SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH
declares itself to be Open and Affirming (ONA); 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.

Welcome to Worship!

We welcome you this day and are glad you are here! May worship be a blessing to you.







First Church Welcomes You.

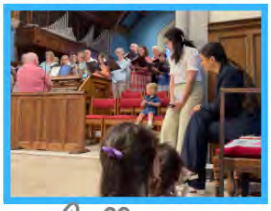
With Worship. A casual tone, stirring music, moving prayers, & a faith-invoking message. ***Prayer Book requests*** (in Narthex) are uplifted during the Prayers of the People.
With Inclusion. Open & Affirming (ONA). We make a point of meeting all and name tags are worn.
With Communion. The first Sunday of each month, all ages share in the sacred meal together. We use juice & gluten-free bread!
With Care. We pass the Peace of Christ to one another. We are a mask-friendly, come-as-you-are, leave-as-a-friend community.

First Church Welcomes Children.

The PrayGround. In the Chapel space, guiding kids in worship.
Cherub Choir, Celebration Singers, & Genesis Choir. Children of all ages are welcome to offer music in worship!
Children's Message. A moment for kids & the child in each of us.
Church School. Faith learnings for the day continue in the Undercroft classrooms after the Children's Message.
Children's Take Home Library. Located by the PrayGround. Check out what interests you & bring it back next week!













First Church Welcomes All.

Sensory Sanctuary & Rocking Chairs. Focusing resources located in the back of the Meetinghouse.
Visual Worship Aids & Live captioning. Found on the monitors.
Audio Hearing Aids. Ask Ushers for help with bluetooth enabling or use of physical devices.
Spaces in Meetinghouse for Wheelchair Users
Exterior Ramp. In the back of the Meetinghouse, driveway side.
Liftavators. Located inside, from Narthex to Auditorium Level & Outside in the Memory Garden.

Enjoy a cup of coffee, food, & fellowship at Community Hour after the service!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Church is a mask-friendly community of faith. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask should feel comfortable doing so.
Please know our worshipping community gathers in-person and online via livestream
with multiple camera angles of the Meetinghouse and congregation.
Audio Hearing Aids are available for your use during the service. See an usher to request a device.
Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

Allegro
Caleb Simper (1856-1942)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

Mariann Ekernas
The Giving Tree

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, whether you think yourself the least or the greatest
All: Like a child, open and wondering
One: Come, down into the river of God's mercy
All: Like a child, willing to jump in again and again
One: Come, not to buy or to earn
All: But like a child, to receive God's gift and share God's blessing

†CHORAL INTROIT

†HYMN

Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!
305 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Holy God, you are a God of power and might, so we look for you in feats of strength and shining glory. We think we reflect your image with all the trappings we imagine must come with holiness and power. Yet you point us downward… Down to those we normally overlook, down to places we would never set foot, down to simple actions anyone could do. Forgive us when we are so caught up in the image we project, when we care so much about the "right" way, that we miss out on the chance to witness your power and presence. Unbind us from the trappings of our own ego, that we may go down into the river and be healed of all that harms us. We ask in the name of the One who came down to us. Amen.

Moment of silence for personal reflection

†ASSURANCE OF GRACE
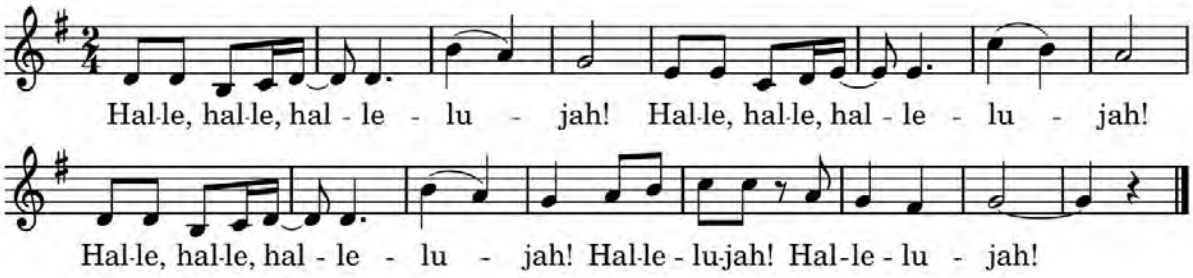
†PASSING OF THE PEACE

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

One: May the peace of Christ be with all of you.
All: And also with you.

