



SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
PALM SUNDAY
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. To use, ask Greeters or Ushers.

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

Fanfare

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

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 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.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Lead With Love

Melanie deMore

The Cherub Choir

Carol Woodman, director - Lynn Hawxhurst, ukulele - Carolyn Paulus, piano

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, gather round, the King is coming!

All: **Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: Don't be afraid, rejoice for the One who speaks peace is coming!

All: **Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

One: Look, the One with the power of Life is coming!

All: **Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

†PALM PROCESSION AND OPENING HYMN

All Glory, Laud, And Honor

196 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

Life-giving God, whose breath creates and whose word brings light, we love to praise you, and yet we confess how quickly we resist when your power unsettles us. Forgive us when our praise turns to condemnation, when we grasp for control and choose power over the humility of Christ. Set us free to trust the life you offer, through Jesus. 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, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

FIRST LESSON

John 12:12-19

New Revised Standard Version

Pat Larrabee

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(During the hymn, the children will return to their seats or to Church School.)

If you would like step-by-step instructions on how to make a palm cross, scan the QR code and download the PDF for your use.



†Please rise in body or in spirit

O'er all the way green palms and blos - soms gay
His word goes forth, and peo - ple by its might
Sing and re - joice, O blest Je - ru - sa - lem. —

Are strewn this day in fes ³ - tal prep - a - ra - tion.
Once more re - gain free - dom from de - gra - da - tion.
Of all thy sons sing the e - man - ci - pa - tion.

Where Je - sus comes to wipe our tears a - way —
Hu - man - i - ty doth give to each his right —
Through bound - less love the Christ of Beth - le - hem —

E'en now the throng to welcome him pre - pare, Join all and sing, His
While those in dark - ness are restored to light.
Brings faith and hope to thee for - ev - er - more.

name de - clare, Let ev' - ry voice re - sound with ac - cla - ma - tion, Ho

san - na! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who com - eth to bring us sal -

va - - - - tion!

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

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

Lynn Hawxhurst



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Way To Jerusalem
Harold Friedell (1905-1958)
The Chancel Choir
Thomas Woodman, bass

SECOND LESSON

John 19:16b-22
New Revised Standard Version

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

MESSAGE

Close To Power, Far From God
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
221 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE AS WE BEGIN THE SOLEMNITY OF HOLY WEEK

†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, including Hot Cross Buns provided by Cobs Bread on Putnam Ave in Riverside. Hosts for March are members of the Personnel Committee.

COMMUNITY
hour
HOUR

**INVITING PEOPLE OF FAITH:
COME WITNESS
MORAL
Mondays**

MORAL MONDAYS AT STAMFORD SUPERIOR COURT
123 Hoyt Street, Stamford CT 06905 - 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Join us for this time of solidarity and witness. Spread the word!

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING - TODAY



High blood pressure is one major risk factor for stroke, which can lead to a multitude of disabilities, and affects nearly 800,000 people in the U.S. each year. Other common stroke risk factors are smoking, uncontrolled diabetes, and lack of regular physical exercise.

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations 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.

2026 LENTEN OFFERING – RISE AGAINST HUNGER



Our Lenten Offering this year will once again support one of First Church’s most meaningful hands-on ministries, our Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event.

On **Sunday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m.**, we will gather to pack 20,000 meals for communities around the world facing food insecurity. But before we pack, we give.



Throughout Lent, we invite you to make a special Lenten gift to help underwrite the cost of these meals. You can donate online for this important ministry. Click on the QR code on the left and choose “Rise Against Hunger” as the category to direct your donation. Each meal costs just \$0.40 and every donation makes a real, tangible difference.

“Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness...” (Isaiah 58:10)

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP QUILT RAFFLE & ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

It’s almost April and that means the annual quilt raffle to benefit The Women’s Fellowship is just around the corner. Tickets will be sold at community hour, the church front office, and The Rummage Room. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be held on Saturday, May 16 at noon.



Discover community activities in 2026

All women of the church are welcome!

Scan the QR code for the **GroupMe** app or visit **www.GroupMe.com** from your desktop for Women’s Fellowship activity updates

For questions, email **Sara Stuckey** (sdstuckey@gmail.com)



Scan here with your smartphone camera!



