



SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025  
SIXTH 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

*Voluntary In D*

William Boyce (1711-1779)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, in this time of worship, hear our prayers.  
All: **Hear us now, as we stand in the midst of so much wrongdoing in our world.**  
One: Help us hear your voice amid the cacophony of sounds that surround and distract us.  
All: **Help us focus on what is truly important—living faithful lives, and being of service to you and to all your people.**  
One: May this time apart strengthen us to resist evil and to embrace justice in your steadfast love.  
All: **May this time with you focus our awareness that Christ lives in each one of us. Amen.**

## CHORAL INTROIT

### †HYMN

*Open Now Thy Gates Of Beauty*  
403 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

### †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

O God, our world seems in such a mess: greed triumphs over generosity; death appears stronger than life; people judge one another harshly; separation from you abounds, and grace recedes far away. Forgive us, O God, when we succumb to the forces of separation, greed, judgment, and death; when we act as if you are not here with us; when we fail to do the things we should like welcome all people with love and joy, live in an attitude of abundance, find ways to support your work in the world. Help us to stay close to each other through our faith and humanity, and even closer to you and your ways. 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, Hallelujah*



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

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

*Galatians 1:13-17*  
Common English Bible  
Pat Larrabee

You heard about my previous life in Judaism, how severely I harassed God's church and tried to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my peers, because I was much more militant about the traditions of my ancestors. But God had set me apart from birth and called me through his grace. He was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might preach about him to the Gentiles. I didn't immediately consult with any human being. I didn't go up to Jerusalem to see the men who were apostles before me either, but I went away into Arabia and I returned again to Damascus.

## ANTHEM

*Jesus! Name Of Wondrous Love*  
Robert J. Powell (1932-2025)  
The Summer Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Galatians 2:11-21*  
Common English Bible

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was wrong. He had been eating with the Gentiles before certain people came from James. But when they came, he began to back out and separate himself, because he was afraid of the people who promoted circumcision.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

And the rest of the Jews also joined him in this hypocrisy so that even Barnabas got carried away with them in their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they weren't acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of everyone, "If you, though you're a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you require the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

We are born Jews—we're not Gentile sinners. However, we know that a person isn't made righteous by the works of the Law but rather through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. We ourselves believed in Christ Jesus so that we could be made righteous by the faithfulness of Christ and not by the works of the Law—because no one will be made righteous by the works of the Law. But if it is discovered that we ourselves are sinners while we are trying to be made righteous in Christ, then is Christ a servant of sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild the very things that I tore down, I show that I myself am breaking the Law. I died to the Law through the Law, so that I could live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live in my body, I live by faith, indeed, by the faithfulness of God's Son, who loved me and gave himself for me. I don't ignore the grace of God, because if we become righteous through the Law, then Christ died for no purpose.

## MESSAGE

*The Company We Keep*  
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## †HYMN

*Amazing Grace! How Sweet The Sound*  
649 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

XXX

## SOLO

*Swing Low/When The Saints*  
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)  
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

## †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'ly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong To Save  
8 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †BENEDICTION

## †POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven  
John Rutter (b. 1945)

† 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 25 One-Room - Undercroft



## 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!

June 8 - Confirmation Sunday

June 15 - Celebration Sunday

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

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Parish Nurse Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. If Community Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside, Sue will be in her office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821 or emailing [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org).



## 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.

## 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.



## 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 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



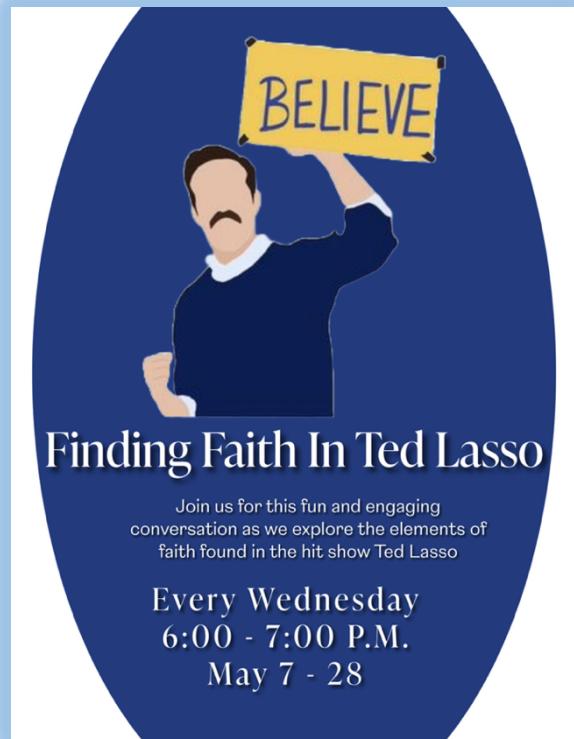
Over the last few months, there are several coats in the Meetinghouse coat room that have lost their owners! Do these coats look familiar to you or someone you know? Stop by the coat room and pick them up. If they aren't claimed by the end of May, they will be donated to the Rummage Room.

