

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Last Sunday after Epiphany**

**14 February 2010**

10 o'clock in the morning





Welcome to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church on this winter Sunday, which also happens to be Valentine's Day. This morning we conclude our sermon series **Back to Basics: Needs vs. Wants**. May God continue to guide and direct our lives as we make the important choices which lie before us.

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### PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### PRELUDE

Adagio (from *Symphony V, Op. 42*)

*Terence J. Flanagan, organ*

*Charles Marie Widor*

#### CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

### PRAISING GOD

#### 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

Lord, give each of us

Eyes clear enough to see the hurt of the world,

Ears receptive enough to hear your call,

A brain wise enough to figure a solution,

A voice loud enough to tell of the need,

Feet determined enough to seek out the alleys of  
misery or despair,

Hands sensitive enough to hug, hold, and heal,

A heart strong enough to endure the struggle,

And a spirit thankful enough to ask, "What more  
may I do?"

In Christ's serving spirit, we pray. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, who calls us into your future,  
we admit that we lack a lively and life-giving  
imagination.

...We are content with ourselves,  
our lifestyles, our routines,  
and our social structures and  
often choose not to claim the  
newness you offer.

...Not imagining what we ourselves, our  
neighbors, or the creation will need  
tomorrow, we stand inactive and helpless  
before the future.

Forgive us for our short-sightedness.

Give us courage that we may be drawn into  
the future toward the new world that you  
are creating.

Capture the imaginations of our hearts  
and the work of our hands  
and set them afire with the visions  
of human life as you intend it  
leading us into the goodness of your  
reign, even as we pray together...

#### 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 go to a Big Event in the Daniels Center.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Lucinda Allen*

Mark 8:34-38

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord Always

The text is Philippians 4:4-7.

*The Chancel Choir  
anonymous*

### SECOND LESSON

*Joe McBride*

John 15:12-17

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you

ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

\*‡HYMN

“Take Up Your Cross,” the Savior Said

*New Century (black) Hymnal 204*

SERMON

*A Higher Desire*

*Rev. Dr. David D. Young*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the church of Jesus Christ:

The church of the warm heart, of the open mind, of the adventurous spirit.

We believe in the church that cares, that heals hurt lives, that comforts old people, that challenges the youth; that knows no divisions of culture or class or race, no frontiers, geographical or social; a church that looks forward as well as backward.

We believe in the church of the people, high as the ideals of Jesus, low as the humblest human; a working church, a worshipping church; a church that interprets the truth in terms of truth; that inspires courage for this life and hope for the life to come, a church of the living God.

*(from World Call)*

\*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  
Paul Halley*

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

Jesu, the very thought of thee  
With sweetness fills the breast;  
But sweeter far thy face to see,  
And in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find  
A sweeter sound than Jesus' name,  
The savior of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
To those who ask how kind thou art,  
How good to those who seek.

But what to those who find? Ah! This  
Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
The love of Jesus, what it is  
None but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,  
As thou our prize wilt be;  
In thee be all our glory now,  
And through eternity.

Amen.

### \*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

I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

*New Century (black) Hymnal 442*

### \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: Doing little things with a strong desire to please  
God makes them great.*

People: True universality does not consist in knowing much, but in loving much.

Leader: *The great unpardonable sin is the murder of the “love-life” in a human being.*

People: Enable us, O God, to rise above ourselves to Thee and from Thee to go below ourselves in love, and to remain always in Thee, and in love.

*(Luther, Ibsen, deSales, Burckhardt)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Op. 7

*Marcel Dupré*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this Valentine’s Day are given in loving memory of Hans and Betty Farman, devoted supporters of First Church for many years.

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*

**TODAY**

**Church School**

Today there is a multiage activity in the Daniels Center where we will learn about our special Lenten Project for the children in Haiti. We hope those of you who will be on vacation this week have a great one. We also hope to see everyone back next Sunday for our regular Church School classes.

### **Program Fair During Coffee Hour**

There will be a Program Fair today during Coffee Hour in the Auditorium following Worship giving you the opportunity to learn more about various programs and activities of the church.

### **Bible Study**

Dan England is preaching at Green's Farms this morning, but there will be Bible Study in the Lounge (though it may start slightly later than usual). If you haven't been attending, you can catch up on sessions via the website under the tab, Faith Formation. Romans is not for the theologically faint of heart, but is bracing for those who are willing to take it on. Please join the 70 or so people who have already found value in this great letter of Paul.

### **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.

There will be NO SPF or JPF this week

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## **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.

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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## NEXT SUNDAY

**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.

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## 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](mailto:ekernas@optonline.net). Housing needs to be planned by February 20. Thanks for helping!

### **International Mission Team**

In support of our First Church team going to Guatemala from March 13 to 21, we are asking those of you who are able in the congregation to contribute items from the following list, so that our team may carry them down to our sponsor, Common Hope, and share them with the needy families they serve. Please drop off any of the following at the Church Office: tooth brushes and toothpaste, and these 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. Examples of the items needed will be on display in Coffee Hour today. We only have a little over three weeks to gather these supplies, so your active participation will be greatly

appreciated. Let us send the team off with laden suitcases as we extend our hand in friendship to our neighbors in need.

**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) or 203 637-3994. Confidential financial assistance is available: please contact the Rev. David Young.

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**The Church Offices will be closed tomorrow, Monday, February 15 for Presidents' 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

*TODAY*

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](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