



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
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.

PRELUDE

Savior Of The Nations, Come

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Nancy & Peter Strohmeier

Leader: A light shines in the darkness,

People: **And the darkness cannot overcome it.**

Leader: Isaiah declares that a child is coming, a Prince of Peace, a light for all people.

People: **We light this candle as a sign of hope.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, awaken hope within us.

People: **Let this flame teach our hearts to look for dawn.**

MUSIC DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Arr. Cathy Mocklebust (b. 1958)

The Palmer Handbell Choir

†HYMN

Savior Of The Nations, Come

102 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God,

We live in a world plagued by the darkness of injustice and despair: We are the people who walk in darkness; We are the ones who wander, lost; We are the suffering, the sick, the sorrowing; We are the estranged, cut off from love; We are the deceived who chase after false gods; We are the despairing, unable to satisfy our own desires.

But you alone satisfy. You alone heal. You alone light the path of wholeness. We are the people who walk in darkness. Light the way, O God, back to you, and fill us with the hope of your promises.

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

"Hope" is the thing with feathers

Emily Dickinson

Carol Woodman

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

DUET

O Come To Us Emmanuel

Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Thomas Woodman, baritone

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-7

New International Version

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

†Please rise in body or in spirit

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

MESSAGE

It Is There
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
87 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

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.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING

Carol Woodman

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



ANTHEM

For Unto Us A Child Is Born (from *Messiah*)
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
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

Prepare The Way, O Zion
106 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Maestoso
Everitt Titcomb (1884-1968)

†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 November are members of the Deacon 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.

THANK YOU FOR HARVEST SUNDAY DONATIONS & H.O.M.E. CRAFT FAIR

Thank you for the abundance of donations for Harvest Sunday! We collected 190 bags of much needed food for H.O.M.E. and Neighbor to Neighbor. The Craft Fair raised nearly \$10,000! We haven't done that much in over 15 years. Bravo!!

In addition, to date, over 1,200 lbs of fresh food has been donated to Neighbor to Neighbor through #GiveHealthy!

Through December 31, you can donate online 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!



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

The 2025 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale is open this weekend and runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through December 7.

Shop early for the best selection.

We have more trees and many taller trees this year. We also have beautiful balsam and mixed greens wreaths. Decorated wreaths and handmade artisan

bows will also be available along with stands and roping. Please help us help others and enjoy the shopping fun on the front lawn!

We do still need some volunteers -

if you can help, please use the QR code on the left to sign up.



MEDICARE PART D ENROLLMENT

It's that time of the year again. For those with Medicare, it's open enrollment time, now through December 7, for Medicare Part D (prescription drug insurance). Even if you are happy with your current plan, it is wise to review your options each year. Plans can and do change, as do your current medications, and all this affects your out-of-pocket expense.

Counseling, including navigating the Medicare.gov website, is available with your Parish Nurse and through the Greenwich Commission on Aging.

For an appointment with your Parish Nurse call Sue at extension 821. For an appointment with trained Town of Greenwich counselors at either the Senior center or a library, contact the Commission on Aging at 203-862-6707



ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

We're well on our way for this year with 85 pledging units and over 60% of our goal! Thanks to all who have pledged. This figure is as of Nov 25.

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.



Christmas Meetinghouse Decorations & Brass

The Deacons invite contributions for decorations and brass music for the Meetinghouse this Christmas.

Any amount is welcome. Please deliver the completed form with your check to the church office on or before Monday, December 19, 2025. Thank you!

Please check one of these choices:

☐ Flowers

☐ Brass

☐ In Memory of

☐ In Honor of

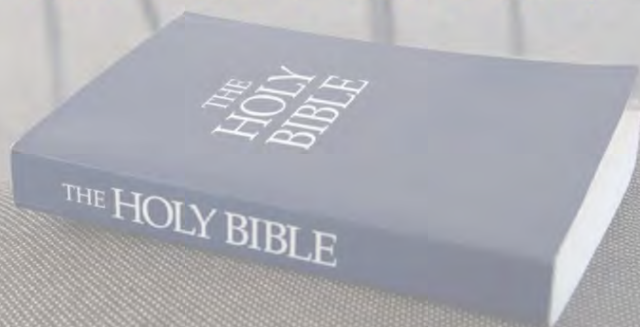
Name: _____

By: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made out to **First Congregational Church of Greenwich**
("Flowers" in the memo) Please print legibly to minimize spelling errors.

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).



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





Good to Give:
A Pilgrim Towers Party

Share the meaning of the season with:

HOLIDAY MUSIC	GIVING OF GIFTS	CRAFTS FOR ALL
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**FOR KIDS & FAMILIES: HELP US
MAKE THE HOLIDAYS HOLY!**

 25 Washington Ct, Stamford, CT
DEC 14 @ 12:00 AM-2:00 PM 



**PILGRIM
TOWERS**



NEW FRIENDS



**GIVING
TREE
GIFTS**



YOU ARE INVITED TO

First Church
Christmas Party

SUNDAY
DEC 14
5:00-7:30 PM

In the Meetinghouse
Hors d'oeuvres & beverages -
and a carol sing-a-long!

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