## SUMMER TAI CHI

Did you know that First Church is home to Tai Chi classes?

Will Morrison has been teaching these classes in our building for years and recently became a member along with his wife Leslee.

Why not check a class out this week and create a new summer routine? There are classes on Monday and Thursday mornings – email Will at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up.



## Finding Faith In Ted Lasso

Join us for this fun and engaging conversation as we explore the elements of faith found in the hit show Ted Lasso

Every Wednesday  
6:00 - 7:00 P.M.  
May 7 - 28



## JOIN THE SUMMER CHOIR!



All are welcome to join the Summer Choir on Sunday mornings

throughout the summer at 9:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that day. Head to the 3rd floor, outside the choir room, to pick up the anthem, bulletin, and a folder, then meet downstairs in the choir loft.

Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship. It also gives you a chance to experience worship from a different perspective in the choir loft. Everyone is welcome – no robes will be worn! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 822).

**Awesome news, First Church!**

Meals packaged at your Rise Against Hunger Experience have shipped. At this moment, healthy meals are on their way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. We're excited to share that destination with you.

(drumroll, please!)

**Meals you packaged are headed to Vietnam!**

Located in Southeast Asia, Vietnam is the easternmost country on the Indochinese Peninsula. While poverty rates have decreased in the past decade, many minority groups, especially in rural mountainous regions of the country, continue to face food insecurity. Frequent natural disasters that cause flooding and landslides create further instability for many families who rely on farming for income. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, categorizes the country of Vietnam as a whole as having a "moderate" level of hunger. Rise Against Hunger serves in the regions of Vietnam where hunger is most urgent.

**Rise Against Hunger**

The poster features the First Congregational Church of Greenwich logo at the top, which includes a rainbow-colored stylized human figure and the text "first church congregational of greenwich founded 1665". The background is a light beige color with red stars of varying sizes scattered across it. The text "OLD GREENWICH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE" is in a dark blue serif font. Below it, "COMFORT STOP" is in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. To the left, "EVERYONE WELCOME" is in a dark blue sans-serif font. To the right, "MONDAY MAY 26" is in a dark blue sans-serif font. Below that, "9:30 AM - 11:30 AM" is in a smaller red sans-serif font. At the bottom, "FREE POPSICLES" is in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. The bottom right corner features a stylized American flag graphic.

RYM END  
OF YEAR  
MEGA  
PARTY!

JUNE  
7TH @  
7 PM

2CC  
139 E.  
PUTNAM  
AVE GRE-  
ENiCH

BBQ,  
CANDY  
TABLE &  
POPCORN

ALL OF  
RYM -  
3RD TO  
12TH  
GRADE!

LOCAL  
MISSION  
PROJECT:  
HOMELESS  
CARE KITS

MOVIE &  
MISSION

NIGHT



Hosted by the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy

# INTER FAITH PRIDE SERVICE

Tuesday  
**June 10th**  
2025  
**6:30**  
pm

© Outdoor Meadow at St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church in Riverside  
200 Riverside Ave, Riverside, CT



**Family Friendly  
Participation  
Affirmation  
Community  
Prayer  
Music  
& Rainbow  
Social**

## PICK-UP PRIDE CHOIR

Anyone (including youth) is invited to join us **day of** to learn a few songs and sing in the service!

**5:30 PM IN THE LIBRARY**

YOU CAN BRING AN INSTRUMENT!

**RYM**  
REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY  
IN LOWER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

## YOUTH ART SHOWCASE

Youth of **ALL** ages are invited to submit artwork on the theme **“Resistance, Resilience, Rejoicing.”** Email entries to khaleighl@fccog.org **by June 3rd.** **Community voting** the following week **to select cover art for the service!**



# Upcoming Events

## **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.

## **Interfaith Pride Service - June 10**

Gather at St. Paul's Church in Riverside for our 2nd Annual Interfaith Pride Tuesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

## **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 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](http://www.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

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