



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
FOURTEENTH 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

Plein Chant & Fuga
Alexandre Pierre-François Boëly (1785-1858)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is calling us by name, trying to get our attention.
All: **Here we are, turning our full attention to God's presence.**
One: God is calling us through the voices of our neighbors.
All: **Here we are, listening for truth through holy human stories.**
One: God is calling us to see the world anew.
All: **Here we are, looking for what God will reveal and provide today.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

The God Of Abraham Praise
49 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

You have provided just as you promised, O God. You spoke and so it happened. Not just once, not just long ago, but even now your promise is true. We who have received your goodness, we who experience your providing, we who know your presence, come to give thanks for all your works, bringing our offering of praise. 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

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.

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

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12
New Revised Standard Version
Kristin Toretta

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

ANTHEM

With A Voice Of Singing
Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14
New Revised Standard Version

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

MESSAGE

It Doesn't Have To Be Like This
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Just As I Am, Without One Plea
442 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.

*Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle,
receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.*

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

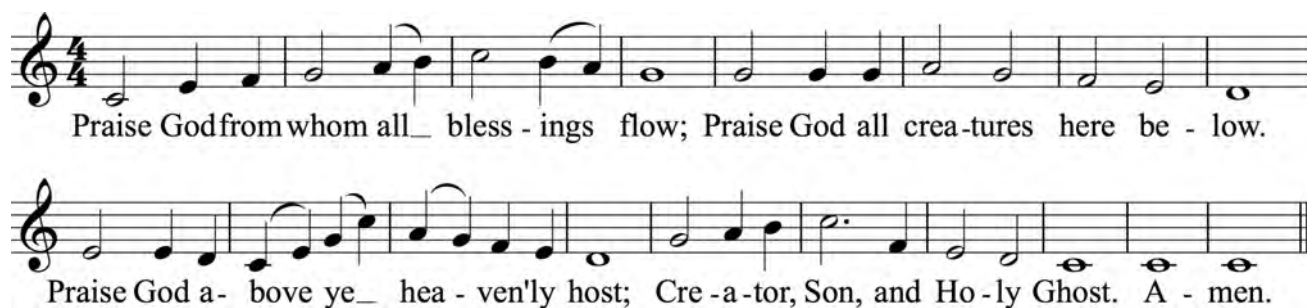
Jenny Gartner

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Offertory
John Ness Beck (1930-1987)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
12 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Fanfare
Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (or Auditorium in case of rain) where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for September are members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

COMMUNITY
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HOUR

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING






Parish Nurse Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following Sunday's worship service. If Community Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside, Sue will be in her office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821 or emailing susana@fccog.org.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2025

Fall Church School Schedule

Children of ALL ages are welcome & celebrated at every event!

SEPTEMBER 7	SEPTEMBER 13  4 PM	SEPTEMBER 14	SEPTEMBER 21	SEPTEMBER 28	
CHURCH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE	FRIENDS & FAMILY FEST	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL	
OCTOBER 5	OCTOBER 12	OCTOBER 19	OCTOBER 25  6 PM	OCTOBER 26	
AAW - WORLD COMMUNION	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL	TRUNK-OR-TREAT	CHURCH SCHOOL	
NOVEMBER 2	NOVEMBER 9	NOVEMBER 16	NOVEMBER 23	NOVEMBER 30	
AAW - ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL	AAW - HARVEST SUNDAY	CHURCH SCHOOL	
DECEMBER 7	DECEMBER 14	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 21  12 PM	DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 28
AAW & 11 AM ADVENT CRAFT FAIR	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL	NATIVITY PAGEANT REHEARSAL	CHRISTMAS EVE 10 AM CHILDREN'S 3 PM NATIVITY PAGEANT	ALL AGES WORSHIP

FAQ:

WHAT TIME IS CHURCH SCHOOL? **10 AM**

WHAT AGES ARE CHURCH SCHOOL FOR? **3 Y/O - 6TH GR**

DO YOU NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND EVENTS? **NO!**

ARE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF TRAINED? **YES**

CAN I COME TO CHURCH SCHOOL WITH MY CHILD? **YES!**

Other ?'s: KhaleighL@fccog.org | www.FCCOG.org

key:

- ◆ COMMUNION SUNDAY
- ALL PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE IN A CLASS TOGETHER FOR A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

AAW = ALL AGES WORSHIP WHEN KIDS STAY IN SERVICE

FIRST CHURCH, YOUR CHURCH



This past week we 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.



