



SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY
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.*

In loving memory of Barbara M. Tufts and Lydia T. Anderson
from their great-granddaughter Ellie Anderson and her grandparents.

PRELUDE

Offertoire

César Franck (1822-1890)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name.
All: **Illumine our homes with the light of your love.**
One: We thank you for gifts of love we have received.
All: **From our mothers and those who have served as mothers in many ways, nourishing us and guiding us as we grow to be who we are.**
One: As we have been loved by them, so we are loved by you, O God. Join with us in this day of celebration as we rejoice in being loved.
All: **As you grant us peace in Christ Jesus our Lord, so we come to worship in His holy name.**

CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

All Things Bright And Beautiful
478 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, you send us teachers at the moment we are ready to learn, though sometimes we think we can figure it out on our own. You call us into community with people whose stories will expand and enhance our own, though we struggle to love beyond those who are “like-minded.” You send us to teach and share with others, though we often resist, thinking we don’t know enough. Make us ready today. Ready to hear, to learn, to share and to grow. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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.

†RESPONSE (remain standing)

Halle, Hallelujah



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

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 56:1-8

Common English Bible

Mariann Ekernas

The Lord says:

Act justly and do what is righteous,
because my salvation is coming soon,
and my righteousness will be revealed.

Happy is the one who does this,
the person who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not making it impure,
and avoids doing any evil.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

Don't let the immigrant who has joined with the Lord say,
"The Lord will exclude me from the people."
And don't let the eunuch say,
"I'm just a dry tree."

The Lord says:

To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,
choose what I desire,
and remain loyal to my covenant.
In my temple and courts, I will give them
a monument and a name better than sons and daughters.
I will give to them an enduring name
that won't be removed.

The immigrants who have joined me,
serving me and loving my name, becoming my servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure,
and those who hold fast to my covenant:
I will bring them to my holy mountain,
and bring them joy in my house of prayer.
I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar.
My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples,
says the Lord God,
who gathers Israel's outcasts.
I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

ANTHEM

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation
Vernon Hoyle (b. 1948)
The Chancel Choir

*Christ is made the sure Foundation, and the precious Cornerstone;
Who, the two walls underlying, bound in each, binds both in one;
Holy Zion's Help forever, and her Confidence alone.*

*All that dedicated city, dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation, pours perpetual melody,
God the One, and God the Trinal, singing everlasting.*

*To this temple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of Hosts, today!
With Thy wonted lovingkindness hear Thy people as they pray.
And Thy fullest benediction shed within its walls for ay.*

*Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One;
Consubstantial, co-eternal, while unending ages run.*

c. 7th century translated J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

SECOND LESSON

Acts 8:26-39
Common English Bible

An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.”

Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?*

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?” Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, “Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?” He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Lord’s Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

MESSAGE

A House Of Prayer For All Peoples
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

Charlie Stuckey

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Chancel Choir

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be alway praising thee.
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper thou our handiwork.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Psalm 84:1-2 and Psalm 90:12

†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!

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Rejoice! The Lord Is King
204 Pilgrim Hymnal (red)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Sortie

Félix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (weather permitting) or the Auditorium where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for May are members of the Asset Management Committee.



CHURCH SCHOOL



Church School

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

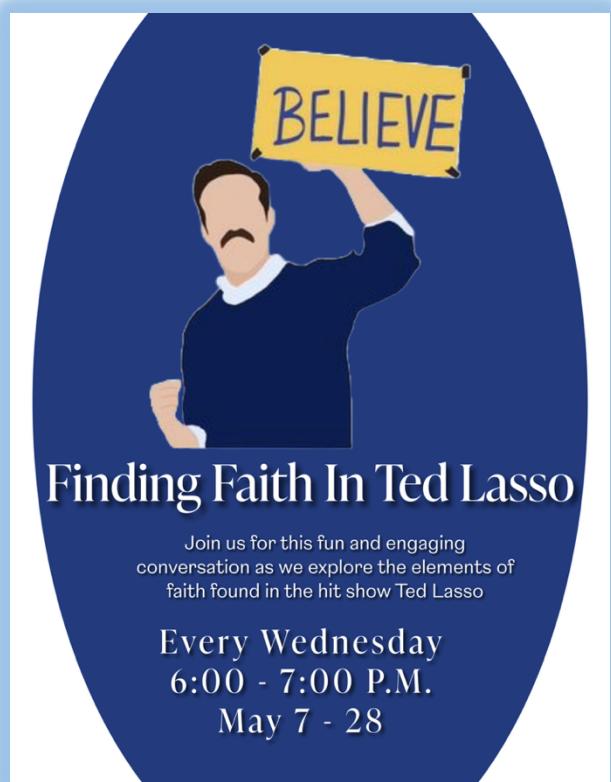
Kids and Youth can sign up to read. Scan QR code to the right

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.



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:

- Baby through to 8-year-old boys and girls clothing
- Jewelry
- Ladies spring/summer handbags



BEACH SERVICES COMING SOON!

Our annual beach services at Greenwich Point will be returning Sunday, June 15 at 8 a.m. Bring your beach chair, or blanket, and bask in the beauty of sunshine, waves lapping at the shore and offering worship to the God that made all of us and the earth. Passes are not necessary to get in Greenwich Point – just tell the gatekeeper you're there for First Church worship. Dates for the summer are:

June 15, 22, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, and 17.



LOST AND FOUND

Over the last few months, there are several coats in the Meetinghouse coat room that have lost their owners! Do these coats look familiar to you or someone you know? Stop by the coat room and pick them up. If they aren't claimed by the end of May, they will be donated to the Rummage Room.

THANK YOU, FIRST CHURCH AND FRIENDS!!

Thank you to all 160 volunteers who set-up, welcomed, packaged the meals, ran, and cleaned up for the Rise Against Hunger event on Sunday! You created a joyful hands-on worship service by providing 20,088 meals for those facing food insecurity.

Also, thank you to everyone who contributed a Lenten Gift to underwrite the ingredients for the meal packing event. We could not hold this event without you!

With great appreciation,
The Outreach Committee



QUILT RAFFLE

Congratulations to Nanette Laffan, winner of the Women's Fellowship Quilt Raffle last Saturday at the luncheon!



SPRING FAMILY MINISTRIES DAY!

MAY 17TH, 2025



FOR ALL AGES!

FAITH at HOME STORY TIME

1ST EVENT
10:30 TO
11:30 AM



EXPLORE FAITH WITH CHILDREN THROUGH STORIES!

FLOWER PLANTING AT PILGRIM TOWERS

FOR
ALL
AGES!

25 WASHINGTON
COURT, STAMFORD

PARKING IN BACK!

A FLOWERING TREE WILL
BE PLACED IN MEMORY
OF ROSEMARY LAMIE

2ND EVENT
LUNCH: NOON
GLOVES: 1 PM

FOR ALL ?S EMAIL
KHALEIGH@FCCOG.ORG



Upcoming Events

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 confirmants as they publicly declare their faith with the First Church community.

Beach Services begin - June 15

Our Summer Beach Services start today at 8 a.m. at Greenwich Point Park. No passes are necessary - simply tell the gatekeeper you're attending First Congregational's service. Remaining dates are June 22, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17.

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



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OF CHRIST
a just world for all