



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.

First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith.
Anyone who prefers to wear a mask at church should feel comfortable doing so.

Faith First-Love Always

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Romanza

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

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.

MOMENT FOR ANNUAL GIVING

Carolyn Paulus

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of the prophets, call to us today

All: Call us into your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the poets, remind us again how much you love us

All: Sing to us your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow you

All: Teach us your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of all creation, help us to know your ways

All: We gather to hear your call, to sing your praise, to teach each other, to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Father, We Praise Thee
41 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Oh God, you have been so gracious to us. You have given us so many wonderful gifts. They outnumber the stars in the sky! You have kept your promises to us, and you have been faithful! But we have forgotten your grace and your faithfulness. The idols that we enjoy; self-righteousness, safety, and prosperity entice us and ensnare us. We think that we are our own god and king, but that's who you are. We ask, God, that you continue to be faithful to your promise to love us, to walk with us, and to teach us. Strengthen us this week so that we may love, trust, and obey you, our gracious God.

**Moment of silence for personal reflection **

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Uma Utton

Daughter of Olivia and James Utton

BAPTISMAL PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Uma, that you will watch over her and guide her, as she grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

RESPONSE

Baptized In Water



Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the

Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the

sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 12: 1-11
Common English Bible
Lynn Robertson

Rehoboam went to Shechem where all Israel had come to make him king. When Jeroboam, Nebat's son, heard the news, he returned from Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon. The people sent and called for Jeroboam, who along with the entire Israelite assembly went and said to Rehoboam, "Your father made our workload very hard for us. If you will lessen the demands your father made of us and lighten the heavy workload he demanded from us, then we will serve you."

He answered them, "Come back in three days." So the people left.

King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive. "What do you advise?" Rehoboam asked. "How should I respond to these people?" "If you will be a servant to this people by answering them and speaking good words today," they replied, "then they will be your servants forever."

But Rehoboam ignored the advice the elders gave him and instead sought the counsel of the young advisors who had grown up with him and now served him. "What do you advise?" he asked them. "How should we respond to these people who have said to me, 'Lighten the workload your father demanded of us'?"

The young people who had grown up with him said to him, "This people said to you, 'Your father made our workload heavy; lighten it for us!' Now this is what you should say to them: 'My baby finger is thicker than my father's entire waist! So if my father made your workload heavy, I'll make it even heavier! If my father disciplined you with whips, I'll do it with scorpions!'"

ANTHEM

Rivers Of Babylon
Brent Dowe and Trevor McNaughton
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director
Matt Stolfi, piano

SECOND LESSON

1 Kings 12: 12-17, 25-29
Common English Bible

Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had specified when he said, "Come back to me in three days." The king then answered the people harshly. He ignored the elders' advice and instead followed the young people's advice. He said, "My father made your workload heavy, but I'll make it even heavier! My father disciplined you with whips, but I'll do it with scorpions!"

The king didn't listen to the people because this turn of events came from the Lord so that he might keep the promise he delivered through Ahijah from Shiloh concerning Jeroboam, Nebat's son. When all Israel saw that the king wouldn't listen to them, the people answered the king:

"Why should we care about David?

We have no stake in Jesse's son!

Go back to your homes, Israel!

You better look after your own house now, David!"

Then the Israelites went back to their homes, and Rehoboam ruled over only the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah.

Jeroboam fortified Shechem at Mount Ephraim and lived there. From there he also fortified Penuel. Jeroboam thought to himself, The kingdom is in danger of reverting to the house of David. If these people continue to sacrifice at the Lord's temple in Jerusalem, they will again become loyal to their master Rehoboam, Judah's king, and they will kill me so they can return to Judah's King Rehoboam. So the king asked for advice and then made two gold calves. He said to the people, "It's too far for you to go all the way up to Jerusalem. Look, Israel! Here are your gods who brought you out from the land of Egypt." He put one calf in Bethel, and the other he placed in Dan.

MESSAGE

How Did We Get So Divided?

Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

O God Of Love, O King Of Peace

447 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

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

Carol Woodman

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My God Is A Rock

Arr. Parker/Shaw

Thomas Woodman, baritone

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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

†HYMN

God Of Grace, And God Of Glory
366 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

God Of Grace
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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COMMUNITY HOUR

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

CHURCH SCHOOL IS BACK IN ACTION!

Oct. 29 Church School in classrooms

Nov. 5: All Ages Worship

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)



CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

Cherub Choir & Celebration Singers



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.

WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

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
Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. 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:

- Christmas things
- Kids winter coats
- Kids clothing all ages



GIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

G.I.F.T.
2024
ANNUAL GIVING

VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.IAMFIRST
CHURCH.COM/](http://www.iamfirstchurch.com/)



ANNUAL GIVING UPDATES

Our Annual Gift Giving drive has begun! On Sunday October 15, after worship, we were all treated to a delicious brunch, provided by our Annual Giving Committee. You will be receiving a letter from Patrick, if you haven't already, by mail, and we look forward to another wonderful year at First Church.

