

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
7 February 2010
10 o'clock in the morning





It is with sheer delight that you are welcomed to worship this day – welcomed by God and by this portion of Christ’s body which is The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. During this special time in the company of God’s people, may you gain a greater sense of God’s presence and purpose in your life. The Apostle Paul prompts us in just such a way:

God is not far from each one of us, for in him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Sonata in C

*Grave – Adagio – Allegro maestoso e vivace –
Fuga; Allegro moderato*

John Stansell, organ

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL INTROIT

Jesus Hears

When I speak to Him in prayer, Jesus hears, Jesus hears,
He is with me everywhere, Jesus always hears.
(refrain) He will hear me when I pray,
He will guide me in His way,
So I’ll seek Him every day,
Jesus always hears.

When I thank Him for His love, Jesus hears, Jesus hears,
For His gifts from heaven above, Jesus always hears. *(refrain)*

(text by Elsie Duncan Yale)

The Cherub Choir;

Lisa Flanagan director, Debbie Berner, piano

John J. Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

I Sing as I Arise Today *New Century (black) Hymnal 83*
(stanzas 3,1,2, and 3)

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 God of unity and love,
we gather this day to affirm our oneness in you
and with one another.

Make us more keenly aware of our connectedness,
our relatedness, and our discipleship, that we might be
energized in our lives of faithfulness and loving
service to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,
we confess that our thoughts are not as high as
your thoughts, and that our thoughts are often
focused on ourselves.

We confess that our ways are not always your ways,
for we prefer to move toward our own destinations
rather than yours.

We confess that our will is often different from your
will, because we so often seek to satisfy ourselves
first – leaving concern for others to our spare moments.

Forgive us
when our thoughts, ways and wills,
run counter to yours,
and when we are off pushing in one
direction while you are trying to
lead us in another,

for we would know you this day
as the one who goes before us,
leading us in paths of righteousness,
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.

COMMISSIONING OF THE YOUTH DELEGATES TO GUATEMALA

ANTHEM

The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door *Spiritual Arranged and
Adapted by John Carter*

Knockin', knockin' at your door. O sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knockin' at your door. Knocks like Jesus. Jesus calls you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Children's Choir

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; Seek and ye shall find; Knock and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

SECOND LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Luke 10: 25-28; Matthew 6: 33

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*‡HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 217

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 *Putting First Things First*

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
where there is doubt, let me sow faith;
where there is despair, let me sow hope;
where there is darkness, let me sow light;
and where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

(St. Francis of Assisi)

***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 OFFERING

Rev. Daniel B. England

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars

James H. Rogers

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion. Ye who turn judgment to wormwood and leave off righteousness in the earth. That turneth the shadow of death into the morning, the Lord is his name; and maketh the day dark with night, that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth, the Lord is his name. Alleluia.

(Amos 5:6-8)

***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**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *(seated)*

Prayer of Consecration

Serving of the Bread and Cup

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

New Century (black) Hymnal 347

*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: Around Christ's table we commune
in fellowship supreme;*

People: Inspired by Christ, through word and tune,
of things divine we dream.

*Leader: Forth from this sacred place we go,
with challenge in each soul,*

People: To love, to lift, to build, to grow,
God's will is our goal.

(Harold L. Humbert)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Sortie (in E flat)

Louis Lefébure-Wély

The Flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory of Peter McLennan by his family.

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. Next Sunday, February 14, there will be a Big Event.

Bible Study

Last week, more than 70 people turned out for our first session on Romans. (There was a technical malfunction so the broadcast on the web is actually from Tuesday night). This week, we will continue to ponder Paul's argument about the state of humankind and the impossibility of our situation. But we will also begin to see where he is taking us as we press on through some gnarly but understandable passages. And, we will have the chance to discuss briefly a key passage for deciding how you actually interpret all of scripture, one of the questions we're considering. Please join us either at 11:15 on Sunday morning or 7:30 on Tuesday evening.

SPF / Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, 9-12 grades, will meet following Worship today for the Guatemala packing party.

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.

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

THIS WEEK

Tai Chi

February classes have resumed on Wednesdays at 8:00 am and Thursdays at 9:00 am. The fee is \$28.00. Our newest members are greatly enjoying the

classes. We urge others to join this month. Each class is different and catching up is easy to do. For any questions, please call 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.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

THERE WILL BE NO JPF or SPF on February 14.

NEWS AND NOTICES

The Rummage Room

WISH LIST FOR FEBRUARY: a sewing machine, jewelry, St. Patrick's Day clothing and items, a Japanese Kimono, a double stroller, spring clothing and Easter items.

On Monday, February 15 (President's Day) through Wednesday, February 24, everything is 50% off. The Bag Sales begin on Thursday, February 25 with everything in the shop at \$12 a bag, Friday at \$8 a bag and Saturday, at \$1. The shop will reopen on Monday, March 1 with all "new" spring merchandise.

Duke University Chorale

On Wednesday evening, March 10, at 8:00 pm, we will present the Duke University Chorale in concert. We need to provide supper for about 55 singers and overnight accommodations after the concert. Mariann Ekernas is coordinating this effort and will be looking for volunteers to sign up. You can look for her at Coffee Hour, call her at 203-661-5890 or email her at ekernas@optonline.net. Housing needs to be planned by February 20. Thanks for helping!

International Mission Team

Trip to Guatemala on March 13-21: There is still time; there is still room to sign up. Our team is headed to Guatemala to build a home for and with a family. We will also be working in a school, library and in medical facilities of our sponsor Project Common Hope. (commonhope.org) Call or email Kathy Fraser at 203-637-1060 or kathyfraser1@gmail.com.

We need the following supplies, which you can drop off at the Church Office: tooth brushes, toothpaste and the following school supplies: black, blue and red pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue bottles, 12-pack colored pencils, children's scissors, rulers, watercolor paints, scientific calculators, compasses and protractors.

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 or 203 637-3994.

Confidential financial assistance is available: please contact the Rev. David Young.

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

NO PERFORMANCE TODAY

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



Meetinghouse Monthly

In case you did not read about it: beginning in March, you have the option of receiving the Meetinghouse Monthly electronically. Please let us know if this is of interest to you. In lieu of a mailed hard copy of the monthly, send the newsletter to the following person(s) at the corresponding e-mail address(es):

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Please leave in the Communications mailbox in the Church Office.



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