



SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHRISTMAS IN JULY
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

Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

SOLO

O Holy Night

Adolph Adam (1803-1856)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From generation to generation, God's love endures.

All: **Through familiar stories and unexpected people, God is still at work.**

One: From the stump of Jesse, a new branch appeared.

All: **In the child of Bethlehem, hope came to life.**

One: Come, let us make room for the God who is making all things new.

All: **Come, let us worship and offer our faithful yes.**

†HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

119 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of every generation, you invite ordinary people to become part of your extraordinary story. Forgive us when we assume someone else will answer, someone else will serve, or someone else will carry the work forward. Free us from our fear of change and our attachment to the familiar, and give us the courage to make room for what you are bringing to life. Help us offer our faithful yes, trusting that your love will guide the story still to come. 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

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-5

New Revised Standard Version
Karen Yancey

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

ANTHEM

The Snow Lay On The Ground
Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)
The Summer Choir

SECOND LESSON

1 Kings 3:1, 16-28
New Revised Standard Version

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the

father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

MESSAGE

From Generation To Generation
Reverend Patrick Collins

DUET

On Christmas Night
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano – Daniel Young, tenor

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.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

†HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
133 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

CALL TO OFFERING

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Gesu Bambino
Pietro Yon (1886-1943)
The Summer Choir
Thomas Woodman, bass

†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

†HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High
113 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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Join us for Community Hour in the Memory Garden (weather permitting) where you can greet one another, have a cup of coffee, and a light snack. Hosts for July are members of the Women's Fellowship.

**COMMUNITY
HOUR**



Caregivers Support Group – Weekly, Wednesday 1:30 - 2:30 pm, Lounge

This group is designed for those who find themselves the primary caregivers to aging parents, ailing spouses, or have otherwise had their lives impacted by the care needs of others.

The group is facilitated by Dedee Rigg, an experienced pastoral counselor and long-time caregiver to her husband Jerry. Dedee graduated from Union Theological Seminary and was ordained to pastoral counseling ministry here at First Church in 1981. After clinical training, she practiced psychotherapy & pastoral counseling in Greenwich for 40 years. Dedee initially worked with adults and couples suffering from both individual and marital issues and later, after the loss of a son, she specialized in grief counseling. For 19 years she was the primary caretaker for her husband Jerry who died of Alzheimer's disease. She offers her experience as a therapist and a caretaker in this support group.

To learn more, contact Pastors Cydney or Patrick, or Parish Nurse Sue Asselin.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service in the Memory Garden weather permitting, or 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.



Beach Services – Summer 2026

August 2, 23, 30

All-Church Beach Services are
August 9 & 16
(No Meetinghouse Service)

8 A.M. AT GREENWICH POINT PARK

ALL ARE WELCOME - SIMPLY SAY YOU'RE THERE FOR FIRST CHURCH SERVICE
BRING YOUR BEACH CHAIR OR BLANKET

ALL-CHURCH BEACH SERVICES

August 9 & 16

8 a.m.

Greenwich Point - next to Innis Arden Cottage (first building on left) - park just beyond that on your right.

Join together with your First Church family to worship in the beauty of nature. All are welcome – no pass needed to enter Greenwich Point – tell the gatekeeper you're here for First Church worship. Bring your beach chairs or blankets!



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!

SUMMER BEACH OUTINGS

Mondays @ 5:30

July 27 & August 24,

rain dates the next day, respectively

We plan 3 monthly beach outings this summer!

All women in our Church and your guests are invited to bring your own picnic and beverage.

For those who live outside Greenwich, we will meet to carpool in the Church parking lot at 5:15pm in the car of a Greenwich resident with a beach pass.

****IF YOU NEED TO CARPOOL****
please let Pat Larrabee know. Her email is
patlarrabee@hotmail.com

Location: The Sue H. Baker Pavilion at The Old Barn at Greenwich Point

JOIN THE 2026 CHRISTMAS TREE & WREATH SALE TEAM!

JOBS OF ALL SIZES AVAILABLE, REMOTE AND ON-SITE!

This year, we have divided the primary responsibilities for the sale into 12 small, separate jobs. These are jobs that take care of the details and organization and high level running of the sale. They are in addition to the very valuable “day of” sales and cashier jobs.

Six of these jobs are remote. They can be done in 2 – 6 hours total from your home or anywhere at any hour convenient for you. Six of these jobs are on site for a portion of the sale but are not physical – you will not have to move a tree! Many of the jobs you can do with a partner. All the jobs will have the support of Kate, Pam or Lauren. You will not be reinventing the wheel!

Remote Opportunities:

Internal Communication

- Eblasts and bulletins

External Communication

- Advertising and PR

Agency Communication

- With our charity partners

Print Communication

- Work with our designer for printing needs

Volunteer Organization

- Support volunteer signups

Inventory and Ordering

- Order trees, wreaths, stands

On Site Opportunities:

Volunteer Coordinator

- Direct volunteers for half day

Loading Manager

- Direct trees from sales to loading for half day

Set Up

- Prep ahead of sale

Wreath Decorating

Wreath Tagging

- Tag with prices

Photographer

- Take pics and video

Come see us at Community Hour and get more details.

If you cannot stay, please email us and we will follow up!

(laurenhaffari@gmail.com, pspeer22@gmail.com, collinskt@gmail.com)