

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024  
THIRD 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.

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## 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

*Cantilena*  
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)  
Diana Basso, flute  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

*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: Let anyone with ears listen!

**All: We listen to the wisdom of Christ**

One: Jesus proclaims the reign of God

**All: In everyday things, so we can clearly see it.**

One: Therefore we will sing

**All: And we will pray,**

One: And we will listen,

**All: And we will wait,**

One: That God's seed may take root in us,

**All: That God's abundance may flourish in us,**

One: That we may awaken to this day,

**All: And all the generosity that God has to offer us,**

One: To share the light of Christ shining within,

**All: To pass it on for all to know and see God's love.**

### †CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*The God Of Abraham Praise*  
14 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

### MOMENT OF MINISTRY

Angelica Castro and Elmer Segura

† Please rise in body or in spirit



## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of Creation, by your wisdom and Holy Spirit, make our hearts to be good soil, rich and nourishing, so that when we hear your word, it will grow in us and bear fruit for the sake of all that you have made. Forgive us when we think it is easier to hide our light than to shine bright with our faith. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to share. 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)

*We Are The Church*

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er! 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.



## FIRST LESSON

Mark 4:1-20  
Common English Bible  
Charles Stuckey

Jesus began to teach beside the lake again. Such a large crowd gathered that he climbed into a boat there on the lake. He sat in the boat while the whole crowd was nearby on the shore. He said many things to them in parables. While teaching them, he said, "Listen to this! A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path; and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. When the sun came up, it scorched the plants; and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked the seeds, and they produced nothing. Other seed fell into good soil and bore fruit. Upon growing and increasing, the seed produced in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of one hundred to one." He said, "Whoever has ears to listen should pay attention!"

When they were alone, the people around Jesus, along with the Twelve, asked him about the parables. He said to them, "The secret of God's kingdom has been given to you, but to those who are outside everything comes in parables. This is so that they can look and see but have no insight, and they can hear but not understand. Otherwise, they might turn their lives around and be forgiven.

"Don't you understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The farmer scatters the word. This is the meaning of the seed that fell on the path: When the word is scattered and people hear it, right away Satan comes and steals the word that was planted in them. Here's the meaning of the seed that fell on rocky ground: When people hear the word, they immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. Others are like the seed scattered among the thorny plants. These are the ones who have heard the word; but the worries of this life, the false appeal of wealth, and the desire for more things break in and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. The seed scattered on good soil are those who hear the word and embrace it. They bear fruit, in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case sixty to one, and in another case one hundred to one."

## ANTHEM

*Prayer For Today*  
Margaret Tucker (b. 1936)  
The Chancel Choir  
Diana Basso, flute

Jesus went on: “Does anyone bring a lamp home and put it under a bucket or beneath the bed? Don’t you put it up on a table or on the mantel? We’re not keeping secrets, we’re telling them; we’re not hiding things, we’re bringing them out into the open.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?

“Listen carefully to what I am saying—and be wary of the shrewd advice that tells you how to get ahead in the world on your own. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes.”

Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

“How can we picture God’s kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It’s like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it.”

With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

### MESSAGE

*Caught, Not Taught*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

### †HYMN

*He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought*  
370 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

### PRAYER SHAWL DEDICATION

### 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## CALL TO OFFERING

Sarah Stuckey

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Praise God In His Holiness*  
Cecil Armstrong Gibbs (1889-1960)  
The Chancel Choir

## †DOXOLOGY

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

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Carolyn Paulus

## †HYMN

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*  
63 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

## †BENEDICTION

## †CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Pass It On*



It on - ly takes a spark, to get a fire\_\_ go - ing\_\_\_\_\_ and soon all those a-round can  
warm up in its glow - ing;\_\_\_\_\_ that's how it is with God's love once you've ex -  
per-i-enced it:\_\_\_ you spread his love to ev - 'ry - one, you want to pass it on.

## POSTLUDE

*Allegro*  
George Friderich Handel (1685-1759)  
Diana Basso, flute

† 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 January are members of the  
Caring Ministries committee.



## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Jan 21 & 28: Regular Church School

Feb 4: All-Ages Worship

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-2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Carol Woodman, director - Silver Door (Preschool level) 11:15-11:45

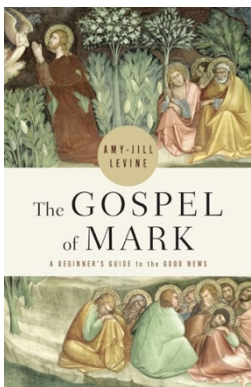
**Celebration Singers:** 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade - Craig Symons, director - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Music Room 11:15-12:00

**Genesis Choir:** 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade - Danny Young, director - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Choir Room 11:15-12:15

## TODAY - SHARE YOUR LIGHT

Jan. 21 & Jan. 28, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://thewiredword.com)

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





## YALE ALLEY CATS SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 – 4 P.M.

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. From business manager Charles Calkins: "Coming off of our recent winter tour to San Diego and Hawaii, this year's group has tight harmonies and even tighter friendships. We tapped 6 wonderful new members, who we call "kittens," in the group last September, and they've already incorporated themselves into the group seamlessly."



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



## 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: Jewelry, table linens, small electronics.

## 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!



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



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

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



## **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 11:00 am to 1:00 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. 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](mailto:swilder102@gmail.com)**

### **INVITATION: SOUP MAKING TOGETHER!**

If you would like to make soup and chili together you are all invited to Ginny Breismeister's home in Old Greenwich, tomorrow, Monday January 22 at 6:00 pm. We will be making soup for the fundraiser "Souper Bowl Sunday Soup & Chili Sale". All the ingredients for the soup will be provided. Please bring your drink of choice and perhaps an appetizer to share. All are welcome! Come for a fun evening of cooking, chatting and laughter. RSVPs are appreciated to Sue Wilder [swilder102@gmail.com](mailto:swilder102@gmail.com)





# February Friendsgiving

Do you have a home you would like to open up for a February Friendsgiving event, or are you willing to co-host with someone who is?

We'd love to have a number of hosts, each hosting as many people as you'd like - from 6 to 20! - for a meal occasion of your choice (coffee morning, brunch, lunch, tea, cocktails, or dinner) to create a number of intergenerational, casual social events where FCCOG members can get to know each other better.

To sign up as a host or a co-host scan below



Contact Cynthia De Riemer on 203 918 1523 or  
Betsy Kreuter on 203 832 8113 with any questions

# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich CT 06870  
203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://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



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OF CHRIST  
a just world for all