

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Homecoming Sunday
Church School Commissioning
18 September 2011
10 o'clock in the morning



**We Are Family
At FCCOG!**

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Homecoming Sunday. We gather as a church family at the beginning of a new church year to grow in faithfulness to God. May this hour of worship truly be a time of homecoming and praise as we offer ourselves more fully to God.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

*Sonata #1 for Trumpet and Organ
Prima Sonata*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
David Glukh, trumpet
G. Fantini
G. Viviani*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Dr. David D. Young

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Rosemary Lamie

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Members of the LINC Committee

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing of the Lord's Goodness

*The Children's Choir
Earnest Sands*

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

God, We Thank You for Our People

New Century (black) Hymnal 376

OPENING PRAYER

O God, in our time of worship,
and throughout the hours of our days,
remain at the center of our thoughts and actions.

When all that we do seems to fly off in scattered
bits and pieces as our lives spin on,
draw us back to you.

Be for us a home base, a center of gravity,
a balance point, a source of loving support and
guidance through Christ Jesus in whose name we pray.

Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

O Lord, you have created us for life together.

Yet we confess that we have at times
turned from your will.

We have not loved each other
as you have shown us to do.

We have been quick to claim our own rights
and are careless about the rights of others.

We have taken much and given little.

Forgive our disobedience, O God, and strengthen us
in love, that we may serve you as a faithful

people, and live together in joy,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Melanie Pfetsch

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Children's, Youth, and Chancel Choirs
Vance Briceland, piano
Arr. Joel Raney

Jesus Loves Me

SECOND LESSON

Al Primo

Romans 12:3-18

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members,

and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

*‡HYMN

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds New Century (black) Hymnal 393

(As the hymn 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.)

SERMON: “*We Are Family...and More*”

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that we are never alone. God is with us.

We believe that the world is kept in God’s hands. God has sent his only son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

We believe that he was crucified and died to free us from evil and guilt. He is risen and is our brother.

We believe that we are not alone among people. Around us is the large fellowship of the Church, the people.

They live everywhere, in all countries of the world, on all continents and among all races. We are part of them.

We believe that we can never go so far from God that return would not be possible, and we can never go astray so much that God will not draw us back again.

We believe that God wants life for us and not death, joy and not sadness, and that God is with us today and always! 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.

Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

David Glukh, trumpet

G.F. Handel

Let the Bright Seraphim

***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**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past New Century (black) Hymnal 25

CHURCH SCHOOL COMMISSIONING

Church School Director: Today is an exciting day as we celebrate the beginning of a new year of Church School. Our Church School is a special place and a special time for us to be together, to learn about God, to experience God and to grow in love for God. Today we celebrate the ministry of our Church School and acknowledge the special role that each teacher, leader, child and youth has within it.

Pastor (to young people): Children and youth, you are an important part of our church family. You are asked to share your love for life, your skills, your imagination and your discoveries so that we may all be enriched. Are you prepared to help your teachers and each other?

Children/Young People: Yes! We will listen, share our thoughts and be a part of the worship and mission of our Church.

Church School Director (to the teachers): Teachers, you have volunteered to lead, teach and support the youngest people of this congregation. Are you willing to accept this responsibility?

Teachers: Yes! We accept the call to serve the congregation in this way. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to the ways that God will challenge and enrich our lives. We promise to prepare responsibly, to teach with care and to listen and watch for the movement of the Spirit among us and within these children.

Children/Young People (to the teachers): As our teachers, do you promise to cherish and love us?

Teachers: We do.

Children/Young People: Will you celebrate our questions and discoveries?

Teachers: We will.

Children/Young People: Will you nurture in us a spirit to know and to love God?

Teachers: We will.

Children/Young People: Will you nurture in us the gift of joy and wonder in all God's works?

Teachers: We will.

Children/Young People (to congregation): First Congregational Church family, will you pray for and support us, our teachers and

task force members, our parents and families as we embark on this journey in Church School?

Congregation: Yes! We celebrate this vital ministry within our community of faith. We promise before God to support you in all your efforts with our prayers and resources.

Pastor: We have made promises to learn from and to support one another, to be open to the presence of God among us. Now together may we offer our commissioning prayer:

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the many people who make up our church, and especially today for the Ministry of our Church School. We ask you to bless the teachers who give of their time to care for and nurture the children of our congregation. We ask you to bless the children who are under their care, that they may experience You and know that they are loved. Send these teachers and children forth in the power of Your Spirit and may we all grow in our love for You and one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SONG

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*CLOSING SENTENCES

Leader: *Home is where we tie one end of the
thread of life.*

People: *And though these shattering walls are thin,
may they be strong to keep hate out and love in.*

Leader: *Home by different ways, yet all
homeward bound through prayer and praise.*

People: *Young with old and great with small,
Home by different ways.*

Buxbaum/Untermeyer/Rossetti

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe from *Water Music*

David Glukh, trumpet
G.F. Handel



Music Notes:

The combined anthem is arranged by the American composer, Joel Raney. Growing up in rural Alabama, Raney fostered a love for gospel music, and that is reflected in the arrangements he now creates. With over 200 works in print, he has degrees in choral conducting and piano performance (Juilliard School) and is currently Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Oak Park, IL.

