



Faith First - Love Always

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024
SECOND 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

Con Moto & Andante (from Sonata #3)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847))
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

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.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rainbow Song
The Cherub Choir
Carol Woodman, director

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have come to worship God, the living God,
All: **Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**
One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,
All: **Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**
One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,
All: **Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!**

†HYMN

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!
239 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. 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!

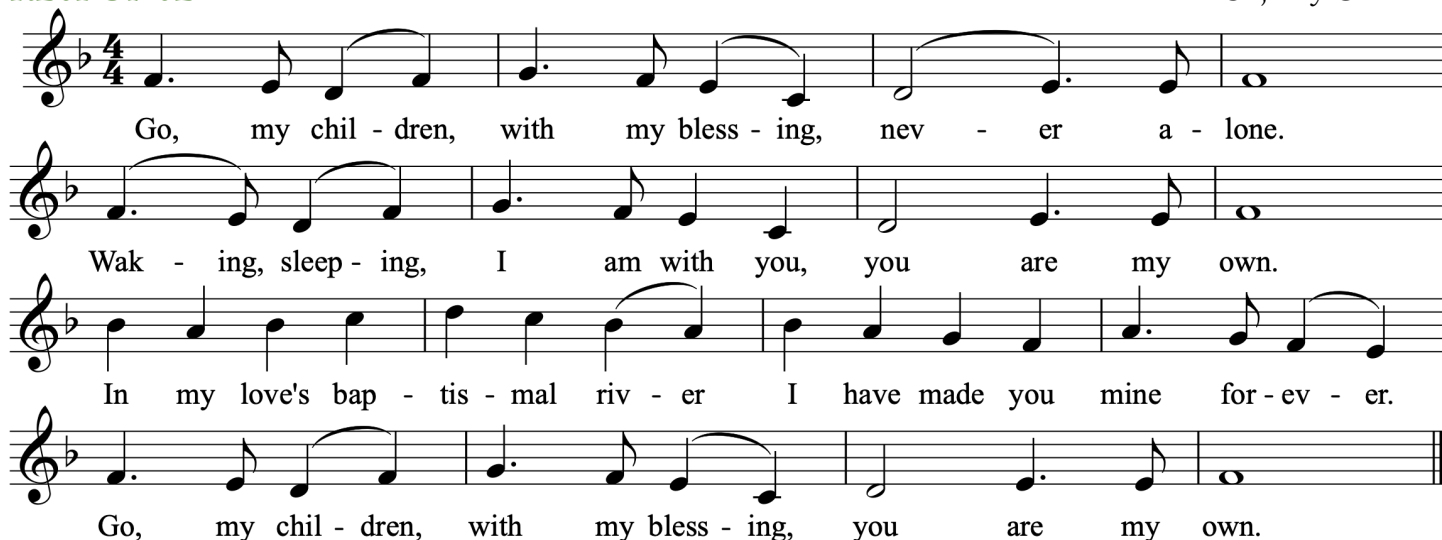
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Khaleigh Laicher

(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 1: 1-6
Common English Bible
Kate Collins

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

ANTHEM

O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?
John Stainer (1840-1901)
The Chancel Choir

*O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, Hallelujah,
Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Hallelujah. Amen.*

SECOND LESSON

Acts 1:7-14
Common English Bible

Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son—all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

MESSAGE

Blessed To Be A Witness
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright
254 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.

Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.

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

Pat Mendelsohn

OFFERTORY SOLO

Marchin' On Up
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

†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

†HYMN

In The Bulb There Is A Flower
250 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Today, God's Son Triumphs
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

