

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

4 July 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to First Congregational Church on this Fourth of July Sunday when we remember our American heritage along with the tradition of our faith. May the words and music we share prompt each one of us to remember that all our heritage and traditions are gifts from the One who makes all things possible. Blessings to all on this celebrative day.

Special thanks to Jon Hunt who is providing musical leadership for us this morning.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Litany

*Jon Hunt, organ
Charles Callahan*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 440

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

Ever-living and Ever-loving God,

We your humble servants give you

Heartfelt thanks for all the

Blessings you have given us.

Move us to faithful stewardship of

The gifts we have been given

And enliven us during this time of

worship, that we might be responsive

to your purposes, which are set

forth through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of the new day and the invading perspectives of change,
we confess that we have been alarmed by the surging currents
of history.

... When cries are heard for justice, we are fearful that we might
lose our position in the order of things.

When young people dream dreams, we draw back from the new
visions you would have us entertain.

Forgive us, O God, for preferring our sense of control to your gift
of newness; for closing off the heart's windows because we
prefer the repetitive photographs of memory.

Restore us through this time of worship that we might be open to
every uncertain future as part of the healing and not the hurt.
In the name of Christ, your Word for us in all our living, 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

Olga Hartwell

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

O Taste and See

The Summer Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams

SECOND LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Luke 21:25-33

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you,

this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

*‡HYMN

O Bread of Life

New Century (black) Hymnal 333

SERMON

Stars and Stripes Forever

Rev. Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God watches over all of us,
the good and the bad,
the righteous and the sinful,
the understanding and the unbelieving.

We are to watch over each other, too.

We believe that God cries over all of us,
those who persecute and those who are victims,
those who have strayed and
those who are struggling to regain the path,
those who are lonely and those who are suffering.

We are to cry over each other, too.

I believe that God rejoices over all of us,
and that to rejoice in God
is to be blessed by eternal love.

16 year-old Casey Hurckes – Western Springs, IL

*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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Summer Choir

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,

O sing praises to the honor of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

*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.

When receiving the juice tray, pass it along to your neighbor who will hold and "serve" you as you then take your cup.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

My Country 'Tis of Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 437

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: It is not by driving away our brother and sister that we can be alone with God.

People: The word of the one who wishes to speak with God without addressing others goes astray.

Leader: We can hold back from the suffering of the world. We have free permission to do so and it is in accord with our nature.

People: But perhaps this very holding back is the one suffering we could have avoided.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

Charles Callahan

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 no Church School today. Summer Church School, a multi-age one room classroom of 4 through 10 year olds, resumes next Sunday for three more Sundays in July. Younger children are welcome in Child Care.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Call to Special Congregational Meeting

A special meeting of the congregation is hereby called for Sunday, July 18 following the 10 am Worship Service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- to hear and act upon the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Search Committee to call a new Associate Pastor of Christian Education
- and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith,
Church Clerk

Church Office Summer Hours

First Church weekday office hours until September 7 will be 9am to 3pm. Volunteer receptionists will be on duty during those hours. Of course, you can leave a voicemail message at any time of day or night.

Bible Study

Plan to stay after church on July 11th and 25th for a screening of the Bruce Metzger DVD on the book of Revelation even if you came to the classes - and especially if you didn't. There will be four sessions shown on each day with time for discussion and questions. This is a great way to grasp the message of this most important Biblical chapter.

Summer Beach Services

These services begin at 8 am at Tod's Point every Sunday of the summer except August 1st. See our website, www.fccog.org, for more information.

Join the Summer Choir

There's no weeknight rehearsal during the summer. Rather, the choir meets Sunday mornings for a 9:00 am warm-up and rehearsal in the Meetinghouse. Adults and youth are welcome. It's a great time to see if choir is right for you. You can even come just to the rehearsal, if you feel you're not quite "ready for prime time." As much as is possible during this time of music-staff transition, scores for the next week's anthems will be found on the cabinet outside the Choir Room on the third floor, and learning files to help singers with their parts will be found on the website, www.fccog.org under Music/Choir Learning Files.

Women's Fellowship Summer Tai Chi Classes

Just a reminder that Tai Chi with Luis Duarte will be held on Thursdays (only) at 8:30 am in July and August. The July session is \$35 for five classes--(only \$7 a class). There are wonderful varieties of exercises. Come join this special group and bring along friends. You do not have to be a member of the church to join in. See you on Thursday!

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse throughout each month, to encourage month-round contributions.

A Food Collection Bin will be available at the Beach Services as well to encourage our Beach Service Attendees to remember the hungry.

Nights Off

Due to popular request, Nights Off, the Women's Fellowship's evening group, will meet at Greenwich Point (in the picnic area on the path beyond the Chimes Building) twice this month, on July 12th and July 26th, around 6 pm. For July 12th, if there is a chance of rain, please contact Rosemary Lamie at (203) 617-1791 or (203) 698-2708) to confirm a change in venue (her house) or if you do not have a beach pass and need access to Greenwich Point. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and getting to know other women church members.

Communications/Desktop Publishing

Pat Larrabee has generously agreed to be our interim Communications Director as we search for someone to fill the position on a permanent basis. If you have approved material for the weekly bulletin or Meetinghouse Monthly newsletter for September, please contact Pat on extension 24 or through email at communications@fccog.org.

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

Interim Director of Music: Mark Swicegood

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell