

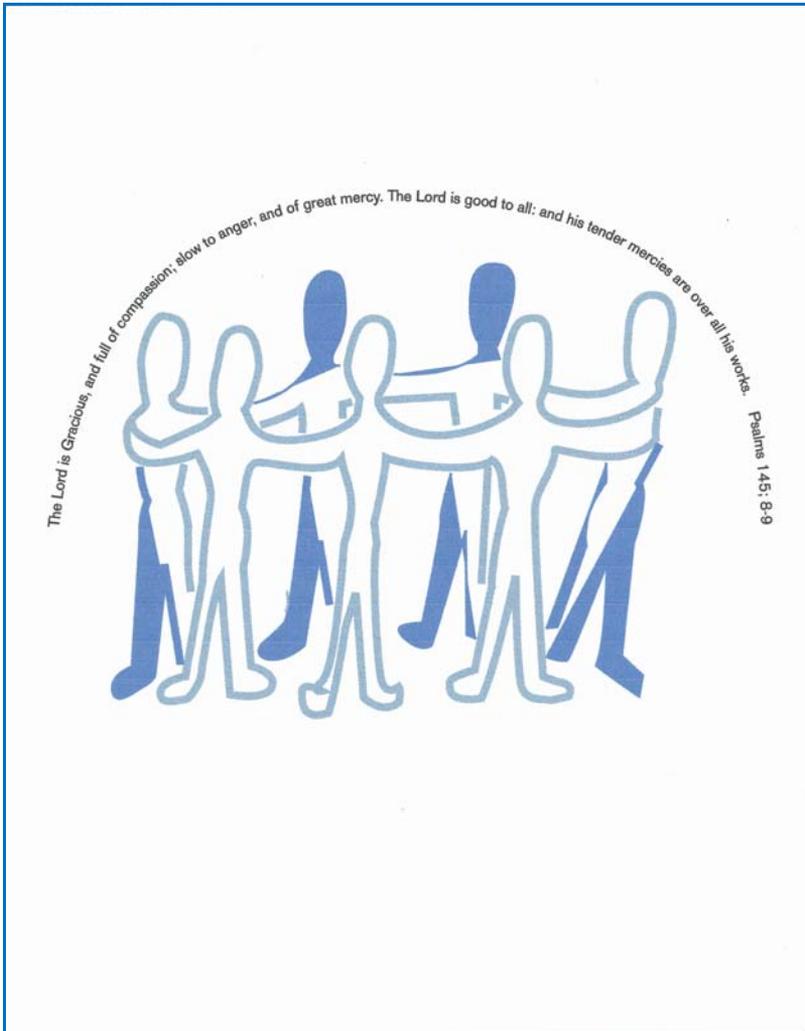
*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Stephen Ministry Sunday
26 September 2010
10 o'clock in the morning**



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Today we continue our early Fall Sermon Series, “Homelonging: The Heart’s Re-turning.” In the words of Dag Hammarskjöld from his book, *Markings*:

“Life demands from you only the strength you possess.
Only one feat is possible – not to have run away.”

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Andante cantabile (*Symphony IV*)

Mark Swicegood, organ
Charles-Marie Widor

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Lead On Eternal Sovereign *New Century (black) Hymnal 573*

OPENING PRAYER (*In Unison*)

As seasonal changes remind us of life’s unceasing rhythms
we gather in community this day O God of our past
and prompter of our future.

Stir us in this brief hour of reflection and meditation,
that we might be lifted in love and equipped for living
in your purposes, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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,
through 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Lucinda Allen

I Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior

Fair are the meadows,
fairer the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
Beautiful Savior!
Lord of nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forever more be Thine.

The Chancel Choir
F. Melius Christiansen

SECOND LESSON

Luke 16:19-31

Sue McCalley

‘**T**here was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers— that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father

Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

***‡HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 228*
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 many Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.

SERMON *Fighting for the Future* *Dr. David D. Young*
(Second in the Series “Homeloning: the Heart’s Re-turning”)

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

God, our gracious Creator, we declare this day our hope in the future. We renew our belief in the holiness of the earth and the sanctity of all life.

We believe you send us to work with others to correct the growing disparity between rich and poor nations, to achieve fair legislation justly administered and enforced, to make the operation of courts and penal institutions more just and humane.

We are commissioned to stand with women and men of all ages, races and classes as they struggle for dignity and respect and the chance to exercise power for the common good.

We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.
Before us today are set life and death. We choose life that we and our children may live. Amen.

***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

Lord For Thy Tender Mercies Sake

Richard Farrant

***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

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY

Angela Stevens

STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING: Mariann Ekernas, Mark Mohn, Sandy Plickert, Linnea Stenberg, and Sheila Tolmie

PRESENTATION

VOWS

Leader: (To the Stephen Ministers) Are you prepared to meet those requests that we ask of you?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Are you prepared to nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others – to support, encourage, build up, and comfort people in all their needs?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Now, we ask you, members of First Congregational Church, to open your hearts to the ministry of these people and to pray for them, that they may be effective servants of Christ. Are you prepared to meet the request?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: We also ask you to accept their ministry when you need help, to allow these individuals to work with you as you face struggles in your life, and so, will you receive support and help from your Christian brothers and sisters if and when it is needed?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: (To the Stephen Ministers) Are you prepared to serve as Stephen Ministers at First Congregational Church?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Forward Through the Ages

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 383

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: We go into the world in faith...

We trust in God to lead us.

People: We go into the world in hope...

We have God's realm before us and

People's needs upon our hearts.

Leader: We go into the world with love...

We will serve with those in whom Christ lives.

People: We go into the world with light...

