



SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
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 **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.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Adagio & Allegro (from Sonata In E Major)
G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Paul Ghaffari, violin
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, harpsichord

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

*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: Are any among you suffering?

All: Then let us pray.

One: Are any cheerful?

All: Then let us sing songs of praise.

One: Are any among you sick?

All: Then let us turn to each other for God's healing touch.

One: The prayer of faith will save us

All: And God will lift us up.

†HYMN

The Day Of Resurrection
192 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of healing and wholeness, we come with thanksgiving in our hearts for all the evidence of your goodness and mercy - found not only in stories of old, but in lives today. Lives bruised with tragedy find consolation when touched by your gracious Spirit; lives scarred with suffering and rejection have hope renewed through the power of the living Christ. We praise and adore you for hearts and lives transformed by your grace and mercy and we pray that our lives will reflect your great acts of kindness. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Moment of silence for personal reflection **

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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)

Halle, Hallelujah



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elizabeth (Ellie) Tyner Anderson
Daughter of James (Jay) & Amanda Anderson

BAPTISMAL PRAYER (in 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 Uma, that you will watch over her and guide her, as she 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE



FIRST LESSON

James 5:13-18
Common English Bible
Joe McBride

If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing. If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for the Lord will restore them to health. And if they have sinned, they will be forgiven. For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. Elijah was a person just like us. When he earnestly prayed that it wouldn't rain, no rain fell for three and a half years. He prayed again, God sent rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

ANTHEM

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Tom Trenney (b. 1977)
Thomas Woodman, baritone

SECOND LESSON

Acts 3:1-10
Common English Bible

Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!" Then he grasped the man's right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. Jumping up, he began to walk around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God. They recognized him as the same one who used to sit at the temple's Beautiful Gate asking for money. They were filled with amazement and surprise at what had happened to him.

MESSAGE

Seeing Is Believing
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us
327 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

† 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

Lynn Hawxhurst

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Most Glorious Lord Of Life
William Harris (1883–1973)
The Chancel Choir

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy triumph over death and sin and, having harrowed hell, didst bring away captivity thence captive, us to win, this joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, and grant that we for whom thou didst die, being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin, may live forever in felicity; and that thy love we weighing worthily, may likewise love thee for the same again; and for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy, with love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought; love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Edmund Spenser (1595)

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures

high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†HYMN

Praise The Lord, His Glories Show
19 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Allegro (from Sonata In E Major)
G. F. Handel

† 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 April are members of the Faith Formation and Education committee.

COMMUNITY
oooooooo
HOUR



INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT JOINING FIRST CHURCH?

Our New Member Class will be held TODAY
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 the class 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.

CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- Apr 14, 21: Regular Church School
- Apr 28: Rise Against Hunger





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.



FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON

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



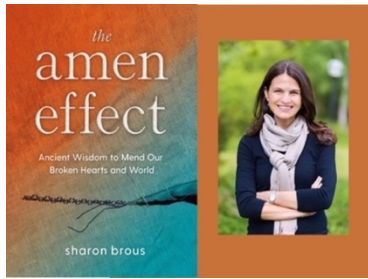
Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First Church's most important events ... meal packing for Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, April 28 at 10 a.m. Please consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of meals - every donation makes a difference to those that are hungry!

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: Clothing for all.



FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



THE AMEN EFFECT

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. First Church Lounge
FINAL CLASS APRIL 17!

The final chapter of the book explores the concept of wonder, which is the feeling of awe and curiosity that arises when we encounter something new, beautiful, or mysterious. Rabbi Brous speaks about how wonder is essential to our healing, as it opens our minds and hearts to new possibilities, perspectives, and connections. I hope you can join us for the final discussion in this Faith Formation series.

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.



JUNIOR/SENIOR/COLLEGE PILGRIM REUNION

Calling all alumni of JPF/SPF/CPF and Advisors. We invite all past members of these fellowships and their families for a reunion on **Saturday, July 20, 2024** at FCCOG. Please join us for a dinner between 5-9 p.m. in the Auditorium to cherish past memories and rekindle old friendships. Be on the lookout for future links to RSVP. Spread the word.



MUSIC SUNDAY MAY 5 10 A.M.

Join us for the annual celebration of our Music Ministry at First Church. All vocal and handbell ensembles will present inspiring pieces for our theme "How I Made It Over". This is one of our special days throughout the season to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you and experience all that our community of faith has to offer.

As always, our Community Hour after worship will feature some extra goodies as we continue building relationships with each other.

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, April 24th 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!

2024 FCCOG QUILT RAFFLE

- Raising Money for Charity -

Tickets Are On Sale Now!



Join us for a chance to win a beautiful blue handmade quilt. Our Women's Fellowship Kettle Quilters have been hard at work this past year. The colors are tones of blue and white, and the quilt measures 80" wide and 92" long.

Raffle Tickets are \$5 each, and will be on sale every Sunday after Worship, during Community Hour. You can also purchase them

[ONLINE](#)

They are also available to purchase at The Rummage Room during opening hours Monday through Thursday (11 am to 3 pm).

Tickets are available for purchase up until 12 pm May 23.

Our raffle drawing will take place on Thursday, May 23 at 1 pm, during the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting. (Need not be present to win.) All proceeds go to charities benefiting women, children, and families.

VISIONING TASK FORCE SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

We have exciting news. We are crafting a shared vision for the future of First Church and **we need your input**. The first opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas will come in the form of a short **Congregational Survey**, which has been developed and researched by Convergence, a professional church consulting firm.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to take the survey as soon as possible. **We want to know what you think, and to better understand our starting point!**



- What should we continue doing?
- What should we do differently?
- What new activities and approaches would you like to see?

We want to hear from **YOU!** Every member of your family is invited to complete the survey. We would love to achieve 100% participation – we want to hear from **EVERYONE**.



Using your
smart phone
camera, scan
the QR code to
Sign Up for our
RYM Newsletter!

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY IN LOWER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

A SHARED NETWORK FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

ALL FREE
EVENTS!

INCLUSIVE
FAITH-FILLED
& FUN!

6TH TO 8TH GRADE

APRIL 7: GAME NIGHT
MAY 12: OUTDOOR ART
JUNE 16: WATER GAMES

9TH TO 12TH GRADE

APRIL 21: BOWLING
MAY 19: MAY MADNESS
JUNE 23: BEACH BASH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEKEND: JUNE 7-9

FOR MORE INFO: FCCOG.ORG/REGIONAL-YOUTH-MINISTRY



REGIONAL YOUTH
MINISTRY

9TH-12TH GRADE

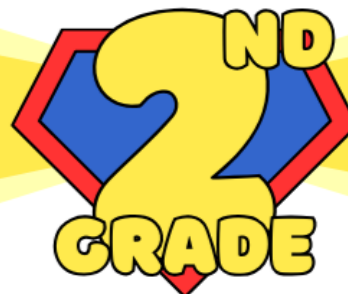


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MAY
12TH
IN CHURCH
SCHOOL!

STUDENTS TAKE COMMUNION
IN CHURCH ON JUNE 2ND!

KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all