



SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



Artwork by Steve Prince

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.

PRELUDE

Choral

Alice Sauvrezis (1866-1946)

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.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Leanne Meyer

Manager, The Rummage Room

†CALL TO WORSHIP

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

As The Sun Doth Daily Rise
33 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, 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



Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah! Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah! Halle - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

ANTHEM

We Will Sing Praise

Jim Ailor

The Celebration Singers -Vance Briceland, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School or 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

Never Met A Stranger

Rev. Sarah Speed

Betsy Kreuter

When we talk about God, we say
she's never met a stranger.
She makes friends at the airport.
She waves to babies in the check-out line.

When we talk about God, we say she'll leave the porch light on. She'll have warm bread in the oven.
She'll have all the time in the world.

When we talk about God, we say she'll look you in the eye.
She'll love you as you are.
She'll call you by your name.

When we talk about God,
we never have to talk about
which side of the road she might walk down. Wherever you are,
that's where she'll be.

ANTHEM

The Lord Reigneth

Wallis D. Braman (1908-1984)

The Chancel Choir - Thomas Woodman, baritone

†Please rise in body or in spirit

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

MESSAGE

A Way Of Life
Reverend Patrick Collins

HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
153 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

Fred Laffan

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.



ORGAN OFFERTORY

Adagio
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures
here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

I Need Thee Every Hour
342 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Trompette Prelude
James D. Kimball (b. 1947)

† 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 March are members of the Personnel Committee.



CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular Church School
March 9

Special 3 weeks of Church School!
March 16, March 23, March 30

2nd Gr. - Communion Class

3rd Gr. - Bible Class

One-Room for all other students

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!

April 13 - Palm Sunday

May 18 - Music Sunday

Kids and Youth can sign up to read. Scan QR code to the right to volunteer!



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.

ACOLYTES



Would you like to be a person who helps signal the start of worship? We are looking to pull a group of young people together to light the candles on the altar each Sunday. It can be a single kid or youth, or it can be a pair. (they need to be old enough and strong enough to carry five pounds down the aisle, step on to the altar, light one or both candles, and exit by the PrayGround). A walk-through is available at any time! See Craig Symons for more information or scan the QR code to sign up now.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and joining as a full member, please save Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. where you will get a chance to meet with the leadership of First Church in a fun and enlightening way.



NEW SUPPORT GROUP STARTS MONDAY MARCH 10

We all experience grief in this life. But our faith makes sure we do not do it alone. In response to church members asking for a grief group, FCCOG is offering a Bereavement Support Group co-facilitated by church members Carolyn Paulus and Linnea Stenberg.

The group will provide confidential sharing and support for those who have lost a loved one. If possible, we encourage participants to attend all six (6) sessions. The group will meet Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 in the Senior Pastor's office on the following dates: March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21, and May 5 & 19. If you are interested in participating in the group, please contact Carolyn at carolynkpaulus@gmail.com and Linnea at lstenberg08@gmail.com.



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.

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.



COMMUNITY HOUR VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



Please join us in making community hour a warm and welcoming gathering after the 10 a.m. service each Sunday supplementing food/help with a committee already assigned to that particular month.



You can drop off your food to the upstairs kitchen before the service and the sextons will take it from there. You may also drop off your food during the week - just label it for community hour. Scan the QR code to head to Signup Genius.

2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN



As of March 5, we have received 201 pledges (91% of potential giving units) for over \$653,177 (101%) of our goal of \$650,000 for 2025.



This is a remarkable achievement, and it is a testament to your generosity, faith, and belief in the vibrant ministry of First Church. Thank you for the many ways you give and for the stories we are writing together.

But the story isn't finished yet. We still have an opportunity to reach our goal for the number of contributors who make this ministry possible. Each gift, no matter the size, is a powerful statement that we are in this together. Each person is a vital part of our community and our shared vision.

Imagine what more we can do when everyone has a hand in shaping the next chapter. More voices. More ideas. More compassion reaching beyond our walls. When more of us participate, our dreams become bolder, our welcome grows wider, and our impact deepens.

If you haven't yet had the chance to make a pledge, there is still time to join this amazing story. Every gift matters. Every giver makes a difference.

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.

BULLETIN COVER INSPIRATION - WORDS FROM THE ARTIST

Neighbors by Steve Prince – Inspired by Luke 10:25-37 *Ink on paper*

Each individual carries generations within them, made up of billions of people who have occupied this earth before us. We have an individual and collective responsibility to be good stewards (Good Samaritans) of our bodies, neighbors, and communities, rooted in love. Every day we make a dance of life and death—celebrating the entrance and exit of life, the progression of age and maturity, and the expansion of our tent, grafting to people who share our blood and our beliefs. We are the structures, those temporal buildings that weather the storms, that creak and wither away daily, but are fortified by our relationships to each other and with the sharing of the good news planted by the Heavenly Father. This dance is an open profession of our vow to live by God's commandments and find a way to collectively preserve the truth of our origin while moving as one communal body into an untouched future. — Steve Prince



LENTEN STUDY GROUP

DIVE INTO THE HISTORY OF THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS

What if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events... the women around Jesus? Or the "bad" guys... Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas?

Join us for this discussion led by videos from Amy-Jill Levine as she looks closely at the people who were part of Jesus' life during his last days.

SUNDAYS 
March 9 - April 13

TIME 
11AM - 12PM

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY



Just a few Rummage Room



"Thanks to wonderful donors like you, the **Carver Center** can continue to offer essential programs and services such as groceries & meals, afterschool programs, and case management programs."



"Thank you so much for supporting **River House Adult Day Center**. Our clients say that if it weren't for River House, they would be isolated at home or disconnected from their family."



"Your generosity means we can provide another meal, another night of safe housing -- and another day of hope-- for men, women, and children in desperate need." **-Bridgeport Rescue Mission**



"It is the generosity of people and organizations like you, within our community, that makes it possible for **Call-A-Ride** to continue its valuable services in Greenwich."



"Our families face hardships every day; poverty, food insecurity, homelessness. With your support, **Children's Learning Centers** has been able to play a part in addressing these challenges."



"**SilverSource** provides support to older residents to ensure they keep a roof over their heads, with heat and lights on, food on the table, and the medical care they need. Your commitment and partnership are invaluable."



"Your commitment to women's education enables our students to gain the tools they need for personal and professional growth. Our student said, 'I love **Mercy Learning Center** because they help me believe in myself.'



"Thank you so much for your contribution! **At Home in Greenwich** supports older adults to thrive while staying in their home as they age, personal care assistance, and offers opportunities to socialize."



"Because of your gift, we will be able to continue to offer faith exploration and spiritual renewal for the thousands of people who participate in **Silver Lake** summer camp programs and retreats each year."



"**Domus**' work is loving and encouraging young people to transition back to their community after incarceration. Thank you for believing in our youth & supporting them on their journey towards success."

Thank you 

SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

(mini mission-trip-like weekend!)

MAY 30 -
JUNE 1, 2025

\$100 WITH MANY
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING & WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Youth are invited to **48 hours** in New Haven, CT learning about our local unhoused neighbors & will put our faith in action by serving others!

**6TH -
12TH
GR.**

**FRI
30**

LEAVE FOR NEW HAVEN & ARRIVAL

Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden

**SAT
31**

SERVICE WORK & FUN IN THE COMMUNITY

Working with the Incredible Days organization!

**JUNE
1**

CLOSING CIRCLE & HEAD HOME

Pick-up and Drop-off at FCC Greenwich



MORE INFO:

KHALEIGHL@FCCCOG.ORG

REGIONAL YOUTH
MINISTRY

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

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

Facility Manager

Sexton

Sexton

First Church Preschool Director

First Church 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

Daniel Lepoutre

Bob Small

Sue Wilder

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Jose Jolon

Beth Genovese

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all