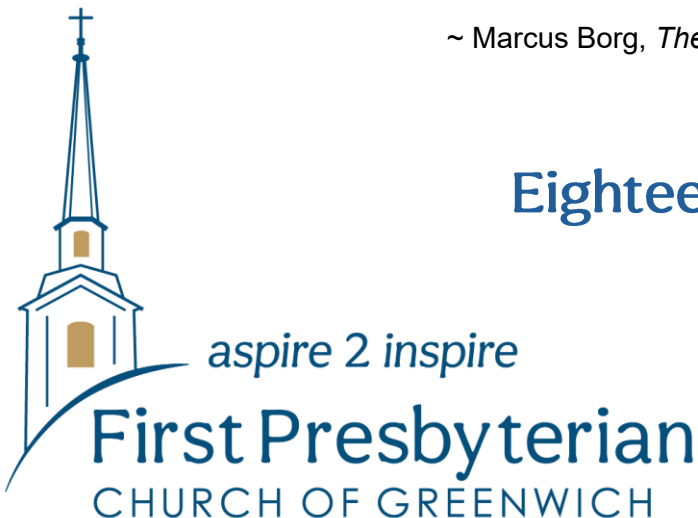




Prior to the modern period, the most common Christian meanings of the word “faith” were not matters of the head, but matters of the heart. In the Bible and the Christian tradition, the “heart” is a metaphor for a deep level of the self ... Seeing the heart of Christianity requires recovering the rich meanings of faith, a recovery that leads to a relational understanding of faith and to an understanding of Christianity as a “way” of the heart. ... The Christian life is as simple and challenging as this: to love God and to love that which God loves. ... If we take seriously that faith is not primarily about belief, but about “believing God,” then faith and practice are not opposites. Rather, practice is how we “belove” God.

~ Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
10:00 AM

We worship God, who welcomes us all!
Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome, with whatever joys, questions, or tears you bring.
We listen for God's Spirit speaking through Prelude music as we open our hearts for prayer and praise.
** We are invited to rise together in God's Spirit. **

PRELUDE

"Adagio" from *Organ*
Symphony No. 2, Op. 13, No. 2

Charles-Marie Widor

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from *Psalms* 43

One: O God, in you we find refuge and courage. Stay near as we pace the floor and face oppression.

All: Send out your light and truth. Let them lead us. Let them bring us into your holy dwelling.

One: Then we will open to the presence of God, to God our exceeding joy, and we will praise our God!

All: My soul, why are you downcast and disquieted? Hope in God, for we shall again praise God!

*HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory
(Verses 1, 2, 4)

CWM RHONDDA

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, you call us to faithfully center life in your blessedness, but we turn from your grace.
We don't always trust in your love. Shame, fear, anger, or selfish envy grip our hearts.
We hold onto hurts. We use resources carelessly. Our minds get twisted by bias.
So we hurt others, stay silent in the face of abuse, and share complicity with harm to our
community and creation. In your mercy, search us, know us, forgive us and heal us with hope.
Nurture what brings new life and makes it flourish among us here and now, in Jesus Christ.
~ Prayer continues in silence. ~

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

One: Friends, we trust in God by grace through faith. In everlasting love, God frees us to accept ourselves and acts with justice and mercy to redeem all creation. The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ and calls us to ministry in the church.

All: We belong to God! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ!

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in daily tasks, as we live holy and joyful lives. We watch with hope for God's new heaven and new earth, as we work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As we conclude passing the peace of Christ, children come forward to share the Time for Young Disciples.

*GLORIA #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free
as it was in the beginning, is now and every shall be. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

After our shared prayer, children go to the third floor for Sunday School.

Following worship, please, pick up your children from third floor classrooms.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God, as we listen for your Word, fill us with your Loving Spirit. Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence. Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth. Shape our wills that we may desire your ways. All for your glory in our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 42

p. 670 OT

One: Word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Sicut Cervus

Palestrina

As the deer longs for running water, so longs my soul for Thee Lord.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21

p. 192 NT

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Inspired by Faith and Hope

"I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and ... the hope to which he has called you ..."
(Ephesians 1:15, 18)

*HYMN 738

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

OFFERING

Ritual of Friendship: Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Gift of Love

Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed. Amen.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: God of All Life, gratefully we offer our gifts for use in ministry, bringing hope to all in need.
By your Spirit, guide and empower us to be a growing community of love and compassion,
centered on Christ, inspired by faith and love, devoted to serve in today's world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

*HYMN 772

Live into Hope

TRURO

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Congregational response: Alleluia! Amen!

