

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
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 the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, to the church, and to one another.

To welcome children as they are in worship, we have our **PrayGround**, located in the Chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse), where children and others of all ages can engage in worship through movement, sensory materials, and prayerful play.

The presence of all God's children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Scan the QR code for FAQ and tips about our PrayGround.



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

Awake, My Heart
Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)
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.*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has gathered us to this place,

All: **where we hear those stories, which show us what the kingdom of God is like.**

One: God summons us to this place,

All: **where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.**

One: God will send us from this place,

All: **to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers
362 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Dear God, through your merciful love and forgiveness you bring healing and restoration to body, soul, and mind. May your healing power and love touch every area of our lives; our innermost thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and memories. Forgive us of our transgressions and transform us in the power of your Holy Spirit that we may walk confidently in your truth and righteousness. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

**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.

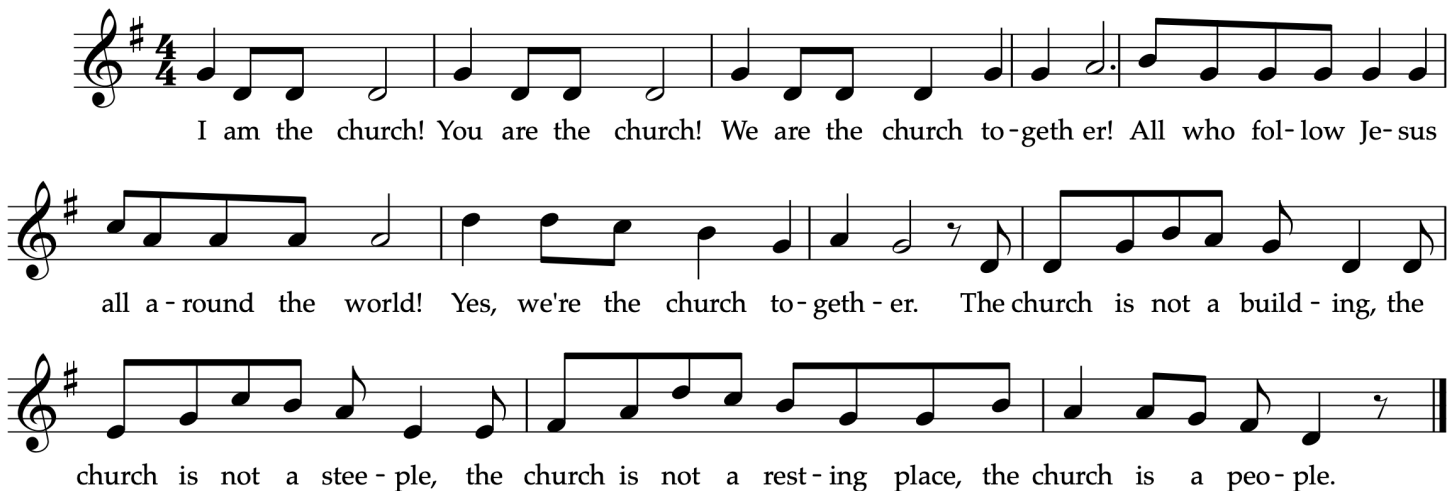
One: God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ with a hand to hand, eye to eye, and heart to heart greeting.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

We Are The Church



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to-gether! All who fol-low Je-sus
all a-round the world! Yes, we're the church to-geth-er. The church is not a build-ing, the
church is not a stee-ple, the church is not a rest-ing place, the church is a peo-ple.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the singing of the response, children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus



I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-
cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

FIRST LESSON

Mark 2:13-22
Common English Bible
Carol Woodman

Jesus went out beside the lake again. The whole crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he continued along, he saw Levi, Alphaeus' son, sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Levi got up and followed him.

Jesus sat down to eat at Levi's house. Many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus and his disciples. Indeed, many of them had become his followers. When some of the legal experts from among the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, "Why is he eating with sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

John's disciples and the Pharisees had a habit of fasting. Some people asked Jesus, "Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees' disciples fast, but yours don't?"

Jesus said, "The wedding guests can't fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they can't fast. But the days will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

"No one sews a piece of new, unshrunk cloth on old clothes; otherwise, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and makes a worse tear. No one pours new wine into old leather wineskins; otherwise, the wine would burst the wineskins and the wine would be lost and the wineskins destroyed. But new wine is for new wineskins."

ANTHEM

And The Father Will Dance
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Mark 2:1-12
Common English Bible

After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door. Jesus was speaking the word to them. Some people arrived, and four of them were bringing to him a man who was paralyzed. They couldn't carry him through the crowd, so they tore off part of the roof above where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven!"

Some legal experts were sitting there, muttering among themselves, “Why does he speak this way? He’s insulting God. Only the one God can forgive sins.”

Jesus immediately recognized what they were discussing, and he said to them, “Why do you fill your minds with these questions? Which is easier—to say to a paralyzed person, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take up your bed, and walk’? But so you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed, “Get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Jesus raised him up, and right away he picked up his mat and walked out in front of everybody. They were all amazed and praised God, saying, “We’ve never seen anything like this!”

