



Faith First - Love Always

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
PALM SUNDAY
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 **FCCCOG 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

O Stainless Lamb Of God

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

All: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts.

One: Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the word, which sustains us.

All: We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.

One: Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.

†PALM PROCESSION AND OPENING HYMN

All Glory Laud And Honor

196 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of the cross, tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey, you are not the savior we expect. Your power doesn't look like the power we want our God to have. Your wisdom makes no sense to us.

We are happy to join the crowd, waving branches, but not so sure we want to follow you through this Holy Week. Into the temple courts. Into the upper room. Into the Garden of Gethsemane and to the foot of the cross.

We need you to go with us on this journey. Grant us clear vision, courageous hearts, and persistent steps. Even though we know what this week will bring, we sing hosanna, hosanna. Save us, we pray to you. 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

Standin' In The Need Of Prayer
The Cherub Choir and
The Celebration Singers
Carol Woodman, director
Lynn Hawhurst Woodman,
Andrea Osker, ukuleles

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 children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine for ever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

FIRST LESSON

Mark 11:1-11
New Revised Standard Version
Lynn Robertson

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

ANTHEM

Now The Green Blade Rises
Arr. Shirley McRae (1933-2018)
The Genesis Choir
Daniel Young, director
Matt Stolfi, piano

SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:24-37
New Revised Standard Version

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

†Please rise in body or in spirit

MESSAGE

The Shirt Off Your Back
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
197 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

Carol Woodman

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Kyrie Eleison (from Solemn Mass)
Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†HYMN

The Palms

5

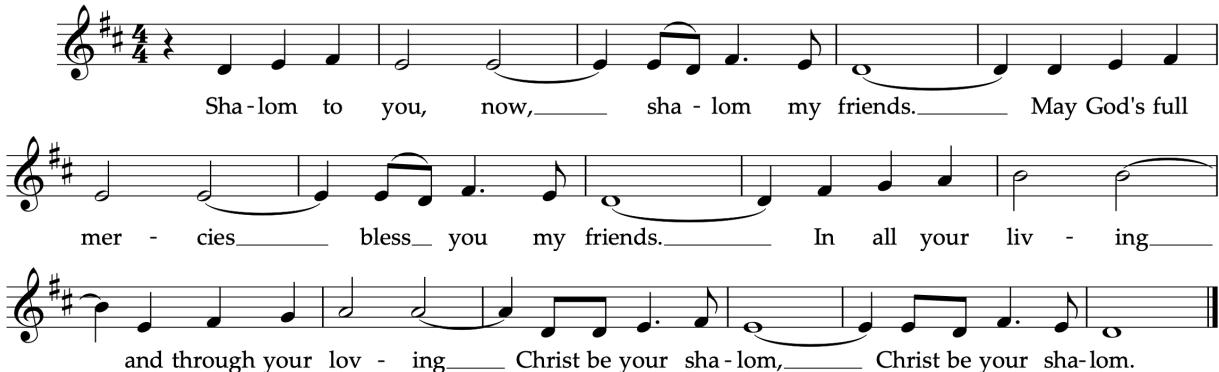


O'er all the way green palms and blos-soms gay
His word goes forth, and peo-ple by its might
Sing and re-joice, O blest Je-ru-sa-lem.
Are strewn this day in fes ³ - tal prep - a - ra - tion.
Once more re-gain free-dom from de - gra - da - tion.
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.
Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way -
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem
E'en now the throng to welcome him pre-pare, Join all and sing, His
While those in dark-ness are restored to light.
Brings faith and hope to thee for-ev - er - more.
name de-clare, Let ev'-ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho
san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who com - eth to bring us sal -
va - - - - tion!
4

†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

Postlude In F Minor

Louise Adolpha Le Beau (1850-1927)

†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. Many thanks to Cobs Bread in Riverside for the delicious Hot Cross Buns, a tradition for Community Hour on Palm Sunday.

Hosts for March are members of the Personnel committee.

