

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

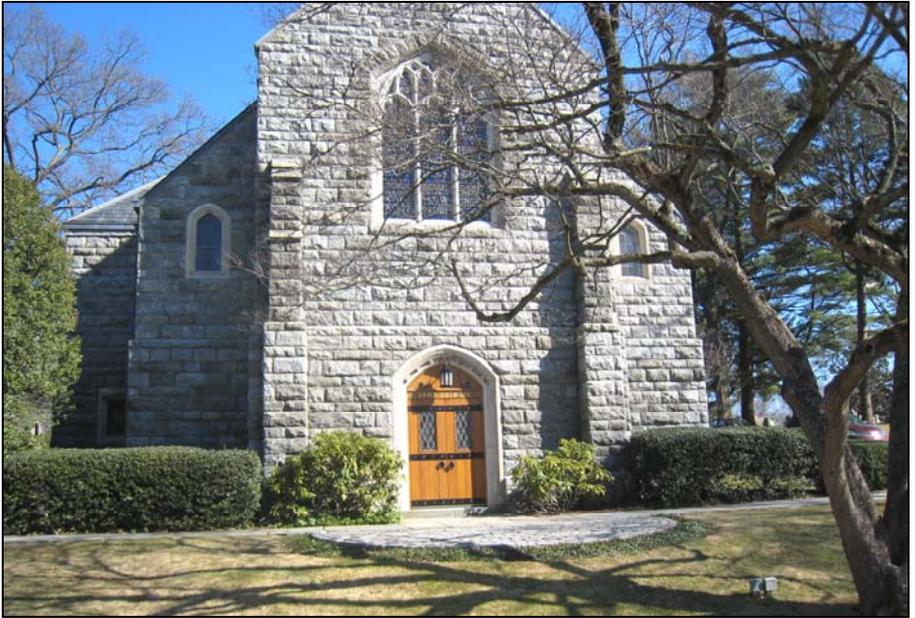
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

6 March 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we prepare to make the transition into Lent in the coming days. Trusting that Christ will accompany us into the future even as we are met by his presence here, may this hour help us to turn more to his way that our lives might be transformed by his spirit.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Baroque Suite

1) *Sarabande*

2) *Minuet*

The Palmer Handbells

Arr. Douglas Wagner

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Chuck McConnell

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

New Century (black) Hymnal 17

OPENING PRAYER

O God of laughter and joy,
we are grateful for your spirit which accompanies us
through the highs and lows of life's experiences.

Grant us a deeper appreciation of the faith to which
we are called as we enter this time of worship together,
through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

God of birth,
God of joy,
God of wonder,
we come to you as a people hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to miracles
that we have missed the world's rebirth.
We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures
and have overlooked the joy you offer us.

We have been so concerned with making
a living that we have missed the Life you set among us.
Forgive us, gracious God,
open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift;
open our lips and our hands
to share it with all humanity,
in the name of our Saviour, Jesus 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

New Century (black) Hymnal 459 (verse 3)

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Daniel Lepoutre

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication
in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous
song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of
melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before
the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with
equity.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Shout to the North

The Youth Choir

Lloyd Larson

*Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete*

Shout to the North and the South

*Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth*

*Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love*

*We've been through fire we've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of his name
We've fallen deeper in love with you
You've burned the truth on our lips*

*Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly*

SECOND LESSON

Clem Lepoutre

John 16:16-24

“**A** little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.” Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying to us, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” They said, “What does he mean by this ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

***‡HYMN**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

New Century (black) Hymnal 303

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. 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. Children in second and third grades and their parents, as well as the Pastors' Class students will remain in the Meetinghouse for the entire service and participate in Communion.)

SERMON

A Clapping Heart

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: The Church of Jesus Christ

is where a child of God brings a balloon

is where old women come to dance

is where young men see visions and old men dream dreams.

People: The church of Jesus Christ

is where lepers come to be touched

is where the blind see and the deaf hear

is where the lame run and the dying live.

Leader: The church of Jesus Christ

is where daisies bloom out of barren land

is where children lead and folk follow

is where mountains are moved and walls

come tumbling down.

