

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**17 January 2010**

10 o'clock in the morning



**W**e welcome all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join in our common life and mission through participation and leadership in the community of faith. We recognize each individual as a child of God, believing that we are called to be one body of Christ with many members.

*As Christians and members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we are a diverse group of people... open to an ever growing faith. We find strength in our unity in Christ "in whom all things hold together."*

(Colossians 1:17)

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## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

### **PRELUDE**

Mode de ré (from *Huit Pièces Modales*)

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ*

*Jean Langlais*

### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

### **CALL TO THE 339<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

*Phoebe Griffith*

*Rick Derr*

## **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**

O Lord,

who has taught us that to gain the whole world and to lose our soul is great folly, grant us the grace so to lose ourselves that we may truly find ourselves anew in the life of grace, and so to forget ourselves that we may be remembered in your Kingdom. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O most gracious God,  
we confess that we spend much of our lives  
on that which does not satisfy.

We do not always count our time and choices  
as precious gifts,  
but squander them in meaningless activities  
and seemingly urgent desires.

Forgive us that too often we have taken your  
gifts for granted.

Look kindly upon us,  
for temptation is overwhelming  
in our world.

Enable us to understand what is important,  
and to use the gifts of life responsibly,  
for we seek to be your people  
in word and deed.

In Christ's Spirit we pray, as we share the prayer he taught...

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

*Pat Mendelsohn*

### Psalm 112

**P**raise the LORD!  
Happy are those who fear the LORD,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.  
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.  
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.  
It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.  
For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered forever.  
They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.  
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.  
They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever;  
their horn is exalted in honor.  
The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Children's Choir*

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel      *arranged by Roger Emerson*

Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,  
then why not every man?  
He delivered Daniel from the lion's den,  
Jonah from the belly of the whale,  
And the Hebrew children from the fiery furnace,  
Then why not every man?  
I set my foot on the Gospel ship,  
and the ship began to sail;  
It landed me over on Canaan's shore,  
And I'll never come back no more.

## SECOND LESSON

Matthew 21:28-32

“**W**hat do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

### \*‡HYMN

How Like a Gentle Spirit

*New Century (black) Hymnal 443*

### SERMON

*Dealing with Desire*

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

New life in Christ does not release us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust and fear.

We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems.

Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his words and deeds, his struggles against temptations, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death.

The teaching of the prophets and apostles guides us in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips us for our ministries. So be it! Amen.

**\*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**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Chancel Choir*

Blessed Are the Men Who Fear Him (from *Elijah*)

*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*

Blessed are the men who fear him. They ever walk in the ways of peace.  
Through darkness riseth light to the upright. He is gracious,  
compassionate; He is righteous.

**\*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**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

*New Century (black) Hymnal 556*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.*

*People: Fame is what you have taken, character's what you give; when to this truth you waken, then you begin to live.*

*Leader: I wish you then, a very rich, deep, true, straight and simple growth in the love of God, accepted and willed gently but greatly, at the daily and hourly cost of self.*

People: My business is not to remain myself, but to make  
the absolute best of what God has made.

*(St. Augustine, Bayard Taylor, Baron Von Hugel, Robert Browning)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Rondeau (from *Sinfonies de Fanfares*)

*Jean Joseph Mouret*

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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](http://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.

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*Calendar*

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**TODAY**

**Church School**

There is no Church School today. We will all worship together in the Meetinghouse.

**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** does not rehearse today.

**Youth Choir** rehearses today in the Choir Room from 11:20 am to 12:20 pm.

The **Hunger Mission Team** kickoff meeting will be held today in the Daniels Center from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. All are welcome to participate in this exciting kickoff and brainstorming session.

**JPF / Junior Pilgrim Fellowship**, 6-8 grades and  
**SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship**, 9-12 grades meet at 2:00 pm.

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## THIS WEEK

### Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes take place on Wednesday at 8:00 am and Thursday at 9:00 am. If you are brand new to Tai Chi, this session is a very good time to start. 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 Thursdays 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 am.

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.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### CALL TO THE 339<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 339<sup>th</sup> 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.*

The **International Mission Team** is traveling to Guatemala from March 13 through March 21 to build a home for, and with, a family with [commonhope.org](http://commonhope.org) near the city of Antigua in Guatemala. Anyone age 14 and over is welcome. We need to book the airfare by January 19. Call Judy Goodchild if you have questions or sign up with Bobbie Hopkins today. See the International Mission Team website for details: <http://sites.google.com/site/internationalmissionteam/>.

**Annual Women's Ministries June Bus Trip: reservations available.**

This year's trip has openings in the second section, Thursday, June 10, 2010 for women and their friends and husbands. Highlight of the trip will be a tour of Philip Johnson's Glass House, Accessory Buildings and Grounds in New Canaan with a short stop at one of the New Canaan Historical Society Museums. Also included is lunch at a prize-winning restaurant and a visit to the Laurel grove at Highstead Arboretum, Redding, CT. Attendance is limited and reservations are needed asap as the National Trust for Historical Preservation, owner and manager of The Glass House, needs payment soon. Since reservations had to be made one year in advance, a date for the full bloom of the Laurel was selected. Approximate cost: \$104. A sign-up sheet is available in the Church Office. Questions, please contact Joyce Nye at: [joyceathome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joyceathome@sbcglobal.net).

**Would you like to be an Usher?**

Has it ever crossed your mind that you might like to join the Usher Team? Maybe you have thought about ushering, but never committed by signing up. Well, here is your opportunity to make that commitment to serve First Church. Ushering is a great way to meet new people and to be an important part of each service. There is going to be a supper at the end of February to recognize current ushers and orient new ones. You can be a part of that happening by contacting Bobby Littlefield at 967-3341 or [bobbylitt@aol.com](mailto:bobbylitt@aol.com). You will be warmly welcomed!

**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one caring by listening and “being there” for anyone going through a rough patch in life. We are an extension of pastoral care and work confidentially at the direction and discretion of the pastors. It is a rewarding way to give of yourself if you are so inclined. You can still sign up for our new training session set to begin next Monday, January 25. For more information, please contact Rev. Avery Manchester, Stephen Leaders Angela Stevens or Eileen Medvey, any pastor or the Church Office.

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.

**Contributing members** should be on the lookout for their 2009 Giving Statements, which were mailed out this past week.

**Earthquake devastates Haiti**, up to 3 million affected. By now you have heard about the tragedy in Haiti. Our help is desperately needed and if you would like to reach out with a financial gift in support of our brothers and sisters there, please consider going to the national United Church of Christ website: [www.ucc.org/disaster/international-alerts.html](http://www.ucc.org/disaster/international-alerts.html) and then click on *Haiti earthquake appeal*. Or if you prefer, you can donate directly through our church with a check marked *Haiti earthquake appeal* on the memo line. Thank You!

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**The Church Offices will be closed tomorrow, Monday, January 18 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

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

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## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://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

The Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy Presents

# *A Community Celebration*

*“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., On the March”*

**Sunday, January 17, 2010**

Multi-media presentation of original speeches by Dr. King  
Special music by area church and synagogue choirs  
Provocative reflections on carrying MLK, Jr.’s work forward



**2:00 pm Program**

**3:00 pm Reception and Volunteer Exposition**

**The First Congregational Church of Greenwich  
108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870**