



SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023
OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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 worship service. May it be a blessing to you.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



*God puts the wiggle in children
and calls it good... and so do we!*

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 welcome children as they are in worship, we've created the **PrayGround**, located in the front of the chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse) where children and others can engage in worship through movement and prayerful play.

The **PrayGround** offers space for movement and sensory materials for all ages to worship with and through. The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all.



SUPPORTING FIRST CHURCH

Using your smartphone messaging app, text **FCCOG Donate** to **73256** or click [HERE](#) to access the online giving webpage, or scan this QR code to donate.



Faith First-Love Always

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Voluntary In A Minor
William Boyce (1711-1779)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your row near the center aisle, then pass it back to the center aisle, noting the names of those worshipping near you so you may greet them at the end of worship.
If you are the person on the center aisle, please remove the completed sheet and place it in the plate during the offering.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Pat Larrabee, Church Clerk

OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT (in unison)

Our church's mission is to proclaim the gospel to all people and to work for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and human understanding in all our relationships. We strive through our example to overcome exclusionary practices, discrimination and violence in our society based upon considerations, including but not limited to race, ancestry, age, physical or mental limitations, gender, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and religious background. We commit ourselves to work towards ending hatred, prejudice and discrimination, thereby providing a safe physical, emotional and spiritual haven. As Jesus accepted and included all people, so do we as individuals and as a congregation welcome all who wish to enter our community of faith and invite their participation in the full life of the church. Without exception, we accept each person who joins our community of faith, as an individual and our equal within God's family.

Therefore, The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

Adopted by the Congregation in a Special Meeting on March 9, 2003

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

When Love Is Found
362 New Century Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

Gracious God, thank you for your compassion for the lonely, oppressed, and harassed people of the world. You sent Jesus to seek and to save the lost, but we confess our reluctance to personally engage with his mission. If we are honest, we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving.

Have mercy upon us and forgive us. By the power of your indwelling Spirit, remove all obstacles that prevent us from living as your disciples. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

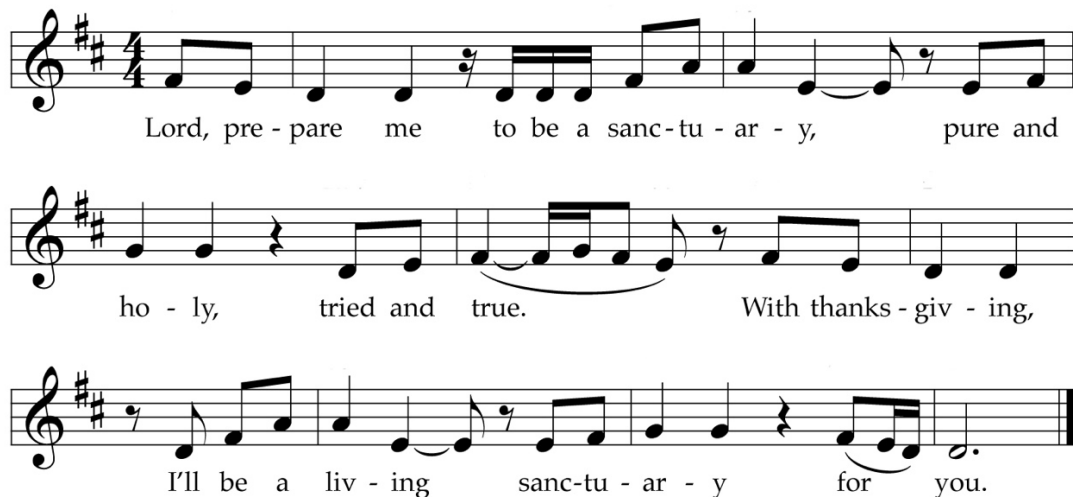
God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

One: God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ with a hand to hand, eye to eye, and heart to heart greeting.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

Go, My Children

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 19: 2-8a
New Revised Standard Version
Betsy Kreuter

They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one, “Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.”

ANTHEM

Ye Servants Of God
Henry Coleman (1988-1965)
The Summer Choir

*Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol; is kingdom is glorious and rules over all.*

*Salvation to God who sits on the throne, let all cry aloud and honor the Son:
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim; fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.*

*Then let us adore and give Him His right; all glory and power, all wisdom and might;
All honor and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.*

Charles Wesley (1744)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 9: 35 – 10:8
New Revised Standard Version

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

MESSAGE

Tenacious Hope
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Surely No One Can Be Safer
487 New Century Hymnal

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

Lynn Hawxhurst

OFFERTORY SOLO

Giga
Carl Bohm
Paul Ghaffari, violin

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other
388 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Finale
Alan Viner

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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

COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden following worship this morning where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for the month of June are members of the Outreach Committee.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY



High blood pressure is one of the major risk factors of stroke, which can be a disabling event and affects nearly 800,000 people in the U.S. each year. Other common risk factors are smoking and uncontrolled diabetes.

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, during community hour (outdoors weather permitting - otherwise indoors in her office just to the right of the auditorium stage). During the week, Sue is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The 353rd Annual Meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for **Sunday June 25th, 2023** in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10 am worship service for the following purposes:



- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers and Committee members and to fill other positions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023
- To adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023
- To hear certain reports of the pastors, officers and committees
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting

We encourage you to attend in the Meetinghouse if possible and comfortable. However, if you join remotely via Zoom.us, the instructions are available in the Friday email blast.

COMING UP THIS SUMMER

JUNE 25 8 A.M. BEACH SERVICES BEGIN at Greenwich Point.
ANNUAL MEETING - following worship in the Meetinghouse.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SOCIALS

The first of three Women's Fellowship Summer Socials is this coming Tuesday, June 20, 5:30 pm at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point.

We bring our own food/drinks and meet for an informal gathering. Feel free to bring a friend/neighbor. If you don't have a current Greenwich beach pass, we can arrange a ride from the church parking lot if you let Car Westbrook know. In case of rain, the event for this month is cancelled.



Future dates are: Tuesday, July 18 and Tuesday, August 15.

Questions? Contact Car Westbrook at carwestbrook@optimum.net.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Why not make some extra “you” time and join a study class? Using the Wired Word's curriculum, each week we'll discuss a topic or headline from the week's news and ask ourselves how our faith applies through guided questions and discussion. Learn more at thewiredword.com



There are two opportunities every week:

- Join Pastor Cydney for dinner on Mondays at 6:30pm at OG Social Club (48 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich). Dinner optional.
- Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at Noon at FCCOG. BYO lunch optional.



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

Shopping hours are Monday through Thursday
from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.,
with the same hours for donation drop off.

Needs this week are:
Ladies cardigans
Men's business shirts
Anything Barbie

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

From now until September 5, office hours are
9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mon - Fri. Please make an appointment
to meet with anyone in the offices.



JOIN THE SUMMER CHOIR!



All are welcome to join the Summer Choir
on Sunday mornings throughout the summer at
9:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of
the music being sung that day. Head to the 3rd floor, outside the
choir room, to pick up the anthem, bulletin, and a folder, then
meet downstairs in the choir loft.

Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship. It also gives
you a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. Everyone is welcome – no robes will be
worn! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 822).

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

Parish Nurse

Church Office Coordinator

Financial Administrator

Administrative and Communications Colleague

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

Facility Manager

Sexton

Assistant Director of Preschool

Pastors Emeriti

Reverend Patrick Collins

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Susan Asselin, RN

Wendy Spezzano

Greg Girolamo

Carolyn Samuel

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers (deceased) - Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all