†Please rise in body or in spirit
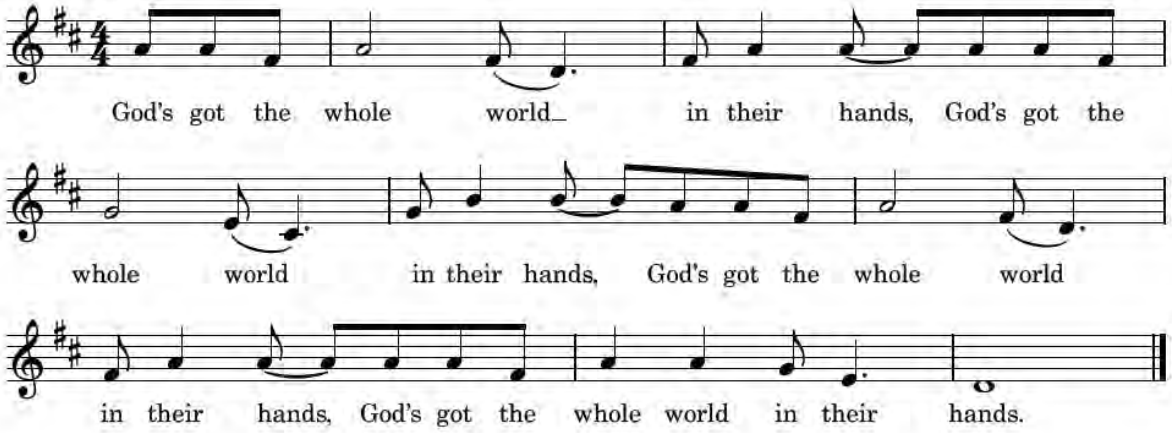
†RESPONSE (remain standing) *Halle, Hallelujah*



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

RESPONSE *God's Got The Whole World In Their Hands*



FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:1-8
New International Version
Bonnie Kelley Young

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had a skin disease.

Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

†Please rise in body or in spirit

ANTHEM

He's My Rock
The Cherub Choir
Carol Woodman, director
Carolyn Paulus, piano

SECOND READING

2 Kings 5:9-15a
New International Version

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my skin disease. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

MESSAGE

Simply Unexpected
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

†HYMN

Be Known To Us In Breaking Bread
500 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.

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.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING Clem Lepoutre

Using your smartphone messaging app, text FCCOG Donate to 73256 or scan the QR code.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Voice And Sing
Joel Raney (b. 1956)
The Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY Prill Meyer for Annual Giving

†HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
716 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Postlude In Bb Major
John E. West (1863-1929)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Auditorium where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Please sign up to help bring treats and clean up each week. Scan the QR code to volunteer!

COMMUNITY HOUR

SECOND HOUR TODAY

Join us after worship in the Lounge for a Q&A about Pastor Patrick's exploration of National Guard chaplaincy while continuing his ministry at First Church. Together, we'll consider how this calling could be a gift to Patrick and the congregation, extending our shared ministry and helping us grow as a community. All are welcome to ask questions, share concerns, and learn more.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, Sue is available by appointment. Email susana@fccog.org or call 203-637-1791 extension 821.



Medicare Part D

Prescription Drug Insurance



- Open enrollment is Oct 15 to December 7.
- Evaluating every year is advised.
- Counseling, including navigating the Medicare.gov website, is available.
- For an appointment with Parish Nurse Sue Asselin call church ext 821.
- For an appointment with trained Town of Greenwich counselors call the Commission on Aging at 203-862-6707.

60TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE – TREE SALE VOLUNTEERS - SIGN UPS NOW OPEN



The 2026 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale begins this year on **FRIDAY, November 27 and runs through Sunday, November 29**. Volunteers are the KEY to the success of the sale, which raised over $60,000 for local charities last year. It is also a wonderful introduction to First Church for new residents in the community. There are jobs for ALL volunteers - welcoming greeters, cashiers, and salespeople.
Sign ups will be ready next week - please sign up. Help us help those in need and make First Church shine!



Giving Tree 2026

The Giving Tree for H.O.M.E. and Pilgrim Towers is underway. In the back of the Meetinghouse the trees will displayed with Christmas gift tags on Sunday November 8 and 15. You may also make your selections online via SignUp Genius by scanning the OR code below.

All gifts should be returned to the stage in the auditorium before or after the 10 a.m. Sunday worship on November 15 or 22. They can also be dropped off at the church office hours during the week or in the big bin outside the office entrance.

Thank you in advance for making a holiday wish come true for a client of H.O.M.E. in Orland, ME or a resident of Pilgrim Towers in Stamford, CT.



first congregational church of greenwich founded 1665

Harvest Sunday

Shelf Stable Food for Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E.

We will hold our traditional collection of shelf-stable food during the 10 a.m. service on Harvest Sunday, November 22.

Shopping bags will be available in the Meetinghouse on Sunday, November 8 and Sunday, November 15. No bag? No problem. Use any paper or reusable bag.

Suggested food:

Canned Meats, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Pasta and Sauce, Oatmeal, Rice, Beans, Canned Vegetables, Coffee, Tea

Donate Fresh Food for Neighbor to Neighbor

Use the online option to shop for fresh food donations from the comfort of your home. The fresh selections will be delivered to Neighbor to Neighbor as they need so nothing spoils!

Scan the QR code to shop at #GIVEHEALTHY for fresh food donations requested by Neighbor to Neighbor.



Come for the coffee.
Stay for the conversation.

