



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
FIFTEENTH 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

Kyrie

Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)

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: To those who are hungry, Jesus says:

All: "Come and eat! There's more than enough for all!"

One: To those who are thirsty, he says:

All: "Come and drink! It's free for the taking!"

One: Stop wasting your money on food that doesn't satisfy.

All: Come to Me, and you will find everything you need!"

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

630 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

We are workers, God, just like you, but we confess that our actions do not always affirm and honor each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE

† Please rise in body or in spirit

†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 with - out 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 with - out 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 - gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

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.

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

† Please rise in body or in spirit

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
New Revised Standard Version
Lynn Robertson

“So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

“But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

ANTHEM

The Lord Is A Mighty God
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
The Summer Choir

SECOND LESSON

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
New Revised Standard Version

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
“You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

MESSAGE

The Why Behind The What
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

Just As I Am, Without One Plea
442 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Receiving the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (gluten-free) and the cup together, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity and unity within the Body of Christ.

Those receiving communion are asked to come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread and cup, then return to their seats by the side aisle.

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

OFFERTORY DUET

Creation Sings
Arr. Lloyd Larson
Julianna Laicher & Lauren Mickley, sopranos

†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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
39 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Gagliarda
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

† 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 September are members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

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. 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!



September Social

WELCOME
BACK FOR THE
START OF OUR
NEW CHURCH
YEAR

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
11 AM**

**BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED
IN THE AUDITORIUM**

**MEMBERS WITH LAST NAMES A TO M:
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH**

**MEMBERS WITH LAST NAMES N TO Z:
PLEASE BRING A DESSERT**

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





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.

Our third session, with Convergence, is on **Saturday November 2, 10 am to 2 pm** with Rev. Cameron Trimble joining us in person. This is called **The Futures Lab** and is an opportunity for all members to be a part of ideation for the future - what legacy do we want to leave our church with in 5 years, 10 years, 15 years? **WE WOULD LOVE EVERYONE TO JOIN THIS INTERACTIVE MEETING**



COME SING IN A CHOIR ON SEPT 8!

On September Social day - Sunday, September 8 (formerly known as Homecoming Sunday), all are invited to sing in 2 choirs that morning. No previous rehearsal is being held except that morning.

Cherub Choir (kindergarten - 2nd grade) and Celebration Singers (3rd - 6th grade) will be combining together to sing the familiar Godspell song “Day by day”. Genesis Choir (7-th - 12th grade) and Chancel Choir (ages 18 and up) will combine to sing a new song called “Shine, Shine your light”.

**Genesis/Chancel will rehearse at 9 a.m. on Sept 8 in the Meetinghouse.
Cherub/Celebration will rehearse at 9:30 a.m. on Sept 8 in the Meetinghouse.**

While it's an opportunity to meet new folks and get to participate in worship in a different capacity, there is no commitment to being part of the choir, but all are welcome to be part of the choirs this season.

CHURCH SCHOOL KICK OFF: SEPT 8TH AND 15TH!

• Sept 8th

- **Church School Orientation** during worship. Ages 3-Grade 6 will see their classroom for the year, meet their teachers, and make personalized name tags.
- **Church School Open House** for all congregants during September Social. See the physical changes made to our Undercroft over the summer and get a sense of what Church School will be like for our children!

• Sept 15th

Regular Church School begins!

Church School is back and we can't wait for the year ahead together! God is Good!



GET INVOLVED WITH OUR MUSIC MINISTRY THIS YEAR!

Choir Opportunities For Young People!

The Cherub Choir is for children in kindergarten through second grade.

Carol Woodman, director

Meets on Sundays

11:15-11:45



The Celebration Singers is for

youth in grades 3 to 6.

Craig Symons, director

Meets on Sundays 11:15-12:00

The Genesis Choir is for youth in grades 7 through 12 and early college ages.

Danny Young, director

Meets on Sundays 11:15-12:15



**ALL REHEARSALS
BEGIN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15!**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

The Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. for ages 18 and up. They sing each Sunday morning for the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



The Palmer Handbell and Silverthorn Handchime Choirs, for ages 18 and up, generally meet on Thursdays from 6:30-7:20 p.m. or as scheduled. Music is chosen for a larger group or for a quartet of ringers.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH IN 2024

Fall Church School Schedule

SEPTEMBER 8 CHURCH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE	SEPTEMBER 14 FRIENDS & FAMILY FEST	SEPTEMBER 15 CHURCH SCHOOL	SEPTEMBER 22 CHURCH SCHOOL	SEPTEMBER 29 CHURCH SCHOOL	OCTOBER 5 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
OCTOBER ◆ 6 ALL AGES WORSHIP; WORLD COMMUNION	OCTOBER ● 13 CHURCH SCHOOL	OCTOBER 20 CHURCH SCHOOL	OCTOBER 26 TRUNK- OR-TREAT	OCTOBER 27 CHURCH SCHOOL	NOVEMBER ◆ 3 ALL AGES WORSHIP; ALL SAINTS
NOVEMBER ● 10 CHURCH SCHOOL	NOVEMBER 17 CHURCH SCHOOL	NOVEMBER 24 ALL AGES WORSHIP; HARVEST SUNDAY	DECEMBER ◆ 1 ALL AGES WORSHIP	DECEMBER AT 11 AM ADVENT CRAFT FAIR	DECEMBER 8 CHURCH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 15 CHURCH SCHOOL	DECEMBER AT 11 AM PILGRIM TOWERS	DECEMBER ● 22 CHURCH SCHOOL	DECEMBER AT 12 PM PAGEANT REHEARSAL	DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT	DECEMBER 29 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.FCCCOG.org

key:

◆ COMMUNION SUNDAY

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



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 FRI- 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



6th-12th Grade CARNIVAL

FOOD

& GAMES

FREE!

BOTTLE TOSS - BOUNCE HOUSE
CUP STACKING - BOWLING
STRIKE OUT - BASKET TOSS
WIN PRIZES & MORE!

Address: 139 E. Putnam Ave Greenwich, CT

Sep 7th, 5 pm

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

