



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOMECOMING 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. 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

All Glory Be To God On High

Wondrous King

Max Reger (1873-1916)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Cydney Van Dyke

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SOLO

Bless This House

May H. Brahe (1884-1956)

Thomas Woodman, baritone

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come from a world that teaches us to divide and separate.

All: **God gathers us beneath the promise of grace.**

One: We come carrying judgments, fears, and wounds.

All: **God invites us to lay down our arms.**

One: There are no strangers outside the reach of God's covenant.

All: **There is no "them." In God's love, there is only us.**

†HYMN

God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!

365 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (in unison)

God of every creature and every generation, we confess how easily we divide the world into "us" and "them," deciding who is worthy of compassion and who is not. Forgive us for the judgments we carry and the harm we excuse when it is directed at those beyond the boundaries we have made. Teach us to lay down our weapons and to see every person as one who already lives beneath the wide promise of your grace. 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 & SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 6-9 (selected verses)

New Revised Standard Version

Karen Yancey

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created."

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

So, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So, make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out."

"Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive."

Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased, they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a dove. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf!

†Please rise in body or in spirit

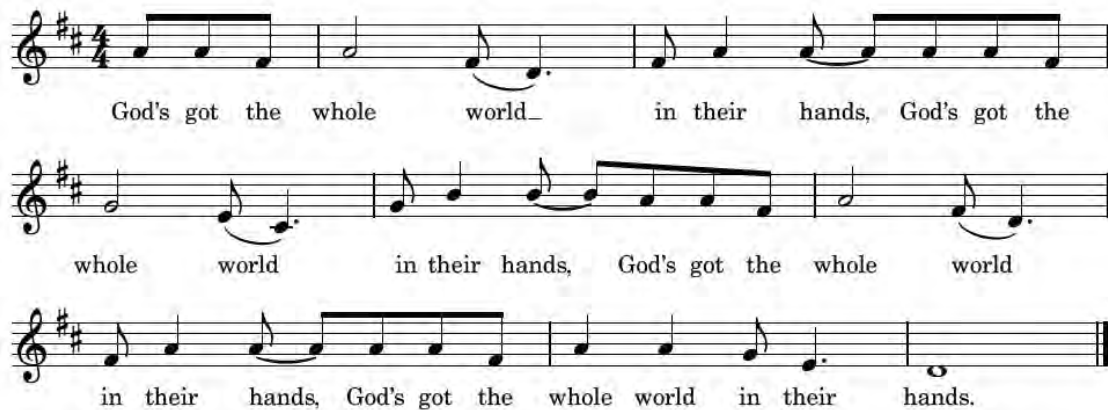
Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you— the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.

(During the response, the children will depart for Church School or return to their seats.)

RESPONSE

God's Got The Whole World In Their Hands



ANTHEM

With A Voice Of Singing
Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
The Chancel Choir

MESSAGE

Beneath The Same Bow
Reverend Patrick Collins

†HYMN

God Of Great And God Of Small
19 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.

†Please rise in body or in spirit

CALL TO OFFERING

Pat Mendelsohn

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say
Arr. Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)
Rick Derr, Julianna Laicher, Colette Rogers, Jenny Gartner, handbells

†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

God, You Spin The Whirling Planets
23 Glory To God Hymnal (purple)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

†POSTLUDE

Con Moto
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

†Please rise in body or in spirit

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BULLETIN NOTE

As we continue to be good stewards of our resources and the planet, we are reducing the number of bulletins being printed. Since virtually everything is on our monitors in the Meetinghouse, particularly announcements, we are asking that families take just one (1) bulletin per family to help us keep printing costs down. Thank you.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

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



TODAY!!!



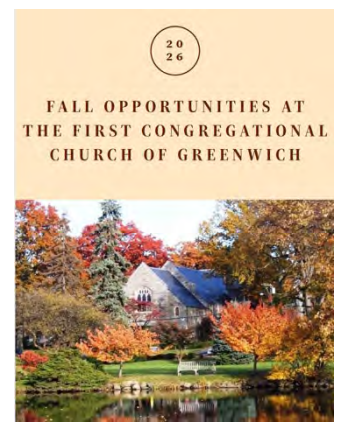
HOMECOMING SUNDAY
Sunday, September 13
10 a.m.
Worship in the Meetinghouse
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Luncheon in the Auditorium
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Main course provided!
Please bring a side dish or dessert,
based on your last name:
A-L - Side dish
M-Z - Desserts

first church
congregational
of greenwich
founded 1666

Be sure to grab your fall brochure from an usher or at the back of the Meetinghouse. There are many opportunities to take part in the life of First Church. Where do you see yourself this fall?

FALL BROCHURE



2026

FALL OPPORTUNITIES AT
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

CALL TO A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY SEPT. 27 - FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT 11:15 A.M.

A Special Congregation Meeting of the members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for Sunday, September 27, 2026 in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service for the following purposes:

- To hear the report of the Budget Committee on the Fiscal Year 2026 financials.
- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect Gordon Assing as a Community Ministry Representative to the Church Council and
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting

The meeting may be recorded for the purpose of taking of minutes. We encourage you to attend in the Meetinghouse if possible and comfortable. However, if you join remotely via Zoom.us, the instructions are printed in the Friday email blast.

Lynn Hawxhurst, Church Clerk



First Congregational Church of Greenwich
presents

FRIENDS AND FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 19 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich

Popcorn, ice-cream, cotton candy for purchase
Bouncy castle & a bouncy obstacle course
Crafts & play area for toddlers

- *Dunk the Pastors
- *Face painting
- *Balloon Artist
- (*for a nominal fee)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH
2026-2027 Church School Calendar

Children of ALL ages are welcome & celebrated at every event!

September

13, 20, 27

Open House, First Day of Class,
and Stay In Place/Fire Drill

October

11, 18, 25

The Books of Exodus,
Joshua & 2 Samuel

November

1, 15, 29

The Books of 1 Kings,
Micah & Isaiah

December

13, 20

The Books of Isaiah
and The Gospel Matthew

January

10, 17, 24, 31

The Gospel of Matthew

February

14, 21, 28

The Gospel of Matthew and
Stay In Place/Fire Drill

March

14, 21

The Gospel of Matthew

April

4, 11, 18

FCCOG's Communion
Curriculum

May

9, 23, 30

FCCOG's Bible Curriculum

Check the back for All Ages Worship Sundays!

FAQ:

WHAT TIME IS CHURCH SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY? **10 AM**
DO YOU NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND? **NO!**
WHAT AGES IS CHURCH SCHOOL FOR? **3 Y/O - 5TH GR.**
CAN MY YOUTH COME HELP & EARN SERVICE HOURS? **YES!**
ARE ADULT VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF TRAINED? **YES!**
CAN I COME TO CHURCH SCHOOL WITH MY CHILD? **YES!**
Other ?'s: KhaleighL@fccog.org | www.FCCOG.org

June

13

Celebration Sunday: Church
School Celebration, All Class
Communion, 3rd Grade Bibles &
Graduate Recognition

Regional Youth Ministry youth group dates

• elementary: 3rd-5th middle: 6th-8th high: 9th-12th •

September

2026

12 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
RYM Press Start
All Grades @ 2CCG
26 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
Pie in The Sky
All Grades @ FCCOG

October

9 - Friday, 6-8 pm
That Growin' Is a Glowin'
Elementary @ FCCOG
17 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
(Pumpkin) Smash Your Stress
Middle School @ UCCN
25 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Pumpkin "Drive"
High School @ 2CCG

November

2 - Monday, 6-8 pm
Ask a Pastor Anything
All Grades @ Stamford Diner
15 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Campfire Fire Night
All Grades @ 2CCG Labyrinth
28 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
Coats for a Cause
All Grades @ 2CCG

December

11 - Friday, 6-8 pm
Cocoa & Cinema
Elementary @ FCCOG
13 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Deck the Kids in Crisis Halls
High School @ UCCN
19 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
Christmas "Drive"
Middle @ 2CCG

January

2027

8, 9 & 10 - Friday to Sunday
"Time to Lock In" Lock-In
Middle & High @ FCCOG
(start & end time tbd)
24 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Wanna RPM All Night
All Grades @ RPM Raceway

February

12 - Friday, 6-8 pm
Freeze-Dance Tournament
Elementary @ 2CCG
20 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
Floor is Lava Tournament
Middle School @ FCCOG
28 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Musical Chair Tournament
High School @ 2CCG

March

1 - Monday, 6-8 pm
Ask a Pastor Anything
All Grades @ Stamford Diner
14 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Flashlight Egg Hunt
All Grades @ FCCOG

April

9 - Friday, 6-8 pm
Giant Game Night
Elementary @ FCCOG
17 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
Giant Hide & Seek
Middle School @ 2CCG
25 - Sunday, 6-8 pm
Giant Volleyball
High School @ FCCOG

May

3 - Monday, 6-8 pm
Ask a Pastor Anything
All Grades @ Stamford Diner
16 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
Kindness Kits for SLT
All Grades @ 2CCG
21, 22 & 23 - Friday to Sunday
Middle & High - Service Trip
Philly, PA with Incredible Days

SPRING
SERVICE TRIP
FUNDRAISER
TBA!

