



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025  
FIFTEENTH 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

*Aria*  
Harold Heeremans (1900-1997)  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Look around, everyone!  
All: **God is in this place.**  
One: This is God's house,  
All: **and God is here among us!**  
One: This is the house of God.  
All: **The gate of heaven is here!**  
One: So get ready! Open your eyes!  
All: **God wants to meet us here!**

### †CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Praise The Lord! God's Glories Show*  
33 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of Heaven and Earth,  
Jacob lied, cheated, and stole what was not his, yet you chose him to be a blessing to the world. We, too, do things we are not proud of to secure our advantages, yet you call us to repentance and send us to do justice. We trust in your forgiveness so we can do better. You have richly blessed us in spite of ourselves. Let us, in turn, be a blessing to the world. 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

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23  
New International Version  
Lynn Hawxhurst

When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am," he answered.

Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."

Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

He went to his father and said, "My father." "Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?"

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing." Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The Lord your God gave me success," he replied. Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not."

Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

## ANTHEM

*Jacob's Ladder*  
Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Genesis 28:10-17*  
New International Version

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

## MESSAGE

*It Can Happen Anywhere*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN

*Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!*  
305 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

Steve Weigner

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Christ Is Our Cornerstone*  
Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)  
The Chancel Choir

†Please rise in body or in spirit

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*



## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Called As Partners In Christ's Service*  
761 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †BENEDICTION

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*Festive Trumpet Tune*  
David German (b. 1954)

†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 September are members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

**COMMUNITY**  
*hour*  
**HOUR**

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Did you know that maintaining a healthy blood pressure is one key to preventing a stroke? Others include a healthy diet, regular exercise, and refraining from smoking. Learn more at [heart.org](http://heart.org) or [stroke.org](http://stroke.org).

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](mailto:susana@fccog.org) or call 203-637-1791 extension 821.

## FINAL SESSION TODAY! – TALK-BACK SESSION ON STRATEGIC VISION PLAN

Join us in the Lounge after worship **TODAY Sunday, September 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.

## 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. For those who don't have online access, there are copies in the back of the Meetinghouse. First Church isn't just a church, it's your church.

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE ORGANIZATION NOMINATIONS

Do you have a nomination for a recipient of a gift from the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale?

Is there a local non-profit that you would like to be considered for a gift from this year's Christmas Tree Sale proceeds? If so, please tell us briefly why you like them, and include a link to their website, and their 990 document. Send any ideas to: [laurenghaffari@gmail.com](mailto:laurenghaffari@gmail.com)

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



We meet this Wednesday September 24, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, in Rick's Room. Come have a cup of tea and catch up with old and new friends. Shawls are lovingly knit by volunteers with prayerful intentions for the well-being of the recipients.

All are welcome, regardless of experience. Even those who don't knit can find their niche, like sewing labels or adding fringe. Contact Angela Stevens

[angelamessinastevens@gmail.com](mailto:angelamessinastevens@gmail.com) for more information.

## World Communion Sunday



On Sunday, October 5, we join Christians around the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday. At First Church, we have a special tradition of sharing breads from around the world. This year, we invite all who are willing to bring bread from your country of origin or ancestral home, along with decorations, photos, or small items that represent your nation and heritage.

Communion will be celebrated at the end of worship and will flow seamlessly into our Community Hour, where we'll continue to share in the richness of cultures and stories that make up our congregation.


If you would like to contribute bread and items to share, please scan the QR code to RSVP using the SignUpGenius link by Sunday, September 28. When signing up, please indicate which country you are representing and the type of bread you plan to bring.



Let's come together as one body of Christ, celebrating both our diversity and our unity at the Lord's table.



## 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.





### NARRATIVE LECTONARY 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).



## 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. Kindly purchase your own copy.



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!

### DINNER & BOOK STUDY

Join for a special opportunity with St. Paul's Riverside for dinner and exploration of the book, "Eve Isn't Evil."

The book discusses both neglected and well-known Old Testament passages with one chapter on the New Testament. Parker's reflections show how vital our readings of the Bible can be as a source of strength, guidance, and joyful defiance.

Author and Yale Divinity School professor Julie Faith Parker to join for one of the sessions (tbd). Dinner at 6 p.m. and study around 6:30 p.m. Kindly purchase your own copy of the book.

<https://www.juliefaithparker.com/eve-isnt-evil>



## 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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# FALL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10 AM TO 12 PM

Bring your pet to the First Church front lawn for a blessing with Pastor Patrick and Pastor Cydney  
Pets of all kinds are welcome!



First Congregational Church of Greenwich  
108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich

