

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**12 September 2010**

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church. This morning we will be considering the subject of faith in action as we explore the interplay of compassion and joy.

“Faith makes all things possible, and love makes them easy. Faith in God is never out of season. Faith justifies the believer, but love justifies his faith by the works which it produces. Faith believes God to be true; love proves faith to be true.”

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

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.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

#### **PRELUDE**

Nimrod *from “Enigma Variations”*

*Jayson Engquist, organ  
Sir Edward Elgar*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

God Is Here!

*New Century (black) Hymnal 70*

## OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

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 places of suffering or despair, hands sensitive 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 of watchful care, you have offered us, and our ancestors before us, your life-giving presence, yet we do not always respond. Your abundance overwhelms us; your faithfulness confounds us, and we draw back.

You have shown us in Jesus of Nazareth the humanity you have long hoped could be ours. It sounds so good – freedom, justice, and peace – but it asks so much of us!

And forgetting to rely on the help of your Spirit, we grow discouraged and indifferent too easily. And yet, we do want what you want – a new creation where we shall live, one and all, as your children. So let this newness now be in us! Forgive what lies behind us and turn our hearts and hands to what is ahead. Free us from the chains of guilt and self-pity which hinder our energy to love and our ability to be loved.

Refresh our hope and vision as your church and renew our commitment to the many ministries in which we serve. May we nurture one another as we share the mystery of life, and the proclamation of the gospel! In Christ's Spirit we pray. Amen.

### 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.*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Tate Sedlock, son of *Diane Hathaway Sedlock & John Sedlock*

**BAPTISMAL RESPONSE** *Sung to the tune of Morning Has Broken*  
*Water has cleansed us, bathed with forgiveness, has with clear*  
 *blessings, washed sin away. Jordan's strong currents God's son*  
 *announcing, made a beginning, baptismal day.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Peter Schay*

Luke 15:1-10

**N**ow all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the

coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Wash Me Thoroughly

*The Chancel Choir  
David Halls*

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,  
and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge  
my faults and my sin is ever before me.  
Psalm 51:2-3

SECOND LESSON

I Timothy 1:12-17

*Peter Schay*

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

\*‡HYMN

God Is Working His Purpose Out *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 298*

SERMON

What's Your Story?

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I dream of a community of men and women of all ages that expresses a genuine love and compassion in daily life, a community where people are accepted, nurtured, and respected. I dream of a community that is culturally diverse and color-blind with neither walls nor divisions, a community that will seek peace and pursue it, a community that worships God by doing justice, eliminating any form of oppression or idolatry.

How beautiful it is to be part of a community that knows how to celebrate, individually and corporately, the everyday miracle of sunrise, the warmth of an embrace, the blessing of bread and wine, the laughter of a child, the wisdom of the wise, and the creativity of the differently-abled.

Inspired with the vision of Christ, let us dream together of a life together where relationships are restored and communities are made whole through our commitment to God and one another. Guided by the Presence of God in us, let us choose, wherever we are, to build up rather than to break down community.

Adapted from "Dreaming a Community,"

*Elizabeth S. Tapia, Professor, Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines*

### \*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.*

### CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

### CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Will Lift Up My Eyes

*The Chancel Choir*

*Leo Sowerby*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.  
Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.  
The Lord is thy keeper; thy shade upon thy right hand.  
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil,  
He shall preserve thy soul.  
The Lord shall preserve thy going out  
and thy coming in from this time forth,  
and even for evermore. Amen.

\*Doxology

*New Century 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 66*

**\*CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: O God of justice, hear our plea and call us to community*

*People: Without Your healing we are torn; held in Your love, we are reborn*

*Leader: God, may the day envisioned come when justice, peace and joy for some,*

*People: Shall be for all, not just a few, Your reign is mercy coming true.*

*Jane Parker Huber*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Carillon-Sortie

*Henri Mulet*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by Diane and John Sedlock in joyful celebration of the baptism of their son Tate Winston Sedlock.

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We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions. Child Care for August is in Room 104 while areas of the Preschool are being renovated.

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.

## *Calendar*

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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.

### **Church School**

There will be **no** Church School classes until Homecoming Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Children are always welcome in worship and there is always Child Care for our youngest children. Early elementary children may also go to Child Care should they get restless in the Meetinghouse.

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## **NEWS AND NOTICES**

### **Summer Beach Services**

Beach services concluded today for the season. We will return to Tod's Point for summer beach services next June.

