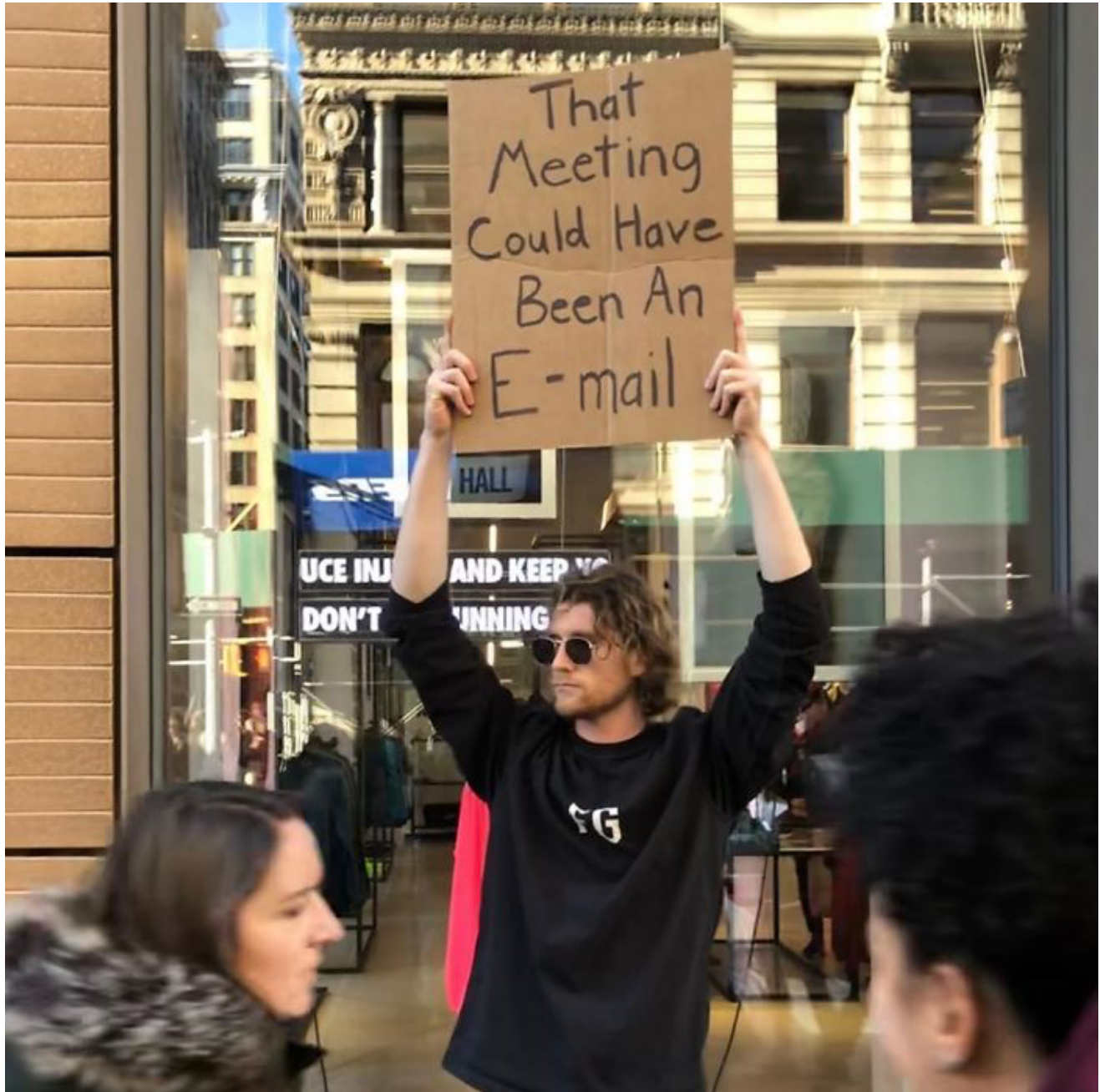




*Faith First - Love Always*

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024  
FIFTH 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.

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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*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

### PRELUDE

*Preamble*

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)  
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: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

**All: for all are welcome in God's house.**

One: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

**All: for love is the language of faith.**

One: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,

**All: for God dwells in each of us.**

One: Come, let us worship in unity and love.

