



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER 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.

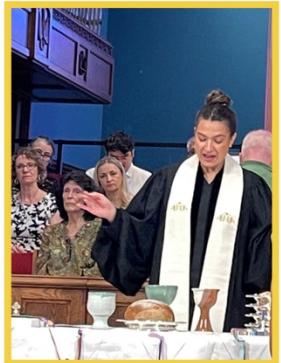
May it be a blessing to you.

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 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.

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of the baptism of Beckett Culver.

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love

Arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)
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 worshiping 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.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus Loves Me/He's My Rock

The Cherub Choir

Carol Woodman, director

Carolyn Paulus, piano

Lynn Hawhurst, ukulele

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us gather to worship our Timeless God.

All: We gather together to share with your children the past blessings we have received from our God.

One: Come, let us gather to worship our Awesome God.

All: We gather together to listen for God's word for us today.

One: Come, let us gather to worship our Glorious God, who delights in our worship, witness and service.

All: We gather together to share our hope and trust in our merciful God, who has never failed or forgotten us. Amen.

†HYMN

Lift Every Voice And Sing

339 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

We look to the rulers of this earth for leadership, wisdom, and strength. We look to these bodies of ours for stability, fulfillment, and joy. We look to families and friends for love, compassion, and hope.

When rulers betray, when bodies fail, and when families disappoint, God offers another look. God will guide us. God's Spirit will sustain us. Christ will welcome us home. We are all God's family now. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Halle, Halle



ANTHEM

You Shall Have A Song

Harriet Ziegenthals (1925-2016)

The Celebration Singers

Vance Briceland, piano

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Beckett Culver
son of Marc and Kim Culver

BAPTISMAL PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Beckett that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

RESPONSE

(sung to the tune "Morning Has Broken")

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

FIRST LESSON

Luke 6:1-5

New Revised Standard Version

Mariann Ekernas

One Sabbath while Jesus was going through some grain fields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

† Please rise in body or in spirit

ANTHEM

The Holly And The Ivy
Rob Mathes (b. 1970)
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director
Matt Stolfi, piano

SECOND LESSON

Luke 6:6-16
New Revised Standard Version

On another Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees were watching him to see whether he would cure on the Sabbath, so that they might find grounds to bring an accusation against him. But he knew what they were thinking, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come and stand in the middle.” He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” After looking around at all of them, he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and began discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

MESSAGE

Get In Line
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Somebody's Knockin' At Your Door
728 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

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Secret Of Christ
Richard Shephard (1949-2021)
The Chancel Choir
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



A musical score for three voices (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and piano. The music is in common time, key of G major. The vocal parts are in soprano, alto, and bass clef. The piano part is in bass clef. The lyrics are as follows:

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†HYMN

God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!
365 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty
Arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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SAVE THE DATE - QUARTERLY MEETING - TODAY, FEB 2

Plan to attend the quarterly meeting following worship to hear important updates in the life of First Church from your Church Council.



COMMUNITY HOUR

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Be sure to pick up your offering envelopes in Community Hour in the Auditorium following worship today.



CHURCH SCHOOL
Regular Church School

February 9
February 16
February 23

ALL AGES WORSHIP (AAW)

AAW is a Sunday morning experience for the whole family of faith to sing, pray, hear stories and partake in communion together!



February 2 - March 2 - April 13 - Palm Sunday

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS



Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. She will be in her office, just to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

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.



WIRED WORD BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. Using the Wired Word 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. BYO lunch optional.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and joining as a full member, please save the date for our upcoming new membership classes on Sunday, March 2 at 11:00 a.m. & Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.



THE 2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

As of January 29, we have received 190 pledges (86% of potential giving units) for over \$629,388 (almost 97%) toward our goal of \$650,000 for 2025. Click on the QR code on the right for instructions on how to pledge online.



You can schedule your giving for 2025 in weekly, monthly, or other ways, because First Church has the capability of auto-payments from your bank account or credit card! Please use the QR code on the right to access the church's ACS system and enter the necessary information. If you set up, changed, or plan to continue your automatic monthly online through MyFirstChurch.com for 2025, please know that **you still need to submit a pledge form**.



Pledges can be submitted through the digital pledge form at www.fccog.org or by returning a paper pledge card to the office. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Girolamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.

THE 2025 "SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY SOUP & CHILI SALE

Calling all cooks! It's time to show off your soup-making skills once again by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or quarts) of soup or chili to benefit the First Church Women's Fellowship! The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday, February 9, 2025 following worship. Quarts of homemade soup and chili will be sold for \$10 each.



Please sign up to donate after church in the auditorium today, and for the next several Sundays. Or you may scan the QR code on the left. Restaurant-style food containers will be available when you sign up. This annual event has proven to be easy, inexpensive and popular for both 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

FEBRUARY FRIENDSGIVING

FEB 7 | Friday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Coffee - Juliet Primo with co-host Betsy Kreuter

FEB 13 | Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Brunch - Colette Rogers with co-host Debra Silverthorn

FEB 15 | Saturday - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner party - Mary-Ann and Gordon Assing

FEB 16 | Sunday 12:00 p.m.

Lunch - Ginny & Don Breismeister

FEB 20 | Thursday 12:00 p.m.

Lunch - Edgehill. Host: Prill Meyer
co-hosts, Persis Alden & Bobbie Hopkins

End of February (Date TBD)

Beer tasting and nibbles at First Church Lounge

There are a limited amount of spaces per event.
Please sign up soon so you're not disappointed and
to 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
Cynthia (203) 918-1523

Scan this QR code and sign up to attend a gathering!





LUNCHEON TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S DAY**

SATURDAY
12:00 P.M.

8
MAR

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

**Calling all the men of the church!
We need you to help prep, host and serve a luncheon
for all the women of First Church
Please see Pastor Patrick to volunteer or sign up online.**

Scan this QR code and sign up to volunteer!



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever broken a rule for what you thought was a good reason?

What were the consequences of your actions?

How are the rules and norms we follow in the church restrictive?

How are the rules and norms we follow in the church inclusive?

How do we adjust and adapt our rules and norms to an ever-evolving culture?

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	Reverend Patrick Collins
Associate Pastor	Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Minister of Music	Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry	Khaleigh Laicher
Parish Nurse	Susan Asselin, RN
Church Office Coordinator	Wendy Spezzano
Financial Administrator	Greg Girolamo
Livestream Director	Daniel Lepoutre
Audio Technician	Bob Small
Database Administrative Assistant	Sue Wilder
Facility Manager	Julio Yika
PrayGround Supervisor	Amalia Samuel
Sexton	Curtis Gay
Junior Sexton	Joseph Cicchelli
Junior Sexton	Jose Jolon
First Church Preschool Director	Beth Genovese
First Church Preschool Administrative Assistant	Melanie Garnett
Pastor Emerita	Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

a just world for all