COMMUNITY HOUR



CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Mar 24: All-Ages Worship - Palm Sunday

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

Apr 7: Regular Church School



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

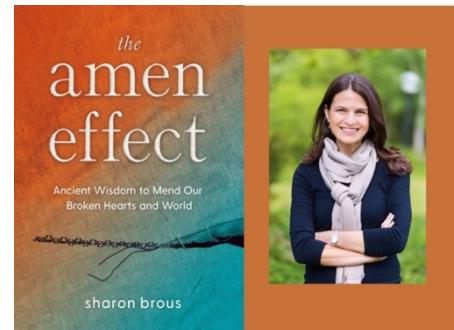
Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

THE AMEN EFFECT

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. First Church Lounge

The Wednesday Amen Effect group is taking a break during Holy Week. There will be no discussion this Wednesday, March 27. We hope you can join us the following Wednesday as we discuss chapter 6, which reflects on the importance of taking care of those in our community who provide healing, comfort, and care to those in need.



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: Summer shoes for all, Summer handbags, Jewelry.



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 by 3/18 if you can deliver a flower.

KNIT & NOSH - CREATE BELOVED PRAYER SHAWLS

Did you knit many years ago? Or are you an avid knitter who'd like some company? Would you like to make new friends? If you answered YES to any of the above, come to our next workshop on **Wednesday, March 27th at 7 p.m.**

Join us in creating these prayer shawls, knitting into them our prayers, love and support. These shawls are then distributed to those experiencing a crisis or loss- and truly are beloved.

No expertise needed as we use very forgiving yarn, larger needles and one basic stitch. **We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7pm in Rick's Room at First Church.** Contact Angela Stevens for more information. angelamessinastevens@gmail.com Hope to see you soon!



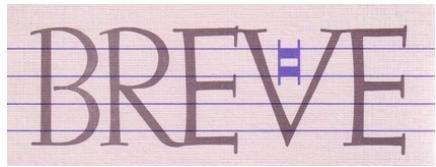
INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT JOINING FIRST CHURCH?

Our next New Member Class will be held on **Sunday, April 14th at 11:15 a.m. in the Lounge** and a second opportunity on **Wednesday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.**

The first session will last approximately 45 minutes. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and our church. The second session will allow everyone the opportunity to meet the leadership of the Church Council and learn more about how to get involved with the church.

Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will then be received on Sunday, April 28th. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Rev. Patrick Collins.

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
Free-will offering received.

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.
Free-will offering received.



2024 LENTEN OFFERING SUPPORTING RISE AGAINST HUNGER

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.

