



First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; 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.

Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. Please join us in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

Please let an usher know if you would like a Bible during the service.
We are happy to provide one upon request. You may also get one from the bookshelf across from the sound booth room.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

When in the Hour of Utmost Need

Steven Russell, guest director/organist
Johann Michael Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

(please sign and pass the red fellowship pad found at the end of your row.)

Rev. Patrick Collins

CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Rick Derr, *Church Council Chair*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Three Little Birds

The Cherub Choir
Carol Woodman, director
Debbie Berner, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: Blessed are we

All: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

One: Blessed are we

All: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

One: Blessed are we

All: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

One: Blessed are we

All: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

HYMN*

Now Thank We All Our God

New Century (black) Hymnal #419

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth; Who wipes away the tears of sorrow; Who gives inheritance to the meek; Who satisfies the hunger of the just; Who gives mercy to the merciful; Who gives vision to the pure of heart; Who adopts the peacemakers; Who lifts high the persecuted. Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost. Glorious is our God, who brings us to new life. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

All children will now leave to go to their Church School classes in the Preschool classrooms. Parents are welcome to accompany their children and return to the service. Baby Nursery & Toddler Room in the Red Door and 3's and 4's are in the Blue Door; Kindergarten and 1st grade in the Rainbow Door; 2nd grade in the Gold Door; 3rd grade in the Purple Door; 4th, 5th & 6th grades in the Green Door.

**All who are able, please rise.*

HYMN*

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.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give Light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

FIRST LESSON

Joe McBride

Micah 6: 1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

ANTHEM

O for a Heart to Praise my God

The Chancel Choir
Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5: 1-12 (New Revised Standard Version NRSV)

Rev. Patrick Collins

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MESSAGE

The Gift of Poetic Challenge

Rev. Patrick Collins

HYMN*

You Are Salt for the Earth

New Century (black) Hymnal #181

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

Helen Ingraham

ORGAN OFFERTORY

My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker

Johann Christoph Bach

DOXOLOGY*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

**All who are able, please rise.*

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) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, these people. We give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared this sacrament and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Amen.

HYMN*

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

1 When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least,
 2 When the Lord re - stores the sick and weak, we will re -
 3 When the Lord re - vives the world from death, we will re-joyce, will re -
 4 When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry,

joyce.
 joyce, will re-joyce.

When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast,
 When the earth is giv - en to the meek,
 When the word of God fills ev - ery breath,
 When we live in glo - rious lib - er - ty,

**All who are able, please rise.*

Refrain

we will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce with glad-ness. All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will re-joyce, will re-joyce, will re-joyce!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Rick Derr, *Church Council Chair*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall

Johann Christoph Bach

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

NOMINEES for the ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

To be voted on at the Special Congregational Meeting on February 2, 2020

Jim Shattuck, chair	Gordon Assing
Beth Press	Pam Speer
Connie Kurscewski	Philip Wentworth

Rev. Patrick Collins, ex officio

Jim Shattuck

Jim and his wife, Carol, have been members of First Church for forty years. Jim had a career at Exxon-Mobil as a Human Resources leader for many years, before moving into consulting. In recent years, he served on the Board of Directors for Yellowstone Park Foundation, the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, and Greenwich Emergency Medical Services (GEMS). Today, he is an active volunteer with the National Executive Service Corps, Fairfield County SCORE, and American Corporate Partners – all non-profits providing consulting services to businesses, entrepreneurs and military veterans.

Beth Press

Beth and her husband, Mark Mohn, have been members of First Church for eighteen years. They have two children, Drew (20) and Elizabeth (18). Both of their children attended First Church preschool, participated in choirs – Cherub, Children’s and Youth, attended FCCOG sponsored Mission trips and were confirmed here. Beth is currently a member of the Personnel and Allocations Committee, has been a Sunday School teacher, Deacon and chair of a prior Associate Pastor Search Committee. Beth is a CPA and currently works for Accounting Principals in Stamford as a Senior Business Development Manager placing Accounting/Finance candidates at clients in the Fairfield/Westchester County area.

Connie Kurczewski

Connie has lived in Greenwich since 1993. She and her husband, Stephen, were married by First Church's Susie Craig back in 2004. Following the birth of their son, Timothy (age 10), they came back to First Church as a family in 2015 seeking community and spiritual connection. Connie has previously assisted with Church School activities and currently serves First Church as an active member of the Personnel Committee. Outside of Church, you'll find Connie involved at her son's elementary school and cheering loudly from the sidelines of a youth basketball game. Connie works as a Private Practice Management Consultant, and is the Director of Operations of Elite Health Services in Old Greenwich.

Gordon Assing

Gordon, his wife, Mary-Ann, and their two daughters, Rebecca and Christina, have been members of First Congregational Church of Greenwich for thirty years. Both daughters were baptized, attended church school and confirmed at First Church. Gordon is an active church member and has served on several committees, including Diaconate, Stewardship and Welcoming. He is involved in church outreach, preparing chili and serving lunch at Stamford New Covenant Center, helping with Christmas trees sales, and other outreach projects. He is an Information Technology consultant in the finance industry. He grew up attending worship in an Episcopal church.

