2026

FALL OPPORTUNITIES AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH



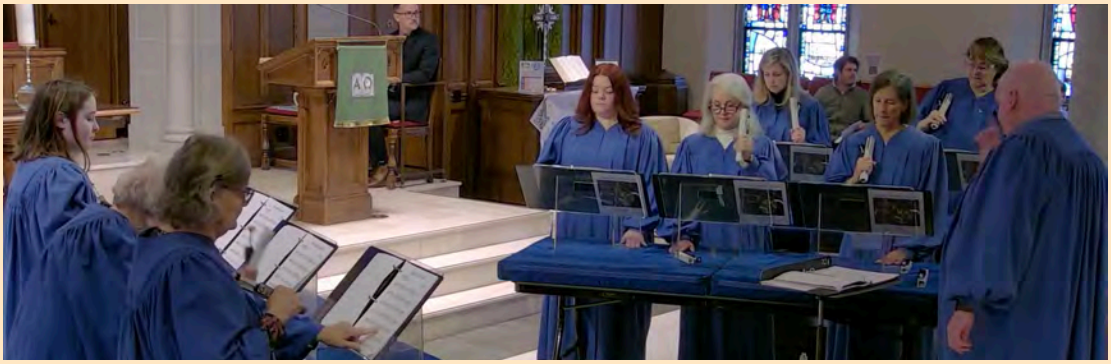
SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE MEETINGHOUSE AT 10 A.M.











Upcoming Special Services

Oct. 4 - World Communion Sunday
Oct. 18 - Annual Giving & Laity Sunday
Nov 1 - All Saints' Sunday
Nov 22 - Harvest Sunday
Nov. 29 - First Sunday in Advent

Livestream video is available by scrolling to the bottom of our webpage (www.fccog.org).
The most recent Sunday worship is also there during the week.

The number to call for our Sunday phone streaming service (audio only) is 833-318-3375
You can call the number during the week to hear a replay of the service.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

The Cherub Choir is for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. This group rehearses on Sundays following worship from 11:15 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Meetinghouse. Carol Woodman is their director, with assistants Lynn Hawxhurst and Carolyn Paulus.

The Celebration Singers is for grades 3 to 6 and is under the direction of Craig Symons, with Vance Briceland, accompanist. This group rehearses on Sundays following worship from 11:15 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

The Genesis Choir is for youth in grades 7 through 12 and rehearses on Sundays following worship from 11:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. This dynamic group is directed by Daniel Young and accompanied by Hanna Golodinskii.

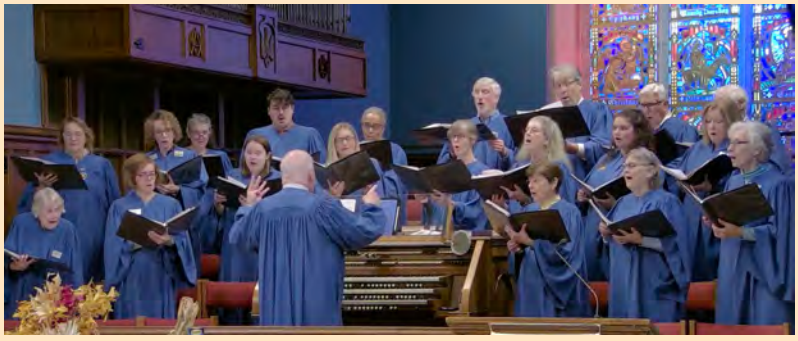
The Chancel Choir, ages 18 and older, is a dedicated group of volunteer and professional singers who provide music for Sunday worship throughout the year and is directed by Craig Symons. Weekly rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

The Palmer Handbells and **The Silverthorn Handchimes** is for those in 9th grade and up. Craig Symons leads this group. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the Meetinghouse. A group of ten ringers is required for the bulk of the repertoire we play, with the occasional pieces requiring one or two more or less.

First Music and Arts is an outreach ministry which brings exceptional programs to southwestern Connecticut and the entire tri-state area. Launched in 2011, previous seasons offered performances for all ages, including cabaret singer/pianist Mark Nadler, organ concerts, vocal recitals, as well as small and large scale choral programs.







FALL CONCERTS

INTEMPO Hispanic Heritage Month Concert
Saturday, October 10, 2026 3 p.m. $10 General Admission

61st Annual Messiah Concert
Saturday, December 12, 2026 4 p.m.

Join The First Church Festival Chorus For Messiah!
Choir rehearsal on
Monday, December 7, 2026 - 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Dress rehearsal with orchestra on
Wednesday, December 9, 2026 - 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

CARING MINISTRIES OPPORTUNITIES



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Meets the 4th Wednesday of every month, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Shawls are lovingly knit by volunteers with prayerful intentions for the well-being of the recipients.