June

4 - Friday, 6-8 PM
Hike it Up
All Grades @ FCCOG
12 - Saturday, 6-8 pm
RYM Final Round: '26-'27
All Grades @ 2CCG

Parents & Alumni

Aug 15, Sat. (Alumni)
S'mories & Stories
2CC Greenwich, 8-10 pm
Sep 20, Sun. (Parents)
Let's Hit 'Em Up
Sterling Farms, 2-4 pm
Dec 20, Sun. (Parents)
End of Year Wrap Party
2CC Greenwich, 6-8 pm

Key

UCC Norwalk
275 Richards Ave, Norwalk
2CC Greenwich
139 East Putnam Ave, Greenwich
FCCOG (Greenwich)
108 Sound Beach Ave, Greenwich
Stamford Diner
135 Harvard Ave, Stamford
Sterling Farms Course
1349 Newfield Ave, Stamford

First Congregational Church of Greenwich

We Need Volunteers!

Be a leader in worship as a reader, usher, or greeter

Worship Reading

read scripture on
Sunday mornings

Call to Offering

share your inspiration
to introduce the offering

Ushering

pass out bulletins
and help pass offering plates

Greeters

be a welcoming presence
as people arrive for worship



scan to sign up

CHANCEL CHOIR HAS BEGUN – YOUTH CHOIRS BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY!



JOIN A CHOIR!

SUNDAYS FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The Cherub Choir is for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade.
11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

The Celebration Singers is for youth in grades 3 to 6.
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Genesis Choir is for youth in grades 7 through 12.
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

The Palmer Handbells &
The Silverthorn Handchimes for 9th grade and up.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Chancel Choir, ages 18 and older.
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

first church
of greenwich
founded 1609



6 REPS NEEDED FOR FCCOG

The Ties That Bind
A threefold cord is not quickly broken. ~ Ecclesiastes 4:12

7th Annual Meeting
Sept. 25 - 27, 2026
Worcester, MA & Online

Full Meeting Registration & Info:
www.sneucc.org/2026AM

MAJOR VOTE ON:
CORPORATE MERGER OF THE
3 HISTORIC CONFERENCES
(MA, CT, RI) INTO
1 CONFERENCE (SNEUCC)
& FUTURE OF SILVER LAKE
CAMP.

Keynote and Preaching:
Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock,
US Senator, Pastor, Author

**register by Sept 14 (in-person)
or Sept 22 (online)**

Questions/more info:
Talk to Pastor Cydney (cydneyv@fccog.org)

Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

**For ANYONE- Tickets for
Keynote Only:
Sept. 26, 4:00 PM
warnock.sneucc.org**

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Just Drop In!

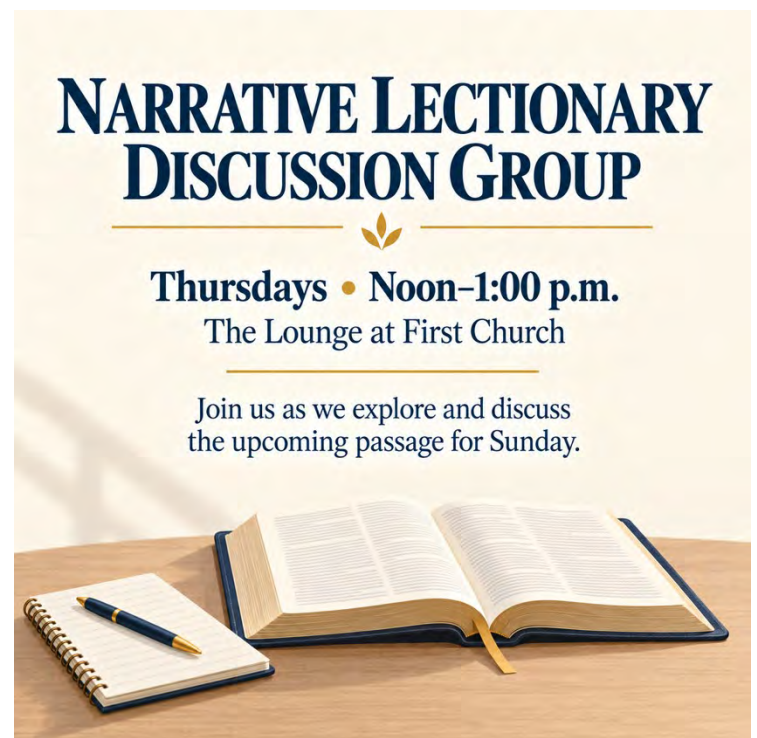
BIBLE

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
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

