



SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



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.



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

Christians, We Have Met To Worship
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Women's Fellowship
Meg Dempsey

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Walking along the road

All: our hearts are burning as we listen and share.

One: Standing at the door

All: our hearts are open to welcome the stranger.

One: Sitting at the table

All: our eyes are opened and we recognize him!

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today
245 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Slow us down today, Living God for we are tempted to rush, to get over it, move on,
take the next step. Slow us down today and re-settle us in your story, that we may see ourselves in your
word, that scripture and life might intertwine and show us your truth. 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, Hallehujah



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ROLE CALL OF CANDIDATES

COMMITMENT OF CANDIDATES

Clergy: We are called of God to be disciples through Jesus Christ. Today. We welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

Church Council Chair: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellows in Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting our shared responsibilities of faith, praying and working for our mutual use, sustaining worship, supporting wider mission and living with us in the joys of friendship and fellowship? If so, please respond, we will.

Candidates: We will!

Clergy: We believe in the freedom of responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast dedication to the faith which our forbearers confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic tenets of the Church Universal and of our Communion and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to seek the wisdom of God in all that you do, to be open and accepting of all expressions of faith, and to continue your journey of faith? If so, please respond, I promise, with the help of God.

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

THE COVENANT (in unison)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in Scripture and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for a more compassionate world. Trusting in the Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith the world will be made new.

RESPONSE

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B $\flat$ E $\flat$ B $\flat$ Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.)

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-5

New Revised Standard Version
Helen Ingraham

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

ANTHEM

O Love, How Deep
Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)
The Chancel Choir

*O Love, how deep, how broad, how high! How passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!*

*For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus still seeking not himself, but us.*

*All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad,
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore. Amen.*

Latin - 15th century translated Benjamin Webb

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:13-35
New Revised Standard Version

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

MESSAGE

The Long Road Home
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain
234 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

Meg Dempsey

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Love
Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy that seeks me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.*

George Matheson (1882)

† 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: Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

The Day Of Resurrection!
233 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur In C
Theodore Salomé (1834-1896)

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† Please rise in body or in spirit

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Robert & Stephanie O'Brien

Kristin & Neel Gupta

Will & Leslee Morrison

Carol Kenyon

Yvonne Tran

Scott & Susan Kohler

Anna Varghese

Kristin Toretta-Lee

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 April are members of the Faith Formation Committee.

COMMUNITY

HOUR

CHURCH SCHOOL



Church School

April 27

May 11

May 25

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!

May 18 – Music Sunday

June 8 – Confirmation Sunday

June 15 – Celebration Sunday

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



REGISTRATION FOR RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT – NEXT SUNDAY MAY 4 AT 10 A.M.



During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger's vision of a world without hunger, which 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 where we will experience the joy of working together to help the least among us! Bring friends to show them First Church in action!



To register - scan the QR code on the left to fill out the waiver. It will save you time when you arrive! One per family. No rings or bracelets other than wedding bands please – we don't want you to lose anything!



Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First Church's most important events... meal packing for Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, May 4 at 10 a.m. Scan the QR code on the left and consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of meals - every donation makes a difference to those that are hungry!

EASTER FLOWER/BRASS FUND ADDENDUM

In memory of William John Kennedy - by Diane & Paul Kretschmann

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.

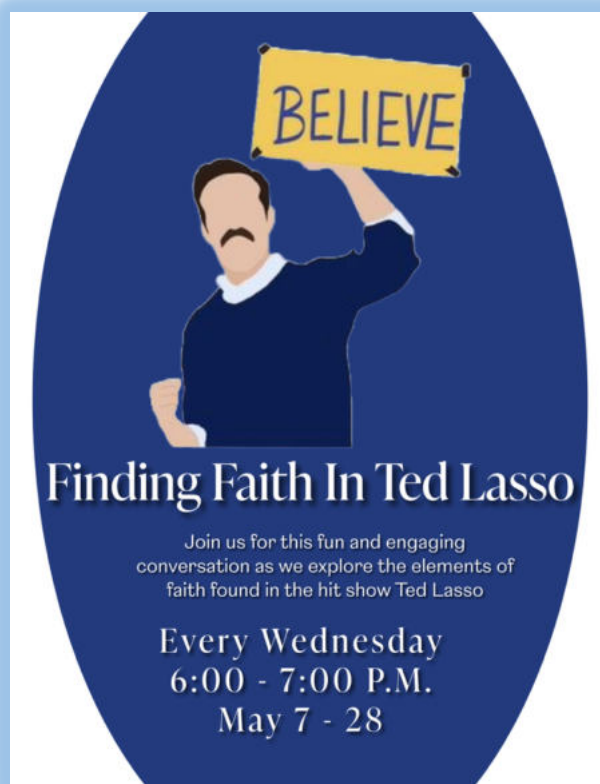


FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



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 Join Pastor Patrick for lunch on Thursdays at noon in the lounge. BYO lunch optional.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE & ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

It's April and that means the annual quilt raffle to benefit The Women's Fellowship is just around the corner. Tickets will be sold at community hour, the church front office, and The Rummage Room. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be held on Saturday, May 3 at The Women's Fellowship luncheon. Get your tickets soon!

Women of First Church – join us on Saturday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. for our Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We are looking for women who would like to get involved in planning our next year and serving on the Women's Fellowship Board. Please see us at the next Community Hour on April 27 - we'll be next to the Quilt Raffle table. Reservations for the luncheon can also be made at Community Hour. The fee for the luncheon is \$25 (cash or checks made out to Women's Fellowship FCCOG).

Some of our other upcoming events include our Summer Socials planned for the fourth Monday of June, July, and August - June 23, July 28, and August 25-beginning at 5:30 pm at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point with rain dates the following Tuesday evening.



Upcoming Events

Rise Against Hunger - Sunday May 4

During our morning worship time, we will pack 20,000 meals to support Rise Against Hunger which feeds communities around the world in need.

Music Sunday - May 18

This special day in the life of First Church celebrates our amazing music ministry with all of our ensembles, featuring Robert Ray's Gospel Mass sung by the Chancel Choir with piano, bass, and drums.

Confirmation Sunday - June 8

We celebrate and honor the year-long dedication of our confirmands as they publically declare their faith with the First Church community.

Celebration Sunday - June 15

This day features our youngest in the church as they conclude another exciting year of Church School activities.

Annual Meeting - Sunday June 22

Attend this important gathering following worship as we hear reports and watch a special video highlighting the activities of the past year.

Open And Affirming Sunday - June 29

Each year we celebrate our church's Open & Affirming designation achieved in 2003 and re-affirm and re-commit to the inclusion of all people as beloved children of God, regardless of matters like age, race, gender, and sexual orientation.

See the full Church Calendar for all upcoming events
www.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
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Facility Manager
Sexton
Sexton
First Church Preschool Director
First Church Preschool Assistant Director
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