



SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY  
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

*Morning Meditation*  
Jason Krug (b. 1978)  
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

by Rev. Derek Terry,  
Program Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition  
of the United Church of Christ

One: Paul wrote to the Romans, encouraging them to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer.

All: **In a world that often pressures us to conform and lose hope, we find strength in God's promises and in our community of love and acceptance.**

One: The early Christians faced persecution but persisted in their faith and hope.

All: **We too face trials, yet we hold on to our faith, resisting the pressure to abandon our beliefs and values. We stand firm in our commitment to be a welcoming and affirming church.**

One: Paul's message reminds us to be patient in tribulation, knowing that endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

All: **Our resilience is a testament to our faith. We trust that God's love and justice will prevail. We are committed to standing with our LGBTQIA+ siblings against all forms of hate.**

One: Let us stand together, resisting oppression and embodying hope, creating spaces of safety and bravery for all.

All: **We are called to resist despair, persist in faith, and embrace hope. Let us worship with hearts full of hope and voices raised in praise.**

## †CHORAL INTROIT

## †HYMN

*Rejoice, The Lord Is King!*  
363 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

by Rev. Sam Lundquist  
St. John's Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, CA

God of wild love and extravagant acceptance, Spirit of boldness and beauty:  
You are faithfully present in both the grit and glitter of life, and you are present here with us now.  
Awaken us to your dream for creation: A world in which every member of the human family is free to flourish however you have made them. Forgive us for the moments we have held back your ever-flowing current of love, dignity, and justice. Remake us into a people eager to see you in the faces, bodies, and expressions of all people. Remind each of us to step out of the shadows of our lives and shine fearlessly and courageously. Ignite the Divine Light within us to sparkle through the prism of our bodies and brighten every corner of this Earth.

Holy One, You call each of us beloved. Each of us cherished. Each of us desired. Each of us sacred.  
And so, we give you thanks now and forever. 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.

## †RESPONSE (remain standing)

*Halle, Hallelujah*



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

Halle, hal-le, 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 return to their seats.)*

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## FIRST LESSON

A *Pride* Blessing  
by Rev. Sam Lundquist  
St. John's Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, CA  
Juliet Primo Lee

Beloved, there is only love.

In you, only love.  
Around you, only love.

Not a touchy-feely, pop song kind of love.  
But a love that knows every secret corner  
of your fragile, fabulous being and says, “Yes!”

“Yes!” to your difference.

“Yes!” to your diversity.

“Yes!” to your desire.

Whoever you are,  
whatever beautiful spirit  
God created you to be,  
shine fearlessly and courageously.

We need you  
and the divine light within you  
to sparkle through the prism of your body  
and brighten the world  
with a glorious rainbow.

Never forget you are loved.  
Fiercely and forever.

## ANTHEM

Sing A New Song  
Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)  
The Summer Choir

## SECOND LESSON

*Romans 12:9-21*

The Message

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

## MESSAGE

*Only Love*

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How can we ensure our love is sincere and not just a facade?
- What are some practical ways to show love to others, even when it's difficult? How does the love of Christ shape our response to others?
- How can we practice hospitality to strangers and welcome newcomers into our community?
- What is the underlying motivation behind Paul's instructions in Romans 12:9-21?
- How can the principles in this passage guide the building of a more just, inclusive, and affirming world for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic?
- What specific actions can be taken, both individually and as a community, to embody the love and acceptance described in Romans 12:9-21 in daily life?

## †HYMN

## God Of Many Faces

God of many faces, we offer our praise,  
 God of many genders, our world reflects you,  
 God of many names, we invite you to show  
 God of many bodies, abide with in ours,

sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.  
 sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,  
 us the new names that re - flect our true souls.  
 shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.

Hear ev - er grow-ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,  
 wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,  
 Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word  
 Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,

car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.  
 hou - ses of ru - - by and walls rowed wth jade.  
 that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.  
 ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

† 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

Mariann Ekernas

### ORGAN OFFERTORY

Maestoso

John Marsh (b. 1939)

### †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

## Hymn For Self-Acceptance

1. When you feel change might be hope - less, when you've giv - en up on God,  
 2. Years and years, beg - ging for turn - ing in - to some - thing that you're not.  
 3. You are worth more than you real - ize. You are won - der - ful - ly made

when you feel you're not worth sav - ing, that your be - ing - ness is flawed.  
 The wrong prayer you have been pray - ing. You are not God's af - ter-thought.  
 in the im - age of our Mo - ther, Fa - ther, Pa - rent, all the same.