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

P. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

"Finale" from *Organ
Symphony No. 2, Op. 13 No. 2*

Charles Marie Widor

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Seth Weeldreyer; Andre Castillo; Caroline Worra; Tara Church; Jeb Dennis-piano/organ; Margaret Mack-soprano and Liz James-mezzo-soprano; Peggy Whitlock-reader.

Usher Team 3: Steve Waters (Captain), James Waters (Deputy), Abe Cary, Tony Kane, Kathy Myer, Ellie Ritch Galatioto, Tricia Reville, Jackson Waters, Vaughn Waters, Sandy Waters, Linda Zang.

WELCOME!

We are delighted you are joining us in worship! Founded on Easter Sunday in 1881, First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich embraces our mission to nurture and empower people in all stages of life to be Christ's disciples and to actively serve those in need. All children are invited to stay in worship and join us on the steps during *Time for Young Disciples*. Children can be picked up following Sunday School in Room 343. **Childcare is available for those who are three years and younger in room 350.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Members:

Friends:

To focus our collective desire to care, we will plan to announce new prayer concerns each week, keeping members and friends on our Prayer List for three weeks. If you or someone you know would benefit from being added to our weekly Prayer List, please don't hesitate to reach out to our church office at info@fpcg.org.

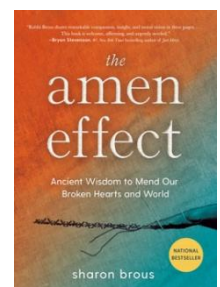
JOIN US TODAY

**Adult Education - September 27 – October 18 in the Chapel
Following Worship 11:30 a.m.**

Pastor Seth will lead conversation around a favorite book *The Amen Effect*, by Rabbi Sharon Brous. "In a time of loneliness and isolation, social rupture and alienation, what will it take to mend our broken hearts and rebuild our society?" As we yearn for real connection, we reawaken shared humanity and a kind of sacred presence captured by the word *amen*—"I see you. You are not alone." The book should be available from your preferred local or online retailer.

9/27 – Chapters 1-2
10/11 – Chapters 5-6

10/4 – Chapters 3-4
10/18 – Chapters 7-8



COME GATHER AT *THE WELL*!



We meet each month on the **second and fourth Sundays, 5:00 in the Chapel**. Jesus' longest conversation in the Bible is with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4). She yearns for living water Jesus offers. Amid their deep questions comes a great affirmation: we worship God in spirit and in truth. Let's lower a bucket into depths of Holy Love among us—*the Well*. We'll share a more casual style—chairs circled around carpet with toys for tots (and parents) to settle among us, simple prayers, prelude, postlude, a couple of songs, and scripture reading / connection with life in a more conversational style. We'll offer lessons / activities for school-age kids and nursery care, if desired. **Today we will also share communion.**

We'll see how the Spirit moves organically and adapt as ideas arise! The Well is deep! Get the bucket! Jesus promises that as we drink deeply a spring of living water will gush forth within and among us. Let's *aspire 2 inspire* ... together!

EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO PILGRIMAGE 2027

On Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 pm, in the Chapel Pastor Seth will share an introduction to walking the *Camino* together sometime in 2027, exact dates TBD. Come find out basic details about the experience and discern whether you might feel called to join this holy expedition of the heart as much as the feet! We'll likely need clarity about participants by early November. If you can't make the meeting, connect with Pastor Seth after October 14 for more information.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

As Deacons, our ministry is one of compassion, witness, and service. It includes services such as hospital visits, meal deliveries, an altar flower to celebrate a birth, arranging rides to worship and generally being available to hear any concerns or questions. We warmly invite you to reach out on your behalf, or perhaps on behalf of another church member who may benefit from a meal, a visit, or just a word of encouragement. Contact the church office at (203) 869-8686 X 110, or one of our pastors, or email our Deacon Moderator, Julie Mather (matherct@msn.com). Your wellbeing is important to us.

