



A JOYFUL COMMUNITY - DIVERSE IN SPIRITUAL BACKGROUNDS & BELIEFS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

- Senior Pastor's Message
- Christmas Tree Recycling for RYM
- Church School
- Annual Giving
- Social Media Corner
- Community Corner
- Regular Weekly Happenings



SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING



Click on the image above to see our Sunday Bulletin

SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Friends,

This week we celebrate the arrival of the magi visiting the newborn Jesus. They brought several symbolic gifts but their greatest gift was showing up to celebrate the good news of the savior's birth.

We hope to see you in the Meetinghouse on Sunday!

Grace & Peace,
Patrick



**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYLING PROGRAM -
BENEFITS REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY (RYM)**

A festive poster for the FCCOG Christmas Tree Collection. It features a large black Christmas tree decorated with colorful ornaments and a red vintage car parked in front of it. The text "FCCOG CHRISTMAS TREE" is in large red letters, with "Collection" in a green cursive font. There are three green starburst callouts: "BOOK NOW", "SIGN UP LINK ON WEBSITE", and "ONLY \$40". Below the car, it says "STAY AT HOME! JUST LEAVE THE TREE OUTSIDE- WE RECYCLE FOR YOU!". At the bottom, a red banner contains the dates and times for collection, and another red banner to the right says "A REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER!".

FCCOG CHRISTMAS TREE
Collection

BOOK NOW

ONLY \$40

SIGN UP LINK ON WEBSITE

**STAY AT HOME!
JUST LEAVE THE TREE OUTSIDE- WE RECYCLE FOR YOU!**

SATURDAYS: JAN 4 & JAN 11, CURB BY 10 AM
SUNDAYS: JAN 5 & JAN 12, CURB BY 10 AM

A REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER!



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SCHEDULE A PICK UP FOR YOUR TREE
AT THE END OF YOUR HOLIDAY TIME**

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday is All Ages Worship.
Regular Church School resumes on January 12, 2025.

ANNUAL GIVING 2025

As of Dec 26, we have received 146 pledges (66% of potential giving units) for over \$552,433 (85%) toward our goal of \$650,000 for 2025.

As we near Christmas, we are blessed by all those who have already responded to our Annual Giving appeal. Today, we are celebrating a milestone in our Annual Giving campaign as we have just surpassed the 80% mark of our goal of \$650,000. Please accept our gratitude for your pledge and continued support. If you have misplaced your form, you can click on the link below and indicate your intent to pledge. Your participation in Annual Giving helps us reach the 100% target for giving



units at First Church. Every dollar counts toward our goal.

Annual Giving Committee

Click Here for instructions on how to Pledge online.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you wish to schedule your giving for 2025 in weekly, monthly, or other ways, First Church has the capability of auto-payments from your bank account or credit card! Please use this link to access the church's ACS system and enter the necessary information.

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/memberlogin.aspx?>

If you set up, changed, or plan to continue your automatic monthly online through MyFirstChurch.com for 2025 please know that you still need to submit a pledge form. Pledges can be submitted through the digital pledge form at **www.fccog.org** or by returning a paper pledge card to the office.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Giralamo at the church office or Philip Wentworth at 203-992-9500.

SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

How many of you have accounts on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube? First Church has a presence on all of these platforms and we need YOU to connect with us there and help spread the news of the great work our members do at the church and in the community.

Our **Facebook** page has 885 "likes" - which means 885 people will see the posts that happen on Facebook. Our **Instagram** account has 365 "followers" and our **YouTube** account has 589 "subscribers". That translates to nearly 2000 (!!!) people who have connected with First Church on social media.

"What more can I do?" Well, we're glad you asked!! Every time a post happens from First Church on social media, click on it and like/love it. THEN share it to your account (if that post resonates with you or is important) so others see that. THEN encourage your friends and family to like/follow/subscribe our social media. When you view our YouTube page and watch weekly worship or Messiah, click "like" (or thumbs up). That kicks the algorithms into gear and our account can get increased awareness online.

Finally, here's your New Year Challenge! Let's get those numbers up to the next major level. For Facebook - let's get to 1000; for Instagram, let's get to 400; and for YouTube, let's get to 600. That equals about 160 new friends that will receive the good news of our amazing church in Old Greenwich!

