



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024  
FOURTH 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.



## GET THE FAMILY MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Using your smartphone camera, scan the QR code here to sign up for our weekly Family Ministry newsletter. You can read about Church School, Regional Youth Ministry, and more!

## 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

*Jesus, My Redeemer Lives*  
*Blessed Jesus, We Are Here*  
Max Reger (1873-1916)  
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: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it!

All: **From the east to the west, from the north to the south, God's Spirit moves across the face of the earth.**

One: From the east to the west, from the north to the south, we gather together, united by God's Spirit, to celebrate God's glory and proclaim His praise!

All: **Let's worship God together!**

### †CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
93 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### MOMENT OF MINISTRY

John and Katie Magovern

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. I put my trust in you, O God, do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let those be ashamed who neglect your faithfulness, and who act with evil intent. Teach me your ways, O God and guide me in your paths. 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. *Fine* 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. *D.C.*

## 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

*Psalm 24*  
Common English Bible  
Lynn Robertson

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,  
the world and its inhabitants too.  
Because God is the one who established it on the seas;  
God set it firmly on the waters.

Who can ascend the Lord's mountain?  
Who can stand in his holy sanctuary?  
Only the one with clean hands and a pure heart;  
the one who hasn't made false promises,  
the one who hasn't sworn dishonestly.  
That kind of person receives blessings from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God who saves.  
And that's how things are  
with the generation that seeks him—  
that seeks the face of Jacob's God. *Selah*

Mighty gates: lift up your heads!  
Ancient doors: rise up high!  
So the glorious king can enter!  
Who is this glorious king?  
The Lord—strong and powerful!  
The Lord—powerful in battle!  
Mighty gates: lift up your heads!  
Ancient doors: rise up high!  
So the glorious king can enter!  
Who is this glorious king?  
The Lord of heavenly forces—  
he is the glorious king!

## ANTHEM

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*  
Arr. Joel Raney (b. 1956)  
Palmer Handbell Quartet  
Kim Rogers, Colette Rogers, Debbie Silverthorn, Julie Laicher

Jesus and his disciples came to the other side of the lake, to the region of the Gerasenes. As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out of the tombs. This man lived among the tombs, and no one was ever strong enough to restrain him, even with a chain. He had been secured many times with leg irons and chains, but he broke the chains and smashed the leg irons. No one was tough enough to control him. Night and day in the tombs and the hills, he would howl and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from far away, he ran and knelt before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

He said this because Jesus had already commanded him, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man!"

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He responded, "Legion is my name, because we are many." They pleaded with Jesus not to send them out of that region.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. "Send us into the pigs!" they begged. "Let us go into the pigs!" Jesus gave them permission, so the unclean spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

Those who tended the pigs ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the man who used to be demon-possessed. They saw the very man who had been filled with many demons sitting there fully dressed and completely sane, and they were filled with awe. Those who had actually seen what had happened to the demon-possessed man told the others about the pigs. Then they pleaded with Jesus to leave their region.

While he was climbing into the boat, the one who had been demon-possessed pleaded with Jesus to let him come along as one of his disciples. But Jesus wouldn't allow it. "Go home to your own people," Jesus said, "and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has shown you mercy." The man went away and began to proclaim in the Ten Cities all that Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

## MESSAGE

*Go With God*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*Jesus, Lover Of My Soul*  
440 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

Meaghan Gruppo

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Sing A New Song*  
Roland Martin (b. 1955)  
The Chancel Choir

### †DOXOLOGY

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

### †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mariann Ekernas

### †HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
65 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †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

*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 January are members of the Caring Ministries committee.

## HEALTHIER COMMUNITY HOUR & BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

Hosted by the Wellness Committee, find inspiration for a healthier 2024 including some keto friendly snacks. Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse is available for blood pressure screenings in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage.



## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**Jan 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- YALE ALLEY CATS – 4 P.M.



Since 1943, as Yale's classiest a cappella group, the Cats have created over 400 original arrangements from jazz standards 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!





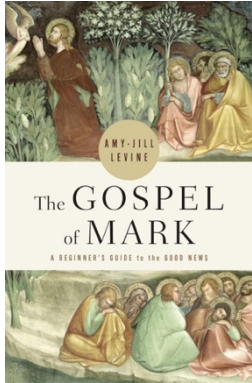
## TODAY - SHARE YOUR LIGHT



As we each share the light given to us, use your smartphone camera to scan this QR code and sign up to be a part of Church School in some way!

Explore how you can “pass it on” through teaching, co-leading, being a Sunday Super, serving on the Faith Formation Committee, and more!

“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.



### 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:

Spring kids shoes - Spring handbags - Ladies spring blouses

### SAVE THE DATE

Plan to attend the quarterly meeting on Sunday, February 4 following the worship service. Hear important updates in the life of First Church from your Church Council, including:



- Vision Task Force Update
- Regional Youth Ministry Update
- Bell Tower Repairs
- Annual Giving Update
- Christmas Tree Sale Results



## ***KNIT AND NOSH***

Wednesday, January 31 at 7-9 p.m. in Rick's Room.

All are welcome to join. Learn more about the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Make some new friends. Have some refreshments. Even those who don't knit can find their niche (sewing labels or adding fringe perhaps). RSVPS appreciated to [angelamessinastevens@gmail.com](mailto:angelamessinastevens@gmail.com)



# **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 and volunteer 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)**



# 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