



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024  
SIXTH 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*

The flowers on the altar are in memory of our parents:  
Arthur C. and Catherine G. Weigner, given by sons, Stephen and Ronald.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*Suite In D Major*  
Leonardo Vinci (1690-1730)  
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 touches the world,

**All: and the world changes.**

One: God touches us,

**All: and we are transformed.**

One: In the brightest of day,

**All: in the deepest of night,**

One: on the mountain,

**All: in the valley,**

One: everywhere.

**All: In this time, together, we invite God to open our eyes to the transformation of our lives.**

One: And through the change,

**All: we worship God. Alleluia!**

### CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Come, Christians, Join To Sing*  
267 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters, and on the mountain tops, enthralled with the glory that flows from you. When we fail to listen to your voice leading and guiding us, shake us from our contentment and send us forward endowed with your power. 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 are released to "Classrooms" within the Meetinghouse.*

*Church School remains in the Meetinghouse for the rest of the service.*

### 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 8:27-38  
Common English Bible  
Pat Larrabee

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

They told him, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets.”

He asked them, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

## ANTHEM

*Alleluia* (from *Brazilian Psalm*)  
Jean Berger (1909-2002)  
The Chancel Choir  
Vance Briceland, piano

## SECOND LESSON

Mark 9:1-13  
Common English Bible

Jesus continued, “I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see God’s kingdom arrive in power.”

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good that we’re

here. Let's make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He said this because he didn't know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead. So they kept it to themselves, wondering, “What's this ‘rising from the dead’?” They asked Jesus, “Why do the legal experts say that Elijah must come first?”

He answered, “Elijah does come first to restore all things. Why was it written that the Human One would suffer many things and be rejected? In fact, I tell you that Elijah has come, but they did to him whatever they wanted, just as it was written about him.”

## MESSAGE

*To The Mountaintop*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
630 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.*

## 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

Lynn Hawxhurst

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Daniel, Daniel, Servant Of The Lord*  
Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989)  
The Chancel Choir  
Daniel Young, tenor  
Thomas Woodman, baritone

## †DOXOLOGY

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

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*Alleluia! Sing To Jesus*  
260 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †BENEDICTION

## †BURYING OUR ALLELUIAS

One: When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified.

**All: Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.**

One: Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross.

**All: Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.**

One: Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me."

**All: Sometimes we must let go of our Alleluia.**

One: At Easter we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing "Christ is risen."

**All: In God's time, we will find our Alleluia!**

One: For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia."

**All: Sometimes we let go of our Alleluia.**

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*Psalm 19*  
Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

†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 February are members of the Budget committee.

## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Feb 11: All-Ages Worship (w/communion)

Feb 18: One-Room Schoolhouse

Feb 25: Regular Church School

Mar 3: All-Ages Worship (w/communion)



## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage.

During the week, she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

## CHOIR REHEARSALS 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

## Lenten Organ Recitals

*February 21 – Marnus Lively-Greyling  
St. Barnabas Episcopal, Greenwich*

*February 28 – Nathan Lively-Greyling  
St. John's Lutheran, Stamford*

*March 6 – Victoria Shields  
Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal, Westport*

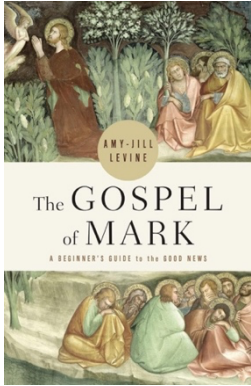
*March 13 – Terence Flanagan  
First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan*

**Wednesdays 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
Free admission**

*March 20 – Jamie Hitel  
Christ Church, Greenwich*



## FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



### BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

**Final class is this Wednesday - 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.

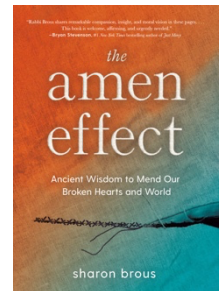


### THE AMEN EFFECT

**February 21<sup>st</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**First Church Lounge**

Join us Wednesday evenings during the season of lent for an engaging discussion on an inspiring book about the power of community by one of our country's most prominent rabbis.



