



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

Introitus and Gagliarda
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
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

One: Come as you are.

All: Some of us come in fear and doubt, others in hope and joy.

One: God's arms are open wide to receive you.

All: Thanks be to our faithful and loving God.

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

When Morning Gilds The Skies
35 Pilgrim Hymnal

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison – remain standing)

We have failed to trust you to care for us. We have tried to be our own god in our lives and the lives of others. We have not listened to your call, nor lived in faithfulness to you. We have caused harm directly and indirectly to ourselves, our neighbors, and your creation. In your infinite grace and mercy, forgive and restore us, so that with your help, we might become the people you created us to be.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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)

Come Into God's Presence



- 1 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Al - le - lu - ia,
- 2 Come in - to God's pres-ence sing - ing "Je - sus is Lord,
- 3 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Wor - thy the Lamb,
- 4 Praise the Lord to - geth - er sing - ing "Glo - ry to God,



al - le - lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia."
Je - sus is Lord,	Je - sus is Lord."
wor - thy the Lamb,	wor - thy the Lamb."
glo - ry to God,	glo - ry to God."

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 9: 1-5

Common English Bible

Betsy Kreuter

I'm speaking the truth in Christ—I'm not lying, as my conscience assures me with the Holy Spirit: I have great sadness and constant pain in my heart. I wish I could be cursed, cut off from Christ if it helped my brothers and sisters, who are my flesh-and-blood relatives. They are Israelites. The adoption as God's children, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises belong to them. The Jewish ancestors are theirs, and the Christ descended from those ancestors. He is the one who rules over all things, who is God, and who is blessed forever. Amen.

SOLO

Nothing Left To Say
Joseph Martin/David Angerman
Daniel Young, tenor

*When I see the morning rise. When I gaze at cloudless skies or watch a golden eagle as she flies,
there's nothing left to say, there's nothing left to say, God is!
When I watch the child play, dancing through a summer's day,
dreaming, singing, laughing all the way,
there's nothing left to say, there's nothing left to say, God is!
When I see the falling snow, touch the beauty of the rose,
trace the winding river as it flows; when I see a caring face,
or a simple act of grace, people reaching out with love's embrace;
when I hear a symphony, view creation's tapestry or wonder at life's sacred mystery,
there's nothing left to say, there's nothing left to say, Lord, I stand amazed, nothing left to say.*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 32: 22-32
Common English Bible

Jacob got up during the night, took his two wives, his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed the Jabbok River's shallow water. He took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river. But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. The man said, "Let me go because the dawn is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel, because you struggled with God and with men and won."

Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name."

But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel, "because I've seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved." The sun rose as Jacob passed Penuel, limping because of his thigh. Therefore, Israelites don't eat the tendon attached to the thigh muscle to this day, because he grabbed Jacob's thigh muscle at the tendon.

MESSAGE

A Time To Wrestle
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Fight The Good Fight
367 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

Pat Mendelsohn

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Storm Is Passing Over
Charles Albert Tindley - arr. Barbara W. Baker
The Chancel Choir

*Take courage, my soul, and let us journey on, tho' the night is dark and I am far from home.
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears. The storm is passing over,
The storm is passing over, the storm is passing over, Hallelujah!*

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it
one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†HYMN

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation
263 Pilgrim Hymnal

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Alive
Rudolf Dost (1877-1948)

† 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.

CHURCH SCHOOL'S BACK IN ACTION!

Church School Registration continues online and in person.
Click [HERE](#) to register online.

Church School this Sunday, Sept. 24 - Baking Bread and muffins for World Communion Sunday

Oct. 1 All Ages in church - World Communion Sunday

Oct. 8 Church School begins in classrooms

Pre-K & K: Blue Door

1 & 2: Purple Door

3 & 4: Silver Door

5 & 6: Rick's Room

(Subject to change depending on Teacher availability and attendance)



WE'VE GOT THE KIDS, NOW WE NEED THE TEACHERS!

Church School needs both students and teachers! Teaching is as easy as helping out one Sunday a month. The curriculum and materials are supplied. No experience necessary!

Whether being a regular teacher, a "1-Sunday-a-month"-er, a substitute, or an occasional Helping Hand-if you want our children to know the love of God and the love of neighbor, you're the right person. Prayerfully consider giving 45 minutes of your time on Sundays to our children whenever you can. Plus, you'll be amazed at how much you'll get out of it yourself!

QUARTERLY MEETING OCTOBER 1

Following Worship next Sunday, we will meet for a brief time to hear an update from the Church Council.