### **Are You Into Photography?**

From time to time (at events such as Homecoming, for example) the church needs photographs taken for use on the website, in the Meetinghouse Monthly, and for other media. We could use more than one person for this important task. So, if you're looking for a way to show off your skills with a camera and help the church at the same time, contact Dan England at [dengland@optonline.net](mailto:dengland@optonline.net). Thanks.

### **Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte**

#### **ALL ARE WELCOME**

Improve your health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on Thursdays at 9 am and Wednesdays at 8 am. Only \$7 per class. Please join us!

## **Bible Study**

Several people have been asking about Bible Study this fall, led by Dan England. We will start the year with a study of the Book of Exodus, which will follow nicely from our study of Genesis last year. Bible Study will begin on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:15 a.m. in the lounge so it wouldn't kill you to start reading Exodus during September. But reading it isn't onerous since it is full of great stories and wonderful characters and situations. If you've never been to one of our Bible Studies, please consider joining the scores of people who show up each week (Sundays after church and Tuesday nights). We have an astonishingly good time together.

## **Stephen Ministry**

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to talk through your anguish, pain and confusion with a caring, trained person who will not judge you or tell you what to do? Our Stephen Ministers are available for you, short- or long-term, to listen and support you with total confidentiality. Whether it's a job loss, new birth, move, convalescence or divorce, we're here for you! Contact any pastor, Stephen Minister or Church Office to get your relationship in motion today.

## **Rummage Room News**

**The 46th Grand Opening took place Monday, August 30th. It was a very successful day. The total amount of sales for opening day was \$12,166. The total amount for Opening Week was \$25,730.13. That amount is up \$3,500 from Opening Week in 2009.**

**The Rummage Room Mission:** All proceeds go to help women's and children's organizations locally and nationally. Please come shop, donate, and/or volunteer. The Rummage Room is a wonderful place to serve the Lord. Thank you.

**Rummage Room Hours** are 10:00am - 5:00pm. 'New Merchandise' is continually being brought out for your shopping pleasure.

**Donations:** Hours are 9:30am - 5:00pm Monday through Thursday and 9:30am - 1:00pm Friday and Saturday.

**Wish List for September:** Jewelry, handbags, shoes, good bric-a-brac, DVDs, adult and children's bikes, single and double strollers, books, musical instruments, small furniture and new and gently used clothing.

## **Book Discussion Group**

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, is off to an early start this year...**Thursday, September 23, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Lounge will be our first get-together. The book selected for our opening weeks is Anya Seton's great historical fiction work, *The Winthrop Woman*...a story that covers the early days of Old Greenwich and the surrounding area. The group meets at ten o'clock for light refreshments and catch-up news. We welcome all to become a part of this great group. For more details call Marcia Livingston, 203-625-0772.

## **Homecoming – September 19, 2010**

Join us for our Homecoming Service of Worship and Celebration! We begin in the Meetinghouse to worship together. Following worship and Church School, we will gather on the lawn of the church for a wonderful celebration complete with games, bouncy houses, music and, of course, food! Here are the details...

### **When?**

September 19, 2010

### **What Time?**

10 AM Worship, 11:30 Celebration on the Lawn

### **How Much?**

Donations accepted at the Door

### **What do I bring?**

If your last name begins with letters A-L, bring a salad or side to share.

If your last name begins with M-Z, bring a dessert to share.

Parish Life will provide the burgers, hot dogs and grilled chicken along with all of the fixings!

### **How Do I Sign Up?**

Just call the church office and let us know you are coming. You may also email Mark Montgomery at [mmontgomery@fccog.org](mailto:mmontgomery@fccog.org)

**...and they returned home to their own country by another way.**

## Hunger Mission Team

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SEPTEMBER 18TH

The Hunger Mission Team is looking for 6-8 volunteers to help at Neighbor-to-Neighbor the morning of Saturday, September 18th. This is a wonderful way to get introduced to the work that is done there—and engage with members of the Hunger Mission Team. We need help from 8:30—12:30, and a 2 hour shift is fine if you are unable to give 4 hours: 8:30-10:30 or 10:30-12:30.

Please email Sheila Bennett at [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto:fccoghungermission@gmail.com) if you can join the Team at Neighbor-to-Neighbor.

Volunteers are what make it possible for Neighbor-to-Neighbor to serve OUR neighbors.

### 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.

## *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

Interim Director of Music: Mark Swicegood

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell