



Faith First-Love Always

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023
ELEVENTH 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.

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

*The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of the
40th wedding anniversary of Carol & Tom Woodman,
married here at First Church on August 13, 1983.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude In E Minor
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

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 WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 105)

One: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,

All: Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

One: Sing to God, sing praises to our God,

All: Tell of all God's wonderful works!

One: Glory in God's holy name;

All: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

One: Seek the Lord and the Lord's strength,

All: Seek God's presence continually!

One: Remember the wonderful works that God has done,

All: God's miracles, and the justice God has declared,

One: To the end that we should keep God's statutes, and observe God's instructions.

All: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King
246 Pilgrim Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

Lord, at times we are like the disciples who, in the midst of fears and storms, could only tremble and wonder about the threatening events. Even when Jesus called to the disciples, they shook with fear. Please forgive our weakness and our lack of trust in you, and remind us that Jesus offered words of encouragement. Impulsive Peter asked Jesus to call to him and bid him

come out of the boat. And when Jesus complied, Peter stepped over the edge onto the waves — but fear claimed him again and he began to sink. Many of us can identify with that moment when we let go of our faith and clutch onto our fears. Help us to place our trust totally in you and your call to us. You will guide and lift us to safety — that is the promise you have given to us. When our faith slips, scoop us up and bring us peace. Be patient with us, for we are flawed and yet loved by you. Give us strong hearts and willing spirits to be your disciples who trust and believe. 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 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

Romans 10:5-15
Common English Bible
Juliet Primo

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: *The person who does these things will live by them.* But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: *Don't say in your heart, "Who will go up into heaven?"* (that is, to bring Christ down) or *"Who will go down into the region below?"* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't be put to shame.* There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. *All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.*

So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.*

DUET

The Prayer
Sager/Foster
Carol Woodman, soprano
Thomas Woodman, bass

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 14: 22-33
The Message

As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared to death. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, “Master, save me!”

Jesus didn’t hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, “Faint-heart, what got into you?”

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, “This is it! You are God’s Son for sure!”

MESSAGE

Believe To Be And Live
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

HYMN

Praise The Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him
13 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Behold, O God Our Defender
Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)
The Summer Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing
63 Pilgrim Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Festal Trumpets
Noel Rawsthorne

† 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 August are members of the Church Council.



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

The Rummage Room
is closed until September 5
for cleaning and restocking.

BEACH SERVICES

Our 8 a.m. beach services are drawing to a close at Greenwich Point. All are welcome to attend this worship experience 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.



Sunday, August 20, is the FINAL beach service of the summer!



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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SOCIALS

This year's final Women's Fellowship Summer Social is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 15 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 and a notice will be posted on the church website by 5 pm.

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

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Our Preschool is in need of NEW or GENTLY USED books appropriate for ages 2 to 5.



FIRST CHURCH PRESCHOOL

"Learning Through Caring ~ For Ourselves, Each Other & Our Earth"

Preschool of First Congregational Church of Greenwich, CT

All donations can be dropped to the Church Office in person or left in the gray box next to the mailbox outside the Church Office front door. Thank you!

SECURITY CAMERAS AT FIRST CHURCH

You may have noticed one of these signs on the doors into the church. We actually have had security cameras around the church since 2018. They have not been functioning because of a needed software update. They are now active. We have cameras in the office foyer, the hall way outside the lounge, the preschool hall and entry, and several on the lamp posts around the parking lot.



There are no cameras in the meetinghouse, auditorium, or individual meeting rooms or offices. These are strictly for security, especially to monitor the preschool, where we emphasize safety. They also help us view the building at night, especially during storms. The cameras are set to monitor video only, no audio recording. Only a few select staff or council members have access to view them. Some people may find them intrusive, but in today's world, it is a responsible way to insure our church home is safe and secure.

Tom White
Buildings & Grounds Chair



THE FIRST EVER **FRIENDS & FAMILY FESTIVAL**

FREE ENTRY AND OPEN TO ALL

SAVE THE DATE!

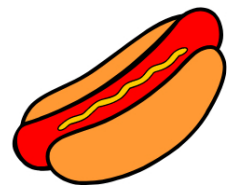
**Saturday,
September 9**

**4.30pm to
7.30pm**

**Front Lawn
of
First Church**



**Food Trucks, Face Painting,
Bouncy Castle, and the star
attraction Dunk the Pastor**



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH
108 SOUND BEACH AVE, OLD GREENWICH, CT**

FCCOG.ORG

203 637 1791



SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

Please join us for the start of a new church year.
All are welcome to join us after Sunday Worship
for a joyous brunch that we will provide. We look
forward to seeing all of our wonderful
congregation.

Date: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Time: 11am - 1pm

Location: First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Rain or Shine!



www.fccog.org



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