



TEMPORARY WEATHER

Sunday, August 30, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday Special

**The 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.**

We welcome you this day and are glad you made the choice to join us for this live stream worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

FIRST CHURCH CONNECTS WITH YOU DURING THE WEEK

Sunday 8 a.m. Worship in the Memory Garden – weather permitting (advance registration is required. See your Friday email blast for information.)

10 a.m. Worship

Livestream - [YouTube](#)

Facebook - [First Church](#)

Radio at [WGCH](#) 1490 AM or 105.5 FM

Download the bulletin [HERE](#)

Monday Music on Mondays (e-blast by Craig Symons)

Wednesday Wisdom on Wednesdays (e-blast by Rev. Patrick Collins)

Thursday Faith Formation at Home for All, and Faith Formation for Children, Youth and Families (e-blasts by Rosemary Lamie)

Friday Email with full information for the upcoming week

Please make sure your email is on our list of recipients.
If you are not on our mailing list, send your address to wendys@fccog.org

THE RUMMAGE ROOM IS CLOSED!

The Grand Reopening is Tuesday, September 8, at 11 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Rev. Patrick Collins

Using your smartphone messaging app,
text [FCCOG Donate to 73256](https://www.fccog.org/donate)
or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage
or scan the QR code below using your smartphone



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Patrick Collins

SOLO

Temporary Weather
Bobby Jo Valentine

SOLO

This Year I Learned
Bobby Jo Valentine

POEM

Kindness
Naomi Shihab Nye
Laura Erickson

*Before you know what kindness really is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand,
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,*

*the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.*

*Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness,
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.*

*Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to mail letters and purchase bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.*

SOLO

Strong Enough
Bobby Jo Valentine

POEM

Lost
David Wagoner
Robin Pastore

*Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you.
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you.*

SOLO

Ready To Be Found
Bobby Jo Valentine

A SACRED CONVERSATION

Patrick & Bobby Jo

SOLO

Wild Wild Heart
Bobby Jo Valentine

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

MUSIC

Maybe Stars
Bobby Jo Valentine

FINAL BLESSING

Rev. Patrick Collins

BOBBY JO VALENTINE



Somewhere deep in the heart of everything lies a melody. It speaks to our truest selves, binds us together with the ones we love, and brings out the best part of who we are.

Bobby Jo Valentine is a singer/songwriter who chases after this particular kind of music.

He writes songs that travel light, but “grow deeper and deeper with each further listen”, as the music publication Soundtrack to My Day describes. The poetic nature of his stories and songs has resulted in many notable awards and a growing, supportive, loyal following. Bobby seeks to write music that means something good, and speaks hope into the beautiful, sacred, terrifying, mesmerizing world that we live in.

Tedx Speaker. Hopeful realist poet. Storyteller. Bobby Jo Valentine’s artistry crosses the lines of many genres, but his thoughtful lyrics and catchy melodies reach listeners on all paths of life. The authentic, heartfelt nature of his songs have won him Songwriter of the Year at both the West Coast Songwriter’s Association and the SoCo Songwriter Competition, the Nashville Next Level Songwriter award, and more. He’s sold over 20,000 albums and performed more than 1500 concerts, all without a record label, with the support of devoted groups of fans and friends who grow in number after every performance.

On any given weekend, you can find Bobby performing at a wild spread of venues...a festival, a house concert, a gay men’s retreat, or a spiritual community. Bobby’s music has appeared on radio and television, including a commercial for the recent Ford Fusion®, ABC’s morning show The Morning Blend, and the award winning film The Groom’s Cake. His songs have received airplay from KGO, KRSH, and other radio stations nationwide.

Born into a Baptist church of strict lines and sharp edges, and coming out of that culture to discover who he really is, Bobby is now a believer in a larger sense, in the wild, strange, mystical nature of the world and the beauty that can be found underneath almost any tragedy. Faith has come to mean something much deeper and more generous than where he started. Along with theaters, house concerts, and many other venues, spiritual faith communities around the nation frequently invite Bobby to perform. He has performed for The Wild Goose Festival, the national GCN conference, the international Emerge conference, Tedx, the Kinship Festival, and UCC General Synod, among many others, and is

ecstatic any time he can invite big questions, challenge easy answers, and inspire people closer to love.

Bobby is a proud supporter of equal rights and opportunities for all people. He believes that we're all in this together; that "the arc of the universe is long, but bends toward justice"; and that real justice means justice for everyone. Bobby is often invited to perform benefit concerts for many equal rights organizations, Pride festivals, and justice-oriented non-profits, including the National Safe Place Network and Family Promise.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Minister of Music

Director of Faith Formation

Director of Church Administration and Finance

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Parish Nurse

Administrative Assistant

Database Administrative Assistant

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Preschool Administrative Assistant

Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers - Reverend Sally Colegrove

Reverend Patrick Collins

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Rosemary Lamie

Steve Summerton

Ginny Breismeister

Susan Asselin, RN

Wendy Spezzano

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