



*Faith First - Love Always*

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024  
FOURTH 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

The flowers on the altar are in honor of our Pastors, our Minister of Music, and the Choir.

## PRELUDE

*Do, Lord, Remember Me*  
Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

## 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: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord,  
All: **outsiders and insiders, old-timers and newcomers,**  
One: the young, old and the in-between.  
All: **Come as you are, for this is God's house.**  
One: A house of prayer for all people,  
All: **and God welcomes each one who comes.**

## CHORAL INTROIT

## †HYMN

*Brethren, We Have Met To Worship*  
396 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

Verse 1: all

Verse 2: upper voices

Verse 3: lower voices

Verse 4: all

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation. 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*



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

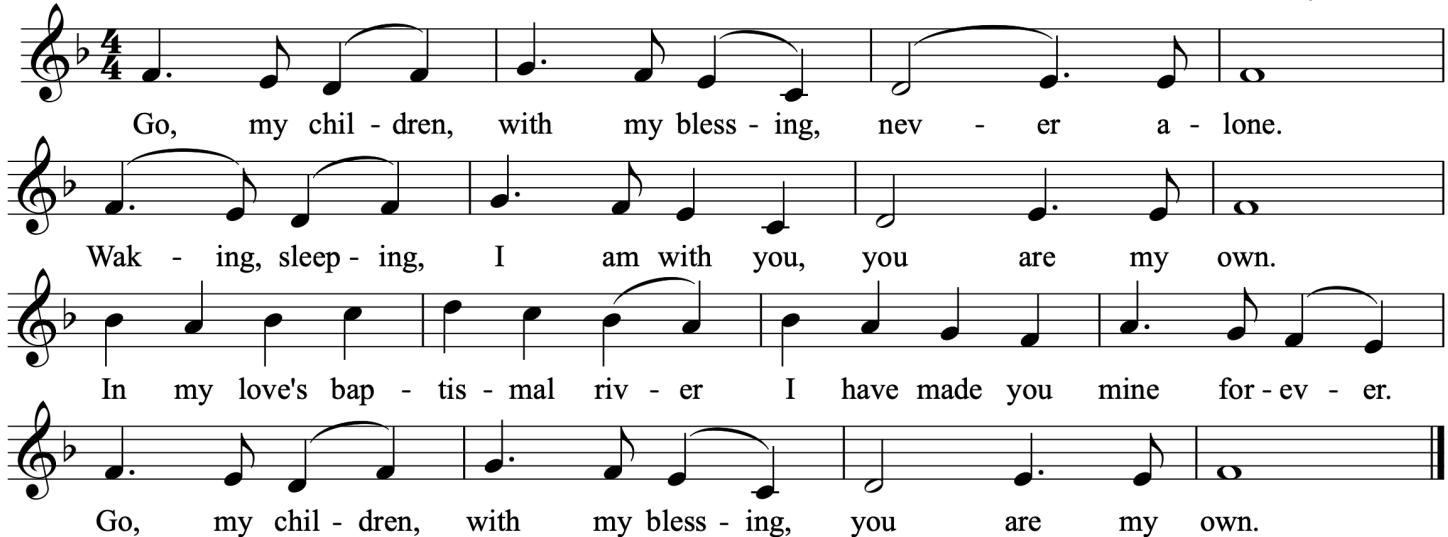
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(During the response, the 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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:1-9  
New Revised Standard Version  
Pat Larrabee

Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, “This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.” Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason’s house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.” The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

## ANTHEM

*Jubilate*  
Michael Bedford (b. 1949)  
The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
New Revised Standard Version

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

## MESSAGE

*Doing A New Thing*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*Come, Thou Almighty King*  
2 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

Henry Hull

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Heavens Are Telling*  
F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)  
The Chancel Choir

Julie Laicher, soprano, Daniel Young, tenor, Barry Wentworth, bass

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures  
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

We Wait The Peaceful Kingdom  
378 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Aria In Classic Style  
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

† 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  
**OUR**



**INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT  
JOINING FIRST CHURCH?**

Our New Member Class will be held on  
Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

This 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 21: Regular Church School
- Apr 28: Rise Against Hunger
- May 5: All-Ages Worship – Music Sunday (no communion)





## RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT SUNDAY APRIL 28 AT 10 A.M.

During our morning worship service we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's 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! Bring friends to show them First Church in action!



**NEW THIS YEAR** – follow the QR code to fill out the waiver. It will save you time when you arrive! One per family. Baseball caps are allowed in place of hairnets. **No rings or bracelets other than wedding bands please – we don't want you to lose anything!**

### NOW SERVING DINNER!



The very popular opportunity to serve a meal for New Covenant Center Cafe visitors is open for sign-ups!



All the food will be delivered from ShopRite. Volunteers will slice bread, arrange desserts, and serve the hot meal. The NEW time commitment is 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m on the first Monday of the month. Scan the code on the left to sign up for your spot!



### 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.



### 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

### 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.



### 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7pm in Rick's Room at First Church.**

Contact Angela Stevens for more information. [angelamessinastevens@gmail.com](mailto: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 it 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 benefitting 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**.

Deadline to submit surveys is May 15!



*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](http://FCCOG.ORG/REGIONAL-YOUTH-MINISTRY)



REGIONAL YOUTH  
MINISTRY

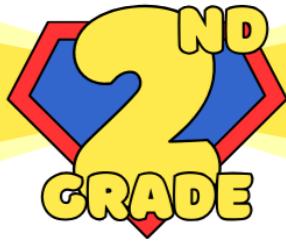
9TH-12TH GRADE  
**BOWLING**

RPM & MORE  
600 West Ave  
STAMFORD, CT  
06902

[KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG](mailto:KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG)



A SUPER SPECIAL



2<sup>ND</sup>  
GRADE  
**COMMUNION  
CLASS!**

LEARN ABOUT:

- SACRAMENTS
- BREAD & CUP
- SYMBOLICITY
- MEANING
- TRADITIONS

MAY  
12TH  
IN CHURCH  
SCHOOL!

STUDENTS TAKE COMMUNION  
IN CHURCH ON JUNE 2ND!

[KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG](mailto:KHALEIGHL@FCCOG.ORG)

**THIS SUMMER:  
A WEEK LONG  
REGIONAL  
YOUTH  
EVENT** !!

**LOVE**  
is greater than  
**FEAR**

Current 6th-12 Graders

Four day camp with  
other area churches  
and youth groups!

July 28th - 31st

**AT SILVER LAKE  
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER**

register: [silverlakect.org](http://silverlakect.org)

**Regional Youth Ministry in Lower Fairfield County, CT**

For ?'s: [KhaleighL@fccog.org](mailto:KhaleighL@fccog.org)

# 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

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