



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH

declares itself to be Open and Affirming (ONA); 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.

Welcome to Worship!

We welcome you this day and are glad you are here! May worship be a blessing to you.

First Church Welcomes *You.*

With Worship. A casual tone, stirring music, moving prayers, & a faith-invoking message. **Prayer Book requests** (in Narthex) are uplifted during the Prayers of the People.

With Inclusion. Open & Affirming (ONA). We make a point of meeting all and name tags are worn.

With Communion. The first Sunday of each month, all ages share in the sacred meal together. We use juice & gluten-free bread!

With Care. We pass the Peace of Christ to one another. We are a mask-friendly, come-as-you-are, leave-as-a-friend community.



First Church Welcomes *Children.*

The PrayGround. In the Chapel space, guiding kids in worship.

Cherub Choir, Celebration Singers, & Genesis Choir. Children of all ages are welcome to offer music in worship!

Children's Message. A moment for kids & the child in each of us.

Church School. Faith learnings for the day continue in the Undercroft classrooms after the Children's Message.

Children's Take Home Library. Located by the PrayGround. Check out what interests you & bring it back next week!



First Church Welcomes *All.*

Sensory Sanctuary & Rocking Chairs. Focusing resources located in the back of the Meetinghouse.

Visual Worship Aids & Live captioning. Found on the monitors.

Audio Hearing Aids. To use, ask Greeters or Ushers.

Spaces in Meetinghouse for Wheelchair Users

Exterior Ramp. In the back of the Meetinghouse, driveway side.

Liftavators. Located inside, from Narthex to Auditorium Level & Outside in the Memory Garden.



Enjoy a cup of coffee, food, & fellowship at *Community Hour* after the service!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask should feel comfortable doing so.

*Please know our worshipping community gathers in-person and online via livestream
with multiple camera angles of the Meetinghouse and congregation.*

Audio Hearing Aids are available for your use during the service. See an usher to request a device.

Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

There Is A Balm In Gilead

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Steven Russell, guest director/organist

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: Close enough to touch our eyes, powerful enough to reveal God's glory:

All: **He is the Light of the world.**

One: Setting us on the path to new life, seeking us out to reveal himself:

All: **He is the Light of the world.**

One: Healer and prophet, teacher and Word made flesh:

All: **He is the Light of the world.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King

2 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Some days we are all confusion and questions, O God, and some days we are ready to hear and obey. Whatever the state of our hearts and minds today, whatever the situation of our bodies and spirits, open us to receive the good news you have for us, and to share it. We ask in your powerful name. 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: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: **And also with you.**

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Halle, Halle



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

FIRST LESSON

John 9:1-17

New Revised Standard Version
Karen Yancey

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

ANTHEM

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Stephan Casurella (b. 1973)
The Chancel Choir
Julie Laicher, soprano

SECOND LESSON

John 9:18-41
New Revised Standard Version

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

MESSAGE

Surely We're Not Blind, Are We?
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

I Want Jesus To Walk With Me
775 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.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING

Using your smartphone messaging app,
text FCCOG Donate to 73256 or scan the QR code to donate.

Juliet Primo



OFFERTORY SOLO

Oh, Glory!

Hall Johnson (1888-1970)
Thomas Woodman, baritone

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say
182 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Fanfare On McKee
Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for February are members of the Budget Committee.

