



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
SIXTEENTH 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

*Processional*  
Stanley Vann (1910-2010)  
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.*

## MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Clem Lepoutre

## †CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Bring praise to our Creator who breathed life into our mortal bodies.

**All: We bring praise to our Creator who trusts us to preserve God's most precious things.**

One: Bring praise to our Creator who invites us into sacred partnership to tend to each other and all of creation.

**All: We bring praise to our Creator seeing the beauty around us and sensing our sacred responsibility.**

## †CHORAL INTROIT

*Day By Day*  
Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)  
The Cherub Choir  
The Celebration Singers  
Carol Woodman, director

## †HYMN

*All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*  
509 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Creator God, even while we give thanks for life and breath and bodies and the goodness of the earth, we are aware of the ways we have betrayed your gifts and have caused brokenness in your precious creation. We have taken your gifts for granted and we confess our carelessness.

Remind us then of the responsibilities we bear because of the likeness of your image, and let your Spirit brood over us, re-shaping us, and empowering our choices to care more deeply for each other and to faithfully tend the earth. 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<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm 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<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> 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


*(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.

† Please rise in body or in spirit



## FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-18, 21-23

Common English Bible

Pat Mendelsohn

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky— before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land— the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him."

So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. The human said,

"This one finally is bone from my bones  
and flesh from my flesh.  
She will be called a woman  
because from a man she was taken."

## ANTHEM

*Shine, Shine Your Light*

Becky Mayo Slagle (1809-1847)

The Genesis Choir

The Chancel Choir

## SECOND LESSON

Genesis 3:1-8

Common English Bible

The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'"

The snake said to the woman, “You won’t die! God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

During that day’s cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden’s trees.

## MESSAGE

*The Space In-Between*  
Reverend Patrick Collins

## †HYMN

*All Things Bright And Beautiful*  
20 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

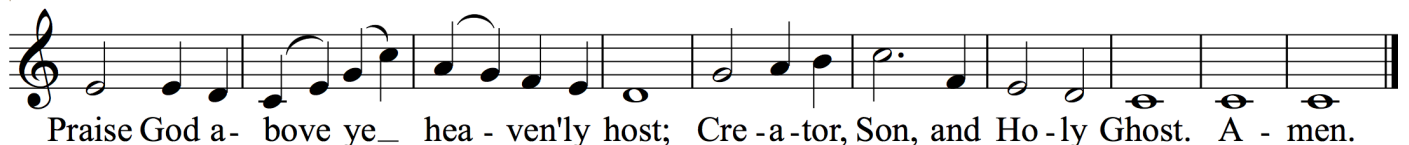
Lynn Hawxhurst

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Scherzo*  
Norman Warren (b. 1934)

## †DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*



## †PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## †HYMN

*How Firm A Foundation*  
463 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

## †BENEDICTION

## †CHORAL RESPONSE

## †POSTLUDE

*Postlude on Siroë*

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

† Please rise in body or in spirit

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

- **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!
  - **September 15<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Church School begins!
- Church School is back and we can't wait for the year ahead together! God is Good!



## CELEBRATING DIVERSE WORSHIP EXPERIENCES: INTRODUCING THE SENSORY SANCTUARY

At FCCOG, we welcome that everyone worships in unique ways, and honor the diverse needs of our community. For many, sensory items can both greatly enhance their worship experience and also provide belonging and acceptance in the worship space. That's where the Sensory Sanctuary comes in: **a dedicated resource library designed to support sensory worship needs.**

**The Sensory Sanctuary Resource Library** offers a variety of items to help create a more inclusive worship environment, including: **Noise-Canceling Headphones:** To help reduce overwhelming sounds and create a more focused experience. **Fidgets:** A range of tactile items such as crochet hooks and yarn, finger labyrinths, thera-putty, and more, allowing individuals to engage their hands while they worship. **Focusing Visual Aids:** Tools that assist in maintaining attention and grounding oneself during worship. **An Alternative Seating Option:** Rocking chairs, catering to individual preferences and needs.

**The Sensory Sanctuary** is part of our ongoing commitment to providing the tools and resources that everyone deserves to make the Meetinghouse accessible and welcoming for all. We already do this through offerings like auditory aids and closed captioning, ramps and the Liftovator, and now, also through sensory implementations. Located at the back of the Meetinghouse, the Sensory Sanctuary Resource Library is available for all worshippers. We invite you to explore these resources and enrich your worship experience in a space that values and embraces diversity. No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey, or your sensory requirements, you are welcome at 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 16, 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**

## 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!

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. The 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 meets 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.



# 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

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!*

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

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

@MYRYM.LEC

# 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



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all