

20
25

FALL OPPORTUNITIES AT
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE MEETINGHOUSE AT 10 A.M.



Upcoming Special Services

- Oct. 5 - World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 10 - Annual Giving Sunday
- Oct. 19 - Laity Sunday
- Nov 2 - All Saints' Sunday
- Nov 23 - Harvest Sunday
- Nov. 30 - 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 assistant 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 Matt Stolfi.

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.



INTEMPO Hispanic Heritage Month Concert - ¡VIVA LOS ANDES!
Saturday, October 11, 2025 5 p.m. \$10 General Admission

60th Annual Messiah Concert
Saturday, December 13, 2025 4 p.m.

FALL CONCERTS

Join The First Church Festival Chorus For Messiah!
Choir rehearsal on
Monday, December 8, 2025 - 7:30 to 9:00 pm
Dress rehearsal with orchestra on
Wednesday, December 10, 2025 - 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

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 Linnea Stenberg, chair of Caring Ministries, at lstenberg08@gmail.com 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 28, we'll briefly highlight emergency preparedness plans during our morning worship. Afterwards, Sue Asselin will be available during Community Hour after worship to answer any questions or go over any safety information in more detail.

CPR CERTIFICATION COURSE

Saturday, Nov 8, choice of morning or afternoon class. Offered compliments of First Church, to those who frequently attend church services or programs. Contact Sue Asselin susana@fccog.org to enroll.



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 OPPORTUNITIES

Member Survey

This September, FCCOG will send out a brief member survey with opportunities to connect, serve, and grow—both in faith and in friendship. From music to caring ministries, teaching children to welcoming newcomers, community outreach and more, there's a place here for everyone to belong.

The survey was thoughtfully created by a Member Survey Task Force (Linnea Stenberg, Meg Dempsey, Laura Erickson, Jenny Gartner, Meaghan Gruppo, and Pat Larrabee) to help everyone find a place where they feel both joy and purpose.

Please complete the survey by September 30th—because First Church isn't just a church, it's your church.

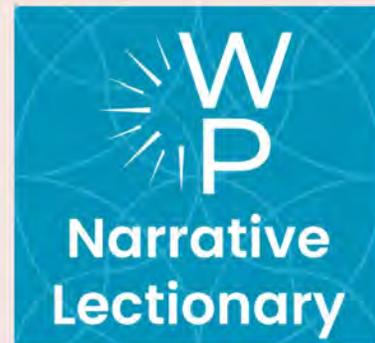
A New Bible Study



Just Drop-In: A First Look at Sunday's Scripture
9:00-9:45 a.m. in The Lounge

Starting Sunday, September 14, join Pastor Cydney on Sunday mornings for a drop-in time of conversation around the day's scripture. Together we'll explore the passage, gain context, and notice fresh insights before entering worship.

No need to prepare—just bring yourself. Come for the whole time, or even 15 minutes, and trust that God will give you something good to carry into worship and beyond.



This fall, our weekly Wired Word study group will take on a new rhythm, shifting from current events to the timeless wisdom of Scripture. Together, we'll follow the Narrative Lectionary daily readings, opening space for honest conversation, fresh insights, and shared discovery.

Whether you are brand new to Bible study or a seasoned reader, you'll find a welcoming circle to explore how God's story connects with our own. Come as you are, bring your questions, curiosity, an open heart, and your lunch (optional). We meet every Thursday at noon in the Lounge.



First Church Strategic Vision Plan

We've shared the vision, now it's your turn!

Join us in the lounge after worship on Sunday, September 14 & 21 at 11:00 a.m. for interactive Talk-Back Sessions as we listen, dream, and gather feedback on our Strategic Vision Plan.

This is your chance to bring your voice, your hopes, and your ideas into the next chapter of First Church. Whether you're curious, inspired, or simply want to learn more, your presence matters.

FAMILY EVENTS

First Congregational Church of Greenwich
presents

FRIENDS AND FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 13 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
108 Sound Beach Avenue Old Greenwich

Food trucks & ice-cream 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

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, Oct 25
6 - 7:30 p.m.

First Church Parking Lot
108 Sound Beach Avenue

\$20 PER FAMILY
All proceeds go to local charities

CANDY MUSIC FOOD TRUCKS FUN

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY (RYM)

In Regional Youth Ministry, we approach youth ministry through deep, intentional relationships because we believe young people deserve a place in the church where their voices and faith are sincerely seen, honored, and cherished. In our "by youth, for youth" model, events are centered on the wants and needs of today's youth, as they understand their world and their faith.

RYM brings together the resources, care, and faithfulness of our covenanted partners across Lower Fairfield County. Together, the RYM Youth Advisory Panel, Advisory Committee, volunteers, and students from third through twelfth grade unite under one guiding belief: youth are important. Through fun, laughter, and meaningful connection, our young people experience RYM as a place where they want to be, invest their time, and share in community with their peers.



Check out our RYM 6th-12th Grade Service:

- Saturday, September 20 - Pacific House
- Saturday, October 18 - Neighbor to Neighbor
- Saturday, November 15 - CT Food Share
- Saturday, December 20 - Breakfast Run with Round Hill

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



In **Church School**, we believe children are not “the church of the future” – they are the church of today. That’s why our approach is child-centered, welcoming kids just as God made them. Through play, art, music, creativity, and hands-on experiences, children explore scripture and faith in ways that connect to what’s happening in worship, making it easy for the whole family to share and grow together. Church School is led by people of all ages – from middle and high school youth, to caring parents, to longtime volunteers who all bring unique wisdom and deep joy. Here, every child belongs, every voice matters, and God’s love is celebrated in the here and now. Church School runs almost every week this fall! Join us on September 14, 21, & 28, October 12, 19, & 26, November 9, 16, & 30, and December 14 & 21.

In the **PrayGround**, children are welcomed to worship in “a different way” – intentionally and joyfully. We believe every person is born with the ability to worship God in their own way, including and especially the youngest among us. That’s why we provide a colorful, and welcoming 35 foot worship space with scripture-based coloring pages, plush musical instruments, diverse children’s books, soft toys like Noah’s Ark and a play-church, dancing silks, and the presence of caring attendants. Here, children can engage with worship at their own pace, in ways that reflect how God has created them to learn, play, and belong.



In the **Sensory Sanctuary** you will find a library of sensory stimuli – from fidgets to move in your hands, to tactile cards, breathing guides, crochet hooks and yarn, LCD tablets, felt story boards, visual input tubes, noise-canceling headphones, and rocking chairs. We believe that God has made our bodies whole and in God’s very image, with all of our neurodiversities unique experiences, and diverse sensory needs in mind.

CONFIRMATION - WHAT IS IT?



Every year the rite of passage in our faith tradition 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.



Beginning in October, Confirmation Class will be held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Joining First Church and Second Congregational Church (2CC) this year is North Stamford Community Church. 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 Pastors Patrick at patrickc@fccog.org and Cydney at cydneyv@fccog.org for more information.