



SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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 front 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

*The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given by the family of Lea Menegon
in loving memory of Lea, who passed away August 22, 2023.*

PRELUDE

Salvation Now Is Come To Us

Anonymous

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

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 worshiping 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.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98

One: Sing to God a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,

All: for God is still doing marvelous things!

One: Break into joyful song!

All: Sing praises with lyre and melody and trumpets!

One: Let the seas roar and the floods clap their hands!

All: For God is coming to establish justice in the world with righteousness.

One: God is coming to establish justice in the world with equity.

All: Sing to God a new song!

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

A Grateful Heart
652 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of Love, do not let us grow weary of living our lives according to the example of your child, Jesus. He taught us to abide in your generous love, for it completes our lives and gives us joy; he asks us to love others as you have loved us, for it brings your creation to fruition. Loving one another is a great challenge and a high calling. We do not want to fail our friend and brother. Pour out upon us your Spirit who reminds us that we bear Jesus' love and life within our very being—a powerful gift for our world. Out of this gift, may we bear the fruit of love. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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: 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)

Glory To God

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B♭ F B♭ F B♭ F Gm F

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

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B♭ E♭ B♭ Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World without end, γ 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 without end, γ with - out end. A - men.

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

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

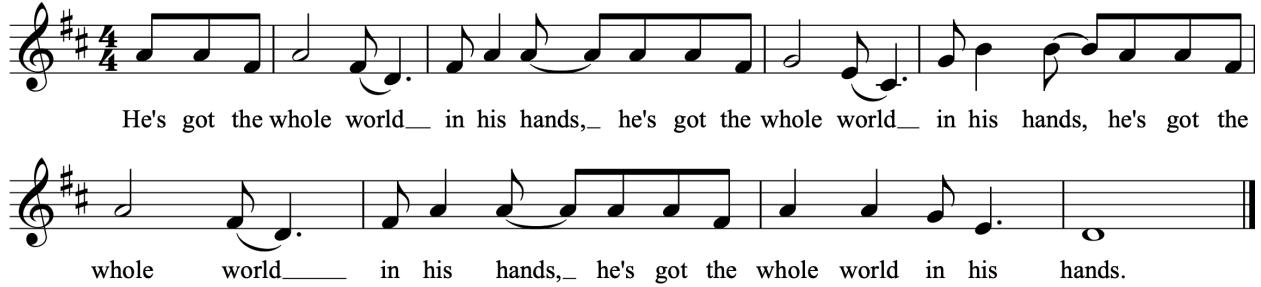
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the response, the children will return to their seats.)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

RESPONSE

He's Got The Whole World



He's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

FIRST LESSON

John 15:9-17

New International Version
Clem Lepoutre

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

ANTHEM

Strengthen For Service

Healey Willan (1880-1968)
The Chancel Choir Quartet

SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:1-6

New International Version

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

MESSAGE

Of God
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

For Everyone Born
769 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

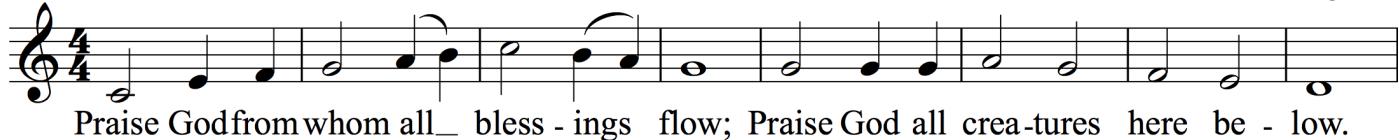
John Fryback

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
Lee Dengler (b. 1949)
The Summer Choir

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised
724 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

One: Jesus speaks again today:

All: **“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”**

One: Go in joy and faithfulness, knowing that you, the chosen friends of Jesus, abide in Jesus' love and bear the gift of this love to the world. Amen.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur
Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

All music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726454. All rights reserved.

COMMUNITY HOUR

Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for August are members of the Church Council.

HEALTH SCREENINGS/BLOOD PRESSURE

Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. If community hour is outside, look for her there. If inside, 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.