Sharon Brous, a leading American rabbi, makes the case that the spiritual work of our time, as instinctual as it is counter-cultural, is to find our way to one other in celebration, in sorrow, and in solidarity. To show up for each other in moments of joy and pain, vulnerability and possibility, to invest in relationships of shared purpose and build communities of care.

Books can be purchased through all major booksellers. If you'd like Pastor Patrick to order a copy, please let the office know.

### 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:

Table linens for spring - Cookbooks - Children's spring shoes



## THE 2024 “SOUPER BOWL” SOUP & CHILI SALE



Today Is The “Souper Bowl” Soup & Chili Sale!

The Women’s Fellowship fundraiser takes place immediately following the service in the auditorium. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10.00 each. You may pay with cash or check. There is a varied selection of items guaranteed to delight your palate! Please bring a grocery bag from home.

## ASHES TO GO

On Ash Wednesday, February 14 from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., you’re invited to drive through the First Church parking lot to receive ashes, to claim repentance, grace and deep relationship with God for the challenges of your daily life.

“Ashes to Go” is about bringing spirit, belief, and belonging out from behind church doors, and into the places where we go every day. It’s a simple event with deep meaning, drawing on centuries of tradition and worship to provide a contemporary moment of grace.



First Congregational Church of Greenwich

**FEBRUARY  
FRIENDSGIVING**

*2024 Guest Sign Up*

### OPTIONS

Friday February 16 Dinner at the Eknas  
Thursday February 22 Coffee at Juliet Primo's  
Friday February 23 Cocktails at the Meyers  
Friday February 23 Dinner at Edgehill  
Saturday February 24 Cocktails at Gigi & Tom's  
Sunday February 25 Afternoon Tea at Carolyn Samuel's  
Wednesday February 28 Brunch at Collette Rogers'

### SIGN UP?

Please sign up by scanning the QR code.

Further specific details will be sent to guests by email prior to each event. You can also sign up at Community Hour on Sundays' or by calling Carolyn Samuel at the Church Office 203 637 1791 x850,



## NOW SERVING DINNER

**NEW  
COVENANT  
CENTER** | focused on  
hunger prevention  
and social services  
for a better life  
A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The very popular opportunity to serve a meal for New Covenant Center Cafe visitors is open for sign-ups! All the food will be delivered from ShopRite. Volunteers will slice bread, arrange desserts, and serve the hot meal.

**The NEW time commitment is  
4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. on the  
first Monday of the month.**

Scan the code below to sign up for your spot!




# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2024

## Spring Church School Schedule

JANUARY <b>28</b>	FEBRUARY ♦	FEBRUARY ♦	FEBRUARY ●	FEBRUARY
CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL AS WORSHIP!	COMMUNION SUNDAY	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL

MARCH ♦	MARCH	MARCH	MARCH ♦	MARCH 
<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>
COMMUNION SUNDAY	CHURCH SCHOOL	CHURCH SCHOOL	PALM SUNDAY	EASTER EGG DYING & HUNT

 AT TOD'S POINT!	Easter Sunday				
MARCH	MARCH ♦	MARCH ♦	APRIL ♦	APRIL ●	
<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	
6:30 BEACH SERVICE	9:00 CHURCH SERVICE	11:00 CHURCH SERVICE	COMMUNION SUNDAY	CHURCH SCHOOL	

APRIL ●	APRIL ♦	MAY ♦	MAY  TIME TBD	MAY
<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>
CHURCH SCHOOL	RISE AGAINST HUNGER	MUSIC SUNDAY	PILGRIM TOWERS	CHURCH SCHOOL

MAY ♦	MAY ●	JUNE ♦
<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	CHURCH SCHOOL	CELEBRATION SUNDAY

?s: [KhaleighL@fccog.org](mailto:KhaleighL@fccog.org) | [www.FCCOG.org](http://www.FCCOG.org)

### Key:

♦ EVERYONE IS IN THE MEETINGHOUSE FOR ALL-AGES WORSHIP

● ALL PRE-K TO 6TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE IN A CLASS TOGETHER FOR A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE

# 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