This past year we've served food to the homeless, raised money for local charities, held events and festivals to benefit members and our community as just a few examples. Your Annual Pledge

will really make a difference. Here are some ways it will be used:

- ☐ **Community Outreach:** Your donation will support our ongoing efforts to serve and uplift those in need within our local community.
- ☐ **Spiritual Growth Programs:** Your support will help us expand and enhance the programs that nurture the spiritual growth and well-being of our congregation members.
- ☐ **Facility Improvements:** Your contribution can assist in maintaining and improving our church facilities, ensuring a welcoming and safe space for all.

Thank you in advance to everyone who joins in our **Annual Giving Campaign 2024**. We are targeting Harvest Sunday as our official **Annual Giving Day, Sunday November 19**, when members are encouraged to bring their pledges to 10 a.m. worship.



HELP SERVE LUNCH

The New Covenant Center Cafe in Stamford is open for sit-down hot meals, and the popular opportunity of serving lunch to Cafe visitors is open for sign ups! All the luncheon food will be delivered from ShopRite. The volunteers will slice bread, arrange desserts, and serve the hot meal. The time commitment is 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. Masks are required. Scan the code to sign up for your spot.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

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.



CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS

Saturday, November 11 in First Church Lounge

Two options: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A certified instructor will teach American Heart Association CPR including the use of a defibrillator on children and adults. Participants ages 12 and up are allowed. The cost of the class is covered for a limited number of people who regularly attend First Church. Those teaching youngsters are especially encouraged to attend. Classes are appropriate for new and seasoned CPR students. Contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at susana@fccog.org or 203-637-1791 x 821 with any questions and to register for class.

MEDICARE ENROLLEES

Are you paying too much for your prescription drugs or insurance?

The open enrollment period for Medicare Part D prescription drug insurance is October 15 to December 7. The plan you have now may not be the most cost-effective plan next year. It is wise to review your options annually. Assistance navigating the Medicare.gov website is available with your parish nurse and through the Greenwich Commission on Aging. For an appointment with Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, contact Sue at susana@fccog.org or 203-637-1791 ext 821. For an appointment with a Town of Greenwich trained counselor, contact the Commission on Aging at 203-862-6710.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST MUSIC & ARTS CONCERT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 4 P.M.

Nothing compares to a brass quintet and a mighty organ. Brass players from Orchestra Lumos (formerly Stamford Symphony) join our own Craig Symons presenting truly transcendent music for the soul in a stunning church acoustic.

Donald Batchelder, trumpet

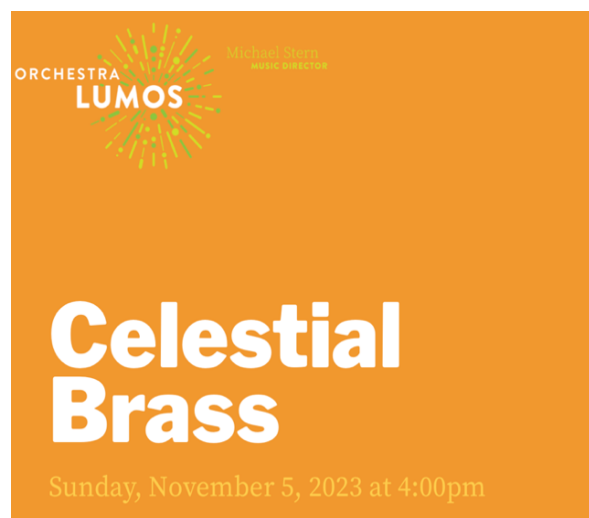
John Dent, trumpet

Eva Conti, horn

Richard Clark, trombone

Brian Brown, tuba

Craig Symons, organ



Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door.

They are available through the Orchestra Lumos website (www.orchestralumos.org)

*Greenwich and
Surrounding Areas*

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

OPEN TO ALL
GRADES 6TH-12TH

Semi-Monthly:

@ 4 pm on Sundays
LOCATION CHANGES,
LOOK FOR UPDATES!

Special Events:

Oct 22 @ 12 pm
APPLE PICKING AT MARCH
FARM IN BETHLEHEM, CT

Nov 12 @ 7 pm
FIRE PIT & SMORES AT
2ND CONG. GREENWICH

Nov 26 @ 5 pm
FRIENDSGIVING POTLUCK
AT 1ST CONG. GREENWICH

Dec 10 @ TBD
ONE-DAY MISSION PROJECT

Dec 31 @ 12 pm
NEW YEARS EVE
BRUNCH AT 2CC

Jan 14 @ 5 pm
MOVIE NIGHT HOSTED AT
A MEMBER'S HOUSE

Jan 28 @ 5 pm
PAINT AND SIP AT FCCOG

More about RYM:

The Regional Youth Ministry effort in lower Fairfield County strives to bring together any/all churches, community youth non-profit partners, and/or individual youth in a fun, inclusive, faith-filled group. The RYM's mission is led by youth, for youth.

All 6th-12th graders are WELCOME regardless of church affiliation or none. For more on RYM go to fccog.org/regional-youth-ministry.

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all