The survey was thoughtfully created by a Member Survey Task Force – Linnea Stenberg, Meg Dempsey, Laura Erickson, Jenny Gartner, Meaghan Gruppo, and Pat Larrabee – to help everyone find a place where they feel both joy and purpose. Click on the QR code to complete the survey by September 30. First Church isn't just a church, it's your church.

TODAY! TALK-BACK SESSIONS ON STRATEGIC VISION PLAN



First Church Strategic Vision Plan

We've shared the vision, now it's your turn!

Join us in the lounge after worship on
Sunday, September 14 & 21 at 11:00 a.m.
for interactive Talk-Back Sessions as we
listen, dream, and gather feedback
on our Strategic Vision Plan.

This is your chance to bring your voice, your hopes,
and your ideas into the next chapter of First Church.
Whether you're curious, inspired,
or simply want to learn more, your presence matters.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

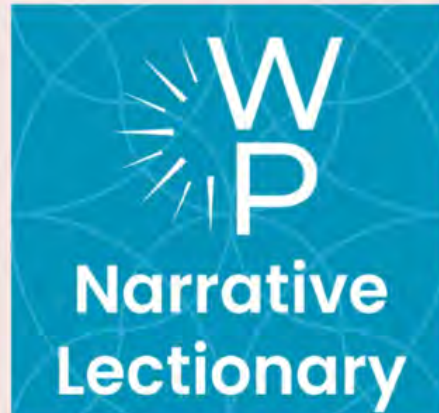
A New Bible Study



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.



This fall, our weekly Wired Word study group will take on a new rhythm, shifting from current events to the timeless wisdom of Scripture. Together, we'll follow the Narrative Lectionary daily readings, opening space for honest conversation, fresh insights, and shared discovery.


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 meet every Thursday at noon in the Lounge.



Eve Isn't Evil

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.



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

DINNER | 6:00 PM

DISCUSSION | 6:30–7:30 PM

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

Choir Opportunities For Young People!

The Cherub Choir is for children in kindergarten through second grade.
Carol Woodman, director
Meets on Sundays
11:15-11:45



The Celebration Singers is for youth in grades 3 to 6.
Craig Symons, director
Meets on Sundays 11:15-12:00

The Genesis Choir is for youth in grades 7 through 12 and early college ages.
Danny Young, director
Meets on Sundays 11:15-12:15



**ALL REHEARSALS
BEGIN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14!**

Music Opportunities For Adults



**THE
CHANCEL
CHOIR**

Weekly rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings
from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Choir Room

**THE PALMER
HANDBELL
CHOIR &
SILVERTHORN
HAND CHIME
CHOIR**



Weekly rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings
from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Meetinghouse

UPCOMING EVENTS



Oktoberfest

Join us for an evening of
community festivity!

Saturday October 4 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
First Church Lounge

Beer Tasting
Light Appetizers
Great Fun

A collage of four photos showing people at the Oktoberfest event. The top left photo shows a man in a black shirt and a woman in a blue shirt. The top right photo shows a man in a white shirt and a woman in a white shirt. The bottom left photo shows a man in a white shirt and a woman in a blue shirt. The bottom right photo shows a man in a white shirt and a woman in a blue shirt. There are also two beer mug icons and two cartoon beer server icons.

INTEMPO 15 PRESENTS ¡VIVA LOS ANDES!

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month
with the Music of the Andes

A group of musicians performing on a stage. There are seven people in total, including men and women of various ages. They are holding various instruments, including a violin, a guitar, and a bass. They are wearing colorful clothing, including a red and white striped shirt and a pink and white striped shirt.

Saturday, October 11 | 5pm
First Congregational Church of Greenwich
108 Sound Beach Ave., Old Greenwich, CT

\$10 General Admission
Free for Kids
Get tickets at intempo.org

A QR code located at the bottom right of the poster, next to the text "Get tickets at intempo.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

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