Topics include:

- Budget update and end of year 2022-2023 Financials
- Visioning Task Force Update
- Upcoming events planned for October and early November



Please come and learn about everything that has been happening within the Council and around the First Church grounds. Check your Friday Email Blast for information about joining on Zoom.

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES



Every Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. through November 15

Join Pastors Patrick and Cydney as we put the stories from the Bible into their original context and read them from a Jewish perspective. This engaging study is sure to provide new insights on the ancient stories throughout the Bible.

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 winter coats
- Ladies fall handbags
- Jewelry



CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

Cherub: K-2nd grade

Carol Woodman, director

Silver Door (Preschool level) 11:15-11:45

Celebration Singers: 3-6th grade

Craig Symons, director

3rd floor Music Room 11:15-12:00

Genesis Choir: 7-12th grade

Danny Young, director

3rd floor Choir Room 11:15-12:15



UPCOMING EVENTS

6TH THROUGH 12TH
YOUTH
SIP & DIP

WITH CIDER AND DONUTS

@ Coffee For Good

48 Maple Avenue —



9 AM - 12 PM, DROP IN ANYTIME!

SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023

(School is out, but we are on!)

KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG (203)637-1791 X824



**NEW THIS
YEAR!
PETTING
ZOO**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
GREENWICH

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pet to our Front Lawn for a Blessing with
Pastor Patrick and Pastor Cydney, visit our Petting Zoo,
and get your photo taken! Pets of all kinds are welcome!

Open to the Whole Community

12 pm to 3 pm
Saturday, September 30, 2023
First Congregational Church of Greenwich
108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich



INTEMPO
PRESENTS:
**SOUNDS FROM
LATINO AMERICA**

Hispanic Heritage Month Concert Series
GREENWICH CONCERT

Join us for a **unique, cultural and fun soundscape**, as INTEMPO
presents a variety of musical traditions from Latino America.

Presented in Partnership with:
First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Sunday, October 15 at 4PM
108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Concerts are being provided **free of cost**.
Donations are welcome and will be recognized as tax-deductible.
All are welcome; registration is encouraged.
For more information contact info@intempo.org



INTEMPO is a Stamford, CT-based youth-development organization that provides high-quality classical and intercultural music education to children predominantly from immigrant backgrounds and from communities underrepresented in the arts. The concert will feature high level artistry, including INTEMPO professional musicians and our advanced students.



TRUNK OR TREAT

AT FIRST CHURCH IN OLD GREENWICH
BACK PARKING LOT, 108 SOUND BEACH AVE, OLD GREENWICH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 | **\$10 PER FAMILY**
(ALL PROCEEDS TO
LOCAL CHARITIES)
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

CANDY, MUSIC, TREATS, FUN
MORE INFO
WWW.FCCOG.ORG



CALL-A-RIDE GREENWICH FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS AND MORE

At CALL-A-RIDE we provide free transportation weekdays for seniors age 60 or over within the Town of Greenwich. Our volunteer drivers also serve to create an atmosphere of understanding and camaraderie aiding seniors toward a full enjoyment of life.

We currently have a roster of some 58 volunteer drivers who cover 24 shifts Monday through Friday each week. Morning shifts run from 8:30 AM-12:15 PM and afternoon shifts run from 12:15 PM to 4:00 PM. Some drivers have regularly committed weekly shifts and others are available on a substitute basis. Drivers must be 25 years of age or older, possess a valid driver's license and be approved by C-A-R's automobile insurer. Many current drivers have volunteered with C-A-R for many years and derive a high degree of satisfaction from their service to others through C-A-R.

We are always looking for volunteer drivers – hopefully you will be so inclined and, in that event, kindly make initial contact with our office.

Contact Us

Call-A-Ride Of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place Greenwich, CT 06830

Phone: (203) 661-6633

Dispatchers: Ron March, Hilary Gunn

E-mail: call-a-ride@optimum.net

Web: <https://callaridegreenwich.org/our-service/>

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR FOOD COLLECTION

Did you know that there is a basket in the Meetinghouse entryway where you can drop off food for Neighbor to Neighbor?

Members of our Outreach Committee regularly take whatever is collected over to N2N to help those in need from the local area.

Tuna, chili, beans, canned fruit, rice, jelly, and other non-perishable items are needed to help stock their pantry.



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

Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry

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

Pastor Emeritus

Reverend Patrick Collins

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Khaleigh Laicher

Susan Asselin, RN

Wendy Spezzano

Greg Girolamo

Carolyn Samuel

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Sally Colegrove

