

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11 September 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



Those lost on September 11, 2001

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As today marks the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001, we are especially mindful of those who were lost on that day, as well as all of those touched by those losses. It is truly a day of remembrance.

There is an index card in your bulletin this morning. As a special part of today's worship service, please write down your own personal prayer in remembrance of 9/11 to be placed on a cross out on the front lawn after today's worship. If you are unable to join us on the lawn, you may put your card in the plate in the back of the church and it will be placed on the cross for you.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Adagio for Strings

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Samuel Barber (arr. W. Strickland)

- Played in memory of the tragic events of September 11, 2001-

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

For the Healing of the Nations

New Century (black) Hymnal 576

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jack Davidson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families and in our land, for serenity in the midst of struggle, and for commitment to each other's growth. We long for the day when our homes and our land will be a dwelling place for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence. We are not willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in our land and in all the world; show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior as 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

Peter Schay

Romans 14:1; 10-12

Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that

they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

*"As I live and breathe," God says,
"every knee will bow before me;
Every tongue will tell the honest truth
that I and only I am God."*

So tend to your knitting. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee

The Chancel Choir

Glenn Rudolph

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

*‡HYMN

O for a World

New Century (black) Hymnal 575

SERMON: *Can We "Choose Life"?*

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: We were glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of God!"

*People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Holy City!
We pray for the peace of all God's beloved cities:
"May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."*

Leader: For the sake of friend and stranger we say:

*People: Peace be within you, O Jerusalem!
Peace be within you, O New York, O Washington,
O Shanksville!*

*Peace be within you, O Kabul!
Peace be within you, Greenwich!
For the sake of the house of the Holy One, our God,
we will seek your good.
We worship the living God, tender and just!*

Based on Psalm 122

***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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*
How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place Johannes Brahms

- Sung in remembrance of the victims of September 11, 2001-

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***CLOSING HYMN**
O God of Love, O God of Peace
New Century (black) Hymnal 571

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: May God lead us:

People: From death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Leader: May God lead us:

People: From despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Leader: May God lead us:

People: From hate to love, from war to peace.

All: Let peace fill our hearts, our world, and our universe.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Kenneth Leighton

Procession to Front Lawn

SONG ON FRONT LAWN

This Is My Song

New Century (black) Hymnal 591

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover-leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O god of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.*



Music Notes:

This morning's prelude is probably very familiar to many listeners, especially movie aficionados. Samuel Barber, one of America's most gifted composers, was born in 1910 in West Chester, PA. A child prodigy, Barber began writing serious compositions at age 7 and, at age 14, entered the Curtis Institute of Music to study piano, voice, and composition. Originally written for string quartet, the *Adagio for Strings* was arranged for full string orchestra (from Barber's own String Quartet of 1936) and first performed by the NBC Symphony Orchestra, under Toscanini in 1938. American organist William Strickland (who died in Westport, CT in 1991 at the age of 77) crafted an arrangement for organ in 1949 that was thoroughly

embraced by Barber. Movie-goers have heard this piece in numerous cinematic scores, including *Platoon*, *The Elephant Man*, *Lorenzo's Oil* and *Amelie* to name but a few.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

Homecoming Sunday

Featuring music by the Children's, Youth, and Chancel Choirs.

Special music by Hanna Golodinskii, soprano,
and guest trumpet, David Glukh.

Dr. David D. Young, preaching.

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

Sign-up today for the Homecoming picnic next Sunday, Sept. 18! Plan to be here for great fun, delicious food and a "family" reunion. Our theme this year is "We Are Family." Sign-up on the easel during Coffee Hour or call the office during the week and let us know how

many of you and your guests will be joining the festivities. See more information under “*Next Week.*”

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Youth Choir is rehearsing today from 11:15 am -12:15 pm in the Choir Room and Cherub Choir is rehearsing today from 11:15-11:45 am in Room 104.

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.

THIS WEEK

“Hats Off” Book Study Group

“Hats Off ” will begin again this *Thursday, September 15* from 9:45-11:30 am. We will start with a quick read, *Half-Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls. Books will be available at our first meeting! Our members are encouraged to bring their ideas for our next selection to this first meeting on September 15. Any questions please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.

Special Choir Rehearsals for Homecoming Sunday

Next Sunday is Homecoming Sunday. It will include lots of special music, including a combined anthem by Children’s, Youth, and Chancel Choirs. To prepare for that day, we will be having a special Children’s Choir rehearsal on *Saturday, September 17* from 9:30-11:00 am in the Meetinghouse. ALL children in Grades 3-6 are welcome to attend, even if you can’t make it on Wednesdays during the normal rehearsal time. Please send an email to Craig at craigs@fccog.org to let him know your young people will be attending.

NEXT WEEK

Homecoming is next Sunday, September 18!

Come to Homecoming to worship, to learn, to feast, to play! Our theme this year is “*We Are Family.*” Be sure to join us at 10:00 am

for Worship and **immediately after** for our celebration on the Lawn. Traditionally, we all bring fare to share on the buffet: If your last name begins with A-P, please bring a salad or a side; Q-Z, dessert. Parish Life provides burgers, hot dogs and grilled chicken. Sign up today!

Church School

Church School begins again next Sunday, *September 18*. Online Registration is still available at www.fccog.org. Just click on the link on the homepage, complete the form and submit. This year's handbook will arrive in your mailbox soon.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Beach Services

Today was our last beach service of the season. Join us down at Tod's Point next summer!

Nights Off

Please join us on *Monday, September 19* at 7:00 pm in Room 203. We will be planning activities for the upcoming year. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email at fbtworld@aol.com (please put "Nights Off" in the Subject line).

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte: Thursday Classes Resume!

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 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome!**

New Website

Coming *Monday, September 19*... FCCOG will be launching a newly redesigned website; beautiful new look and easier to navigate. Please take some time to check it out at www.fccog.org. Please direct any feedback, including corrections or adjustments to Dan England at dengland@optonline.net.

FCCOG on Facebook!

Tell all your friends...FCCOG is on Facebook! Please check out our page either by going through fccog.org or search for "First Congregational Church of Greenwich" on Facebook. Be sure to "like" us to stay up to date with all the exciting happenings here at FCCOG!

News from The Rummage Room

The Rummage Room celebrated its 47th *Grand Reopening* on August 29, 2011. In spite of the severe weather and power outages, sales for Reopening *Day* totaled \$11, 525, and the total for Reopening *Week* was \$27,052!!!! That is an increase of \$1,321 *over* last year! The Rummage Room committee, staff and volunteers are so proud and appreciative of your participation last week, and throughout the past 47 years we have been at 191 Sound Beach Avenue.

Shopping hours are from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, and on Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Donation hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and on Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please do not leave donations outside when The Rummage Room is closed.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Small furniture; a bike with training wheels; strollers, both single and double.

Our prayer: *Lord, thank you for not giving up on us this past week in our time of need as the result of Hurricane Irene. Rather, you came to find us even when we were lost and in the dark.*

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), and 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

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