When your prayers still seem un - an - swered, not a sound from the Di - vine,  
 You are made as God in - tend - ed. You are per - fect - flaw-less too!  
 Don't let doc - trines of our church - es use the Word to mis - con - st r ue,

may - be you have been mis - ta - ken. God is send - ing you a sign.  
 May each one of you re - mem - ber, no - thing sev - ers God from you.  
 for it's writ - ten in the scrip - tures, sure - ly God de - lights in you!

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## †BENEDICTION

### OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT (in unison)

Our church's mission is to proclaim the gospel to all people and to work for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and human understanding in all our relationships. We strive through our example to overcome exclusionary practices, discrimination and violence in our society based upon considerations, including but not limited to race, ancestry, age, physical or mental limitations, gender, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and religious background. We commit ourselves to work towards ending hatred, prejudice and discrimination, thereby providing a safe physical, emotional and spiritual haven. As Jesus accepted and included all people, so do we as individuals and as a congregation welcome all who wish to enter our community of faith and invite their participation in the full life of the church. Without exception, we accept each person who joins our community of faith, as an individual and our equal within God's family. Therefore, The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

*Adopted by the Congregation in a Special Meeting on March 9, 2003*

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

### †POSTLUDE

*Allegro Marziale*  
Robert Fielding (b. 1956)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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*A Hymn for Self-Acceptance ©2019 Wesley King - [wesleykingmusic@gmail.com](mailto:wesleykingmusic@gmail.com)*

*God of Many Faces ©2019 Amy Cerniglia - [amycerniglia@gmail.com](mailto:amycerniglia@gmail.com)*

Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (or Auditorium if weather is bad) where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for June are members of the Outreach Committee.

**COMMUNITY**  
  
**HOUR**



### 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.

## 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).



## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



Parish Nurse Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following Sunday'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).

A poster for Sunday Beach Services. The background is a photograph of ocean waves crashing onto a sandy beach. In the upper center, there is a small graphic of a rainbow-colored church with a cross on top, set against a blue and yellow gradient. Below the graphic, the text "SUNDAY BEACH SERVICES" is written in a large, bold, serif font. Underneath that, "at 8 a.m." is written in a slightly smaller bold font. In the lower center, the dates "JULY 13, 20, 27 &amp; AUGUST 3, 10, 17" are listed in a large, bold, serif font. At the bottom, the text "8 A.M. AT GREENWICH POINT PARK" is in a bold, teal font. Below that, "ALL ARE WELCOME - SIMPLY SAY YOU'RE HERE" is in a smaller bold teal font. Underneath that, "FOR FIRST CHURCH SERVICE" and "BRING YOUR BEACH CHAIR OR BLANKET" are in a smaller bold teal font. At the very bottom, the text "FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH" and the website "WWW.FCCOG.ORG" are in a smaller teal font.

# FCCOG CHURCH SCHOOL SUMMER BASH

29  
JUNE  
@ 5 PM



**ALL CHURCH SCHOOL FAMILIES**

15 Forestwood Drive, Stamford CT 06903

HOSTED BY THE GARTNER FAMILY

**Play | Smores | Fun | Community**

RSVP via email : [KhaleighL@FCCOG.org](mailto:KhaleighL@FCCOG.org)



**Join us for a two week summer theater program  
with a big final show!**

**July 7-18th at  
The First Congregational Church of Greenwich  
\$750 for one week - \$1450 for two weeks**

**To sign up please email:  
Bonnie Kelley-Young - [bdryoung61@gmail.com](mailto:bdryoung61@gmail.com)  
Denise Casazzone - [dcasazzone@gmail.com](mailto:dcasazzone@gmail.com)**



**Join us at Greenwich Point on  
Sunday, August 3 at 8 a.m.  
for an All-Church Beach Service  
No passes required - bring your chairs/blankets**

**(in case of bad weather, worship will be at 10 a.m. in the Meetinghouse)**





# Upcoming Events

## Beach Services

Our Summer Beach Services continue 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 July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17.

## Founders Day & Heritage Sunday - July 20

Join us as we celebrate the founding of First Church and the Town of Greenwich. We will also welcome a new class of 50-year members during worship in the Meetinghouse. A special community hour will be held following worship with historic artifacts curated by our historian Pat Larrabee.

## All-Church Beach Service - August 3, 8 a.m.

A special Summer Beach Service will be held on Sunday August 3 at 8 a.m. at Greenwich Point Park. It's a special time to gather together and be in the beauty of God's creation. No passes are necessary - simply tell the gatekeeper you're attending First Congregational service.

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

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

Beth Genovese

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

See more about the stories of our  
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -  
People of Note

