

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
17 October 2010
10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. This is Stewardship Sunday, when our hearts and minds begin to meditate on our pledged intentions in support of the church's ministry during the coming year of 2011. Our Sermon Series theme is: "Getting It Right." Pearl Bartel reminds us of a simple truth,

"I fail or succeed in my stewardship of life in proportion to how convinced I am that life belongs to God."

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Prelude in E Minor

*Mark Swicegood, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITY

Sheila Bennett

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century (black) Hymnal 558

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 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 say,
“As we live and give, help us to get it
right with your guidance.”
In Christ’s serving spirit, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have called us to a life of simplicity,
O God of our salvation, but our lives are cluttered
with many things, rendering us insensitive to your calling.
You have prompted us in the rich ways of sharing,
O God of our redemption, but we are skilled at holding tight,
pushing us beyond your prompting.
You have prodded us toward a lifestyle of service,
O God of transformation, but we are more comfortable
with being served, distancing us from the influence of
your prodding.
Forgive us this day for our dimness in seeing and following,
for we would be renewed as disciples of Jesus whose
simplicity, whose sharing, whose service, marked his life
as one which was faithful to your purposes. And now we
pray the prayer he taught us,

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

Pat Larrabee

Ephesians 1: 11-23

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM
Everywhere I Go

The Children's Choir
Natalie Sleeth

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Luke 6: 20-31

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
‘Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
‘Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
‘Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

‘But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
‘Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
‘Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
‘Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

*‡HYMN

Join Hearts and Voices (*text on next page*)

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.

Join hearts and voices as we lift
Our gratitude for every gift,
And multiply each gift with praise
To God who gives us all our days.

Our gifts, no matter what their worth,
We give as stewards here on earth.
Called and empowered by God's command,
We multiply the gifts at hand.

All praise to Christ, the living bread
By which our hungry souls are fed.
Salvation's cup is offered too,
As God in Christ makes all things new.

So may we answer Christ's clear call
To offer talents, treasures, all.
God's love abounding, grace on grace,
Enriches life in every place.

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STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Tim Coleman

SERMON

Giving Living

Dr. David D. Young

(First in a Stewardship Series: "Getting It Right")

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The world needs all of our power and love and energy, and each of us has something we can give. The trick is to find it and use it, to find it and give it away, so there will always be more. We can be lights for each other, and through each other's illumination we will see the way. Each of us is a seed, a silent promise, and it is always spring. Let it be. Amen. *Merle Shain*

*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

Greater Love Hath No Man

*The Chancel Choir
John Ireland*

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.
Love is strong as death.
Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own Self bare our sins in his own Body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus.
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
that ye should shew forth the praises
of Him Who hath called you out of darkness
Into his marvellous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God,
which is your reasonable service.

Canticles 8, John 15, I Peter 2, I Corinthians 6; Romans 12

***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**

Take My Gifts

New Century (black) Hymnal 562

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

*Leader: A Christian is someone to whom God entrusts all of
humanity.*

*People: Without sacrifice there is no resurrection. Nothing
grows and blooms save by giving.*

*Leader: All you try to save in yourself wastes and perishes. How
do you know the fruit is ripe? Because it leaves the bush.*

*People: All things ripen for giving's sake and in the giving are
consummated.*

Dwight L. Moody/Andre Gide

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E Minor

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

Church School

Church School classes will be held as usual today. Our children will continue learning about David with today's lesson focusing on his friendship with Jonathan. Please note that our 5th graders will be visiting Pilgrim Towers next Sunday, October 24, not today as had been previously planned.

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.

Flu Vaccine Clinic – 9:30-10:00 am & 11:00 am-12 pm 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 will happily provide a receipt. Individuals under 18 should see their primary physician for the vaccine.

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

Join us tonight for our Y! programs. Fellowship for those in grades 6-8 (JPF) is from 5:00-6:00 pm and grades 9-12 (SPF) meets from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will have rehearsal today from 11:15 am-12:15 pm.

