

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

7 November 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



W elcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we celebrate Ingathering Sunday and welcome our newest clergy staff member, Rev. Susan Murtha. This is a season and time to connect gratitude, gifts, commitment and community. As we participate in communion today, may we know the fullness of life God intends for us as a family of faith.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE
Melody

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Alexandre Guilmant*

CALL TO COMMUNITY
Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart *New Century (black) Hymnal 55*

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

We come before you this morning,
O God, with hearts waiting to be
warmed by your presence
and love.

Grant that we may be receptive
to all of your gifts this day
as you would offer them
to us in the way that is
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our life's dimly recognized beginnings,
we confess that we have not walked with a steady pace
and our eyes have drifted from the horizon.

God of our life's all too practical present,
we confess that we have sat at tables far from your presence
and our minds have confirmed your distance.

God of our life's unimaginable unfolding,
we confess that we have knelt at tangible altars,
and our hearts have been fearful of faith.

Forgive us in this hour of remembering
for all those postures of our living
which separate us from you, from others, and from
our best selves.

For we would be restored to the joy of our salvation
in the bread which is broken,
in the cup which is poured out for us,
in the power of Christ's presence, 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Susan Murtha

SONG

Jesus Loves Me (*words below*)

As the song 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.

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Sue McCalley

Isaiah 12

You will say on that day:
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say on that day:
Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Christ is Our Cornerstone

The Chancel Choir
Noel Rawsthorne

SECOND LESSON

Sue McCalley

Isaiah 65: 17-25

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labour in vain,

or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

*‡HYMN

What Gift Can We Bring? *New Century (black) Hymnal 370*

SERMON *What's It All About?* *Dr. David D. Young*
(Fourth in a Stewardship Series: "Getting It Right")

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roll Call of Candidates

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Leader: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus.
Do you here affirm your consecration in God through Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of one Master in the Church Universal. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the bonds of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things most surely believed among us concerning faith, polity and fellowship.

Owning of the Covenant (*all, standing*)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again, and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. As Jesus accepted, welcomed, included and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our search to walk in the ways of the Lord. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of God and laboring for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human understanding. Depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

Right Hand of Fellowship

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Lord, I will Praise Thee

*The Chancel Choir
Gordon Jacob*

***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**

A WORD OF COMMITMENT

Dennis Humbert

(Presentation of pledge cards will be included in Communion)

INGATHERING AND COMMUNION *(seated)*

Words of Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Serving of the Bread and Cup

This morning we will receive communion by intinction as we combine the movement of coming forward to receive the elements with the act of presenting our pledge cards. The ushers will direct the congregation in coming down the center aisle and returning by use of the side aisles. If you need to remain in your seat, the ministers will bring communion to you. The communion bread is gluten-free.

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. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Creator God, Creating Still

New Century (black) Hymnal 278

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Faith is our relation not to what we possess, but to what possesses us.

People: Our faith is not in experience, but in our Savior.

Leader: Faith is a leap in the dark to the icy depths of an unknown sea from the edge of a crumbling cliff to be caught by God.

People: It is a lively, reckless confidence in the grace of God.

P.T. Forsyth / Alice Swain / Martin Luther

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

March

John Marsh

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of C.A. and Joan Westbrook by their family.

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.

New Members Joining Today

Susan Murtha, 15 Forest Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-990-0181. Susan comes to First Congregational Church of Greenwich by Letter of Transfer from First Congregational Church

of Guilford, CT. Susan, our newest Associate Pastor, will be working in many areas, including ministry to children and families, faith formation, confirmation, women's ministry and more. Prior to Old Greenwich, she served Congregational churches in Guilford, Manchester and Woodstock, CT. Her son Simon (25) is an engineer and works in the technology industry in NYC. Both Susan and Simon are long-time, active leaders at Silver Lake Conference Center. In addition to mothering and ministering, Susan enjoys gardening, writing, cooking, theater, music, travel and New York.

Pamela and Richard Riggs, 51 Forest Avenue, Unit 164, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-344-9495. Pamela and Richard come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from Community Methodist in Naperville, Illinois. Richard is a teacher subbing in Greenwich and Pamela is a Consultant with KPMS LLP. They recently moved to Old Greenwich from the Chicago area due to Pam's transfer with her company to New York. They have a daughter, Kristen (6). They are excited about exploring fellowship with members of First Congregational Church and truly welcome the opportunities their daughter is already experiencing in the children's' program.

Kim and Chip Schenck, 35 St. George Avenue, Stamford, CT 06905, 203-274-6810. Kim and Chip come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Chip is a VP/Sales and Development at Amex Publishing and Kim is a Brand Strategy Director at Horizon Media. They have lived in Stamford for the last 5+ years, and both work in Manhattan. They recently had a precious little boy, Jackson, in July 2009 and are expecting a second baby boy in January. Chip is originally from the Connecticut area, while Kim moved to Connecticut in 1985 from Indiana.

Mia and Jorn Simonsen, 19 Meadow Road, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-698-9211. Jorn comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith and Mia by Letter of Transfer from United Methodist Church in Sudbury, MA. Jorn is in Foreign Exchange Sales at Bank of America. Jorn and Mia recently moved from Boston to Riverside with their 8-year-old son, Niklas, who is in 3rd grade at Riverside Elementary School. Jorn was born and raised in Denmark.

