

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday after Epiphany
24 January 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship on this midwinter Sunday. May the warmth and meaning of this hour sustain and nourish you on your faith journey and for the week ahead.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Bellsong

Fanfare and Alleluia

The Palmer Handbells

Douglas E. Wagner

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

Once more, O God, we come from our several places
and situations to the common ground of worship
in your church.

We bring our past and our future, our weakness
and our strength, indeed we bring all that we are
for your direction.

Open our eyes and our spirits to see and receive you,
we pray, and feed us with what will enable us more
effectively to serve you, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have we been selfish? Make us generous, Lord.

Have we been wasteful? Show us how to be good stewards.

Have we been foolish? Show us a wiser way.

Have we cheated others in order to get ahead?

Move us to make retribution.

Have we made money the number one thing in our lives?

Set our priorities straight.

Lord, sometimes we are confused and have doubts
about life.

Show us how to act, and teach us what is really
important in life.

Often enough we do turn from your ways, denying
and thwarting your love at work in other people
and in our families and even deeply
at work in ourselves.

Forgive us this day, O God, and restore us to right
relationships, 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.

GATHERING SONG

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

At the conclusion of this time, 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Alex Ng-Yow

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (from *The Message*, by *Eugene Peterson*)

A devout life does bring wealth, but it's the rich simplicity of being yourself before God. Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that's enough.

But if it's only money these leaders are after, they'll self-destruct in no time. Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Sicut cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat
ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea
ad te, Deus.

*The Chancel Choir
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*

As the hart longs for
flowing streams of water,
so my soul longs for you,
O God.

(Psalm 42:1)

SECOND LESSON

Peter Schay

Luke 12:13-21 (from *The Message*, by *Eugene Peterson*)

Someone out of the crowd said, "Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance."

He replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?”

Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.”

Then he told them this story: “The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: ‘What can I do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest.’ Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!’

“Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’

“That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

*‡HYMN

Take My Life, God, Let It Be *New Century (black) Hymnal 448*

SERMON

“Take Care”

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The world needs all of our power and love and energy,
and each of us has something we can give.

The trick is to find it and use it, to find it and give it
away, so there will always be more.

We can be lights for each other, and through each other’s
illumination we will see the way.

Each of us is a seed, a silent promise, and it is always spring.”
Let it be. Amen.

(Merle Shain)

***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. Dr. David D. Young

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir
Alec Rowley*

Praise

To the Master of Music and loveliness:
Praise, power, dominion forever.
To the Lord of the Word of Creation
be praise, power, dominion forever.
To the Maker of movement, colour and light:
Praise, power, dominion forever.
To the Builder, Designer, Creator,
be praise, power, dominion forever.
To the Theme of all song, Inspiration of Love:
To the Artist of Life, To the Greatest and Least:
Praise, power, dominion forever.

For He is the greatest upon His high throne,
And He was the least as the child of a maiden:
Praise, then to Jesus whose Mother was Mary,
And praise now to Christ Who is God in the midst of us.

Lord of all beauty, adoring we come to Thee:
Give us Thyself both in Time and Eternity.
Lord of all beauty adoring we come to Thee,
Offering all that we are or can hope to be.
Praise, power, dominion forever.

***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

Be Now My Vision

New Century (black) Hymnal 451

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: Give us a pure heart that we may see Thee.

People: A humble heart that we may hear Thee.

Leader: A heart of love that we may serve Thee.

People: A heart of faith that we may live Thee.

(Dag Hammarskjöld)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Toccatà

John Weaver

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

There is regular Church School today.

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 11:20 am to 12:20 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

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 Monday, January 25. For more information, please contact Rev. Avery Manchester, Stephen Leaders Angela Stevens or Eileen Medvey, any pastor or the Church Office.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes take place on Wednesday at 8:00 am and Thursday at 9:00 am. 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.

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.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

Bible Study to begin...

There was an article in the New York Times recently that suggested the process of staying young primarily involves challenging the brain, tone patterns and new ideas. Therefore, you may add this to the list of benefits of attending a study on the book of Romans led by Dan England starting next Sunday at 11:15 am in the Lounge. This is part of a grand tour of the Bible series which included Genesis (sorry, it's over), Romans (you're just in time) and Revelation (which if you don't do Romans, you'll never get Revelation). So here's the deal: you make the effort to come, we'll make it worth your while. Winter in Rome – it's what all the best people are doing.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Red Cross Blood Drive – Saturday, February 13

This community blood drive, sponsored by Women's Ministries and the Wellness Committee, runs from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Please donate the *Gift of Life* or donate some prepared food. Devilled eggs and finger sandwiches are particularly appreciated. Blood donation appointments can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Food contributions can be planned

by calling Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21 or look for the sign-up sheet at today's Coffee Hour and in the Church Office on weekdays.

The **International Mission Team** is traveling to Guatemala from March 13 through March 21 to build a home for, and with, a family with commmonhope.org near the city of Antigua in Guatemala. Anyone age 14 and over is welcome. 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.

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. You will be warmly welcomed!

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.

Earthquake devastates Haiti, up to 3 million affected. 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 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 left in the Offering plate or delivered to the Church Office. Thank You!

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

TODAY

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