All are welcome, regardless of experience. Those who don't knit can find their niche, like sewing labels or adding fringe. Contact Angela Stevens at angelamessinastevens@gmail.com to get involved.





FLOWER AND SOUP DELIVERY
Flowers from worship services are rearranged by volunteers and delivered to church friends who may be feeling under the weather or grieving or perhaps celebrating a blessing. During Lent and Advent, we deliver a potted plant to those who may have difficulty getting to church or who have experienced illness or loss.

Volunteers make Soup for the Soul or help deliver it to those in our church family who may benefit from a little extra TLC.

Please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at susana@fccog.org if you'd like to get involved in flower or soup delivery.



WELLNESS PROGRAMS



PARISH NURSE
Sue Asselin, RN, has drop-in hours Sundays after the worship service, for blood pressure screenings and other health related consultations. During Community Hour you'll find Sue in her office, just to the right of the Auditorium stage. Private appointments can be made during the week by emailing susana@fccog.org or calling church ext 821.



SAFETY AT FIRST CHURCH
Sunday, September 27, during the Worship service, we'll review highlights of our emergency preparedness plan. Afterwards, Sue Asselin will be available during Community Hour to answer any questions or go over any safety information in more detail.



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD IN WORSHIP

**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 sign-up. Scan the QR code to sign up!







STAYING CONNECTED WITH FIRST CHURCH

Let's Connect

Drop us a message -
we're ready when you are.

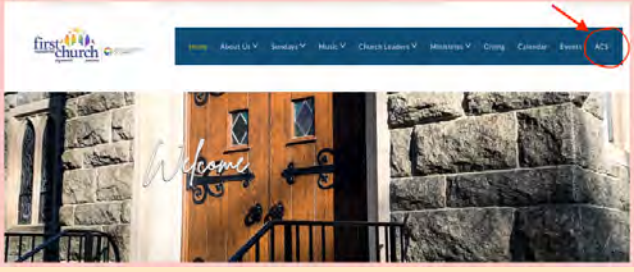
- @fccogct
- @fccog
- (203) 637-1791
- www.fccog.org
- info@fccog.org

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION RECENTLY?



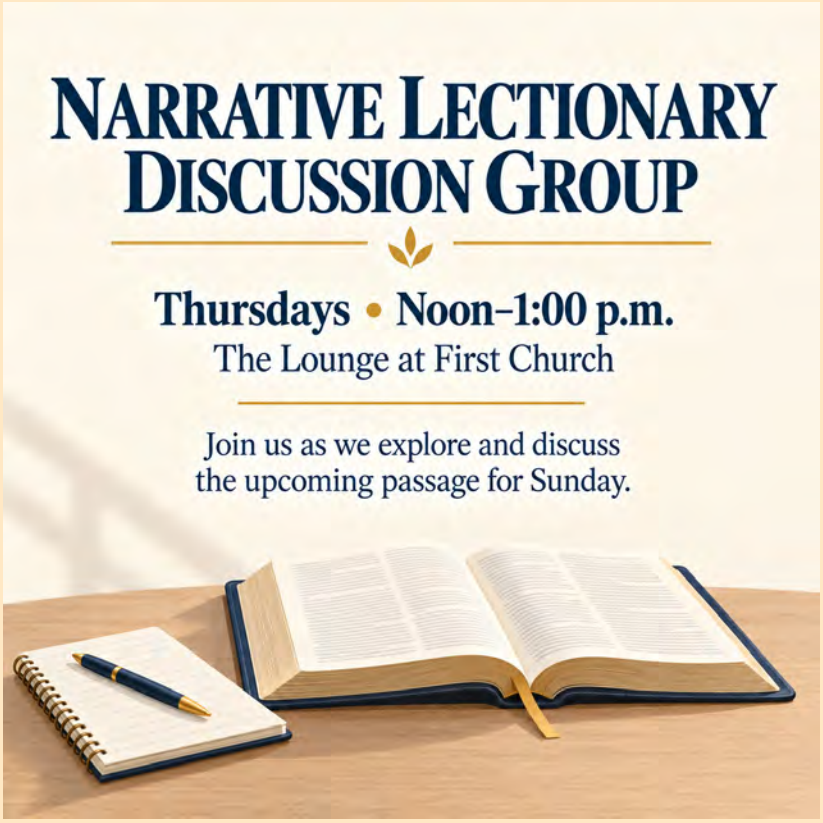
If your contact information has changed, or even if it hasn't, please log in to your myfirstchurch account and review your info. You can access myfirstchurch through the ACS button at the top right corner of our website.

If you have any problems logging in, contact Craig Symons at craigs@fccog.org for assistance.



ADULT & FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES









FAMILY EVENTS





Once a month, typically on Communion Sunday, our whole congregation worships together for **All Ages Worship**. The goal is simple: children, teens, families, and adults all encounter something equally meaningful, at the same time, in the same space.