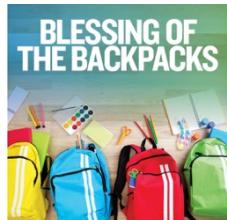


BEACH SERVICES

Our summer beach services conclude next Sunday August 26 at Greenwich Point Park (Tod's Point) at 8 a.m. All are welcome if you have a beach pass or not – simply state you're here for First Congregational Church services and the guard will let you in.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SOCIALS

This year's last Women's Fellowship Summer Social is scheduled for Monday, August 26 from 5:30 pm on at the Sue Baker Pavilion at Greenwich Point, with a rain date the following evening. Join us for a relaxed, social evening at the beach. We bring our own food/drinks and meet for an informal gathering. Feel free to bring a friend/neighbor. If you don't have a current Greenwich beach pass, we can arrange a ride from the church parking lot if you let Car Westbrook know. Questions? Contact Car Westbrook at carwestbrook@optimum.net.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

As the new school year approaches, we invite students, parents, and educators to bring their backpacks for a special Blessing of the Backpacks during our time of worship on August 25. We hope you can join us for a meaningful moment of reflection and prayer as we seek wisdom and blessings for the year ahead.

MEMBER DATABASE INFORMATION UPDATING

As a new program year is quickly approaching, we would like you to take a few minutes to check your personal information in the church database. For those who already have a login and password, simply click on the “My First Church” box at the top of the church website (www.fccog.org) and navigate to your profile to confirm it’s up-to-date or make any changes. If you would like help to see if your information is correct, Craig Symons will be at Community Hour for the next 3 weeks with his laptop to assist you in that task.



VISION TASK FORCE SURVEY RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS



The Vision Task Force (VTF) presented the results of the Congregational Visioning Survey, Leadership Survey, and Community Leader interviews on Sunday, June 30, with agency partner Convergence. The survey link and password can be found in the Friday email blast.

As we enter the next phases of discussions, it's important to get as many people as possible involved in the process of dreaming and discerning. There was a wealth of information shared at the June presentation, so check your eblast and take some time to refresh your memory or explore it if you were not able to be at the June meeting.

- Two “recap” dates for that survey information will be after church around 11:15 a.m. for 45-60 minutes: **September 15 & September 22**. This will also be a chance to give feedback and ask questions about the results of the survey.

- Two Webinars led by Convergence Founder/CEO Rev. Cameron Trimble will be:
Sunday, September 29 -

with repeat sessions **Tuesday, Oct 1** (evening) and **Wednesday, Oct 2** (morning)

The Great Unveiling - This is a webinar where we look at the shifts happening in our culture, generating fundamental shifts in how we structure our communities, businesses, congregations, and families.

Sunday, October 20 -

with repeat sessions **Tuesday, Oct 22** (evening) and **Wednesday, Oct 23** (morning)

Creative Churches: A Virtual Tour of Growing Churches Changing Their Communities

This webinar will tour creative churches around the country and learn from their ministries. We will explore how these churches have improved their communities, built coalitions for change, crossed interfaith divides, shaped dynamic worship experiences, embraced missional outreach and deepened their members' spirituality.



September Social

WELCOME
BACK FOR THE
START OF OUR
NEW CHURCH
YEAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
11 AM

BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED
IN THE AUDITORIUM

Friends & Family Festival

FOOD TRUCKS • BOUNCY CASTLES •
DUNK THE PASTORS • FACE PAINTING •
BALLOON ART • ICE CREAM

Saturday, September 14
2024

FRONT LAWN
AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
108 SOUND BEACH AVENUE
OLD GREENWICH
4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2024