People: The church of Jesus Christ

is where loaves of bread are stacked in the sanctuary

to feed the hungry

is where coats are taken off and put on the backs

of the naked

*is where shackles are discarded and kings and
shepherds sit down to life together.*

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where barefoot children run giggling in procession
is where the minister is ministered unto
is where the anthem is the laughter of the congregation
and the offering plates are full of people.*

*People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where people go when they skin their knees or
their hearts
is where frogs become princes and Cinderella dances
beyond midnight
is where judges don't judge and each child of God
is beautiful and precious.*

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where the sea divides for the exiles
is where the ark floats and the lamb lies down with the lion
is where people can disagree
and hold hands at the same time.*

*People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where night is day
is where trumpets and drums and tambourines
declare God's goodness
is where lost lambs are found.*

*Leader: The church of Jesus Christ
is where people write thank-you notes to God
is where work is a holiday
is where seeds are scattered and miracles are grown.*

*People: The church of Jesus Christ
is where home is
is where heaven is
is where a picnic is communion and people break
bread together on their knees.*

*All: The church of Jesus Christ
is where we live responsively toward God's coming.
Alleluia!*

***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 OFFERING Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Chancel Choir
Praise Alec Rowley

***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**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*seated*)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*In the tradition of our church, we will partake of the bread as it is
served, thanking God for Christ's death for each one of us. We will
hold the cup and drink of it together, affirming our oneness as the
Body of Christ.*

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**

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

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: These are the gifts I ask of thee, Spirit serene:

People: Strength for the daily task, courage to face the road,

Leader: Good cheer to help me bear the traveler's load,

*People: And for the hours of rest that come between,
an inward joy of all things heard and seen.*

H. Van Dyke

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

A Ceremonial March

Christopher Tambling

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory by friends of Hans and Betty Farman who were devoted supporters of First Congregational Church for many years.

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 most of our classes will learn about Jesus' visit to Mary,

Martha and Lazarus as recorded in John 12:1-8. Our 2nd and 3rd Graders will be in worship with their families for the entire service and will participate in Communion. The Pastors' Class will be in worship as well. Next Sunday, March 13, there are no regular Church School classes but, rather, Susan and Rosemary will do a Big Event to kick-off our Church School Lenten Project. This year the whole church school (and the whole church, we hope) will be participating and supporting the CROP Walk on April 10, 2011.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will have a short rehearsal today from 11:15 am – 11:45 am in the Choir Room.

Bible Study

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke will continue this week in the auditorium (due to a scheduling conflict). In fact, those of you who have been meaning to drop by and experience this much-talked-about class would be welcome to bring your coffee a few feet and sit down with us. The material we cover is fairly discreet so you don't need to have come before. For the regulars, we only have one more week left after this before we'll take a break, so be sure to get in on these final two offerings. (We will meet Tuesday night as usual at 7:30 pm). The preferred address for Dan England is dengland@optonline.net.

Hospitalist Medicine: The Evolution of In-Patient Care

Following the Worship Service at 11:20 am in the Lounge

This morning we welcome Dr. Franklin Loria, Director of the Hospitalist Program at Greenwich Hospital. He will share valuable insights, such as how to communicate most effectively with the medical team when we or a loved one are hospitalized. There is a national trend in hospitals to provide 24 hour physician coverage through hospitalists, doctors who work in cooperation with one's primary medical doctor. Dr. Loria will help us understand the structure and advantages of this patient care model. Sue Asselin, our Parish Nurse, personally attests to the caring nature of Dr. Loria with his patients. She looks forward to hearing him and hopes that many of you can join us.

Blood Pressure Screening

A member of the Wellness Committee is available to check blood pressures in Room 203 following the Worship Service.

Youth Ministry

JPF (grades 6-8) will meet tonight from 5:00-6:00 pm and SPF (grades 9-12) from 7:00-8:00.

Cabaret DVDs for Sale

Come to the cabaret again and again! DVD copies of the January 29 performance will be available at coffee hour today. The DVDs are \$25 (the cost covers the expense of producing and duplicating the DVDs). Enjoy!

