

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

**Homecoming Sunday**  
**Church School Commissioning**  
**19 September 2010**  
10 o'clock in the morning





Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on Homecoming Sunday. We gather in community to grow in faith at the beginning of a new program year. As we do, we begin a Fall Sermon Series: "Homeloning: The Heart's Re-turning." May this hour of worship truly be a time of homecoming and praise as we offer who we are more fully to God.

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**

Choral No. 1

*Mark Swicegood, organ*

*César Franck*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

#### **MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY**

*Rosemary Lamie*

#### **MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY**

*Environmental Mission Team*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

## \*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You *New Century (black) Hymnal 4*

## OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God, in our time of worship, and throughout the hours of our days, remain at the center of our thoughts and actions. When all that we do seems to fly off in scattered bits and pieces as our lives spin on, draw us back to you. Be for us a home base, a center of gravity, a balance point, a source of loving support and guidance, through Christ Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are involved in the mystery of our origins,

O God of Creation,

and so we wonder why are we here

and what we bring to enhance the common good.

We are immersed in the mystery of the journey itself,

O God of Movement,

and so we search for some sign of meaning along the way  
which will help us to see and to celebrate.

We are puzzled by the mystery of destination,

O God of Futures,

and so we stretch our very being toward the borders  
of new possibilities seeking the way  
that encompasses your plan.

Forgive us on this day of reflection and renewal

for avoiding our past,

denying our present,

fearing our future,

for we would claim the companionship of Christ

in whom all things hold together

and 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

*Charlie Baird*

Matthew 2:7-12

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another way.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Let All the World in Ev'ry Corner Sing  
*Gareth Flowers, trumpet*

*The Chancel Choir*  
*Richard Proulx*

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, my God and King!  
The heavens are not too high, his praises there may fly;  
The earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.  
The Church with psalms must shout,  
no door can keep them out;  
But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.

SECOND LESSON

*Jean Watkins*

I Timothy 1:12-17

**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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

**\*‡HYMN**

Be Now My Vision

*New Century (black) Hymnal 451*

*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 grade 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 to the classroom because there are many Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.*

**SERMON**

*Home By Different Ways*

*Dr. David D. Young*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

How easy it is to live with you, O Lord, how easy to believe in you. When my spirit is overwhelmed within me, when even the keenest see no further than the night, and know not what to do tomorrow, you bestow on me the certitude that you exist and are mindful of me, that all the paths of righteousness are not barred. As I ascend into the hill of earthly glory, I turn back and gaze, astonished, on the road that led me here beyond despair, where I too may reflect your radiance upon humankind. All that I may yet reflect, you shall accord me, and appoint others where I shall fail.

“A Contemporary Psalm” - *Alexander Solzhenitsyn*

**\*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**

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

### CALL TO OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Chancel Choir  
Calvin Hampton*

Lord Speak to Me

Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
In living echoes of thy tone;  
As thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thy erring children lost and lone.  
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
The hung'ring ones with manna sweet.  
O strengthen me, that while I stand  
Firm on the rock, and strong in Thee,  
I may stretch out a loving hand  
To wrestlers with the troubled sea.  
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things Thou dost impart;  
And wing my words that they may reach  
The hidden depth of many a heart.  
O use me, Lord, use even me.  
Just as Thou wilt, and when and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see.  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share. 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

Now in the Days of Youth    *New Century (black) Hymnal 350*

### CHURCH SCHOOL COMMISSIONING

*Church School Director:* Today is an exciting day as we celebrate the beginning of a new year of Church School. Our Church School is a special place and a special time for us to be together, to learn about God, to experience God and to grow in love for God. Today we celebrate the ministry of our Church School and acknowledge the special role that each teacher, leader, child and youth has within it.

*Pastor (to young people):* Children and youth, you are an important part of our church family. You are asked to share your love for life, your skills, your imagination and your discoveries so that we may all be enriched. Are you prepared to help your teachers and each other?

*Children/Young People:* Yes! We will listen, share our thoughts and be a part of the worship and mission of our Church.

*Church School Director (to the teachers):* Teachers, you have volunteered to lead, teach and support the youngest people of this congregation. Are you willing to accept this responsibility?

*Teachers:* Yes! We accept the call to serve the congregation in this way. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to the ways that God will challenge and enrich our lives. We promise to prepare responsibly, to teach with care and to listen and watch for the movement of the Spirit among us and within these children.

*Children/Young People (to the teachers):* As our teachers, do you promise to cherish and love us?

*Teachers:* We do.

*Children/Young People:* Will you celebrate our questions and discoveries?

*Teachers:* We will.

*Children/Young People:* Will you nurture in us a spirit to know and to love God?

*Teachers:* We will.

*Children/Young People:* Will you nurture in us the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works?

*Teachers:* We will.

*Children/Young People (to congregation):* First Congregational Church family, will you pray for and support us, our teachers and task force members, our parents and families as we embark on this journey in Church School?

*Congregation:* Yes! We celebrate this vital ministry within our community of faith. We promise before God to support you in all your efforts with our prayers and resources.

