



Faith First - Love Always

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
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.



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

Adoration

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Dorothy Darlington, oboe

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

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: In a world that cries out, "Fear me!"

All: We will listen to Jesus' words, "Don't be afraid!"

One: In a world that wants us to hate the other.

All: We will live Jesus' call to love God, and love our neighbor, as we love ourselves.

One: In a world that radicalizes.

All: We, too, will be radical. Radical with our hospitality. Radical with our hope.
Radical with our love.

One: Come to this place, ready to be who we are called to be.

All: Let us gather together and worship God.

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

In The Cross Of Christ I Glory

157 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone, even You, more than we love ourselves.

Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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)

I've Got Peace Like A River (1st verse only)
623 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

ANTHEM

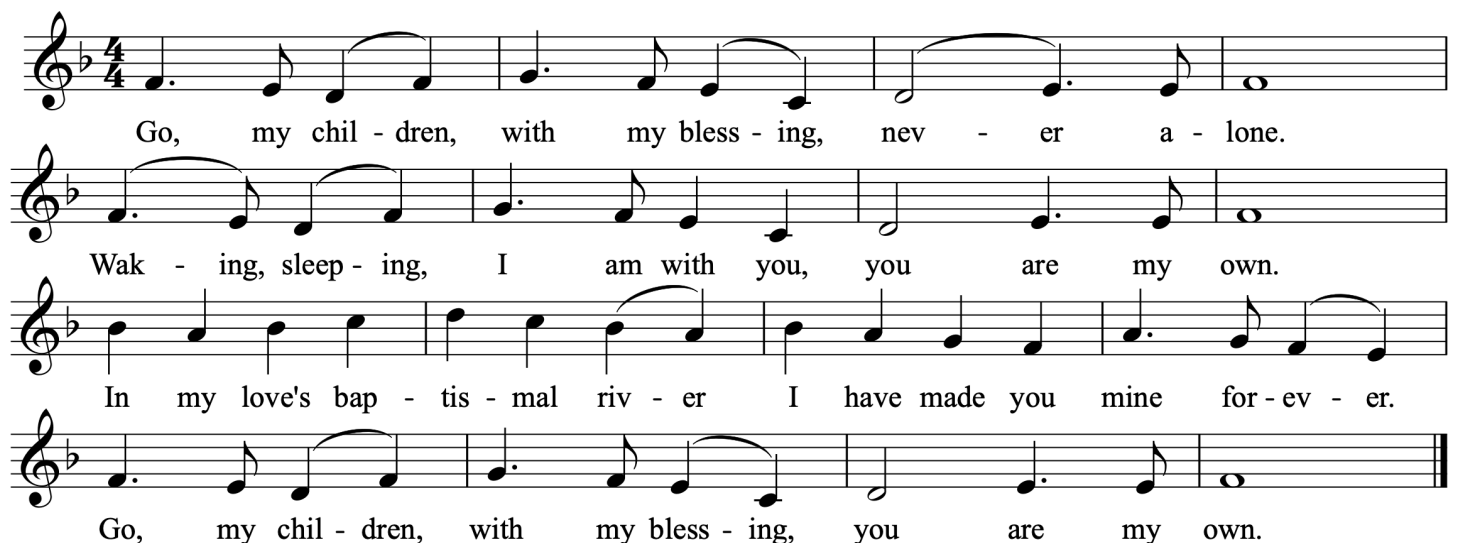
Sing Out, Earth And Skies
Marty Haugen (b. 1950)
The Celebration Singers
Vance Briceland, piano

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

Mark 12:28-34
New Revised Standard Version
Mariann Ekernas

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

ANTHEM

Wings Of The Morning
Alice Parker (1925-2023)
The Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON

Mark 12:35-44
New Revised Standard Version

While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet."
"David himself calls him Lord, so how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

MESSAGE

Giving With Love
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Lord, Speak To Me, That I May Speak
397 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

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

Robin DuCharme Pastore

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say
Marty Wheeler Burnett (b.1961)

†DOXOLOGY

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian
353 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Shalom To You

Sha - lom to you, now, sha - lom my friends. May God's full
mer - cies bless you my friends. In all your liv - ing
and through your lov - ing Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom.

†POSTLUDE

Vivace
Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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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 March are members of the Personnel committee.

COMMUNITY HOUR



CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Mar 10, 17: Regular Church School

Mar 24: All-Ages Worship – Palm Sunday

Mar 31: All-Ages Worship – Easter Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS 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



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.

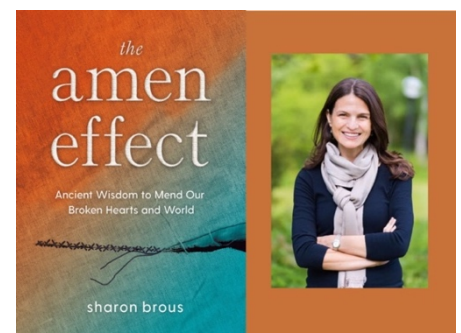
FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

THE AMEN EFFECT

Wednesdays through March 20th 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.

