

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

3 July 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this service of worship at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich! We are glad that you are here! May this be a time of restoration, of contemplation, of gratitude and of hope.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Arioso

Jon Hunt, organ
Gordon Young

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

HYMN SING

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

My Country 'Tis of Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 437

OPENING PRAYER

We come expecting a lot.

We expect to be renewed.

We expect to learn.

We expect to be filled with gratitude and hope.

God be with us now.

Fill us with your spirit.

So that as we worship together we may

Know one another and you in deeper

More meaningful ways.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God, at times, we expect a lot
Of ourselves, our children, our politicians, our church,
even of you.

Sometimes, we recognize that these expectations are unrealistic.

At other times, we set our expectations low
So as to avoid disappointment.

Still, at other times, we claim to have no expectations at all,
so not to seem selfish or controlling.

Pause for Personal Reflection, Confession and Prayer

But God, we are an expectant people.
You have taught us to expect redemption,
to expect you to be present with us,
to expect a child to show us the way,
to expect the unexpected in the Christ story.

In our relationship with you, remind us to expect the best of
ourselves so that we may be open to the life-giving expectations
you have for us. Forgive us when our vision of you is clouded by
our disappointment in unmet expectations.

In the Christ story, we have learned to expect the unexpected. In
the midst of the disciple's confusion and despair, Jesus said, you
are making it far too complicated. Just relax. Your prayer is not
expected to be perfect! Should you be unable to find the words,
just pray something like this...

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

Joe McBride

Matthew 11:16-19

“**B**ut to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

The Summer Choir

Harold Friedell

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11:20-30

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*‡HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

New Century (black) Hymnal 86

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children will leave for Summer Church School with Rosemary. We will gather in the narthex and then go to Room 104 for class.)

SERMON: “*We Didn’t Expect That*”

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in the true person, Jesus,

to reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

We trust God.

God calls us to be the church:

To celebrate Christ’s presence,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

United Church of Canada – *A New Creed*

***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.
Amen.*

CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Air

G.F. Handel

***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**

There's a Spirit in the Air New Century (black) Hymnal 294
(Verses 1, 2, 6, 7)

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: We came today, expecting something...

People: We came expecting God

*Leader: We leave today, knowing that though the encounter may
have been different than expected...*

People: We have encountered God.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Promenade

Gordon Young

A gracious thank you to Jon Hunt for filling in for Craig Symons today during our worship service.

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

Summer Church School

Summer Church School, a multiage one-room classroom of four through ten year olds, continues today. Younger children are welcome in Child Care and older children are invited to come as helpers. We continue through the end of July.

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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Beach Services

Beach services have begun for the season at 8:00 am each Sunday down at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). If the beach service is cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice in red will be posted on our website by 7:30 am and a white piece of paper will be taped to the sermon sign on the church lawn.

Become a Member of a Committee

Where is your place at The First Congregational Church? Everyone has a gift for something. Everyone has a talent that can be shared. Please consider volunteering for a committee starting in January 2012. The nominating committee is searching for a "few good men, and women" to become an integral part of the fabric of our church. Contact one of the pastors or Lynn O'Gorman, chair of the Nominating Committee, at 203-921-9247 or laogorman@yahoo.com, to express your interest.

Flower Donations

Flowers in the Meetinghouse on Sunday mornings are something we have all come to enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our sanctuary, but are given to honor very special people and occasions in our lives. The reasons for donating flowers are many. In addition to remembering a loved one, you can give flowers in celebration of marriages, anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, congratulations, and thank you's. Donors can be an individual or a group. After the morning worship has concluded, the blooms are often delivered to shut-ins, hospitals or other facilities bringing beauty and community to those who cannot be physically present in church. If, however, you prefer to keep the flowers you have donated, please let us know and we will make arrangements for that. Please consider a Sunday when you would like to thank God and honor a special person or a special moment with a gift of flowers. For more information, please contact: Pat Geismar at 203-637-3597; pat.geismar@gmail.com or Susan Murtha at 203-637-1791 x38; smurtha@fccog.org

Summer Choir

Have you wanted a different view for the summer? Here is your chance to see things from a different perspective. Each Sunday morning from now until Labor Day, everyone is welcome to join The Summer Choir! Gathering at 9:00 am in the choir loft of the Meetinghouse, we will lift our voices in song as we learn new music that helps lead and inspire worship. No previous experience is necessary, but reading music certainly helps. And if you have college-age or other family members who are in town that have instrumental talents, we can certainly put them to work as well. Don't let your talents sit idle...use them to praise God on Sunday morning!

Summer Work

Need summer help? Need summer work? Do you have opportunities for yard work, child care, tutoring, errands, etc? Are you a high school or college student or even a recent graduate looking for work? Just contact Rosemary at 203-637-1791 ext. 20 or RosemaryL@fccog.org to be connected.

News from The Rummage Room

Manager Maria's Wish List: Three adult bikes; a bike for a 6 year old; handbags; shoes; double stroller; jogging stroller; 5 lb. weights;

CD cabinet; jewelry cabinet; card table (35x35); small bookcase; scarab bracelet; clean clothing.

The Rummage Room will be closed on Monday for the 4th of July.

Please do not leave donations over the long weekend when The Rummage Room is closed. The Rummage Room will have sidewalk sales on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 14, 15 and 16.

Saturday, July 16 is the last day for donations before the shop is closed on July 30 for the month of August. The Rummage Room will reopen for Opening Day on Monday, August 29 at 10:00 am. Stop by and see the wonderful Rummage Room summer windows and bring the children!

From John Steinbeck, and frequently used by the volunteers and the manager at The Rummage Room: *It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after the committee of sleep has worked on it!*

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains 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 are:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans
- 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