Women’s Fellowship Annual Bulb Sale

The 2nd Annual Women’s Fellowship Fall Bulb Sale continues today with pre-orders during coffee hour from 11 am to noon. Pre-orders will continue each Sunday in October until the final sale day (and order pick-up) on Sunday October 24 from 11 am to 1 pm in the auditorium. Order forms are available at coffee hours and in the Church Office.

Bible Study

This week in our study through Exodus, we actually get to cross the Red Sea with the Egyptians in hot pursuit. We’ll also consider the ancient Song of Moses, a trick or two about getting water out of a rock and manna from heaven, the original version. (There are also quails from heaven but then you might expect that). All is in preparation for the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai. If you’ve only seen the movie, you really should read the book. 11:15 am today and 7:30 pm on Tuesday. Led by Dan England.

THIS WEEK

Nights Off

Come join this evening Women’s Fellowship group on Monday, October 18 at 6 pm in the church lounge and experience the

“Getting to Know Your Church and Each Other” Treasure Hunt, followed by dessert at Rosemary Lamie’s house. For more information, contact Karen Young at 203-637-7877 or klyct1@aol.com.

NEXT WEEK

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member class will be held on Sunday, October 24, at 11:15 am 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 10 am 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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Annual Preschool Photo Fundraiser

Can't find time for a family portrait? Still looking for the perfect holiday card photo? Sign up today for the Annual First Congregational Church Preschool Photo Fundraising Event in beautiful Binney Park. 20 minute sessions are available with Greenwich photographer, Joseph Budzelek (www.josephbudzelekphotography.com).

Approximately 10-20 proofs per family, reasonable prices, convenient ordering and quick turnaround time. Dates are:

- **Sunday, October 17**
- **Saturday, October 23**
- **Sunday, October 24**

- Saturday, October 30

Signup sheets are available in the vestibule outside the preschool entrance. Please leave \$85 check payable to First Congregational Church Preschool in the marked box outside Libby White's office to hold your time slot.

(All proceeds of the \$85 sitting fee go directly to the preschool!)

Please call Dianne Shrier with questions at 203-698-8823.

Thank you for your continued support!

Welcoming Reception for Craig Symons

The Music Committee is holding a welcoming reception for Craig Symons, our new Music Director, on Saturday, October 30 between 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the auditorium. Please plan to join us.

Welcoming Reception for Susan Murtha

Join us for an Open House welcoming Susan Murtha to the First Congregational Church on Saturday, November 6 between 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the auditorium.

Wonderful Wednesday – November 10

Thank you to all who joined us at *Wonderful Wednesday* last week. Be sure to join us at our next *Wonderful Wednesday* on November 10. It will be another “wonderful” time!

Literacy Mission Team

“Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43-19

Are you interested in making a difference in someone's life? The Friends of the Byram Shubert Library need volunteers to meet one-on-one with an English as a Second Language member of our community. You will meet once a week for 45 minutes and spend time talking, reading, and dealing with language problems together. The time and day is up to you! If interested, please contact Mary-Ann Assing at 203-532-0082 or mazalman@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!

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, meets every Thursday from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the church lounge. All are welcome. For details, call Marcia Livingston at 203-625-0772.

Rummage Room News

Halloween: Considered the "Best Little Costume Shop in Old Greenwich" the Rummage Room has everything you need for Halloween. When you come in to find costumes and decorations for Halloween, remember that the Rummage Room needs your surplus of costumes and decorations so that the shop may continue to be well stocked. Bring your little goblins to view the wonderful Halloween windows...it is sure to put them in the mood for "trick or treat night."

Wish List for October: Halloween items, handbags, shoes, clean usable clothing for adults and children, bric-a-brac, strollers, and bikes for adults and children.

Rummage Room Mission Statement: All proceeds go to Women and Children's Organizations locally, nationally and internationally to help support their many needs. Thank you for your continuing support with your donations, your purchases and your volunteerism. Consider them your gifts to the Lord. Please call Maria Drieghe, manager, to volunteer: 203-637-1875.

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