THIS WEEK

The Last Wonderful Wednesday: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Join us this *Wednesday, March 9*, for the last Wonderful Wednesday until the fall. It's also Ash Wednesday. Let's begin Lent together! The evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 pm and will conclude with an intimate Ash Wednesday service in the auditorium. In between, we will break into smaller groups for an exploration of some of the pieces of this first day of Lent. There is something special for all ages! Please see the March Meetinghouse News for more details, and be sure to join us.

CPR Skills Refresher

Saturday March 12, 9:00 am or 10:30 am

Two one-hour refresher courses will be offered here at church for individuals who are currently certified in CPR. This non-mandatory class provides participants an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with our AED (defibrillator) and participate in a practice drill. Greenwich EMS has significantly reduced the cost, enabling the church to offer it at no charge to participants. Space is limited, so please register with Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21.

NEXT WEEK

Daylight Savings Time

It's time to "spring forward!" Next *Sunday, March 13*, is the start of Daylight Savings Time. Please remember to turn your clocks *ahead* by an hour Saturday night before going to bed, as the time changes officially at 2:00 am and this way you won't be late for church!

Men's Retreat – March 18 and 19

If you would like to meet with other men from the church family, make new friends and share an active interest in our church life, our community and our world, then please join us as we expand our sense of being a caring Christian church, and together, build on our faith awareness. Join us on *Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19* at the North Greenwich Congregational Church, Riversville Road (across from the Audubon). The featured topic is UN/UNICEF with our own church member, Barry Wentworth, Deputy Director of UNICEF Finance as our presenter and discussion leader. More details are available in the March Meetinghouse Monthly. Please RSVP by March 13 to Chuck McConnell at cmcconnell@stewartcoopercoon.com or Avery Manchester at averycoe@aol.com. Voluntary contribution is \$10.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Soup Sale

Calling all soup-makers! Women's Fellowship needs you to make and share your favorite soups for our fundraiser in late March. If you can help (whether one quart or many), please contact Pat Schay at pat@schay.com or 203-698-1979. Let her know what type of soup you're making and Pat will provide containers, make printed labels and arrange for your drop-off.

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women's book discussion group, meets Thursday mornings from 9:45 to 11:30 in the church lounge. We have just started reading *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by Jose Saramago. Reverend Susan Murtha leads this book discussion. All are welcome. Please join us.

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 once again being held on Wednesdays at 8 am as well as Thursdays at 9 am. The cost is only \$7/class if paid by the month and \$8/class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

News from The Rummage Room

Along with the recent delightful weather, plus the first day of spring just a two weeks away, shoppers have been energized and The Rummage Room has enjoyed record breaking sales since we opened with all Spring clothing last week. Why is this newsworthy? Because more sales mean more funds to be distributed among the organizations dedicated to helping women and children have better lives, which is the core purpose of The Rummage Room. There are four ways to be a part of the important work of The Rummage Room and we are blessed to have many participants in each category ... donors, volunteers, shoppers and a talented Rummage Room staff.

Over time, donors have filled our racks, shelves and storerooms with first class, quality merchandise that are treasured "finds" for someone. Volunteers and staff have emptied the shop of Winter goods and restocked with a fabulous array of Spring clothing and accessories. And shoppers have crowded the store to find merchandise that has use or enjoyment value to ease their life and brighten their day. All four ... donors, volunteers, shoppers and staff ... can take pride in their participation because they are truly doing God's work and we are eternally grateful for them. Remember The Rummage Room is restocked every day with “new” merchandise and the doors are open *Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturdays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.*

Manager Maria’s Wish List for March: Everything for Spring and Easter ... clothing; jewelry; shoes; handbags; coats; jackets and hats; St. Patrick’s Day items and clothing; small furniture; bric-a-brac; artwork; linens and bedding; a sewing machine; a double stroller; a travel bag for golf clubs; a 20” or 24” child’s bike; and Legos. The shop especially needs bric-a-brac and jewelry.

The Rummage Room has been selling merchandise for over 46 years and we have been successful because of our faith that we are making a

difference in God's eyes. Our Maker has been giving us his Guarantee for over 2000 years so the least we can do is continue our quest to make a difference in the lives of those who need so much. Thank you for your caring and your support.

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 fccoghungermission@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