In chapter four, Rabbi Brous invites us to discover and pursue our purpose and passion in life, and to use our gifts and talents to make a positive difference in the world. She also warns us of the dangers of complacency and apathy and urges us to stay awake and alert to the needs and opportunities around us.

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.



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! (Donations have been low recently – time for some spring cleaning and support the Rummage Room!)



FINAL PERFORMANCES IN FIRST MUSIC & ARTS CONCERT SERIES



Lenten Organ Recitals

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

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

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

*March 6 – Kevin Bailey
First Presbyterian Church, Stamford*

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

*March 20 – Jamie Hitel
Christ Church, Greenwich*

Ensemble BREVE –

The Magic of the German Baroque – Telemann, Bach, & Handel
Sunday, April 7, 2024 - 4 p.m.

Deborah Booth, recorder, Jeremy Rhizor, violin
Lisa Terry, viola da gamba/baroque cello
Stephen Rapp, harpsichord



Pavel Gintov, piano

Sunday, May 5, 2024 4 p.m.

Ukrainian-born pianist Pavel Gintov brings his fiery energy to the Steinway piano in the First Church Auditorium.



CALL-A-RIDE GREENWICH - Free Transportation For Seniors And More

At CALL-A-RIDE we provide free transportation weekdays for seniors age 60 or over within the Town of Greenwich. Our volunteer drivers also serve to create an atmosphere of understanding and camaraderie aiding seniors toward a full enjoyment of life.

We currently have a roster of volunteer drivers who cover 24 shifts Monday through Friday each week. Morning shifts run from 8:30 AM-12:15 PM and afternoon shifts run from 12:15 PM to 4:00 PM. Some drivers have regularly committed weekly shifts and others are available on a substitute basis. Drivers must be 25 years of age or older, possess a valid driver's license and be approved by C-A-R's automobile insurer. Many current drivers have volunteered with C-A-R for many years and derive a high degree of satisfaction from their service to others through C-A-R.

We are always looking for volunteer drivers - hopefully you will be so inclined and, in that event, kindly make initial contact with our office.

CONTACT US

CALL-A-RIDE OF GREENWICH, INC. 37 Lafayette Place Greenwich, CT 06830

Phone: (203) 661-6633 Dispatchers: Ron March, Hilary Gunn E-mail: call-a-ride@optimum.net

<https://callaridegreenwich.org/our-service/>

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Palm Procession and All - Ages Worship

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Dinner/Communion in Auditorium

7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae with Foot Washing

Friday, March 29, Good Friday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School Greenwich YMCA

12:30 p.m. Community Cross Walk

7:30 p.m.

Combined Good Friday Service - First Congregational Church

Saturday, March 30

Egg Dyeing & Egg Hunt in Auditorium

10:00 a.m. Egg Dyeing

11:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service - Greenwich Point

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Festival Easter Services - Meetinghouse

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER AND WORSHIP THURSDAY, MARCH 28

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28
WE ARE HOSTING OUR
TRADITIONAL DINNER AND
COMMUNION,
IN THE AUDITORIUM AT 6 PM.
SOUP, MAC & CHEESE, AND BREAD
WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING
A SIDE DISH TO SHARE.
AT 7 PM WE WILL MOVE TO THE
MEETINGHOUSE FOR THE SERVICE
OF TENEBRAE, WITH WASHING OF
THE FEET.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



**Friday, March 29
9:00 a.m. - 11:30**

A special Good Friday Vacation Bible School
including feet washing, a swim at the YMCA
pool & a pancake lunch!

K-Grade 5: \$25
Children under 5: must be
accompanied by a guardian
Grades 6-12: welcome to attend
as CITs and for High School
service hours
Scholarships Available

**Drop off and pick up at the
Greenwich YMCA
(50 East Putnam Avenue)**
Our Minister of Care and Connection,
Jenny Byxbee, looks forward to
seeing you there!

**RSVP no later than March 25
Email Jenny@2cc.org**

EASTER EGG DYEING & HUNT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH
10-12 PM DYEING & 11 AM HUNT**

**DONATE
CANDY TO
OFFICE BY
3/27**

REGISTER AT EVENT

- HUNT IN AGE GROUPS
- BYO HARD BOILED EGGS
& A BASKET

first church

FCCOG.ORG/EVENTS

2024 Lenten Offering and Lenten Project RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT SUNDAY APRIL 28 AT 10AM

*Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from
the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as the noon.*
Isaiah 58:10

Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First
Church's favorite events... the meal packing event for Rise
Against Hunger!

We will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's
simple vision of a world without hunger. Rise Against Hunger
distributes meals in 38 countries to schools, health clinics and
communities hit by disaster. The meals help keep children in
school and aid communities in the short term as they develop
long term food security.

Please join us for a fun, energized, music filled morning when we
will experience the joy of working together to help the least
among us!

• No need to register. • Families are welcome. • Bring friends to
show them First Church in action!

We will be underwriting the cost of the 20,000 meals as our
Lenten Offering this year.

Please consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of
meals - every donation makes a difference! Scan the QR code
below and choose Rise Against Hunger as the donation
category.



EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse this Easter.
You may give to either one or both. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before Monday, March 25 at 12 noon in order to be included in the bulletin listing.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund _____ Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

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