† 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
~~~~~
HOUR



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 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 7, 14, 21: Regular Church School



OUR NEXT CONCERT IN FIRST MUSIC & ARTS CONCERT SERIES TODAY at 4 P.M.



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.

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.





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.



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



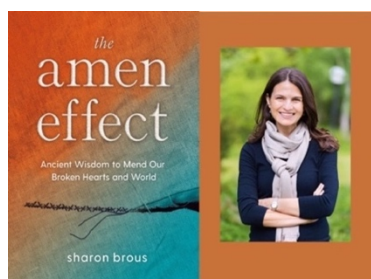
Our Lenten Offering this year will underwrite one of First Church's most important events ... meal packing for Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, April 28 at 10 a.m. Please consider a Lenten Gift toward underwriting the cost of meals - every donation makes a difference to those that are hungry!

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: Summer shoes, Men's business shirts Jewelry



FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



THE AMEN EFFECT

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. First Church Lounge
FINAL TWO CLASSES APRIL 10 & 17

Join us on Wednesday, April 10, as we move forward into chapter seven where Rabbi Brous explores the concept and practice of bearing witness, which is the act of being present and attentive to the suffering and injustice in the world, and of acknowledging and honoring the humanity and dignity of those who are oppressed and marginalized.

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 "What A Fellowship". 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.

VISIONING TASK FORCE SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

Recently the Church Council established a Visioning Task Force. Our purpose is to form a vision for our future by broadening our programs and offerings to church members and the community at large. For this, we have enlisted the assistance of an outside consultant.

We will be reaching out to all of you to share your feedback through a short survey to learn about what is it you value about FCCOG? What more can we create that instills the value of belonging to our church community and leaves our young families with cherished memories and a desire to always be involved in church life.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending via email a link to our Congregational Survey. If you receive our Friday e-blasts you will receive this link. If you wish to add yourself to our contact list please use the QR code or link listed in your bulletin. We look for your input to help us build our shared vision for the future.





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

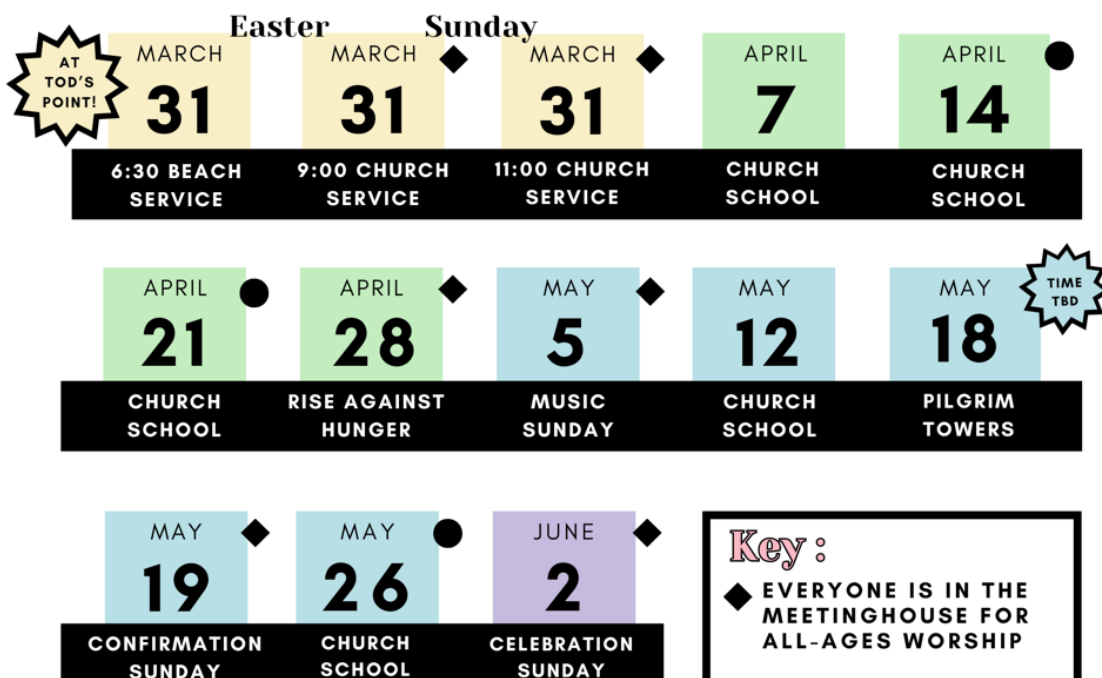
APRIL 21: BOWLING
MAY 19: MAY MADNESS
JUNE 23: BEACH BASH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEKEND: JUNE 7-9

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2024

Spring Church School Schedule



?s: KhaleighL@fccog.org | 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

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