

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
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.



## 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

*Greensleeves*

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

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 comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

**All: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.**

One: God embraces the wounded and broken.

**All: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

One: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

**All: God is the light of our lives.**

One: God is the one who makes all things new.

**All: Praise be to God, now and forevermore!**

### †CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*We Three Kings*

151 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Forgive us, O God, when we deprive people of the love we owe them as people unconditionally loved by you. Help us to see people with Jesus' eyes and to be moved by his compassion so that we become active and fearless bearers of healing and mercy. Empower us with your Spirit to be barrier-breakers rather than barrier-builders and remind us, if necessary, over and over, that nothing can separate us, or others, from your love as we experience it in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior. This we pray in his name. 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)

*He Came Down*

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

*Additional stanzas:*

... that we may have light  
... that we may have peace  
... that we may have joy

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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



## RESPONSE

Go, My Children

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.

## FIRST LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12  
Common English Bible  
Joe McBride

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. <sup>4</sup> He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## ANTHEM

*In The Bleak Mid-Winter*  
Jason Krug (b. 1978)  
Palmer Handbell Quartet  
Debbie Silverthorn, Angela Stevens, Julie Laicher, Lynn Hawxhurst

## SECOND LESSON

Mark 1:35-45  
Common English Bible

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, “Everyone’s looking for you!”

He replied, “Let’s head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That’s why I’ve come.” He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

A man with a skin disease approached Jesus, fell to his knees, and begged, “If you want, you can make me clean.”

Incensed, Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do want to. Be clean.” Instantly, the skin disease left him, and he was clean. Sternly, Jesus sent him away, saying, “Don’t say anything to anyone. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifice for your cleansing that Moses commanded. This will be a testimony to them.” Instead, he went out and started talking freely and spreading the news so that Jesus wasn’t able to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, but people came to him from everywhere.

## MESSAGE

*Can You Keep A Secret?*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard On High*  
113 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

*In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.*

*Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle,  
receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.*

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## 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

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Shepherd's Farewell*  
Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)  
The Chancel Choir

*Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.  
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.  
Loving father, Loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!*

*Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear.  
In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!  
May the shepherd's lowly calling, ever to thy heart be dear!*

*Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!  
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!  
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!*

Trans. Paul England

### †DOXOLOGY

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

### †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### †HYMN

*As With Gladness Men Of Old*  
150 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †BENEDICTION

### †CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

# 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 7:** All-ages worship

**Jan 14:** One-Room Schoolhouse

**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

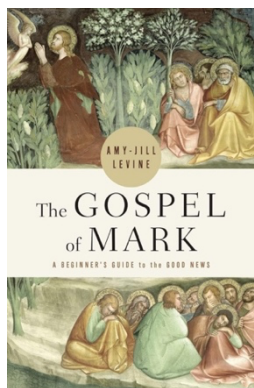


As we begin a new year, this is the great time to join a choir! Even if you can only be part of the group for a few months until spring sports start, this is your chance to explore what it means to share your talent with a wonderful group of friends. Check us out today!!

**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



## FAITH FORMATION: BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Wednesday, January 10 – Wednesday, 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.

Free admission - 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:

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

# FCCOG CHRISTMAS TREE

## Collection



**ONLY  
\$35**

**BOOK  
NOW**

**SIGN UP  
LINK IN  
EBLAST**

STAY AT HOME!  
JUST LEAVE THE TREE OUTSIDE- WE RECYCLE FOR YOU!

**SATURDAYS: DEC 30 & JAN 6, 10AM-3PM**

**SUNDAYS: DEC 31 & JAN 7, 12-4PM**

**A REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY  
FUNDRAISER!**



## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, February 4 following our 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](http://www.fccog.org), scroll to the bottom left side under “Quick

Links”, and select the way in which you’d like to serve!



# Share Your Light:

THE LIVING FAITH OF CHURCH SCHOOL

**JAN 21 | JAN 28 | FEB 4**

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

## REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



### BRUNCH AND PARTY GAMES

Nine youth from First Congregational (FCCOG) & Second Congregational (2CC) meet for brunch and games in the church's lounge this past Sunday! We had a great time welcoming in the New Year, eating food, and catching up about Christmas. Thank you all for your support of Regional Youth Ministry!

Khaleigh Laicher

*Director of FCCOG Church School &*

*Director of Regional Youth Ministry*

A colorful poster for a 'Movie Night' event. The text is centered and reads: '6TH-12TH GRADE REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY' in black, 'MOVIE NIGHT' in large yellow letters, 'SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH' in red, and '139 E. PUTNAM AVE' in red. Below this, it says 'JOIN US AND PLAY BINGO FOR GOFER'S ICE CREAM & MORE' in black. At the bottom, a black box contains the text 'January 14th, 2024 @ 5 PM' in white. The poster is decorated with a yellow popcorn bucket on the left and a red cup with a straw on the right.

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**

# 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



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all