FIRST 4 FOOD - Imagine the warmth and comfort of homemade soups delivered right to your door! Our dedicated volunteers are ready to bring love and care to members recovering from physical, emotional, or other challenging situations. Need a meal? Feeling inspired to cook or deliver? Reach out to Renie Blair at (203) 637-1807 and be part of this heartwarming initiative.

FIRST SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION - We are offering rides to and from church on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month so that members can participate in Communion, worship, and fellowship. Call Bob Giambo (914) 434-4832 to arrange transportation. We look forward to having you join us.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Scan the QR code to complete your children and youth ministry registration.

Keeping your family's information up to date helps us stay connected and prepare for a great year ahead!

Email Tara with any questions: tara@fpcq.org



Confirmation Kickoff — October 4, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

Calling all **7th–9th grade students!** Confirmation kicks off this fall with a special gathering for students **and parents** following worship. Lunch will be provided, and friends are always welcome. We are excited to begin this journey of asking questions, exploring faith, building relationships, and discovering what it means to make our faith our own.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

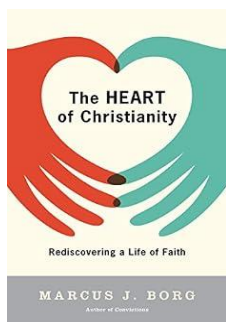
Join us for fellowship and book discussion in the Church Library on the 4th Floor. We gather at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and discussion starts at 9:30 a.m. Contact Colleen Giambo at cgiambo@gmail.com for further information. Here is the upcoming Women's Book Group selection:

October 16

The Things We Never Say, by Elizabeth Strout



COMMUNITY NIGHT / HOLY HAPPY HOUR!



Wednesday, September 30, 5:00 in the Chapel coordinating with other afternoon / evening activities, Pastor Seth continues a new class discussion. We'll center conversation in Marcus Borg's, *the Heart of Christianity*. It's Happy Hour! Jesus turned water into wine ... forgoing other spirits, we'll share water (maybe bubbly?) and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit! God moves as our insights, experiences, yearnings bubble-up together! We'll meet every Wednesday, reading a couple of chapters per week. We'll move on to other books when we finish Marcus Borg's. *The Heart of Christianity* should be available through your preferred local or online retailer.

This week we'll discuss Chapters 4 and 5. Let's *aspire 2 inspire* ... together!

COMMUNITY NIGHT / MUSIC PROGRAM



Holy Happy Hour, music rehearsals, dinner, live music & fellowship!

***Live music every Wednesday, 6:00–6:30 pm**

5:00–6:00 pm

Holy Happy Hour **w/ Pastor Seth** · Chapel

6:00–7:00 pm

Dinner & Live Music · Fellowship Hall

5:00–6:00 pm

All-Age Family Music **w/ Caroline & Kreg** · 4th Floor

6:30–7:15 pm

Steeple Band **w/ Caroline & Kreg** · 4th Floor

5:00–6:00 pm

Bell Choir **w/ Heather** · Sanctuary

7:15–8:45 pm

Chancel Choir **w/ Caroline & Jesse** · 4th Floor

Are you interested in participating in our Wednesday evening 6:00-6:30 LIVE MUSIC ceilidh during Dinner-for-All? What is a ceilidh? (pronounced kay-lee) Found especially in Scotland, it is an informal social gathering with folk music, instrumental music, singing, dancing, poetry, and storytelling! ALL AGES are invited to perform! And/or are you interested in being a reader on Sunday mornings? Reach out to me anytime to let me know that you'd like to be on the list for either! caroline.worra@fpcg.org

MIDNIGHT RUN – October 8 and 10



10/8 · 1:00 PM

Sort donated items — Fellowship Hall

10/10 · 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

CONFIRMANDS THROUGH GRADE 12 & ADULT DRIVERS

Breakfast Run to New York City

Depart from FPCG at 8:00 AM for a Saturday morning trip into New York City to serve breakfast and hand out donations.