Twice a month, join the **Women's Fellowship** for a relaxed morning of coffee, conversation & connection

No agenda, no program — just time to catch up, meet someone new, and enjoy being together

Wednesday, November 4 • 10 AM
Coffee for Good • Greenwich
48 Maple Avenue, Greenwich 06870

Friday, November 20 • 10 AM
Birch Bakehouse • Old Greenwich
214 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich 06870

Bring a friend or simply bring yourself.
There's always a seat for you.



Help Us Get Ahead for the Holidays

Did you know?

- **20% of GHS students** (about 600 kids) qualify for free or reduced lunch. That is one out of every five GHS students.
- Our GHS Community Pantry now serves **nearly 150 students**, averaging **about 100 visits a week.**
- **SNAP benefits can't be used** for essentials like laundry detergent, shampoo, or feminine products.
- The GHS Community Pantry is **the only pantry specifically helping our GHS students and their families.**

As the need keeps growing, we've expanded to three days a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Now we need your help to make sure our shelves stay fully stocked.

We are kicking off a pre-holiday drive to carry us through the busy holiday season. **Our goal is to raise $2,000 and clear our Amazon wish list!**

Thank you for taking care of our GHS community!

Greenwich High School PTA

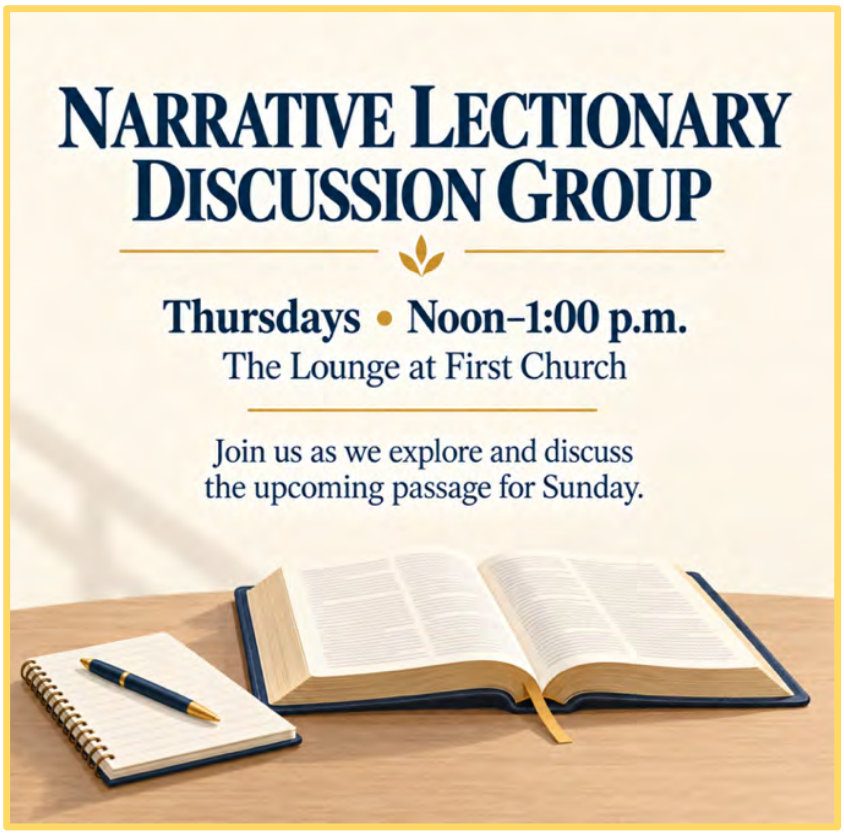
10 Hillside Road
Greenwich, CT 06878
ghspta@ghspta.org

Donate to GHS Fund

Donate to Amazon Wishlist

There is a collection box at the entrance to the Meetinghouse from the cemetery side of the building.


HOLY BIBLE
Just Drop In!
BIBLE
Study
Sip on coffee. Make meaningful connections.
Explore life-changing truths.
Every Sunday
9:00 AM
FCCOG Lounge
GET TO KNOW GOD
THROUGH GOD'S WORD


NARRATIVE LECTIONARY
DISCUSSION GROUP
Thursdays • Noon–1:00 p.m.
The Lounge at First Church
Join us as we explore and discuss
the upcoming passage for Sunday.

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
Parish Nurse	Susan Asselin, RN
Director of Operations	Wendy Spezzano
Director of Finance & Administration	Greg Girolamo
Livestream Director	Daniel Lepoutre
Audio Technician	Bob Small
Database Administrative Assistant	Sue Wilder
Buildings and Grounds Supervisor	Johnny Ramos
Facility Supervisor and Sunday Sexton	Julio Yika
Sexton	Joe Vartuli
Sexton	Curtis Gay
First Church Preschool Director	Beth Genovese
First Church Preschool Assistant Director	Melanie Garnett
Pastor Emerita	Reverend Sally Colegrove

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all