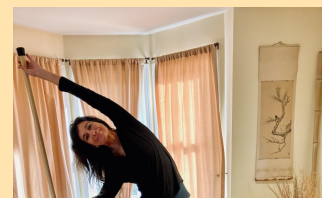


COMMUNITY CORNER - HAPPENINGS IN OUR FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

STICK YOGA: Saturday mornings, from 10.30 - 11.30am

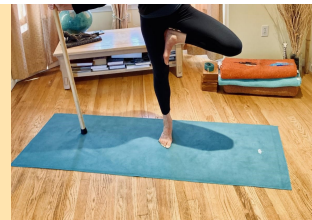
FREE TRIAL CLASS for members of First Church and after that \$20 per class.

Bamboo stick yoga is a captivating fun way to explore stretching, balancing, conscious breathing and coordination, using a long light (bamboo) stick. It improves spatial awareness, posture, mobility and a mind-



body connection, releasing stress. Supporting flexibility, stability and ease in our bodies, appropriate for any age. Some movements come from a Qigong method.

Please bring a yoga mat, and a yoga stick. You can purchase one online (e.g. the Karma Heart Yoga Stick), or make one, or use a broomstick. The stick should be approximately as tall as you. It could also be helpful to have a blanket if you like support for your head or knees. Email teacher Herma Hale for more information: hermahale@hotmail.com



TAI CHI: We meet at the First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich 9:30am Monday or Thursday (with advance sign up). All monies go straight to First Church. Please sign-in before class. Contact Will Morrison for more information: wdmorrison@gmail.com

This week's classes

- Monday, 9:30 - Drop-in / Fundamentals Form
- Thursday, 8:30 - Drop-in / Fundamentals Form *Pls confirm your attendance in advance*

Next week's classes

- Monday, 9:30 - Drop-in / Fundamentals Form
- Thursday, 8:30 - Drop-in / Fundamentals Form *Pls confirm your attendance in advance*

New joiners:

- **Where:** 108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich. Enter the church's parking lot from Forest Avenue and park anywhere. Please give the parents dropping off their children lots of room.
- **Which entrance:** Enter through the door labelled Church Offices noted by the arrow. Once inside, go up the stairs immediately to your left which lead directly to the Auditorium, where we will be playing.



REGULAR WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



Bring your little ones to church - we completely EMBRACE them.

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 Chapel (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 to access PrayGround FAQs and Helpful Tips. Amalia Samuel, a staff member, is the PrayGround Supervisor.

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.



There is a new updated link on the FCCOG website homepage titled

FCCOG VOLUNTEER SIGN UP CENTER

This link will also be publicized in every Friday e-blast and the Sunday Bulletin. You can also access the Volunteer Signup Center by scanning this QR Code.

Thank you so much for the time you give volunteering for First Church!

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following the worship on Sunday, January 5. During community hour find her in her office, just to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment. Call 203 637 1791 ext 821 or email susana@fccog.org



GET YOUR FAMILY WEEKLY CHURCH SCHOOL & RYM (REGIONAL YOUTH 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!



FIRST CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This coming week the Church Offices will be open regular hours, M to F, 9 am to 4:30 pm. Please remember to make an appointment with any member of staff you wish to meet with.

Find staff contact details [here](#).

THE RUMMAGE ROOM



The Rummage Room is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 am to 3 p.m., for shopping and to receive donations. Come and see us!

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR DONATIONS

Every donation directly helps those in need.

This basket is in the Meetinghouse near the front door, and donations can be dropped to the Church Office. Most needed items include canned meat, cereal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, and shelf-stable milk.





SIGN UP TO READ SCRIPTURE, CALL TO OFFERING, OR USHER

We have a sign-up-page to read scripture, usher, or read a call to offering. All of the previous individual pages are now combined in one, with tabs at the top of the page to flip between each signup.

Simply click on each to navigate to the appropriate signup. To access that signup, click [here](#)



FIRST CHURCH LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICE & SUNDAY PHONE STREAMING SERVICE

The number to call for our Sunday phone streaming service is 833-318-3375. You can call the number during the week to hear a re-play of the service.

LIVESTREAM

Every Sunday at 10:00 am | [Click here](#)

PLEASE NOTE:

You do not need a Facebook or YouTube account to access our live-stream broadcasts. No sign-up necessary!



SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

[Click here](#) to link directly to the website prayer request form. Or [click here](#) to email your concerns.



**Deadline for Friday Eblast is 12:00 PM on Thursday.
If you have a story suggestion please let Craig know at craigs@fccog.org**



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