We will walk and labor among those for whom Christ died.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

We Thank Thee God, We Thank Thee *Johann Sebastian Bach*

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. 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

Stephen Ministry

A one-to-one caring relationship based on compassion, active listening and confidentiality. You and your "care-sharer" meet weekly to discuss topics of your choice. Laugh, cry, talk, pray, ponder, question, search – it's yours to unfold. For more information, please contact our pastoral advisor, Rev. Avery Manchester, or any pastor.

Congratulations to our newly trained Stephen Ministers who are being commissioned today. They have completed fifty hours of training and make a commitment to serve our community in this capacity with love and dedication. They are: Mariann Ekernas, Mark Mohn, Sandy Plickert, Linnea Stenberg, and Sheila Tolmie. In addition, continuing Stephen Ministers are: Bob Alden, Tina Birkic,

Gail Halvorsen, Carolyn MacLea, Karen Pacent, Lori Romano, and Marge York. Our current Stephen Leaders are: Angela Stevens, Eileen Medvey, Carole Lang, Enid Norris. Talk with us about our passion: Stephen Ministry!!

Church School

Today our children begin their curriculum lessons by looking at the life of David. Over the next few weeks, they will hear about David as shepherd, musician, friend and king; all the while learning about God's relationship to us through the relationship between David and God. The children will have take-home materials, one of which is addressed to parents. We hope this will help you connect church school and home more effectively. Also, please let your child's teacher know if you do not have the Time, Talent and Treasure offering envelopes.

Kick the single-use bag habit...

First Congregational Church Stewards of the Earth bags will be on sale today after church for \$12.00. The bags are made from 11 plastic bottles and hold up to 40lbs. When not in use the bag stuffs into its own carrying pouch. Send the message to all as you shop that YOU are a *Steward of the Earth* and are helping to keep our earth the way God made it. Let the bag be another way of taking your spirit of faith with you as you shop and make choices that are good for our earth. Reduce-Reuse-Recycle!

Wellness Committee Presents:

Today 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).

Greeters Needed!

If you can smile and say “Good morning” we need you to help us welcome everyone to worship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up to help at coffee hour. You’ll be contacted by email with available dates. Please help. You’ll be glad you did!

Youth Ministry

This Sunday the Y! (Youth Ministry) fun continues with JPF at 5pm and SPF at 7pm... It’s messy game night, so wear your grubby clothes! Coming in October is Return of Cereal for our Senior High Youth! Keep your eyes open for publicity on times and dates!

NEXT WEEK

Bible Study

Next week, October 3rd, is the first Bible Study gathering of the fall. We will be considering *Exodus*, the book not the movie, in all its fascinating facets – burning bush, plagues, chariots, ten commandments and, of course, Aaron’s great idea, the Golden Calf. These classes will be recorded so that you can listen to them, or download them, on the church’s Web site (www.fccog.org, Tab: Faith Formation, Tab: Bible Study). Therefore, even if you cannot attend every week, you can still follow our progress. But, as in baseball or concerts, live is better than recorded. So join the more than 200 people who have attended these Bible studies (we get sixty-some every week) and discover or re-discover why it is an exercise in faith building that you soon won’t want to be without. Besides, we have fun!

Flu Vaccine Clinic - Sunday, October 3rd 9:30-10:00am & 11:00am-12pm in Room 203

The Wellness Committee will be offering seasonal flu vaccines (this year’s formula includes H1N1). Vaccines will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis to people 18 years of age or older who bring payment of \$30 cash or check (made out to FCCOG). We are unable to bill insurances, but we can provide a receipt. Individuals under 18 should see their primary physician for the vaccine.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Family ReEntry Honors the Congregation of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich The Elizabeth Bush Volunteerism Award was 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.

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.

Are You Into Photography?

From time to time (at events such as Homecoming) 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. Thanks.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

All are welcome! Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 8 am and

Thursdays at 9 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Knit, Knit, Knit. This is our mantra. Join us if you can knit. Or donate 3 skeins of Lion Brand yarn or gift bags to support our craft. Prayer shawls are knitted with both yarn and prayers stitched with loving hands for the unknown recipient in need of comfort at this time. If you know someone who could use our support, this tangible symbol of God’s unconditional love for us, let a pastor, Inge Thalheim or Angela Stevens know.

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off, the popular women’s book discussion group, is off to an early start this year. Our first get-together was Thursday, September 23, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Lounge. 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.

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member class will be held on Sunday, October 24, at 11:15am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. (Child care will be provided.) During the class, prospective new members have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our Congregational denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Please feel welcome to join us. We will receive new members on Sunday, November 7 during the 10am worship service. For questions or to indicate your interest in attending please contact David Young at dyoung@fccog.org or Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org.

Women's Fellowship Glass House Tourist Information

Free tourist information and pamphlets from this past June's Women's Fellowship Glass House bus trip are available in a box in the Church office. Please help yourself.

Rummage Room News

Wish List: Halloween decorations and costumes. The Halloween section of The Rummage Room will be open by October 2nd. Bring both your little and your big goblins in to shop for costumes, and bring your excess decorations for us to sell...then be sure and buy some "new" ones for a "new look" at home. Other wish list items are: jewelry, handbags, shoes, adult and children's bikes, double and single strollers, musical instruments, small furniture along with new and gently used clothing.

The Rummage Room Mission: We are having great fall sales results, thanks to you, our customers! Please continue to support the shop with donations, shopping and volunteerism. The funds from The Rummage Room go to support our Women's and Children's Organizations during these hard times when so many have needs and cannot support themselves. The next time you are in The Rummage Room, please tell our manager, Maria Drieghe, the assistant manager, and the volunteers, "job well done." But you as customers and donors deserve the loudest "job well done"! You have been our support base for the past 46 years and we honor every one of you.

Rummage Room Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

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

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

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