*Pastor:* We have made promises to learn from and to support one another, to be open to the presence of God among us. Now together may we offer our commissioning prayer:

*All:* Almighty God, we give you thanks for the many people who make up our church, and especially today for the Ministry of our Church School. We ask you to bless the teachers who give of their time to care for and nurture the children of our congregation. We ask you to bless the children who are under their care, that they may experience You and know that they are loved. Send these teachers and children forth in the power of Your Spirit and may we all grow in our love for You and one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## 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.*

## \*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader:* *Home is where we tie one end of the thread of life.*

*People:* *And though these shattering walls are thin, may they be strong to keep hate out and love in.*

*Leader:* *Home by different ways, yet all Homeward Bound through prayer and praise.*

*People:* *Young with old and great with small, Home by different ways.*

*Buxbaum/Untermeyer/Rossetti*

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Tune for Trumpet

*David Johnson*

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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.

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**

### **Youth Ministry**

Y! is the Youth Ministry program of First Congregational Church. Every week there are opportunities for youth grades 6-12 to connect with Y! Today, JPF (Junior Pilgrim Fellowship, grades 6-8) will meet from 5pm-6pm in the Youth Room. SPF (Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, grades 9-12) will meet from 7pm-8pm. Come join your friends for a great time!

### **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.

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## Church School

Welcome to your Church School Home! We will be getting to know each other today and looking toward the year ahead. If you have not registered your child yet, you may do so on our website - [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org). Even visitors can register! Your children will go to Church School during the second hymn and will return to the meetinghouse with their classes at the end of the service for the Church School Dedication.

## Join a Youth Choir

All of our choirs are in need of new members due to graduating seniors and those choristers moving up to the next choir. Choristers need not be members of FCCOG to participate, but they need to be willing to make a commitment. **Cherub Choir** will begin rehearsals on **Sunday, September 26 from 11:15-11:45**; our **Children's Choir** will start **Wednesday, September 22 from 5:15-6:15 (please note time change from previous announcements)**; the **Youth Choir** will be starting **Sunday, September 26 from 11:15-12:15**. Register today during Homecoming or contact Carolyn Paulus at 203-357-9661 or at [2sing4us@optonline.net](mailto:2sing4us@optonline.net).

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## NEXT WEEK

### 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.

### Wellness Committee Presents:

**Sunday, September, 26, the Wellness Committee presents: *Sleep: Who Needs It?* With Stuart McCalley, M.D., Director of the Greenwich Hospital Sleep Lab. If you find it difficult to get a good**

night's sleep in this multi-tasking, wired up, 24/7 world; you may ask, "Is eight hours of sleep really necessary?" Join us as Dr. McCalley explains why adequate sleep is imperative, what happens when one doesn't get enough sleep, and how healthy sleeping patterns can be restored. Potential sleep disorders and the corrective medical interventions will be discussed. Dr. McCalley is board certified in Pulmonary Disease Medicine, Sleep Medicine, and Internal Medicine, and is a long-time member of FCCOG. We'll gather in the Lounge after the Worship Service and perhaps a quick stop at Coffee Hour (11:20 am).

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### **Family ReEntry Honors the Congregation of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

The Elizabeth Bush Volunteerism Award will be presented to our congregation in honor of our extraordinary support of Family ReEntry and their mission to develop, implement and share cost-effective solutions for the unprecedented numbers of people in the criminal justice system. Our Mission and Outreach committee has consistently supported Family ReEntry with grant awards and volunteer efforts to supplement programs that provide employment and training opportunities to former offenders reentering our community or by mentoring to children with a family member incarcerated. For ticket information, check in the church office for invitations or contact Trish Finitis at 203-838-0496 x100 at Family ReEntry or e-mail her at [tfinitis@familyreentry.org](mailto:tfinitis@familyreentry.org)

### **Sunday Flowers in the Meetinghouse**

Every Sunday flowers at the front of the Meetinghouse enhance our worship setting. These flowers are often given by members and friends to remember or to honor a family member, a friend, or someone special. Donating the flowers for a given Sunday is also an opportunity to mark a special date or to remember a special occasion – baptism, anniversary, confirmation, birthday, graduation, etc. If you would like to donate flowers or wish to know more about this opportunity, please contact Judy Gordon, Chair of the Chancel Committee at 203-637-8575 or by email at [gordoog@aol.com](mailto:gordoog@aol.com).

## **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.

## **Prayer Chain**

Our Prayer Chain has gone viral!! No, it's not a disease; it's morphed from a telephone chain to email notices. Requests for prayers for any of life's crises or tribulations are instantly transmitted to our faithful

participants. Join us! No instruction manual or assembly required. Just PRAY – daily. It’s easy. It’s rewarding. The benefits are priceless! Prayer requests can be confidentially received by any pastor, Parish Nurse Sue Asselin or Prayer Chain coordinator Angela Stevens.

**Women’s Fellowship**

**Save the Date** for our One Day Escape, “Eat, Pray, Laugh” – Saturday, October 30 from 8:30am – 3:00pm. Please plan to join us. More information to come.

**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 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.

**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.

**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