Handel began working on his dramatic oratorio *Samson* (based on the story from Judges, chapter 16) just after composing *Messiah* in 1741, completing the 3-act score in just under 5 weeks. However, he was not satisfied with his work and revised the score in August of 1742, after which it was premiered in London in February of 1743. To this day, it remains one of his most performed oratorios. *Let the Bright Seraphim* is one of Handel's most familiar solos, with the soprano "conversing" with the trumpet, as well as joining together in duet passages throughout the piece.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

Music by the Chancel Choir:
I Got Shoes, arr. Alice Parker and
The Road Home by Stephen Paulus

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

Church School

Welcome to your Church School Home! We will be getting to know each other today and looking toward the year ahead. If you have not registered your child yet, you may do so on our website - www.fccog.org. Even visitors can register! Your children will go to Church School during the second hymn and will return to the Meetinghouse with their classes at the end of the service for the Church School Dedication.

Youth Choir

There is no Youth Choir rehearsal today.

THIS WEEK

Nights Off

Please join us tomorrow, *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).

New Website!

Coming tomorrow, *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.

NEXT WEEK

LINC, Our New Additional Worship Service, Starts Next Sunday!

Starting *Sunday, September 25*, join us for our new LINC Service starting at 5:00 pm. Come in your jeans and t-shirt and experience something completely new. Look for a mailing this week with more details.

Bible Study

A new Bible Study -- sometimes referred to as *The Spiritual Gym* -- will start next *Sunday, September 25*, beginning at 11:20 am. This is the best Bible Study within a hundred miles of where you are right now, so instead of driving all over trying to disprove that statement, all you have to do is walk up the stairs to the Lounge. For the next three weeks, we will be considering the letters of "John," 1st, 2nd and 3rd John. Aren't you glad he didn't write a dozen? Anyway, the three week format is designed for people who may not have ventured into this or any other Bible class for a long time and who would like to try it. If you don't like it, you get your money back (it's free). If you do, then maybe you'll consider the following study on the Gospel of John, which will run for six weeks before a break in the action. Led by one of our pastors, Dan England, the study tries to bring to light the historical context of the books we study as well as their practical application for today. We have a great time together (okay, so maybe not rollicking but still...) and you are most welcome. (If you don't know anything about the Bible, well, um, then this would seem to be the solution, no?)

Flu Vaccines

Sunday, September 25 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm - The Wellness Committee anticipates offering seasonal flu vaccines after the 10:00 am Worship Service and the new 5:00 pm LINC Worship Service. Please bring \$30 cash or check made out to FCCOG. Vaccines will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis to people 18 years of age or older. We are unable to bill insurances, but we can provide a receipt. Individuals under 18 should see their primary physician for the vaccine. Please call Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, at extension 21 with any questions.

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Emergency Response Mission Team

In the wake of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene, we would like to put together a new Emergency Response Mission Team for the future. If you are interested in becoming a member of this new mission team, please contact David Young for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive – *Saturday, October 8*

This community blood drive, sponsored by Women's Fellowship and the Wellness Committee, runs from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please donate the *Gift of Life* or donate some prepared food. Deviled eggs, finger sandwiches, veggies, or baked goods are all appreciated. Blood donation appointments can be made by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543). Food contributions can be planned by calling Betsy Kreuter at 203-698-3016. There will also be a sign-up sheet for refreshments at Coffee Hours beginning on September 25.

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!**

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

Today is Homecoming Sunday. The Rummage Room would like to take that a step further and make it Homecoming “Week”! To those of you who have been away for the summer, or have not visited The Rummage Room lately, we would like to remind you that “*We are Family*” too and we hope you will visit the shop very soon. We have wonderful things to sell; not only ‘gently used,’ but our retail donors have been generous, and if you are looking toward Christmas, we are the place to shop!!!! Our Halloween Shop will be up and running in just a few weeks with costumes for all. Come once and you’ll come often. We receive new donations every day.

Mission: Please remember that the mission of The Rummage Room is to raise funds for Women's and Children's organizations. This year people are suffering more than ever and are in need of our help for both food and comfort.

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

Donation hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm; and on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Wish List for September: Small furniture; adult and children's bikes; single and double strollers; musical instruments; jewelry; a boy's navy blue suit in size 8 or 10; knee length mink coat; and good handbags.

Family is like every other blessing – whether it's our own family, our church family or the sisterhood of women and children who need our help. The Rummage Room family of donors, volunteers and staff bring strength to one another and welcome relief to those in need.

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

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