Fall Church School Schedule

SEPTEMBER
8

SEPTEMBER
14

SEPTEMBER
15

SEPTEMBER
22

SEPTEMBER
29

OCTOBER
5

CHURCH SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE

FRIENDS &
FAMILY FEST

CHURCH
SCHOOL

CHURCH
SCHOOL

CHURCH
SCHOOL

BLESSING OF
THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER
◆ **6**

OCTOBER
● **13**

OCTOBER
20

OCTOBER
26

OCTOBER
27

NOVEMBER
◆ **3**

ALL AGES WORSHIP;
WORLD COMMUNION

CHURCH
SCHOOL

CHURCH
SCHOOL

TRUNK-
OR-TREAT

CHURCH
SCHOOL

ALL AGES WORSHIP;
ALL SAINTS

NOVEMBER
● **10**

NOVEMBER
17

NOVEMBER
24

DECEMBER
◆ **1**

DECEMBER
AT
11 AM

DECEMBER
8

CHURCH
SCHOOL

CHURCH
SCHOOL

ALL AGES WORSHIP;
HARVEST SUNDAY

ALL AGES
WORSHIP

ADVENT
CRAFT FAIR

DECEMBER
CHURCH
SCHOOL

DECEMBER
15

DECEMBER
AT
11 AM

DECEMBER
● **22**

DECEMBER
AT
12 PM

DECEMBER
24

DECEMBER
29

CHURCH
SCHOOL

PILGRIM
TOWERS

CHURCH
SCHOOL

PAGEANT
REHEARSAL

CHRISTMAS
EVE PAGEANT

DECEMBER
PAJAMA
CHURCH!

FAQ:

WHAT TIME IS CHURCH SCHOOL? **10 AM**

WHAT AGES ARE CHURCH SCHOOL FOR? **3 Y/O - 6TH GR**

DO YOU NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND EVENTS? **NO!**

ARE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF TRAINED? **YES**

CAN I COME TO CHURCH SCHOOL WITH MY CHILD? **YES!**

Other ?'s: KhaleighL@fccog.org | www.FCCOG.org

key:

◆ COMMUNION SUNDAY

● ALL PRE-K TO 6TH
GRADE STUDENTS
ARE IN A CLASS
TOGETHER FOR A
ONE-ROOM
SCHOOLHOUSE

RYM

FALL 2024

CALENDAR

WE AIM TO BE:
Fun, Faith-filled
& Inclusive

RYM is for **anyone**
in Lower Fairfield County!

Did you know?

**WE
HAVE
TEXT
UPDATES!**

Type and text
"@myrym"
to 81010
& receive
messages
on events,
new locations,
and much more!

Regional Youth Ministry
First & Fourth Fridays
Come grab a meal together for **FREE**

Locations to change, sign-up via text for regular updates!

| <u>Grades</u> | <u>September</u> | <u>October</u> | <u>November</u> | <u>December</u> | <u>January</u> |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| 6th to 8th | FOR ALL 6th-12th CARNIVAL NIGHT UNDER THE TENT! Saturday the 7th @ 5 pm 139 East Putnam Ave Greenwich | BOUNDLESS ADVENTURES Thursday the 3rd @ 4 pm 735 Anderson Hill Road Purchase, NY | YOGA & SOUND BATH Tuesday the 5th @ 2 pm 275 Richards Avenue Norwalk, CT | YOUTH VS PARENTS Sunday the 8th @ 5 pm 108 Sound Beach Ave Greenwich, CT | PASTA CLASS Sunday the 12th @ 5 pm 31 Cascade Road Stamford, CT |
| 9th to 12th | | SOFT PASTELS Sunday the 20th @ 5 pm 108 Sound Beach Ave Greenwich, CT | FANCY FRIE- ENDSGIVING Sunday the 17th @ 5 pm 1345 E. Putnam Ave Old Greenwich, CT | NEW YEAR'S PARTY Sunday the 29th @ 5 pm 31 Cascade Road Stamford, CT | CANDLE MAKING Saturday the 7th @ 5 pm 275 Richards Avenue Norwalk, CT |

www.myrym.org

RYM Director: Khaleigh Laicher KhaleighL@FCCOG.org

Partners: First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Second Congregational Church of Greenwich, United Congregational Church of Norwalk, & North Stamford Community Church

@MYRYM.LFC



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

PrayGround Supervisor

Facility Manager

Senior Sexton

Junior Sexton

Director of First Church Preschool

Assistant Director of First Church Preschool

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

Amalia Samuel

Julio Yika

Curtis Gay

Brandon Speight Gay

Beth Genovese

Kayla Vozzella

Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all