SUNDAY MORNINGS



The **PrayGround** gives our youngest worshippers room to encounter God in their own way. This 35-foot space offers coloring pages, musical instruments, children's books, a play-church, dancing silks, and attendants who help kids feel at home.

The **Sensory Sanctuary** holds a library of fidgets, tactile cards, breathing guides, felt story boards, visual input tubes, headphones, and rocking chairs. Every body and every sensory need is honored here as sacred.



Across from the Audio Booth, in the hallway leading to the PrayGround, you'll find a bookshelf stocked for our youngest readers. The **Children's Library** supplies the PrayGround, but it's just as happy to supply your home and bedtime routines. Take a book with you, bring it back when your child is done, or don't... These books are gifts to our Meetinghouse, and hopefully to you.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



Kids aren't waiting to become the church someday. They already are the church, right now, exactly as God made them. **Church School** brings that truth to life through play, art, music, and hands-on discovery, connecting scripture to what families experience in worship.

This year's Church School meets almost every Sunday, tracing a path through Exodus, Kings, Isaiah, and Matthew, with shared moments like the Friends & Family Fest, the Nativity Pageant, and Celebration Sunday along the way. Returning this year, children choose weekly between a Loud Class and a Quiet Class, moving freely between the two as needed.

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY (RYM)

Going into year four of this ministry, we know firsthand that youth ministry works best when built on relationships and supported by community. **Regional Youth Ministry (RYM)** exists because we believe that young people deserve a space where their voices shape the ministry designed for them, "to youth, by youth, for youth." RYM currently unites four covenanted partner churches across Lower Fairfield County. Together, the Youth Advisory Council, Advisory Committee, volunteers, and students in third through twelfth grade hold one conviction: youth matter, now. From Press Start, to the Lock In, to a spring Service Trip to Philadelphia, what keeps students coming back is the laughter, connection, and community where our youth want to be. For more information, head to www.myrym.org



RYM offers **Service Learning Trip Weekends**, 48 hours of hands-on service for students in 6th through 12th grade. Partnering with Incredible Days, students spend the weekend learning about and serving those who experience homelessness in our local community.
Alongside the service, students build memories together and grow as individuals, discovering that faith is something you do as much as something you believe.

CONFIRMATION - WHAT IS IT?



Every year the rite of passage that is Confirmation allows students in either grade 8 or 9 to have a year to explore their faith, learn about Christianity, and decide for themselves what they believe. The year culminates in Confirmation Sunday, in which students who have chosen to do so confirm the promises made at their baptisms to follow in the Christian faith for themselves. First Church and Second Congregational Church (2CC) will once again lead this offering together.



Beginning in October, Confirmation Class will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 6-8pm. Class time includes dinner, a game, and a lesson, and the location alternates among hosts. Learnings include The Bible, The Trinity, The Christian Church, and other faith traditions. Additional focus is given to spiritual practices, prayer, and service opportunities/projects. Please contact Pastor Patrick at patrickc@fccog.org or Pastor Cydney at cydneyv@fccog.org for more information.

H.O.M.E. CRAFT FAIR

H.O.M.E., Inc. in Orland, Maine, enhances the quality of life of people who have fallen on challenging times by honoring their dignity, attending to such basic needs as food and shelter, supporting their long-term health and development, and fostering a vibrant and mutually supportive community.

The Craft Fair will be held Saturday, November 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
and Sunday, November 22, following 10 a.m. worship.



















HARVEST SUNDAY AT FIRST CHURCH







Harvest Sunday worship, on Sunday, November 22, is filled with music from all of the First Church ensembles, and culminates with an enormous offering of food for Neighbor to Neighbor in Greenwich and H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Friday November 27, Saturday November 28, and Sunday November 29
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 500 trees & 300 wreaths are sold to benefit our community partners with over 100 volunteers providing support for the sale.

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!

Contact: laurenghaffari@gmail.com, pspeer22@gmail.com, collinskt@gmail.com





OUTREACH EVENTS

Rise Against Hunger gathers 100+ members and friends to pack 20,000-plus meal kits for distribution around the world.



The New Covenant Center Cafe is located at in Stamford. First Church provides the evening meal on the second Thursday of every month. This mission has been supported by First Church for over 40 years.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERSHIP

FAITH IS A JOURNEY WE STEP INTO. MEMBERSHIP IS SIMPLY ONE WAY OF SAYING:

"I WANT TO KEEP WALKING THIS ROAD TOGETHER."

IF YOU HAVE BEEN WORSHIPING, WONDERING, GROWING, SERVING, OR SEARCHING ALONGSIDE US, PERHAPS THIS IS YOUR NEXT STEP.

AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH, BECOMING A MEMBER IS SIMPLE:

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF OUR PASTORS ABOUT YOUR FAITH JOURNEY AND DESIRE TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.



first congregational church of greenwich founded 1665