COMMUNITY
~~~~~
HOUR

ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

We're well on our way for this year with 178 pledging units and over 87% towards our goal! Thanks to all who have pledged. This figure is as of Feb 11.

It's not too late to make your pledge to First Church for the 2026 calendar year. You can scan the QR code below which will take you to the website and make your pledge online, or you can use the pledge card in the rack in front of your seat and place it in the offering plate during the offering.

We are grateful for your generosity to continue the ministry that First Church is in the greater Greenwich community and throughout the world.



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE GIFT

PRESENTATION.....RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 22



Due to the storm on January 25, the presentation of tree sale gifts has been changed to February 22. David Rabin of Greenwich United Way will be speaking. The Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale reports record proceeds for the 2025 sale. We will be able to give gifts amounting to \$60,014 (+4.8% over 2024). Please join us on February 22 to hear the details and meet our agency partners.

INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY PROJECT –

SACRED SITE VISIT TO FIRST CHURCH OF ROUND HILL, SUNDAY FEB 22, 2 – 4:30 P.M.



Build community relationships through a campus tour, the church's history in Greenwich, and a United Methodist denomination overview. Q&A time. Light fare provided. RSVP by Feb 15th by scanning the green QR code on the left.

We return the favor and host First Church Round Hill and the wider community on Tuesday, March 3rd from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Scan the blue QR code on the right to RSVP by Feb 22 for FCCOG attendance.



Ash Wednesday Ashes To Go
February 18
6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
First Church Parking Lot

February Friendsgiving

Sunday, Feb 15 - 5 - 8 p.m. First Church Auditorium
Family Fun & Pizza - All Families Invited
Hosts Khaleigh & the Faith Formation Committee

Friday, Feb 20 - 5 - 8 p.m. First Church Auditorium
Bingo: Hosts Women's Fellowship

Saturday, Feb 21 - 12 p.m. Edgehill
Lunch: Hosts Prill Meyer & Bobbie Hopkins

Saturday, Feb 21 - 6 p.m. Byram
Dinner: Hosts Gordon & Mary-Ann Assing

Saturday, Feb 28 - 6 - 8 p.m. Old Greenwich
Pizza Dinner: Hosts Pat & Tad Larrabee

Sunday, March 8 - 12 noon Old Greenwich
Brunch: Hosts Donald & Ginny Breismeister

Saturday, March 14 - 1 - 3 p.m. Old Greenwich
Tea and Art Viewing: Hosts Ernest & Candace Garthwaite

SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP



FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING

Our February Friendsgiving events are open to sign up! There are a limited number of spaces per event, so sign up soon so you're not disappointed and help the hosts can plan their get-together.



You can sign up at Community Hour, on Signup Genius, or call Betsy (203) 832-8113 or email betsykreuter@hotmail.com - Cynthia (203) 918-1523 or email deriemer.cynthia@gmail.com. Scan the QR code to sign up today!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

JUST DROP-IN: A FIRST LOOK AT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE
Sundays 9:00 a.m. in the First Church Lounge

Join Pastor Cydney for a drop-in time of conversation around Sunday's scripture. Together we'll explore the passage, gain context, and notice fresh insights before entering worship.

No need to prepare—just bring yourself. Come for the whole time, or even 15 minutes, and trust that God will give you something good to carry into worship and beyond.

NARRATIVE LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY
Thursdays 12 p.m. in the First Church Lounge

Pastor Patrick leads a group in a new adult education opportunity. We'll dive into the Narrative Lectionary daily readings, opening space for honest conversation, fresh insights, and shared discovery.

For the past 2-3 years, First Church has been using the Narrative Lectionary as our primary scripture focus in Sunday worship. Whether you are brand new to Bible study or a seasoned reader, you'll find a welcoming circle to explore how God's story connects with our own.

Come as you are, bring your questions, curiosity, an open heart, and your lunch (optional).

ROYALTIES FOR SPIRITUALS IN FEBRUARY



First Church is proud to launch Royalties for Spirituals, an initiative to honor the legacy of Black spirituals and invest in the future of Black musicians. Rooted in our commitment to racial justice and the power of sacred music, this effort will provide ongoing financial support to organizations that educate and empower Black students in music.

The initiative was unanimously approved by our Church Council and emerges from thoughtful conversations held earlier this year. As a congregation that regularly sings and celebrates music from the Black church tradition, we recognize that these songs—many born from the suffering and resilience of enslaved people—were never compensated. It's time to pay that debt forward.

