

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The First Sunday after Epiphany

10 January 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship near the beginning of a new year as we begin a Winter Sermon Series, **Back to Basics: Needs vs. Wants.** May this shaping hour be a time in which God can both meet and mold our spirits with the fullest expression of who we are created to be.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on *Rockingham*

Chorale Prelude on *Melcombe*

Terence J. Flanagan, organ

C. Hubert H. Parry

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO THE 339th ANNUAL MEETING

Phoebe Griffith

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century (black) Hymnal 558

The opening hymn is our current Featured Hymn, chosen to complement the sermon series. Featured Hymns may be familiar ones that we want to make sure our children learn, or new ones that we all want to learn.

OPENING PRAYER

From out of a world

of confusion and shifting loyalties,

we gather as your people this day,

O God of caring.

May the note of praise for all of your gifts

resonate within us so that we might be

strengthened in our inward being and

reflect the light of Christ in our outward

living, this day and always. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of creation and destiny,
we confess that we often feel
inadequate to make decisions
about the larger things in life.

When we are overwhelmed,
we want to give up.

When we are confused,
we don't know where to turn,

And when we are burdened with difficult choices,
we sometimes feel immobilized.

Forgive us today for not putting our full faith in you.

Give us courage
never to give up.

Center us in you,
so that we will always know where to turn.

And then nudge us out
into full-fledged lives
of faith and service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡Congregational Response

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Liz Morris

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Teach me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it
unto the end.

(Psalm 119:33)

SECOND LESSON

Carolyn Paulus

Matthew 7:7-14

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

*‡HYMN

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

New Century (black) Hymnal 32

As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first graders will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (Narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group. It is not necessary for parents to accompany their children because there are Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.

SERMON *Asking the Right Questions* Rev. Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God is the power who formed and transforms our world.

Jesus is the messiah for whom our mothers and fathers waited, who was the most complete expression of God's love, who continues to come to us as the Christ.

The Holy Spirit is the strength by which we live.

By God's grace we affirm that:

“To Believe is to reach out in the darkness and ask for a cure;

To Hope is to be in the constant state of discovery;

To Love is to be responsible for someone, to sacrifice oneself for someone, to risk and to share;

To Pray is to receive God's communications, to be attentive, to listen;

To Be in Grace is to let things and people happen to us while God slips in among them;

To Worship is to celebrate all of this as best we can, for 'Nothing is profane for those who know how to see.' ”

(excerpt from Don Kimball)

***Gloria**

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir; Terry Beaurline, tenor

Seek Ye the Lord

J. Varley Roberts

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy, and abundantly pardon.

(Isaiah 55:6 and 7)

***Doxology**

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian *New Century (black) Hymnal 454*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Where are you going, I asked. To places I have never been, was the answer.

People: What do you plan to do, I asked. My purpose will be evident at journey's end.

Leader: Who has planned your itinerary, I asked. Its plan will be revealed at times most unlikely.

People: Why would you consent to such a vague plan, I said. I accepted the challenge when I accepted God was the answer.

(Mary Eleanor Rice)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Postlude on *St. Ann's*

Parry

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Preschool area. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

The 10:00 am Service is broadcast live each week on WGCH 1490 AM Radio. In addition, the service is available through the church's website, www.fccog.org. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Church School classes continue today. We will not meet next Sunday (January 17) as we will worship together for the entire service.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available in Room 203, after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Cherub Choir rehearses today in Room 104 from 11:15 to 11:45 am.

Youth Choir rehearses today in the Choir Room from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.

JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship, 6-8 grades, meets in Room 103 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, 9-12 grades, meets in Room 103 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

THIS WEEK

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes resumed Wednesday, January 6 at 8:00 am and Thursday, January 7 at 9:00 am. The January session runs for four classes and the fee is \$28.00. If you are brand new to Tai Chi, this session is a very good time to start. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, please contact Prill Meyer at 203-637-4214.

The **Children's Choir** rehearses on Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in the Choir Room followed by pizza in Room 303.

Join our **Hats Off!** book discussion group Thursday, January 14 at 10:00 am in the Lounge. We are reading *Olive Kitteridge*, a 2009 Pulitzer Prize winner by Elizabeth Strout. The discussion group meets until 11:30 every Thursday.

The **Palmer Handbells** rehearse on Thursday evening from 6:15 to 7:15 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Choir Room.

NEWS AND NOTICES

CALL TO THE 339th ANNUAL MEETING

The 339th Annual Meeting of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut is hereby called for 8:00 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2010. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2010;
- To hear and act upon the report of the By-laws Committee and to amend the by-laws as proposed by the committee; and
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith, Church Clerk

Pie and coffee will be served in the Auditorium from 7:00–8:00 pm prior to the Annual Meeting. Please come for this time of fellowship and treats provided by the Women's Ministries.

Boxed sets of **Contribution Envelopes** for 2010 will be available in the Auditorium during Coffee Hour each Sunday in January. If you requested a set on your 2010 Pledge Card, please stop by and help the church save on postage.

Sunday Afternoons Live is a series of chamber music, vocal, piano and jazz concerts held in the Auditorium during the months of January and February. The audience is seated at candlelit tables, creating a comfortable atmosphere. Hot chocolate, tea and cookies are served from 3:30 pm and the performances begin at 4:00, concluding between 5:15 and 5:30 pm. There is no admission charge, but a donation of \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per family is requested from those who are able to contribute.

2010 Schedule

January 10	Ed Wright , guitar
January 17	No performance
January 24	Eric Comstock and Barbara Fasano , cabaret duo
January 31	Mauro Bertoli , piano
February 7	No performance
February 14	Susan Hytken , violin, Rheagan Osteen , horn, Christine Diwyk , piano
February 21	Donald Vega Jazz Trio
February 28	Melissa Westgate , cello, Amaryllis Glass , piano

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

(203) 637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music/Senior Organist: Dr. John Stansell

Associate Organist/Director: Terence J. Flanagan

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove