



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

Contemplation
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)
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 worshiping 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

One: We come to worship this morning from different places.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: "Deny yourselves."

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: "Take up your cross."

All: O God, do not be far from us.

One: "Follow me."

All: O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation
263 Pilgrim Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

Merciful God, you call us to follow; to turn away from our own selfish interests, and to take up our cross and follow after you, even if the path is difficult to see, or is heading in a direction we would never have chosen for ourselves.

Forgive us for being so quick to question and so hesitant to follow. Help us to see with the eyes of faith, rather than from our own human point of view. Teach us to follow without fear, knowing that You are always with us, leading the way.

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

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

(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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

FIRST LESSON

Romans 12: 9-21
New Revised Standard Version
Carol Woodman

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

ANTHEM

Awake, My Heart!
Jane Marshall (1924-2019)
The Summer Choir

*Awake, my heart, and render, to God thy sure defender,
thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.*

*Confirm my deeds and guide me: My day, with thee beside me,
beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending.*

*My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word my nature giv'n to bring me on toward heaven.*

Gerhardt Paulus (17th century)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 16: 21-28
New Revised Standard Version

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

MESSAGE

The Easy Way Or The Hard Way
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind
70 Pilgrim Hymnal

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) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.

Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle, receive and eat the bread, proceed to and drink an individual cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.

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

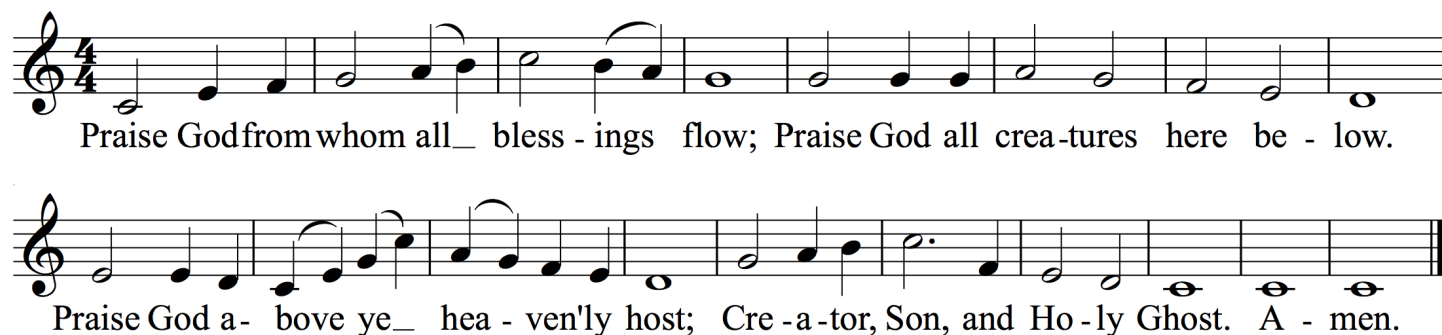
OFFERTORY SOLO

Marchin’ On Up
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Come, Labor On
293 Pilgrim Hymnal

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Prelude In F Major
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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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 September are members of the Asset Management Committee.

COMMUNITY
oooooooo
HOOR



THE RUMMAGE ROOM

The Rummage Room reopens this
Tuesday, September 5 at 11 a.m.

DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS AT FIRST CHURCH - 2 WAYS TO GIVE

1) To give online: We've set up two (2) new categories for online giving through My First Church:

VT Flooding and Maui Strong. Scan this QR code and select either option from the drop-down menu.



- Funds raised for Vermont Flooding will be handled through the VT Conference of the UCC and will especially help UCC churches and communities located in Montpelier and Barre, which both suffered severe damages. More info can be found here: <http://vtucc.org/disaster/>

- Funds raised for Maui will be sent through the UCC's Disaster Ministries national appeal for the wildfires in Hawaii and will especially help UCC churches and communities located in Lahaina, including the historic Waiola Church that was destroyed. More info can be found here: <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

2) To give cash/check: place cash or check in the designated offering plate in the Narthex of the Meetinghouse with a provided envelope labeled either for VT or Maui, OR by sending a check to the Church Office with "Vermont flooding" or "Maui wildfires" in the memo line.

100% of monies donated through the UCC for disaster ministries goes directly to the relief efforts and the impacted communities, a great way to have our giving make the biggest contribution possible.



THE FIRST EVER **FRIENDS & FAMILY FESTIVAL**

FREE ENTRY AND OPEN TO ALL

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday,
September 9
4.00pm to
7.00pm
Front Lawn
of
First Church



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



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



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OF CHRIST
a just world for all