

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
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.

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## 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

*Prelude from Suite in G*  
Charles Callahan (b. 1951)  
Jon Hunt, guest organist/director

### 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.*

### FOUNDERS DAY PROCLAMATION

Fred Camillo  
Greenwich First Selectman

*Founders Day is July 18th every year since July 18th, 1640 when the settlers bought the land that is now Old Greenwich from the native people. Because the law in those days was that you could not have a town without a church first being established, 1665 is the date our church uses as its founding date.*  
*It took 25 years to have enough people in town to be able to afford the salary of a minister.*  
*The town of Greenwich uses the 1640 date for its founding.*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 122

One: I was glad when they said to me:  
**All: “Let us go into the house of the Lord!”**  
One: Our feet are standing within your walls, O God  
**All: Within the peace and safety of your sanctuary.**  
One: Therefore we will sing  
**All: And we will pray,**  
One: We will listen  
**All: And we will wait,**  
One: That God’s seed may take root in us,  
**All: That God’s abundance may flourish in us,**  
One: That we may awaken to this day  
**All: And all the generosity that God has to offer us.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*  
8 Pilgrim Hymnal



## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

From Ministry Matters

Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of the events this week have been very positive and have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These negative things crowd out your word and we become like the useless soil, unable to receive and grow. Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us when we allow all the negativity to drown out your word. Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy that we may be better disciples for you in this world which is in so much pain.

*\*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: Brothers and sisters, siblings in faith, hear now the Good News of our God and be assured:

All: God is never going to stop showering us with God's love!

One: All the time, everywhere...

All: ...always for us. Hallelujah!

## †RESPONSE (remain standing)



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

## RESPONSE

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

## FIRST LESSON

*Psalm 119: 105-112*  
Common English Bible  
Lynn Hawxhurst

Your word is a lamp before my feet  
and a light for my journey.  
I have sworn, and I fully mean it:  
I will keep your righteous rules.  
I have been suffering so much—  
Lord, make me live again according to your promise.  
Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise.  
Teach me your rules!  
Though my life is constantly in danger,  
I won't forget your Instruction.  
Though the wicked have set a trap for me,  
I won't stray from your precepts.  
Your laws are my possession forever  
because they are my heart's joy.  
I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.

## ANTHEM

*The Lord Is A Mighty God*  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
The Summer Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*  
The Message

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

“Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn't take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the evil one comes along and plucks it right out of that person's heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

## MESSAGE

*God Is Careless?*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## HYMN

*Jesus, Lover Of My Soul*  
210 Pilgrim 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

Mariann Ekernas

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Improvisation*

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God from whom all\_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.



Praise God a- bove ye\_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## HERITAGE SUNDAY RECOGNITION

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Jesus Calls Us, O'er The Tumult*  
322 Pilgrim Hymnal

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## POSTLUDE

*The Rejoicing from Suite in G*  
Charles Callahan

† Please rise in body or in spirit

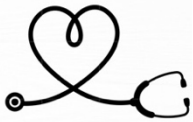
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## COMMUNITY HOUR

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 July are members of the Women's Fellowship. At

Community Hour this Sunday, the Founders Day display of historical items is back! Do look at some of our 1940s and more recent group photos and booklets about our church.

## 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.



## 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:  
Men's Business Shirts  
Lady's Handbags  
All Things Barbie

## Heritage Sunday 2023

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich  
is proud to honor its members of fifty years or more

### **1948**

Nancy R. Hoffman

### **1949**

Donald Freeman  
Ruth Gisborne Reed

### **1950**

Dorothy Perna Robertson

### **1951**

Phyllis Carlson Freeman  
Gifford Reed

### **1952**

William C. Henry  
E. William Fossum

### **1953**

John Denne  
Claire Gisborne Henry  
Benito Menegon

### **1954**

Caralliene Westbrook

### **1955**

Larry Haviland

### **1957**

Emily Jostrand  
Donna Magness Gargagliano

### **1958**

Nancy Allen  
Barbara Hopkins  
Jane Ann Henry Ives  
Barbara Van Buren Richmond

### **1959**

Pat Geismar  
Henry Hull III  
Carol Mawhinney  
Darleyne Sandreuter  
Mary Starkweather

### **1960**

Ronald Weigner

### **1961**

Patricia Schmitt  
Martha (Marti) Stisser

### **1962**

H. Kent Atkins

### **1963**

Lynn O'Gorman  
Lea Menegon  
Nancy Wolf

### **1964**

William J. Provoost III

### **1965**

Robyn Helmer  
Jonathan Henry  
Richard Lewis  
Richard Mawhinney  
John & Barbara Norrgard  
William & Irene Savage  
Peter & Nettie Schieferdecker

### **1966**

Judy Coleman  
Stephen Weigner

### **1967**

Jean Ayres  
Kathryn Davis  
Susan Ferris  
Charles Field  
Prill Meyer  
Darlene Moore  
Hans & Sandra Plickert  
Laura Pugliese  
Jack Sweger

### **1968**

Sarah-Anne Colegrove  
Jon Hunt  
Eric Kreuter  
Patti Provoost  
Linnea Stenberg  
Jean Watkins  
Jerry & Ruth White

### **1969**

Lucille Baldwin  
John Cleworth  
Alice Ell  
Tom & Marilyn Ragland

### **1970**

Elizabeth Kreuter  
Amy Morgan  
Christine Thalheim Wimmer  
Andrea Woodman Osker

### **1971**

Arthur & Wynne Delmhorst

### **1972**

Robert Goodchild  
Lynn Woodman Hawxhurst  
Lisa White McDonald  
Suanne Sweger  
Johann Thalheim

### **1973**

Persis Alden  
Betty Bonsal  
Curt & Joyce Carlson  
Ken & Erna Olson  
Thomas Woodman



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SOCIALS

Following our first successful Women's Fellowship Summer Social, the second of three is set for this coming Tuesday, July 18 from 5:30 pm on at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point. Join us for a relaxed, social evening at the beach. We bring our own food/drinks and meet for an informal gathering. 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. Questions? Contact Car Westbrook at [carwestbrook@optimum.net](mailto:carwestbrook@optimum.net).



*The Sue H. Baker Pavilion at the old barn. Photo: Leslie Yager*

## BEACH SERVICES

Our 8 a.m. beach services continue at Greenwich Point. All are welcome to attend these worship experiences by the waters of Long Island Sound. No park pass is required – simply state that you're here for the First Church service and the gate attendant will let you in. Bring your beach chair or blanket for seating. The remaining dates for the summer are:  
July 23, 30 - August 6, 13, 20



## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://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