



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.

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## 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 worshipping 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) B $\flat$  (D) (G) (D) F B $\flat$  F (G) B $\flat$  (D) F (Em) Gm (D) F




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

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
F B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  Gm7 C7




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

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



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

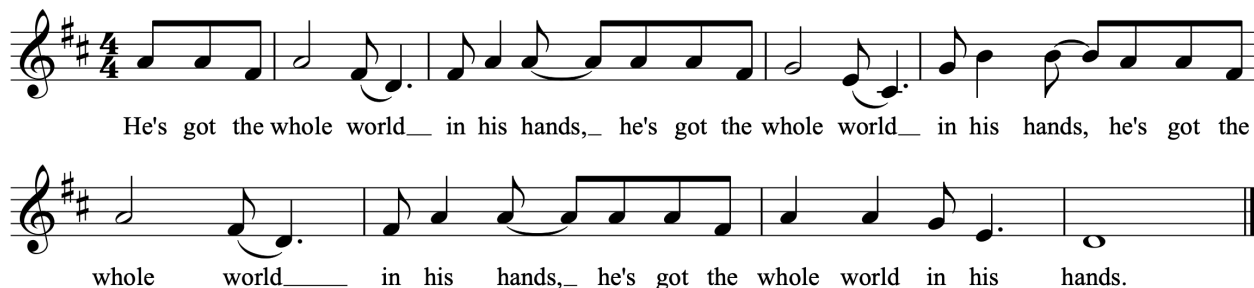
## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

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

† Please rise in body or in spirit

## RESPONSE

*He's Got The Whole World*



## 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*



## †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

*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.



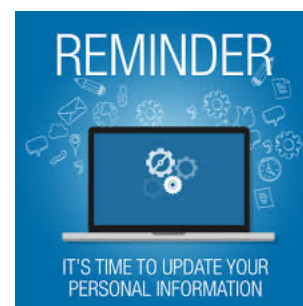
## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER SOCIALS

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](mailto: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](http://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 FCCOG VOLUNTEER SIGNUP CENTER – ONE LOCATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS!



We are consolidating all volunteer signups for all committees and events at FCCOG. 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**

A vibrant poster for the Friends & Family Festival. The background is dark blue with tropical foliage and a yellow and orange striped banner at the top. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there are illustrations of people dancing and a yellow boombox.

**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 <b>8</b> CHURCH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE	SEPTEMBER <b>14</b> FRIENDS & FAMILY FEST	SEPTEMBER <b>15</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	SEPTEMBER <b>22</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	SEPTEMBER <b>29</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	OCTOBER <b>5</b> BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
OCTOBER ◆ <b>6</b> ALL AGES WORSHIP; WORLD COMMUNION	OCTOBER ● <b>13</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	OCTOBER <b>20</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	OCTOBER <b>26</b> TRUNK- OR-TREAT	OCTOBER <b>27</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	NOVEMBER ◆ <b>3</b> ALL AGES WORSHIP; ALL SAINTS
NOVEMBER ● <b>10</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	NOVEMBER <b>17</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	NOVEMBER <b>24</b> ALL AGES WORSHIP; HARVEST SUNDAY	DECEMBER ◆ <b>1</b> ALL AGES WORSHIP	AT 11 AM ADVENT CRAFT FAIR	DECEMBER <b>8</b> CHURCH SCHOOL
DECEMBER <b>15</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	AT 11 AM PILGRIM TOWERS	DECEMBER ● <b>22</b> CHURCH SCHOOL	AT 12 PM PAGEANT REHEARSAL	DECEMBER <b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT	DECEMBER <b>29</b> 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](mailto:KhaleighL@fccog.org) | [www.FCCOG.org](http://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

Did you know?

**WE  
HAVE  
TEXT  
UPDATES!**

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

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

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

## Regional Youth Ministry First & Fourth Fridays

**Come grab a meal together for FREE**

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

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

WWW.MYRYM.ORG

@MYRYM.LEC



**RYM Director:** Khaleigh Laicher [KhaleighL@FCCOG.org](mailto:KhaleighL@FCCOG.org)  
**Partners:** First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Second  
 Congregational Church of Greenwich, United Congregational  
 Church of Norwalk, & North Stamford Community Church

# 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

Administrative and Communications Colleague

Livestream Director

Audio Technician

Database Administrative Assistant

PrayGround Supervisor

Facility Manager

Senior Sexton

Junior Sexton

First Church Preschool Director

First Church Preschool Assistant Director

First Church Preschool Administrative Assistant

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

Melanie Garnett

Reverend Sally Colegrove