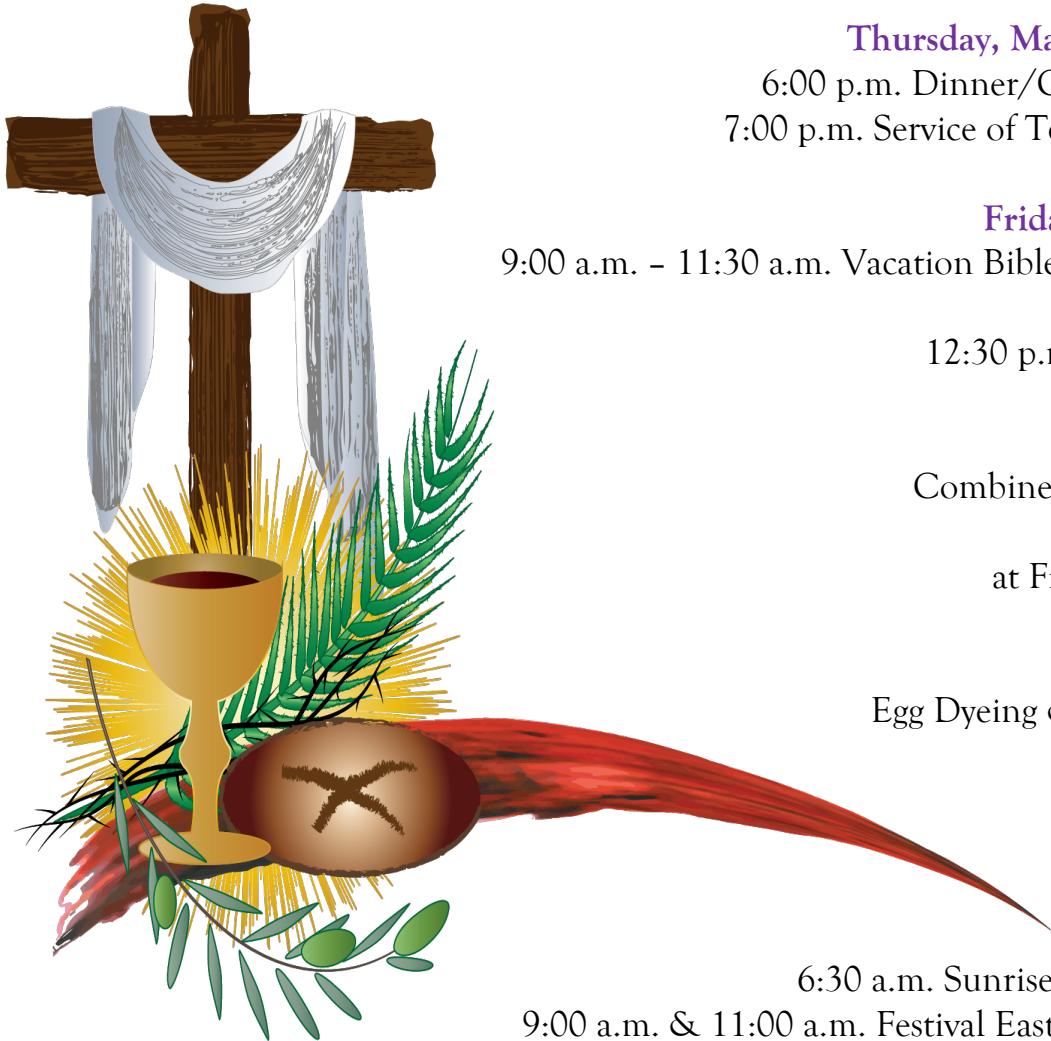
Isaiah 58:10



Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First Church's most important events... meal packing for Rise Against Hunger.

Please consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of meals - every donation makes a difference to those that are hungry!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



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 with
Second Congregational
at 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



**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 Byxbe, looks forward to seeing you there!

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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2024

Spring Church School Schedule

JANUARY

28

CHURCH
SCHOOL

FEBRUARY ♦

4

CHURCH SCHOOL
AS WORSHIP!