Pam Speer

Pam and her husband, Bob, have been members of First Church for twenty-five years. Their boys, Will and Shaw, attended church school, confirmation class and loved singing in the Cherub, Children's and Youth Choirs. At First Church, Pam has been a member of the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee, taught church school, and chaired the Associate Pastor Search Committee that called Patrick to FCCOG. Pam's current volunteer positions include serving on the Boards of the Junior League of Greenwich and Neighbor to Neighbor. Her prior work experience was with Morgan Stanley and in the Development Office of Brunswick School. Pam is a graduate of Vassar with a degree in mathematics.

Philip Wentworth

Philip and his wife, Abby, joined First Church about four years ago and have both become quite actively involved. Philip served on the Welcoming Committee for three years and currently serves on both the Stewardship and Building and Grounds Committees. Philip is also one of the Head Ushers. Abby currently serves on the Task Force and is a Sunday School teacher for their second grader, Claire (8). Born and raised in the Chicago area as the son of a Methodist minister, Philip has always been very active in church life. Philip moved to Old Greenwich 12 years ago. He is a graduate of Albion College with his degree in Economics and Business Management and is Vice President with Anju Software.

A Note about Welcoming Children

To our parents and caregivers: God put the wiggle in children... do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another. To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the preschool classrooms. For toddlers and preschoolers who stay in church, there is a "PrayGround", located in the back of the chapel (right side of the Meeting House).



Our PrayGround Rocks !

We've created a space where children and others can move a bit during worship. There's a rug, a few quiet play things, and pillows for propping. There are rocking chairs for anyone who finds the movement soothing. Additional children's books are on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.

The 10:00 am service is broadcast live each week on 105.5FM (please note the transmission is weak on the west side of Greenwich) or you can stream it online at WGCH.com. In addition, the service is available through a link on the church's website at www.fccog.org. A bulletin is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.



All services are now live-streamed on **YouTube.com**. Search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich and subscribe to our channel.

NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY

CALL TO A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Congregation is hereby called for today, Sunday, February 2, following the 10:00 am Worship Service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Church Council to create a Search Committee to find a new Associate Pastor, and to elect members of that Search Committee;
- And to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Rick Derr, *Chair of Church Council*



CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes will be held as usual. Some classes are beginning lessons on The Forgiving Father a/k/a The Prodigal Son. Next Sunday there will be an all age program in the Daniels Center for Valentine's making and games. Limbo anyone?



CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45 am

Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd Floor) 11:15 -11:45 am

Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd Floor) 11:15 am -12:15 pm

NEW 2ND HOUR FOR FAITH FORMATION: FINAL SESSION

"The Gift of Years" by Joan Chittister led by Avery Manchester, Marty Bitner and Rosemary Lamie will meet after Church and the Congregational Meeting. Get your coffee or tea and come to the Lounge. This is the 3rd in a 4 series program but it is OK to come to any session.



TODAY IS THE "SOUPER BOWL" SOUP & CHILI SALE!

The Women's Fellowship fundraiser takes place this Sunday, February 2nd immediately following the service in the auditorium. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be for sold for \$10.00 each. You may pay with cash or check. There is a varied selection of items guaranteed to delight your palate! Please bring a grocery bag from home.



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, which can be made by calling ext. 821.

UPCOMING

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST CHURCH?

Folks interested in getting to know the Church, take a tour and inquire about First Church are invited to have coffee and conversations with the Senior Pastor.

Sunday, February 9 at 11:15 am in the Auditorium

MOVIE NIGHT: *HARRIET*

Friday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse

Celebrate African American History Month with us by learning about the fascinating life of slave-turned-abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Free Popcorn! *Rated PG-13*

REV. PATRICK COLLINS' INSTALLATION

Sunday, February 23 during the 10:00 am Worship Service

Special Music from Music by the Children's, Youth, and Chancel Choirs, with bass and drums.

ASHES TO GO

Ash Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00 am to 9:00 am in the church parking lot

A new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, clergy and lay people visit transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to experience the power of God's eternal love and grace in an informal way.



SERVICE SUNDAY PROJECT

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Join your friends and family for this great event!
More details to come.



CALL-A-RIDE OF GREENWICH - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Independent, nonprofit volunteer organization, founded in 1975, they provide free door-to-door transportation for Greenwich's ambulatory senior citizens, over age 60, who lack other means of transportation. Three cars provide rides five days a week to anywhere in Greenwich for any purpose; doctors, drug stores, attorneys, banks, shopping, hair appointments, rides to the polls on election day, and even visiting with friends.

Call well in advance for a pick up. Service to GREENWICH HOSPITAL - DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CENTER in Stamford is provided, but not to individual physicians in Stamford. Call-A-Ride does not operate on holidays or snow days if schools are cancelled. They follow the GREENWICH SENIOR CENTER'S holiday schedule.

Each shift is about 3 to 3.5 hours. Drivers are covered by Call-A-Ride insurance. Call 203-661-6633 to volunteer or request a ride!



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020 at Stony Point Center in Rockland County, Saturday -

Sunday Nov 7 and 8. We need to commit soon if we want to secure the Gilmor Slone House again this year. If you would like to be part of this special experience, (no commitment yet) please email RosemaryL@fccog.org or call 203-637-1791 ext 820.

NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich • 203-637-1875
www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room

January is one of our quietest months. If you feel like cleaning out your closets this weekend, we could use the donations. Donations have been very slow this past week.

Manager Leanne's Wish List:

Everything we sell!

Shop Hours:

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

Donations accepted:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

Ministers: The members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Reverend Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Reverend Avery C. Manchester

Minister of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

Pastors Emeriti: Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Reverend Sally Colegrove