

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENWICH



God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ and the mission of reconciliation to which God calls the church are the heart of the gospel in any age. Our generation stands in peculiar need of reconciliation. ...

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for us when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. ...

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. We are entrusted with God's message and share the labor of healing enmities which separate us from God and from each other.

With urgency born of hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. We do not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor do we despair in the face of disappointment. In steadfast hope, we look beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

~ The Confession of 1967 ~

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 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 today.
We listen for God's Spirit speaking through music of the Prelude 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. 5 Op 42, No. 1*

CM Widor

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 103

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

All: Praise the Lord, who forgives iniquity, heals disease, and redeems life from the Pit.

One: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love as long as we live!

All: As high as the heavens, as deep as a parent's compassion, so God's steadfast love endures, as we keep humble covenant and live together God's Holy Commandments.

***HYMN 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: Trusting your loving mercy, God, we confess our failings and our part in the pain of the world. Our hearts center in hubris and self-concern, not your holy way of compassion and generosity. So, our words wound, our hands harm, our intentions injure others and all creation. Even beyond all we realize, bias in us and around us makes us callous, insensitive, complicit. Even when we want to turn around, think again, seek another way, look for good in others, grudges can be hard to let go, defensiveness hard to release, humility and grace hard to share. In Christ, forgive us. Make us weep, together. That we may heal and, one day, maybe reconcile.
~ Prayer continues in silence. ~

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

from The Confession of 1967

One: Hear the good news! God's love never changes. New life takes shape in a community where we know God loves and accepts us in all of who we are. Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection promises God's work of creation and reconciliation will fulfill new life for us in Christ.

All: God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to pursue with courage, all within God's purposes for the world.

One: God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life. Already God's reign of peace is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in us, and preparing us to receive it. We trust God can do more than all we ask or imagine! Glory be to God in Christ, through all generations!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

from *Ephesians 2*

All: By your Spirit in Christ, O God, you broke down barriers, dividing walls, and hostility, reconciling all people to you and to one another. As he came to proclaim peace, speak now to all who feel far off or near, no longer strangers, but members of your holy family. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:21-28

p. 17 NT

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

O Divine Redeemer

by Charles Gounod

Ah, turn me not away, receive me though unworthy. Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress!

Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, though righteous Thine anger, O Lord!
Shield me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call!

O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon and remember not, O Lord, my sins!

Night gathers round my soul fearful, I cry to Thee, come to mine aid, O Lord!
Haste to help me! Hear my cry, Lord in Thy mercy; Come and save me, O Lord!

Save in the day of retribution from death; shield Thou me, O my God! O divine Redeemer, have mercy!
Help me Savior!

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45:1-15

p. 42 OT

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

A Kiss to Build a Dream On

“And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.”
(Genesis 45:15)

HYMN 753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS

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.

OFFERING

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

*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 to bring hope to our world.
Through all we are and can be, beyond all bounds and barriers, help us share in healing and
nurturing life abundant for all as you desire. In the name of Christ, we pray and serve. Amen.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Congregational response: Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major, BWV 560

J.S. Bach

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Seth Weeldreyer; Caroline Worra; Jesse Pieper; Diane LaSala, soprano solo; Colleen Giambo, reader.

Usher Team 1: Hearst Zhang (Captain), Diane Brown, Carol Barber, Peter McWhorter, Kate Minchin, Heidi Novak, Scott Sternberg.

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: Don Perry, Adrienne Perry.

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.

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.

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Pacific House: Join the FPCG team to cook and serve meals for men and young male residents of Pacific House on the second Thursday of every month. Cook in the FPCG kitchen from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. or serve at Pacific House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Contact Carol Barber: cbarber@cyburban.com or (914) 490-6621.

Drivers Needed for Call-A-Ride: Have a few hours a week to assist elderly members of our community? Drivers are needed and riders are welcome!

If you are in need of our services, either as a rider or volunteer please reach out to us:

[Facebook Call A Ride](#) +1 203 661 6633

We have provided 8000 drives for 369 individuals in the past year. You can now follow us on Facebook.

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:

August 21	<i>Life & Death & Giants</i> , by Ron Rindo
September 18	<i>Upward Bound</i> , by Woody Brown.
October 16	<i>The Things We Never Say</i> , by Elizabeth Strout

MUSIC NOTES

Our next rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 9th in preparation for Homecoming Sunday on September 13th! We look forward to welcoming anyone that would like to join in on the musical fun! Feel free to contact me anytime!

Dr. Caroline Worra - FPCG Music Minister



STEWARDSHIP: The 2026 Generosity Challenge

“Be Generous and Willing to Share” (1 Tim. 6:18)

We are currently in the midst of our **Generosity Challenge**. Our goal is to greet our new leadership with a "good foundation" for the future by reversing the downward drift in our average pledge. We are challenging every household to pray about moving "one step up" into a new **Generosity Circle**: *Covenant Circle (\$1,000)*, *Cornerstone Circle (\$2,500)*, *Stewardship Circle (\$5,000)*, *Deacon's Circle (\$10,000)*, *Pastor's Circle (\$15,000)*, *Apostle's Circle (\$25,000)*, or *Knox Circle (\$50,000)*.

Progress Update:

- **Total Pledges Received:** 155
- **Total Amount Committed:** \$1,162,088.00
- **Progress Toward Our Goal:** 89%

Remember, these Circles are not for public recognition; they are a private commitment between you and God. I know the levels, you know your heart, and God knows our needs. If you haven't yet turned in your pledge, please join us as we build this foundation together.

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.

KIDS IN CRISIS



First Presbyterian Church
of Greenwich

VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Kids in Crisis

Join us as we cook a meal and prepare care packages for our friends at Kids in Crisis.

All ages are welcome — kids under 6th grade should bring a parent along. Lunch is provided, so bring a friend!

RSVP: GANSRAW@ME.COM

WHEN

Sunday, August 30 • 12:00 – 1:00 PM

WHERE

FPCG Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
1 West Putnam Ave, Greenwich, CT

How to Help

- * RSVP to Lee Ganshaw at ganshaw@me.com
- * Can't join us? Support the effort by purchasing items from our Amazon Wish List

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH REGISTRATION FALL 2026

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@FPCG.ORG FOR ANY QUESTIONS



LEADERSHIP OF OUR CONGREGATION

Session

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

Philip Carrone	Liz James	Elizabeth Peyton
Delano Copprue	Jim Joyella	Lori Mulcare
Lilian Eng	Ryan Kim	Stephanie Schnabel
Lee Ganshaw	Kimberly Lee	Sue Sproule
Layne Grindal	Brian Pennington	Sandy Waters

Session members may be contacted at session@fpcg.org. Messages go to all Session members.

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

Deacons may be contacted at deacons@fpcg.org. Messages 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.