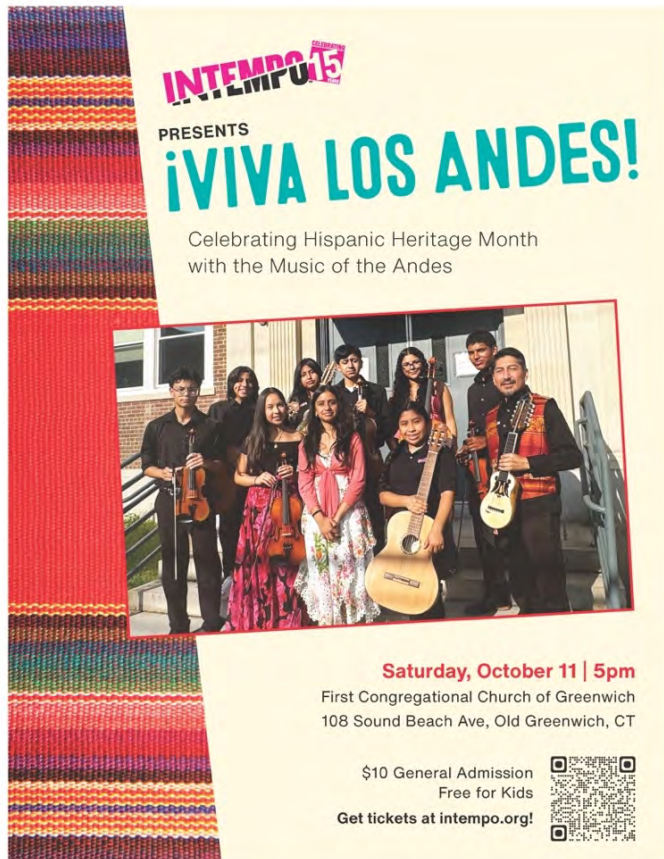


# Oktoberfest

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



**INTEMPO 15**  
PRESENTS


# ¡VIVA LOS ANDES!

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month  
with the Music of the Andes



**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/](https://intempo.org/)





# RYM

## - Fall '25 -

# CALENDAR

Did you know?

**WE  
HAVE  
TEXT  
UPDATES!**

Type and text  
"@myrym"  
to 81010  
& receive  
messages  
on events,  
new locations,  
and much more!

| Grades                          | September  | October  | November  | December  | Service Learning Trip  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>3rd to 5th</b>               | <b>FALL CARNIVAL KICK OFF</b><br>9/6 @ 6 pm<br>2CC Greenwich<br><br><b>SCAVENGER HUNT</b><br>9/26 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD                                     | <b>PUMPKIN PUNCH OUT &amp; COSTUME CONTEST</b><br>10/24 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD<br><br><b>Check MYRYM.ORG for ALL updates!</b>        | <b>MIXED 3RD-5TH &amp; 6TH-8TH FLAG FOOTBALL</b><br>11/28 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD  | <b>WHO ATE THE MARSHMALLOW MYSTERY DINNER</b><br>12/26 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD   | <b>WINTER SERVICE LEARNING TRIP</b><br><b>6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE</b>   |
| <b>6th to 8th</b>               | <b>FALL CARNIVAL KICK OFF</b><br>9/6 @ 6 pm<br>2CC Greenwich<br><br><b>OUTDOOR DODGEBALL</b><br>9/26 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD                                  | <b>PUMPKIN CARVING &amp; COSTUME CONTEST</b><br>10/24 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD<br><br><b>Check MYRYM.ORG for ALL updates!</b>          | <b>MIXED 3RD-5TH &amp; 6TH-8TH FLAG FOOTBALL</b><br>11/28 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD  | <b>WHO ATE THE MARSHMALLOW MYSTERY DINNER</b><br>12/26 @ 6 pm<br>Location TBD   | <b>December 12th-14th</b><br>Leaving in RYM van from 2CC Greenwich at 6 pm on the 12th returning at 6 pm on the 14th   |
| <b>9th to 12th</b>              | <b>FALL CARNIVAL KICK OFF</b><br>9/6 @ 6 pm<br>2CC Greenwich<br><br><b>LASER TAG COURSE</b><br>9/14 @ 12 pm<br>First Church Greenwich<br>108 Sound Beach Ave | <b>PUMPKIN SMASH &amp; MENTAL HEALTH TOOLS</b><br>10/12 @ 12 pm<br>United Congregational Church Norwalk<br>275 Richards Ave, Norwalk | <b>LIVE JEOPARDY HOSTED BY THE RYM YAC</b><br>11/9 @ 12 pm<br>United Congregational Church Norwalk<br>275 Richards Ave, Norwalk | <b>DOWNTOWN HOT COCOA &amp; COSTUME CAROLING</b><br>12/21 @ 6 pm<br>Second Congregational Church Greenwich<br>139 E Putnam Ave, Greenwich | <b>Serving in Downtown Providence, RI with the organization Incredible Days and staying in Seekonk, MA</b>   |
| <b>Service Share (6th-12th)</b> | <b>PACIFIC HOUSE VOLUNTEERING (UNDER 14 NEED A WAIVER)</b><br>9/20 @ TBD<br>137 Henry Street, Stamford   | <b>NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR VOLUNTEERING (UNDER 14 NEED A WAIVER)</b><br>10/18 @ TBD<br>239 E Putnam Ave, Greenwich                      | <b>CT FOOD SHARE VOLUNTEERING (UNDER 18 NEED A WAIVER)</b><br>11/15 @ TBD<br>Meet at 108 Sound Beach Ave, Greenwich             | <b>BREAKFAST RUN IN NYC VOLUNTEERING (UNDER 18 NEED A WAIVER)</b><br>12/20 @ TBD<br>Meet at 395 Round Hill Rd Greenwich                   | <b>OUR WORK WILL INCLUDE PREPARING AND SERVING FOOD, SORTING DONATIONS, AND HELPING AT A HOMELESS SHELTER. YOUTH WILL EXPLORE CULTURAL IMMERSIONS &amp; HAVE TIME TO REST!</b> |

WWW.MYRYM.ORG

@MYRYM.LFC



**RYM Director:** Khaleigh Laicher [KhaleighL@FCCOG.org](mailto:KhaleighL@FCCOG.org)  
**RYM Partners:** First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Second Congregational Church of Greenwich, United Congregational Church of Norwalk, & North Stamford Community Church



## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://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

