

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The First Sunday after Epiphany

9 January 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church.

No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here
and we are glad that you are with us.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Awake, My Heart

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Paul Hindemith*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

CALL TO THE 340th ANNUAL MEETING

Phoebe Griffith

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

As With Gladness Those of Old

New Century (black) Hymnal 159

OPENING PRAYER

O God of the Great Epiphany and of all epiphanies since,
we give thanks for the unfolding of your light:

Light that came first to Mary and Joseph;

and then to the humble of the fields;

and then to the discerning travelers from afar;

and then to the disciples and his own;

and then, through all time and distance, to each of us.

O God who has revealed all truth and grace
throughout the world,

make us wholly ready to receive your light,

to follow your light
and to be your light.
In Christ, Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God of the Bethlehem star, everyone is searching
for your light, shining in the face of Christ.

We confess that our motives for seeking Jesus are not all pure.

We come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance,
health, wealth; asking him to fulfill petitions that we heap
before him, even before acknowledging what he does for us.

Help us, God, to put our own troubles in perspective, to worship
the Christ in love, to know the needs of our brothers and
sisters and to first lay our gifts before you. Then may we
journey, trusting that your goodness and light will accompany
us all the days of our life.

We ask in the name and presence of Christ 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Oliver Robert Owens, son of

Anna Cowles Owens & Fritz Robert Owens

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (*verse 1*)

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.*

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

Revelation 22:1-6

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Thou Didst Leave Thy Lowly Dwellings
(from *L'enfance du Christ*)

The Chancel Choir
Hector Berlioz

SECOND LESSON

Stu McCalley

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

*‡HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River *New Century (black) Hymnal 597*

SERMON

Haunted by Waters

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: With the whole church

People: We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit.

Leader: Through the waters of the river

People: We affirm that the God who granted us breath has baptized us with water and the Spirit.

Leader: With all creation

People: We accept our mission to be part of the unfolding of God's purposes.

Leader: With all the saints – past, present and future

People: We celebrate God's power and grace which shall bring all the world to redemption and salvation. 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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*The Chancel Choir
Edward Bairstow*

***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**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

New Century (black) Hymnal 164

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: The Revelation of John

*People: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the
Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.*

*Leader: On either side of the river is the tree of life; and the leaves of
the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

People: And he said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true.'

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Prelude a la Couperin

Gordon Young

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of the baptism of Oliver Robert Owens by his 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.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today our children will begin a series of lessons on Jesus' parables starting with the Mustard Seed. This series will take us through the Sundays in January. However, next Sunday, although there are no regular Church School classes, we will have a Big Event. Susan and Rosemary will focus on mission and, specifically, our Youth Group's trip to Belize next month. We will also begin collecting items that will be taken to the children in Belize.

Youth Ministry

JPF: Resumes this week! Come and join us at 5:00 pm for some great games and lots of fun!

SPF: Tonight from 7:00-8:00 pm we will have a parent/youth meeting for those attending the Mission Trip to Belize.

Youth Choir

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

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.

2011 Contribution Envelope Sets

2011 contribution envelope sets are available in the Auditorium during coffee hour today.

NEXT WEEK

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration

An Interfaith Service of Joy & Thanksgiving for the Life of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sponsored by the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy. *Sunday, January 16, 2:00 pm*, at Central Middle School, 9 Indian Rock Lane, Greenwich. Join us for a time of thanksgiving and fellowship with speakers and choirs from Greenwich churches and synagogues.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Call to the 340th Annual Meeting

The 340th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for 8:00 pm on *Wednesday, January 26, 2011*. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect officers for the coming year;
- To adopt the budget for 2011;
- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees to co-invest in the purchase of a home in our community with Rev. Susan Murtha; and,

- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Phoebe Griffith, Church Clerk

Confirmands and Parents

Please come for a special evening together with Susan & the teaching crew on *Tuesday, January 11, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.* Pizza, connecting and talking over our plans, including: our Outreach projects in February, our very special event in March, worship study sheets, and other good stuff! Please RSVP to smurtha@fccog.org by January 9. Hope to see you there!

Bible Study

A new study of the Gospel of Luke led by Dan England will commence on *January 16, 2011* beginning at 11:15 am in the lounge. The same class (sort of) will be held on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. Luke is a fascinating gospel with so many stories that are unique to his gospel. The question is where did these stories come from and why does Luke think they are important to our understanding of Jesus and Christian living. Last year we had at least 60 regular attendees every Sunday and sometimes more. Isn't it time you found out what all the fuss is about? Join us.

Come to the Cabaret!

That's right! The First Congregational Church of Greenwich will be presenting a Cabaret with performances by some of our church members! From the classics of Cole Porter to the latest Broadway shows, we are going to have a wonderful evening of music together. The full proceeds from this event will benefit the Youth Outreach and Music Programs. See the January Meetinghouse Monthly for more details about this exciting event. Please note the dates are *Friday, January 28 and Saturday, January 29.* Tickets go on sale January 16! Don't miss it!

Flu Vaccines Available by Appointment with the Parish Nurse

It's not too late to protect yourself against the flu, and this year's formula includes protection against the H1N1 virus that caused illness among so many young adults last season. Our Parish Nurse will vaccinate those 18 years of age or older who bring payment of

\$30 cash or check (made out to FCCOG). Call Sue Asselin, RN at ext. 21 to schedule a quick appointment.

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. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 8 am and Thursdays at 9 am. Only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

Rummage Room News

- **Wish List: JEWELRY!** Please go through your jewelry and donate what you seldom wear! Also needed are a wooden cane, Valentine’s Day items, bric-a-brac, double strollers, ski outfits and ski poles ... we cannot sell used skis or ski boots.
- There is one thing which gives radiance to everything. It is the idea of something around the corner. Remember, The Rummage Room is just around the corner from you and when you shop, donate and volunteer, you are giving radiance to our mission program of helping women’s and children’s organizations meet their many goals during 2012. Your continuing support is always appreciated.
- The Rummage Room is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Donations will be accepted any of these days and times.

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. If you’ve forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermision@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: The 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 J. 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