MESSAGE

Forgiveness And Wholeness
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

I Danced In The Morning
157 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

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

Juliet Primo

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Recit De Cromhorne
Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
606 Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

To God Be The Glory
634 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

Preambulum in F
Vincent Lübeck (1654-1740)

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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 January are members of the Caring Ministries committee.

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Jan 14: One-Room Schoolhouse

Jan 21 & 28: Regular Church School

Pre-K - 2: Blue Door

3 - 6: Rick's Room

(Subject to change depending on teacher availability and attendance)



CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

As we begin a new year, this is the great time to join a choir! Even if you can only be part of the group for a few months until spring sports start, this is your chance to explore what it means to share your talent with a wonderful group of friends. Check us out 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

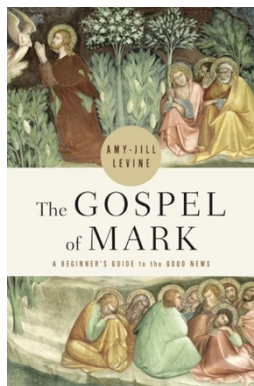
SHARE YOUR LIGHT

Join us for a three-week series as we explore what it means to share the light that God has put in every one of us! We will discuss, learn about, and experience why Church School matters to a local congregation. We will envision together what this looks like for not only First Church but for us in our own lives.

On February 4th, as a whole congregation, we will have an opportunity to worship through Church School!

“We all have a light to shine. Pass it on.”





FAITH FORMATION: BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Wednesdays through February 14

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge

All are welcome to join Pastors Patrick and Cydney for this group discussion about the Gospel of Mark. We will explore the historical context of this first account of Jesus' life and ministry and how it is still relevant to us today.

WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY

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.



Since 1943, as Yale's classiest a cappella group, the Cats have created over 400 original arrangements from jazz standard to Motown, timeless oldies to contemporary chart-toppers.

Free admission with free-will offering – a great concert for all ages!

YALE ALLEY CATS SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 - 4 P.M.



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:

Anything spring for adults and children - clothing, shoes, handbags.



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, February 4 following the worship service. Hear important updates from your Church Council and other items in the life of First Church!

MEETINGHOUSE FLOWERS

Flowers in the Meetinghouse on Sunday mornings are something we all enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our worship space, but are given to honor very special people or occasions in our lives. In addition to remembering a loved one, you can give flowers in celebration of:

- Marriages
- Anniversaries
- Baptisms
- Birthdays
- To say “congratulations” or “thank you.”

Donors can be an individual or a group.

This year, why not consider a Sunday when you would like to thank God and honor a special person or memorable moment in your life with a gift of flowers? Mail or drop off your check for \$100 to the Church Office (payable to First Congregational Church) with detailed information on who or what you would like recognized and we'll take care of the rest! Following worship, your flowers can be taken home, or will be reorganized into smaller arrangements and distributed to homebound or ill members who would enjoy a token of beauty in their homes. Deadline for donations is at least 2 weeks in advance of the Sunday to guarantee floral arrangements. Contact Craig Symons for further information.



NEW YEAR INVOLVEMENT



As 2024 spreads out before you, why not take the opportunity to serve First Church as an usher, a scripture reader, or call to offering reader?

Use our SignUpGenius page to sign yourself up through May, 2024 (usher slots are available through December, 2024). Simply head to our website www.fccog.org, scroll to the bottom left side under “Quick Links”, and select the way in which you'd like to serve!

THE 2024 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE

Do you have a favorite soup recipe, or a love of cooking? It's time to dust off your soup-making-skills by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or several quarts!) of soup or chili to the FCCOG Women's Fellowship Fundraiser. The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday February 11 from 11 am to 1 pm. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each.

Please sign up to donate after church in the auditorium beginning Sunday January 14, and continuing for the next several Sundays. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up. You may also sign up at the Church Front Office between 3 pm and 10 am Monday to Friday, and collect your quart soup containers here too. This annual event is easy, inexpensive and popular for those who love to cook, and those who love to eat! This is the only Women's Fellowship fundraiser for the year. Please contact Sue Wilder for more information swilder102@gmail.com



REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

6th to 12th Grade Regional Youth Ministry Lock-In

Glow in The Dark

📍 *First Cong. Church of Greenwich*
108 Sound Beach Avenue

Drop Off: Fri, Jan 26th @ 6pm
Pick Up: Sat, Jan 27th @ 12pm



Email to RSVP
KhaleighL
@FCCOG.org

Pizza, laser tag, cookie baking, painting, & more!

<https://www.fccog.org/regional-youth-ministry/>

6TH-12TH GRADE REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY

MOVIE NIGHT

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

139 E. PUTNAM AVE

JOIN US AND PLAY BINGO FOR
GOFER'S ICE CREAM & MORE

January 14th, 2024 @ 5 PM



COLORING PAGE

Keep your lessons.
Let go of your scars.
Make tomorrow
a new day.

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

Director of First Church Preschool

Assistant Director of First Church Preschool

Preschool Administrative Assistant

Pastor Emerita

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

Beth Genovese

Kayla Vozzella

Karina Germosen

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all