April

Monday, 4/6 @ 12pm
Walk at Tod’s Point**

Tuesday, 4/21 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco’s
(148 Sound Beach Ave,
Old Greenwich)

Friday, 4/17 @ 9:30am
NY Botanical Garden
See eblast for details

Wednesday, 4/29 @ 10am
Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

May

Monday, 5/4 @ 12pm
Walk at Tod’s Point**

Wednesday, 5/20 @ 5pm
Happy Hour at Bosco’s
(148 Sound Beach Ave,
Old Greenwich)

Saturday, 5/16 @ 11-1
Women’s Fellowship
Annual Luncheon
FCCOG auditorium

Thursday, 5/28 @ 10am
Coffee for Good
(48 Maple Ave, Greenwich)

** Greenwich residency not required



All are welcome

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER AND WORSHIP

Thursday, April 2, 6 p.m.
Dinner in the Auditorium

Bring a dish to share -
no reservations needed

7:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Worship in the Meetinghouse

*Please join us for a time of
dinner, worship, prayer, and reflection
as we observe Maundy Thursday together*

A CRY FOR JUSTICE: A GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC WITNESS & CROSS WALK

April 3, 2026 at Noon
Binney Park in Old Greenwich
(meet at Pavilion)

On this holy day of lament and remembrance, join community members for a time of witnessing to justice in faith. The **7 Last Words of Jesus** will guide us through our embodied practice as we **listen, reflect, pray, sing, walk, and carry the cross together.**

Participating Churches
First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Round Hill Community Church
Second Congregational Church of Greenwich
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Saint Saviour's Episcopal Church

Parking available at FCCOG (108 Sound Beach Ave)
Entrance is behind the church, off of Forest Ave.

EASTER EGG DYEING & HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH
10-12 PM DYEING & 11:00 AM HUNT

(AGES 0 TO 6TH GR)
REGISTER AT EVENT

- HUNT IN AGE GROUPS
- BYO HARD BOILED EGGS & A BASKET

first congregational church of greenwich founded 1665
FCCOG.ORG/EVENTS



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5

GREENWICH POINT
6:15 A.M.
MUSIC BY THE GENESIS CHOIR, PIANO

MEETINGHOUSE
9 A.M. & 11 A.M.
MUSIC BY THE CHANCEL CHOIR,
BRASS QUINTET, ORGAN

COME AND REJOICE IN THE
HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

www.fccog.org



Women's Fellowship
members and friends

New York Botanical Garden

Orchid Show

Friday, April 17th

Meet at FCCOG

We will depart promptly at 9:30

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for walking.
Hat and water recommended

Tickets at nybg.org

\$35 adults
\$32 seniors (65+)
Free for members



Carpool sign up at
[sign up genius](http://signupgenius.com)



Contacts:

Sara Stuckey (sdstuckey@gmail.com) and
Meg Dempsey (megdempseyconsulting@gmail.com)

Σ SERVICE

2026:
MAY 29 - 31

Y LEARNING TRIP

R

(mission-trip-like weekend!)

\$200 WITH MANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

WHERE ARE WE GOING & WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Youth are invited to 48 hours in New Haven, CT learning about our local unhoused neighbors & will put our faith in action by serving others!

6TH -
12TH
GR.

FRI
29

LEAVE FOR NEW HAVEN & ARRIVAL

Spring Glen United Church of Christ in Hamden

SERVICE WORK & FUN IN THE COMMUNITY

Working with the Incredible Days Group!

SAT
30

SUN
31

CLOSING CIRCLE & HEAD HOME

Pick-up/Drop-off: 2CC Greenwich, 139 E. Putnam Ave

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY



REGISTER!

MORE INFO:

DIRECTOR@MYRYM.ORG

EASTER FLOWERS AND BRASS

The Deacons invite contributions for flowers & brass in the Meetinghouse for Easter Sunday.
You may give to either one or both. Any amount is welcome.

Please deliver this completed form with your check to the Church Office
(payable to *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*)
on or before **Monday, March 30 at 12 noon** in order to be included in the bulletin listing.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please accept my contribution to the (check one or both):

_____ Easter Flower Fund _____ Easter Brass

In MEMORY of:

In HONOR of:

By:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

(Please print names legibly to minimize spelling errors.)

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
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Director of Church School/Regional Youth Ministry
Parish Nurse
Director of Operations
Director of Finance & Administration
Livestream Director
Audio Technician
Database Administrative Assistant
Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
Facility Supervisor and Sunday Sexton
Sexton
Sexton
First Church Preschool Director
First Church Preschool Assistant Director
Pastor Emerita

Reverend Patrick Collins
Reverend Cydney Van Dyke
Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Khaleigh Laicher
Susan Asselin, RN
Wendy Spezzano
Greg Girolamo
Daniel Lepoutre
Bob Small
Sue Wilder
Johnny Ramos
Julio Yika
Joe Vartuli
Curtis Gay
Beth Genovese
Melanie Garnett
Reverend Sally Colegrove



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

See more about the stories of our
Stained Glass Windows



See the Tour of our Main Cemetery -
People of Note

