



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
SIXTEENTH 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

Air
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1900-1997)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God sees us as we are
All: **and God knows all our struggle and our success.**
One: But sometimes we feel like asking God: are you paying attention?
All: **And God asks us too: are we paying attention?**
One: We are here to listen as God calls us by name,
All: **and to learn to answer as God does: here I am.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

The Mighty God With Power Speaks
13 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

You reveal your holiness in bits and pieces, O God. In places and moments we would never have guessed, you make yourself visible and turn the ground holy right under our feet. Give us the grace today to pay attention and so to see you, and not only see but to know what we're looking at, and to commit ourselves to your way, as you commit yourself to us. 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

Psalm 34:1-10

New Revised Standard Version

Bill DeHaven

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

SOLO

O Beauty Ever Ancient
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)
Daniel Young, tenor

SECOND LESSON

Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-14a
New Revised Standard Version

After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cry for help rose up to God from their slavery. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am."

MESSAGE

Seen. Heard. Held.
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure
42 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.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING

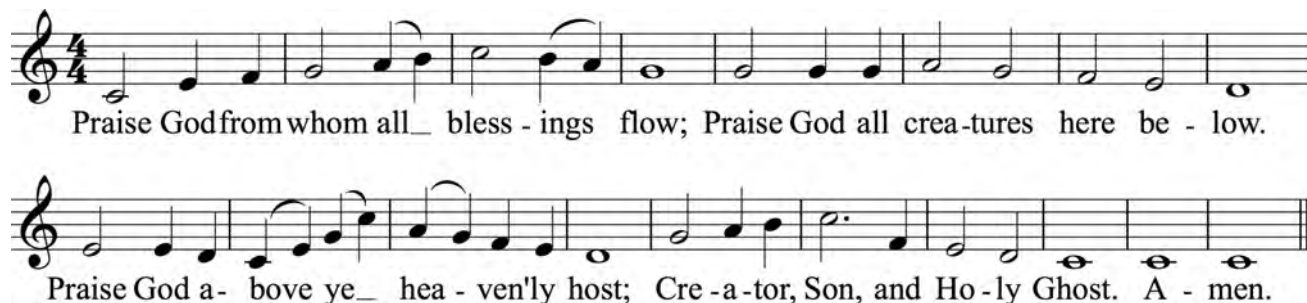
Bonnie Kelley-Young

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Eternal King
Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

O Day Of Peace
373 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Salvation Now Has Come To Earth
J. S. Bach (1650-1785)

†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
HOURLY

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 or 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 or call 203-637-1791 extension 821.

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

TODAY



NEXT SUNDAY

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 us Thursdays for a special faith formation opportunity with our friends at St. Paul's Riverside!

6 p.m. Dinner and 6:30-7:30 conversation around the book **Eve Isn't Evil**. Intertwining academic knowledge and candid, personal, and sometimes humorous stories, Julie Faith Parker helps readers engage biblical texts with both mind and heart—to learn the Bible's stories, explore theological ideas, question common assumptions, develop interpretive skills, and grow in their own faith.

Oct 2nd @ FCCOG - read Ch. 2-5

Oct 9th @ St. Paul's - read Ch. 6-7

Oct 16th @ FCCOG - read Ch. 8-9. Author Julie Faith Parker to join!

Kindly purchase your own copy of the book from your preferred bookseller.

<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



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/)



Get ready for an unforgettable evening!

We're thrilled to invite you to **A Night to Remember**.
A very special evening of music, joy, and community.

We can't say too much (we don't want to spoil the surprise!),
but we can promise that this will be a one-of-a-kind event you
won't want to miss. Expect laughter, inspiration, delicious food,
and a few unexpected delights along the way.

When: Saturday, October 18, 2025
Time: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Where: First Church Meetinghouse
Details: Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served

This will be a night to gather, celebrate,
and share in something truly memorable together.
Bring your family and friends, everyone is welcome.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2025

Fall Church School Schedule

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

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

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