To donate to Royalties for Spirituals, click on the QR code and donate online, or go to www.fccog.org and scroll to the bottom of the website and click the blue button.

We have secured an organization which matches our goals and dreams for partnering with our initiative. **The Adam J. Lewis Academy (AJLA)** in Bridgeport, CT is the perfect school that educates underserved children in the eastern end of Fairfield County.




February is Black History Month and we are using this time to highlight our Royalties For Spirituals initiative. We will be singing spirituals and gospel songs throughout the month.

Please consider giving generously to this program that supports the music program at Adam J. Lewis Academy in Bridgeport. Click on the QR code below to learn more about this initiative.



UPCOMING SECOND HOURS



A Second Hour Event

THE LONELINESS EPIDEMIC:

AND WHAT THE CHURCH CAN DO ABOUT IT

February 22nd, 11:15am in the Lounge

Guest Presenter: Joe O'Callaghan

Clinical Director, Greenwich Advanced Counselling


FEB 22 SECOND HOUR – LONELINESS & THE CHURCH

The crisis of loneliness is one of the biggest community health issues of our time, especially for youth, men, and the elderly. Join Joe O'Callaghan, Clinical Director of Greenwich Advanced Counseling (formerly The Center for Hope and Renewal), for a presentation and discussion on what current literature on loneliness says, and what churches can do to help mitigate its effects.

MAR 1 SECOND HOUR – MUSIC AND MEMORY: THE ACCIDENTAL CREATION OF A 92-YEAR-OLD SOCIAL MEDIA SENSATION

Elaine Lebar began playing piano at the age of 3. She graduated from the High School of Music and Art in NYC, received a BA in music from Brooklyn College and an MFA in music education from the University of Missouri.

Randi Lebar graduated from Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences in 1978 with a BA in Chemistry and went on to receive an MD in 1982 from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She then served for 11 years in the US Navy, completing her Orthopaedic Surgery residency at the Naval Hospital Oakland.




SECOND HOUR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

11:15 A.M.

Dr. Randi Lebar will present an inspirational talk about the wild ride she took with her mother, pianist Elaine Lebar (born in 1928) who went viral on TikTok in 2020 while living in a memory care unit. Specifically focusing on the magic and power of music in dementia, the talk features many videos of Elaine, and also includes lessons Randi learned along the way about connecting to her mother and finding meaning and joy in their relationship, in spite of her mother's mental decline. The presentation is sure to entertain a wide audience, and it will be especially educational and hopeful for those dealing with a loved one in any stage of cognitive decline.





Discover community activities in 2026

All women of the church are welcome!

February

Tuesday 2/17 @ 12pm
walk at Tod's Point**

Friday, 2/20 5p-7p
Feb Friendsgiving:
All Church Bingo Night*
FCCOG Auditorium

Tuesday, 2/24 @ 10am
coffee at Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

Wednesday, 2/25 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco's
(148 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich)

March

Tuesday, 3/3 @ 12pm
walk at Tod's Point**

Saturday, 3/14 10a-12p
Women's Health Day
FCCOG Auditorium

Friday 3/20 @ 10am
coffee at Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

Wednesday, 3/25 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco's
(148 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich)

*** Greenwich residency not required*

** Women's Fellowship sponsored event: free and open to all of FCCOG*

Scan the QR code for the **GroupMe** app or go to **www.GroupMe.com** from your desktop for Women's Fellowship activity updates

For questions, email
Sara Stuckey (sdstuckey@gmail.com)



**Scan here
with your
smartphone
camera!**



COME FORTH: A LENTEN STUDY

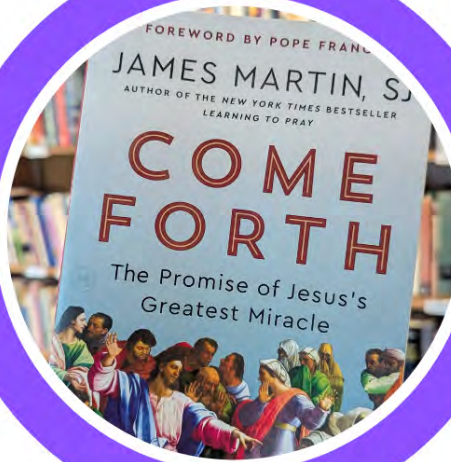
Wednesdays
February 25 - March 25
7:00 pm
First Church Lounge

COME FORTH
BY JAMES MARTIN, SJ

An engaging exploration
of John's Gospel that
brings the story of Jesus
to life today.

GET YOUR BOOK

Limited number of books
are available in the church
office or purchase online.



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 Church School/ Regional Youth Ministry
Parish Nurse
Director of Operations
Director of Finance & Administration
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Facility Manager
Sexton
Sexton
First Church Preschool Director
First Church Preschool Assistant Director
Pastor Emerita

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Khaleigh Laicher
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Greg Girolamo
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
Julio Yika
Joe Vartuli
Curtis Gay
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

See more about the stories of our
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -
People of Note