RSVP: ganshaw@me.com

DONATIONS NEEDED

- Winter jackets & coats — blue bin
- Amazon wishlist — scan the QR code

Deadline: October 3



STEWARDSHIP: The 2026 Generosity Challenge

Be Generous — Stewardship Update

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign, “**Be Generous,**” is going well. To date, we have received pledges totaling **\$1,173,639—90% of our \$1.3 million goal.** Thank you to everyone who has already pledged, and a special thank-you to those who increased their commitment this year.

The final 10% is always the hardest. We are confident that we will exceed \$1.2 million, but reaching our full goal will require some additional help. If we have not yet heard from you, please let us know your plans as soon as possible. And if you have already pledged and are able to do more, we invite you to look at our **Generosity Circles** and consider stepping up to the next level.

There is a renewed sense of energy and optimism at our church. Pastor Seth has been warmly received, and the Session is making exciting plans for the future. **Meeting our stewardship goal will give us the resources to turn those plans into reality.** If you are able to do more, please consider doing more. Together, we can finish this campaign strong.

To pledge, visit church’s website: www.fpcg.org/2026stewardship
Email the Elder for Stewardship, Brian Pennington, at stewardship@fpcg.org
Email Director of Operations, Erin Moore, at erin@fpcg.org or call 203 869 8686 ext. 123.

LEADERSHIP OF OUR CONGREGATION

Session

Rev. Dr. Seth E. Weeldreyer, Senior Pastor
Rev. Andre Castillo, Associate Pastor
Michelle Binnie, Clerk of Session

Philip Carrone (Membership)	Kimberly Lee (Fellowship)
Delano Copprue (Adult Ed)	Lori Mulcare (Nursery School)
Lilian Eng (Nominating)	Brian Pennington (Stewardship)
Lee Ganshaw (Mission Engagement)	Elizabeth Peyton (Worship)
Layne Grindal (Finance)	Stephanie Schnabel (Buildings and Grounds)
Liz James (Children)	Sue Sproule (Endowment)
Jim Joyella (Personnel)	Sandy Waters (Communications)
Ryan Kim (Youth)	

*Assigned committees are noted (parantheically) – please contact the elder, if interested in connecting.
Messages sent to session@fpcg.org go to all elders serving on Session.*

Board of Deacons

Julie Mather, Moderator

Wayne Atwell	Jennifer Dott	Betsy Harper
Renie Blair	Bob Giambo	Barbie McKelvey
Diane Brown	Carolyn Hahn-Re	Judith Riggs
Margaret Copprue	Liz Harden	Catherine Stahl

Messages sent to deacons@fpcg.org go to all deacons.

Clergy & Staff Contacts

Rev. Dr. Seth E. Weeldreyer, Senior Pastor	seth@fpcg.org	Ext. 115
Rev. Andre Castillo, Associate Pastor	andre.castillo@fpcg.org	Ext. 119
Dr. Caroline Worra, Minister of Music	caroline.worra@fpcg.org	Ext. 120
Tara Church, Director, Children's Ministries	tara@fpcg.org	Ext. 118
Heather Antonissen, Director, Bell Choirs	heather.antonissen@fpcg.org	
Jestin Pieper, Organ Associate	jestin.pieper@gmail.com	
Erin Moore, Director of Operations	erin@fpcg.org	Ext. 123
Randy Ante, Facilities Manager	randy.ante@fpcg.org	Ext. 114
Rommel Espano, Sexton	rommel.espano@fpcg.org	Ext. 112
Jane Parker, Bookkeeper	jane@fpcg.org	Ext. 128
Linda DiMarino, Office Administrator	officeadmin@fpcg.org	Ext. 110
Megan Florentine, Director, Nursery School	megan.florentine@fpcgns.org	(203) 869-7782

Ministers: All members of the congregation.

Our Vision:

*We are a growing community of love and compassion, centered on Christ,
inspired by faith and hope, devoted to serve in today's world.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENWICH

One West Putnam Avenue · Greenwich, Connecticut 06830
www.fpcg.org · (203) 869-8686



We are a Stephen Ministry Church.

