

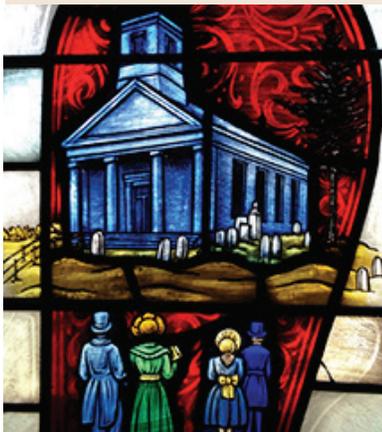
Welcome to
The First Congregational Church
of Greenwich
350th Anniversary
Celebration

In the year ahead we'll **honor the past**, **celebrate the present**, and **lean into the future**. This brochure will tell you about some of the activities we're planning to deepen understanding of our story, enrich the spirit, engage the community – and just have fun.



Smile!

You could be in the 350th Anniversary video. We're creating a video that brings our past, present and future to life through the voices, images, stories and music of our members, friends, and clergy.



The 1837 church was the first meetinghouse at our present location. The grand, columned church was consumed by fire in 1895. Metal from the ruined bell was re-cast into the bell that calls us to meeting today.

In the beginning... On a midsummer's day in 1640 a small group of families landed on what is now Greenwich Point, seeking to build a community in the uneasy no-man's land between English New Haven and Dutch New Amsterdam. They founded our church and named their new home Greenwich.

In 17th Century New England, church and town overlapped completely, but another 25 years would go by before the colonial legislature chartered Greenwich as a separate town entitled to establish "the First Church of Christ in Greenwich." Today, after more than three centuries of mergers among churches seeking to be both united and unifying, we are part of the United Church of Christ and known as The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut.

To honor the past, we're writing a history book to bring our story up to date. We're compiling memories from senior members and digitizing records and photographs. You'll hear a First Church Flashback every Sunday morning and see archival displays during Fellowship Hours. We'll also be hosting historical tours of our famous stained glass windows, cemeteries, and the contributions of the Binney Family in partnership with the town's 375th Anniversary.

Celebrating the present. Through music, arts, speakers, parades and parties, our families and the community will enjoy the fellowship and fun that makes us First Church. Take a look at our celebration calendar.

Leaning into the future. This is one of those milestone years when we are called to make a difference in the life of First Church and the communities around us. In the coming months, you'll be hearing about an anniversary campaign to:

1. Raise \$1,000,000 to make significant improvements in and around our church home.
2. Raise \$350,000 (\$1,000 for every year we've been a church) for outreach to serve "the least of these, our brethren" in nearby communities and the world.

We can't tell you all the details yet, but we promise that you'll be proud to be part of this work.

Why is the town celebrating 375 years and we're celebrating 350 years?

The town dates its founding to when the first settlers bought land from the native people in 1640. But even though they held church services in their homes in early years, we date our founding as 1665, which was the year the church and town were chartered by the General Assembly in Hartford. This happened in May, 1665, which is why our 350th celebration extends from May, 2015 to April, 2016.

Our celebration calendar. (Stay tuned for surprises!)

Here are some of the events in store. Members and friends of all ages will find dozens of opportunities to learn, participate, contribute and enjoy.

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- May 1-3 **Spring Festival of the Arts** featuring outstanding concerts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and an art display throughout the weekend from members of the Art Society of Old Greenwich
- May 10 **350th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration** at 10:00 a.m. Music & Friendship Service with the entire music ministry followed by refreshments on the lawn
- May 17 **Dr. Maryan Ainsworth Lecture:** “Saints and Relics: Lucas Cranach’s Saint Maurice and Martin Luther’s Reformation”
- May 25 March in the **Memorial Day Parade** with a specially designed float highlighting our 350 years in the community
- May 31 **Heritage Sunday** honoring members who have been part of the Church for 50 years or more
- June 7 **Children’s Sunday** re-creating worship components and activities from years ago
- July 18 **Town of Greenwich Founder’s Day Interfaith Service** at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park
- July 19 **Founder’s Day Service** reflecting on our rich history in the community, followed by Lobster Rolls (specially prepared by Pastor Richard and his team) on the lawn
- August **Special Beach Service** at Greenwich Point
- Sept 20 **350th Homecoming Celebration** with colonial games and period dress
- Sept 27 **Town of Greenwich 375th Anniversary Parade** down Greenwich Avenue — we get to use our float again!
- October **Family Halloween Event**
- Nov 1 **All Saints Day Service** recognizing key moments in our history with voices from the past
- Nov 22 **Harvest Sunday Special Offering** of 350 bags of food for 350 years
- Jan 2016 **Women’s Fellowship Afternoon Tea** honoring our English roots
- Feb 2016 **Sunday Afternoons Live**
- April 2016 **Grand Finale Event** reaching out to former pastors, staff, members and friends
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Special Speakers

Throughout the year, distinguished speakers will be talking with us on issues of history, faith and religion. These lectures will be in honor of Rev. Dr. Brenda J. Stiers.



In 1852 children in our congregation and Sunday Schools across America contributed 10¢ apiece to build the missionary ship Morning Star. She would carry the Word and humanitarian aid to Pacific islands in Micronesia. Over the next 100 years, five ships, all named Morning Star, served our Pacific missions until 1961. In 2015 we will be carrying on our outreach tradition.



Long a favorite of members, visitors and the community, our Youth Group has conducted Easter sunrise services at the beach since the 1940's. On Good Friday, they also carry the 75 pound wooden cross from the church to the beach.

This is the year to raise your hand... or wait until 2065. Join us as we celebrate and rededicate to the work of the church started by a small group of families 350 years ago. There's something that everybody can do or give, and we hope that every member of the First Church community will play a role. 100% participation is our goal. If everybody joins in, it will be a year like no other in our history.

Looking for more information? Want to work on the parade float? Ready to sign up to help out with any of our planned events? Contact any member of the 350th Celebration Committee or Pat Mendelsohn at patmendelsohn@aol.com

Are you in? We are!

The 350th Celebration Committee:

Rev. Richard DenUyl,
Senior Pastor
Dr. Craig Symons,
Director of Music
Rosemary Lamie,
Family Ministries
Elaine Teeters,
Senior Deacon
Pat Mendelsohn,
Chairperson

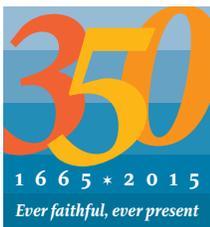
SPEAKERS
Chris Hartwell
Richard DenUyl

COMMUNICATIONS
Meg Sherman
Barbara Wilkov
Pat Mendelsohn
Gary Lico
Chris Moore
Cara Olmsted

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Pat Geismar
Chris Moore
Cara Olmsted
Pat Mendelsohn
Erna Olson
Ken Olson
Wendy Reynolds
Richard DenUyl

EVENTS
Judy Gordon
Betsy Kreuter
Shirley Flierl
Art Delmhorst
Mary Lennon
Lisa Hudson
Frosty Friedman
Craig Symons

HISTORY
Pat Larrabee
Tad Larrabee
Lynn Robertson
Sue Baker
Linnea Stenberg
Rosemary Lamie



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of Greenwich**
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