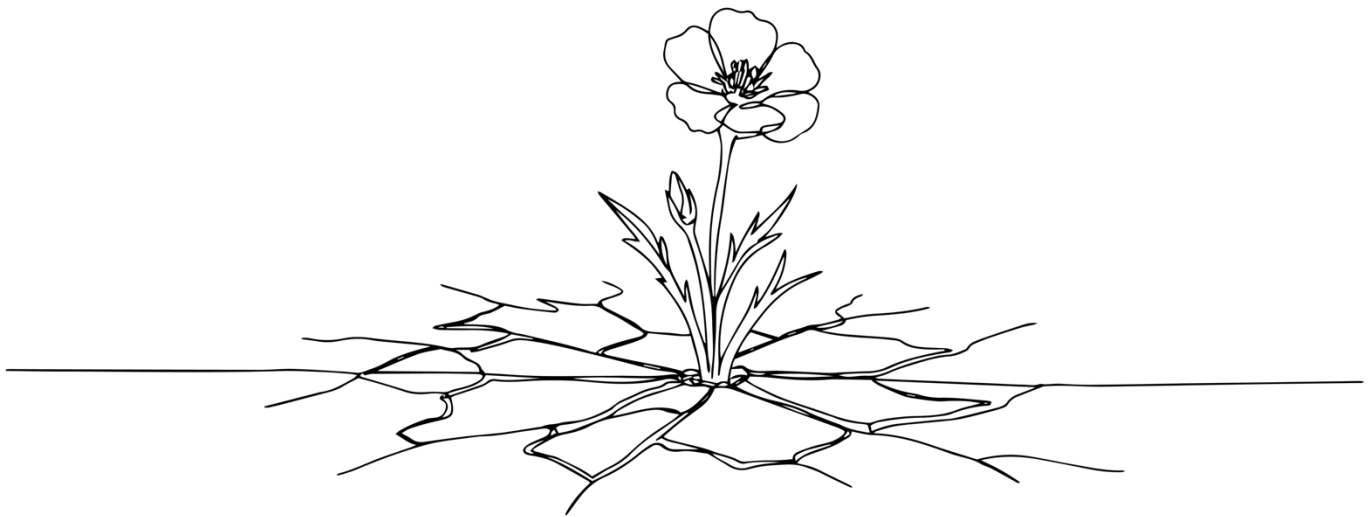




SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HARVEST SUNDAY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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.*

We are grateful to Pam and Peter Grunow for decorating the Harvest Table on the altar.

PRELUDE

Prelude For Thanksgiving
William C. Steere (1880-1960)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

CALL TO ANNUAL GIVING

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

He's My Rock
The Cherub Choir
Carol Woodman, director – Lynn Hawxhurst, ukulele – Carolyn Paulus, piano

†HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
367 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Your promise is for every generation, O God. It reaches well beyond us, into a future we can't even imagine.
When everything is in turmoil, you are still at work. When all we see is tumult,
you call us to plant, to build, to care, to live. Let your wholeness, your peace, your abundant life fill us to
overflowing today that we may faithfully seek the well-being of this world you so love. 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



ANTHEM

Christ The Lord, The Lord Most Glorious

Arlen Clarke (b. 1955)

The Celebration Singers

Kristen Bodenstein, trombone

Vance Briceland, piano

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

If...

Rudyard Kipling

Pat Mendelsohn

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream — and not make dreams your master;
If you can think — and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,

And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings — nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And which is more: you'll be a Man, my son!

ANTHEM

Alleluia
Arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 29: 4-14
New Revised Standard Version

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

MESSAGE

If...We Thrive
Reverend Patrick Collins

ANTHEM

The Heavens Are Telling
F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)
The Chancel Choir
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Daniel Young, tenor
Thomas Woodman, baritone

THE 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

Charles Stuckey

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



HYMNS

We Gather Together
21 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies
440 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

Now Thank We All Our God
643 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

This Is My Song
340 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†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

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Festival March In D
Paul C. Van Dyke

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Lounge where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack, and visit the craft fair for last-minute gift ideas! Hosts for November are members of the Deacon Committee.