FEBRUARY ♦

11

COMMUNION
SUNDAY

FEBRUARY ●

18

CHURCH
SCHOOL

FEBRUARY

25

CHURCH
SCHOOL

MARCH ♦

3

COMMUNION
SUNDAY

MARCH

10

CHURCH
SCHOOL

MARCH

17

CHURCH
SCHOOL

MARCH ♦

24

PALM
SUNDAY

MARCH

30

10AM-
12 PM

EASTER EGG
DYEING & HUNT

31

6:30 BEACH
SERVICE

31

9:00 CHURCH
SERVICE

31

11:00 CHURCH
SERVICE

7

COMMUNION
SUNDAY

14

CHURCH
SCHOOL

21

CHURCH
SCHOOL

28

RISE AGAINST
HUNGER

5

MUSIC
SUNDAY

12

CHURCH
SCHOOL

18

PILGRIM
TOWERS

TIME
TBD

19

CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY

26

CHURCH
SCHOOL

2

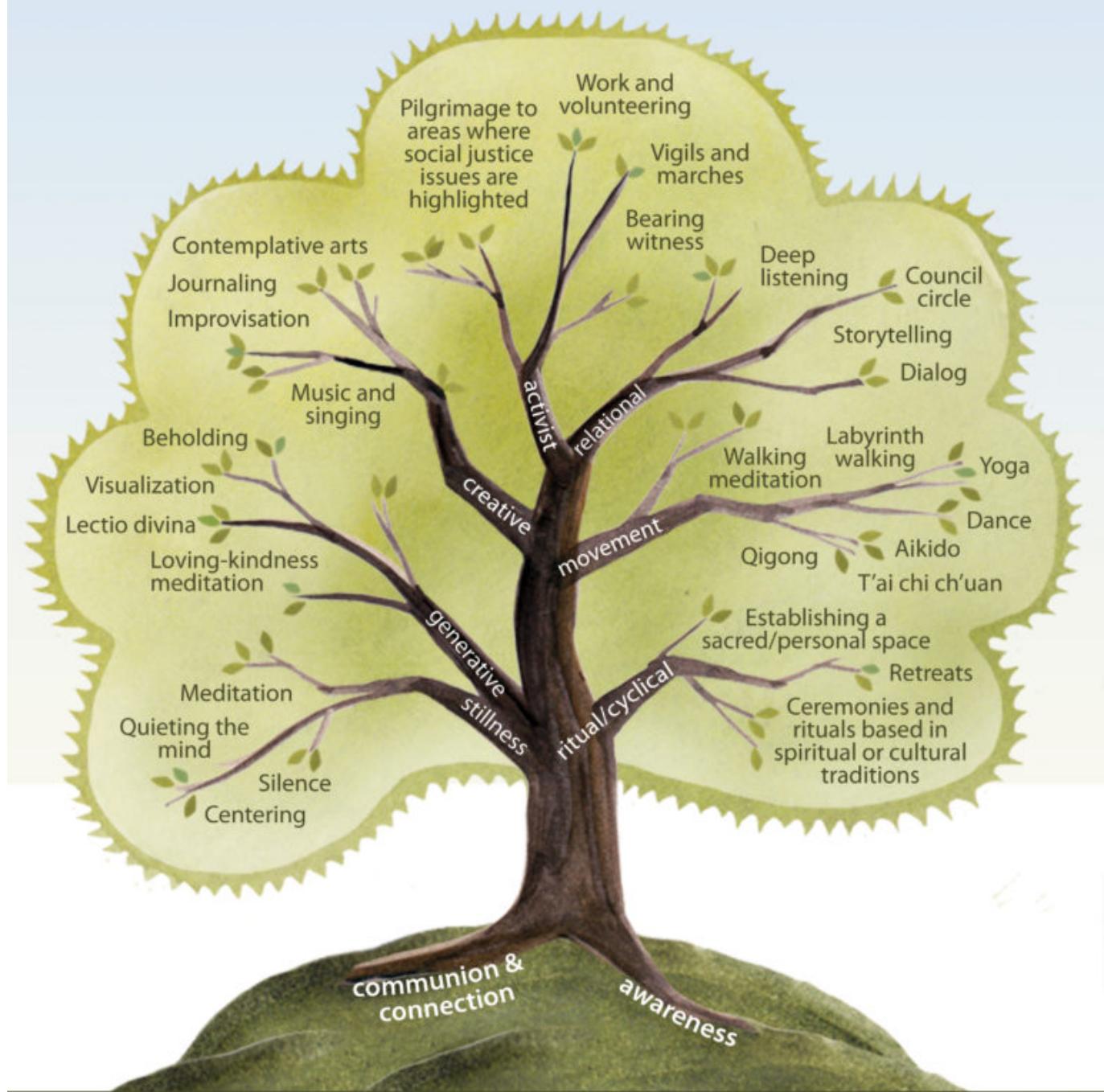
CELEBRATION
SUNDAY

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

?s: KhaleighL@fccog.org | www.FCCOG.org

The Tree of Contemplative Practices



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
Senior Sexton
Junior 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
Brandon Speight Gay
Beth Genovese
Kayla Vozzella
Karina Germosen
Reverend Sally Colegrove

