



SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024
FOURTEENTH 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

PRELUDE

All Glory Be To God On High

Max Reger (1873-1916)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

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 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

One: God our Creator, we call You Father, Mother, Author of Life:

All: **Draw us closer to You, O God.**

One: Christ our Savior, we call You the Son, the Messiah, the One who Saves:

All: **Draw us closer to You, O God.**

One: Holy Spirit, we call You the Advocate, the Inspirer, Breath and Wind of God:

All: **Draw us closer to You, O God.**

One: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory:

All: **Draw us closer to You, O God. Draw us in, Spirit, Christ and Creator, that we might journey with You more fully and deeply, in this life and beyond. Amen.**

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

804 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people, calling us back to your covenant, and teaching us your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent us your Son Jesus, teaching with such authority, that our eyes were opened to see your ways anew. Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand and proclaim your teachings for all to hear. In Jesus' name we pray. 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: 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, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

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

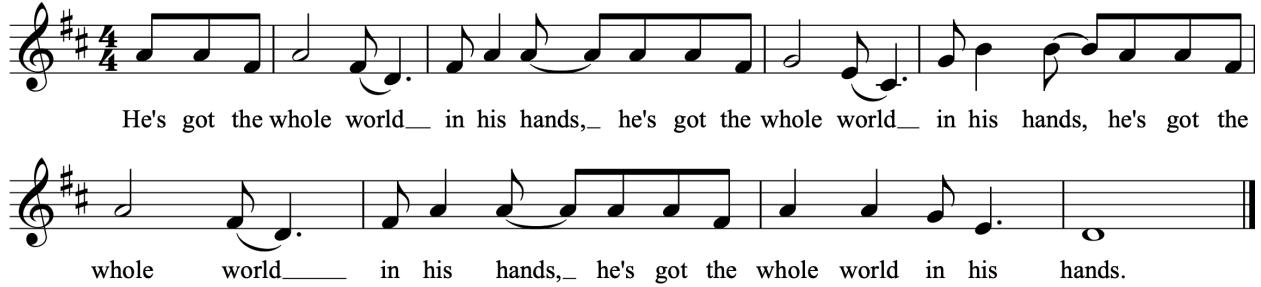
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

(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 5:30-39

New Revised Standard Version
Carol Woodman

“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

“If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

“You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that testify on my behalf.

ANTHEM

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

Rachel Aarons (b. 1984)
The Summer Choir

SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:9-13

New Revised Standard Version

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and

this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

MESSAGE

A Testimony
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Blessed Assurance

839 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

Clem Lepoutre

ORGAN OFFERTORY

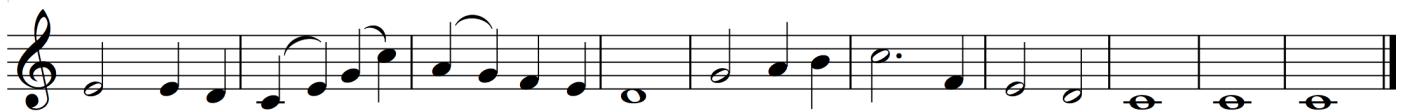
Wondrous King, All Glorious
Max Reger

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.



Praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†HYMN

Standing On The Promises
838 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Max Reger

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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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.



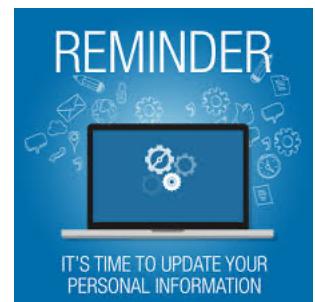
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SOCIALS

This year's last Women's Fellowship Summer Social is scheduled for **TOMORROW** Monday, August 26 from 5:30 p.m. 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.



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 2 weeks with his laptop to assist you in that task.



ANNOUNCING..... THE NEW FCCCOG VOLUNTEER SIGNUP CENTER – ONE LOCATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS!



We are consolidating all volunteer signups for all committees and events at FCCCOG. This will help committees fill volunteer needs and will help volunteers easily signup for projects and events of interest. You can access the Volunteer Signup Center by using the QR code on the left. Thank you so much for the time you give volunteering for First Church!

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
All Are Welcome

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**

AT
11 AM

DECEMBER
8

CHURCH
SCHOOL

CHURCH
SCHOOL

ALL AGES WORSHIP;
HARVEST SUNDAY

ALL AGES
WORSHIP

ADVENT
CRAFT FAIR

CHURCH
SCHOOL

DECEMBER
15

AT
11 AM

DECEMBER
● **22**

AT
12 PM

DECEMBER
24

DECEMBER
29

CHURCH
SCHOOL

PILGRIM
TOWERS

CHURCH
SCHOOL

PAGEANT
REHEARSAL

CHRISTMAS
EVE PAGEANT

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 | Reverend Patrick Collins |
| Associate Pastor | Reverend Cydney Van Dyke |
| Minister of Music | Dr. Craig Scott Symons |
| Director of FCCOG Church School/Regional Youth Ministry | Khaleigh Laicher |
| Parish Nurse | Susan Asselin, RN |
| Church Office Coordinator | Wendy Spezzano |
| Financial Administrator | Greg Girolamo |
| Administrative and Communications Colleague | Carolyn Samuel |
| Livestream Director | Daniel Lepoutre |
| Audio Technician | Bob Small |
| Database Administrative Assistant | Sue Wilder |
| PrayGround Supervisor | Amalia Samuel |
| Facility Manager | Julio Yika |
| Senior Sexton | Curtis Gay |
| Junior Sexton | Brandon Speight Gay |
| First Church Preschool Director | Beth Genovese |
| First Church Preschool Assistant Director | Kayla Vozzella |
| First Church Preschool Administrative Assistant | Melanie Garnett |
| Pastor Emerita | Reverend Sally Colegrove |



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all