COMMUNITY
hour
HOUR

GIVING TREES FOR H.O.M.E. & PILGRIM TOWERS

All gifts should be returned to the stage in the auditorium after the 10 a.m. service TODAY, or to the Harvest Sunday drive-by drop off between 11.15 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. Thank you for making a holiday wish come true for a client of H.O.M.E in Orland, ME or a resident of Pilgrim Towers in Stamford, CT.

DONATE FRESH FOOD FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Use the online option to shop for fresh food donations from the comfort of your home. The fresh selections will be delivered to Neighbor to Neighbor as they need so nothing spoils!



Scan the QR to shop online at #GIVEHEALTHY for fresh food donations requested by Neighbor to Neighbor.

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL - FOLSOM CARE CLOSET

Students in our community, who receive free/reduced price meals at school during the week, are going without food and basic essentials each weekend. GHS teachers are addressing this need through creation of the Folsom House Care Closet, open on Friday afternoons at dismissal, where they're working to provide provisions weekly for around 45 students. Please consider donating non-perishable food and hygiene items in the bin at the back of the Meetinghouse. **This will be an ongoing drive.** Suggested items include dried 1lb bags of white rice, dried 1lb bags of red or black beans, canned tuna, pasta, tomato sauce, granola bars, shampoo, and soap/body wash.



Larger orders can be shipped directly to Folsom House Care Closet at Greenwich High School at 10 Hillside Rd, Greenwich, CT 06830. Financial donations can also be made to the GHS PTA - Folsom Care Closet Donations by clicking on the QR code with your smartphone.

Questions or if you would like to help with drop-off, please reach out to Pam Speer pspeer22@gmail.com or Kristin Toretta ktoretta@gmail.com . Thank you!

59TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

Tree Sale Volunteers - Sign Ups Now Open



The 2025 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale begins on Saturday, November 29th and runs through Sunday, December 7. Volunteers are the **KEY** to the success of the sale, which raised over \$52,000 for local charities last year. It is also a wonderful introduction to First Church for new residents in the community. There are jobs for ALL volunteers - welcoming greeters, cashiers, and salespeople. Please sign up by using the QR code or log in SignUp Genius. Help us help those in need and make First Church shine!



ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

First Church 2026 Annual Giving Stats



\$305,000

\$750,000

-  Pledged To Date (305000)
-  Annual Giving Goal (750000)

We're well on our way to our goal for this year with 70 pledging units. Thanks to all who have pledged. This figure is as of Nov 19.

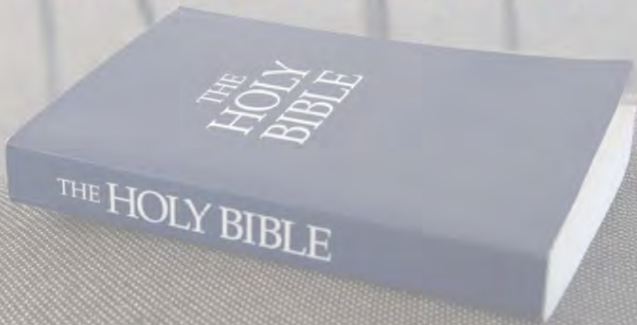
It's not too late to make your pledge to First Church for the 2026 calendar year. You can scan the QR code below which will take you to the website and make your pledge online, or you can use the pledge card in the rack in front of your seat and place it in the offering plate as you come forward to present your food donations during the offering.

We are grateful for your generosity during this giving season to continue the ministry that First Church has in the greater Greenwich community and throughout the world.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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).



UPCOMING EVENTS

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
SUN DEC 7	ADVENT CRAFT FAIR Happening during Community Hour after worship until 12:30 p.m.
SAT DEC 13	60TH ANNUAL MESSIAH CONCERT 4 p.m. in the Meetinghouse
SUN DEC 14	FIRST CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse



FREE CHURCH WIDE EVENT:



Advent Craft Fair



Hosted by FCCOG Church School in Auditorium

December 7th at 11 am

Cocoa and crafts for ALL, kids and adults alike!

Photos with Santa!



REGISTER TO ENSURE SUPPLIES

fccog.org/events



**The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
presents the 60th annual**

Messiah

Saturday, December 13 - 4 p.m.

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
Daniel Young, tenor
Thomas Woodman, bass

First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, conductor

No tickets required - Freewill offering received

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich, CT
www.fccog.org



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