### †CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*  
353 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Rock of salvation, you give children to the barren and strength to the feeble; you exalt the poor and lift up the needy. We praise your holy name from morning to night, yet we build walls that separate us: from you, from one another, from the world, even from ourselves.

Teach us to pray and praise without pause, confessing hope ceaselessly. Guide us in our efforts to encourage one another, to work together for good in the world, and to prepare for the day of the Lord. 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: 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 (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)*  
623 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## 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.

## ANTHEM

*Be Still, My Soul*

Arr. Joel Raney

Palmer Handbell Quartet

Angela Stevens, Pat Geismar, Lynn Hawxhurst, Sally Steinmetz

†Please rise in body or in spirit



## FIRST LESSON

Mark 13:1-8  
New Revised Standard Version  
Pat Mendelsohn

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

## SOLO

*Over My Head*  
Traditional Spiritual  
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

## SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:24-37  
New Revised Standard Version

"But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

## MESSAGE

*Signs, Signs, Everywhere There's Signs*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*The Days Are Surely Coming*  
357 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.

## CALL TO OFFERING

Steve Weigner

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*And I Saw A New Heaven*  
Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)  
The Chancel Choir

## †DOXOLOGY

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

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION


## †HYMN

*Guide My Feet*  
741 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †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

*Fanfare*  
Healey Willan (1880-1968)

†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 17:** Regular Church School

**Mar 24:** All-Ages Worship – Palm Sunday

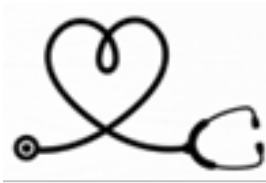
**Mar 31:** All-Ages Worship – Easter Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.

### CHOIR REHEARSALS TODAY

**Cherub:** K-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



### 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

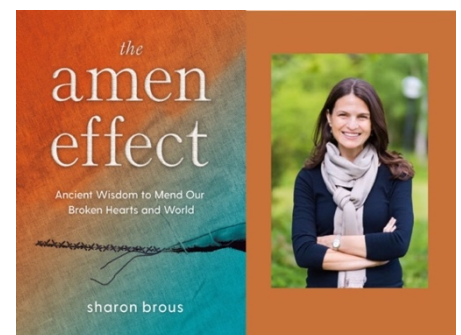
#### THE AMEN EFFECT

**Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. First Church Lounge**

Join us Wednesday evenings 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.

Rabbi Brous acknowledges the reality and inevitability of loss and suffering in life, and how that can affect our emotional and spiritual well-being. Through powerful personal stories, she offers some guidance and wisdom on how to cope with grief and pain, and how to find hope and joy in the midst of adversity.



## 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 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!)



## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AT EASTER- FLOWER DELIVERY

The Caring Ministries Committee coordinates delivery of Easter flowers to church members and friends experiencing illness, bereavement, or who may just have difficulty getting to in-person worship with us. It's an opportunity to show our church family that we are thinking of them at Easter time by remembering them with flowering plants. It's also a great opportunity to model kindness in action for our children! We need helping hands to deliver the flowers on Palm Sunday, March 24, and would appreciate your help. Please contact Sue Asselin at [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org) by 3/18 if you can deliver a flower.

## FINAL LENTEN RECITAL - THIS WEDNESDAY

**Lenten Organ Recitals**

*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*

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

## KNIT & NOSH - COME AND JOIN US! HELP US PRODUCE CHERISHED PRAYER SHAWLS

Have you always wanted to learn how to knit? Are you an avid knitter who'd like some company? We are a friendly and welcoming group of knitters of all abilities. Our aim is to produce many colorful and comforting Prayer Shawls, to distribute to those experiencing a crisis or loss. We host a free, open to the community, workshop on the 4th Wednesday of every month - the next one is **Wednesday, March 27 at 7 pm - in Rick's Room** of First Church. We invite everyone to join us in creating these shawls, knitting into them our prayers, love and support. No expertise needed as we use very forgiving yarn, larger needles and one basic stitch. Come join the fun! Contact Angela Stevens for more information [angelamessinastevens@gmail.com](mailto:angelamessinastevens@gmail.com)





## FINAL PERFORMANCES IN FIRST MUSIC & ARTS CONCERT SERIES



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

Pavlo Gintov, piano  
Sunday, May 5, 2024 - 4 p.m.

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



## 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](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org)**

# EASTER EGG DYEING & HUNT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>  
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](http://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](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