Mia spent her early childhood in Japan, but was educated in the United States and Japan.

Story and Kurt von Holzhausen, 34 Hearthstone Drive, Riverside, CT 06878, 917-783-9402. Story and Kurt come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Kurt is in Finance at Goldman Sachs and Story is the Creator/Instructor/Trainer at her own business, Liquid Strength. They have 9-year-old twins, Jake and Abby. They are thrilled to find a church home and community of people who are open and striving to grow and share their talents with each other.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

This week our lesson is from the Book of Ruth which is about family, love, kindness and compassion. But, first, they will hear a Children's Message from Rev. Susan Murtha in the Meetinghouse. Susan will be visiting all the Church School classes next Sunday.

Welcoming Rev. Susan Murtha

Please join us after worship today in the auditorium for a reception to greet Susan Murtha, our new Associate Pastor for Christian Education.

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 11:00-11:45 am in Room 203

The Wellness Committee will be offering season 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 will happily provide a receipt. Individuals under 18, should see their primary physician for the vaccine.

Women's Fellowship Bulb Sale

Our Amaryllis bulbs have arrived! The Amaryllis and Paper Whites make wonderful gifts for indoor planting and children love to see them grow. We have more Tulips and Daffodils for you or to be donated to beautify our church grounds. Come see us at coffee hour!

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 rehearse today from 11:15 am–12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Bible Study

There were 13 on last Tuesday night and who knows how many on Sunday? What else do you have on Tuesday night? According to the guide, Dexter's gruesome accident is on. Compared to a golden calf? We promise Dexter's golden calf. Join us.

Bells of Hope

Bells of Hope is a statewide National Adoption Month initiative dedicated to raising awareness and offering prayer for children in the CT foster care system who need adoptive homes. Every year on the first Sunday in November across CT faith communities offer prayer during morning and evening services and ring their bells at 6 pm for children needing permanent homes. In CT there is an ongoing need for more families for waiting children and youth, as either foster or adoptive resources. Please pray that these children find permanent homes and that the families who come forward to meet their needs receive the love and support from their families and their communities to successfully parent the children in their homes. For more information on how you can become a foster or adoptive parent, please contact Bells of Hope through their website: www.BellsOfHope.org or call Deb Kelleher at 203-706-0101. The First Congregational Church will be ringing our church bells this evening at 6 pm in participation.

NEXT WEEK

Wonderful Wednesday – November 10

Be sure to join us at our next *Wonderful Wednesday* on November 10. Details are in the November Meetinghouse Monthly. It will be another “wonderful” time!

International Mission Team to Volunteer in Guatemala with Project Common Hope – Deadline for Volunteers Nov. 8

The International Mission Team is planning its second trip to Antigua, Guatemala next February to volunteer with Project Common Hope. Last year's group found this an immensely rewarding trip — no special skills required, just willing hands and open hearts. **We have room for a few more volunteers, but we need commitments by tomorrow, Nov 8th.** This trip, from February 19th to 26th, 2011, is separate from the SPF trip in February. This is primarily an adult trip, but teenagers traveling with their parents are welcome. Call Kathy Fraser at 203-637-1060 right away to learn more.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich on Monday, November 22, at 7:00 pm. Choirs from around the area will participate in a combined choir, singing Gabrieli's massive “Bucinate in neomenia tuba” (Blow the trumpet in the new moon). In addition, choirs will sing an individual anthem. FCCOG's Chancel Choir will be part of this service. This is a great opportunity to gather as Christians to celebrate the blessings we receive from God. The church is located at the corner of W. Putnam Ave. and Lafayette Place in downtown Greenwich.

Senior Transportation – Call-A-Ride

If you are over sixty and need a ride to doctors' appointments, the pharmacy, grocery stores, physical therapists, the library, the Senior Center or even to visit with friends, Call-A-Ride is ready to give you a

free ride within Greenwich between the hours of 9:00am and 3:30pm. Our volunteer drivers are most happy to accommodate you. Just call our office to make an appointment. The First Congregational Church is one of the founding sponsors of this program and continues to participate through its Outreach program. Call-A-Ride: 203-661-6633

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.

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

Hours: The Rummage Room is open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Donations may be dropped off between 9:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:30 am to 1:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. **Wish List for November:** Thanksgiving items are always in demand throughout November. Please search your closets and pantries for

treasures you would be willing to donate. And remember...only donate items that are in good condition and that you would consider buying if you had a need. Thank you. Other donations needed are: handbags, shoes, nice wearable clothing, new items that can be used for Christmas presents, jewelry, and bric-a-brac.

Rummage Room Mission Statement: All proceeds go to Women and Children's Organizations locally, nationally and internationally to help support their many needs. It is especially important around the holidays that we provide this support. Where better can you have the satisfaction of buying something you like and then having the proceeds go to worthwhile causes? This is the season for thankfulness.

Cicero once said: *"A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues!"*

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel will remain in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need at Neighbor to Neighbor:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans (Kidney and Black)
- 100% Juice
- Canned Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter (No larger than 28 oz., please)
- Jelly



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

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

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