

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9 October 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church on this fall Sunday. May this be a time of re-creation for all of us as we share in word, song and reflection, prompted in our worship by the insight of Dag Hammarskjöld:

God desires our independence, which we attain when, ceasing to strive for it ourselves, we “fall” back into God.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Two Preludes

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Charles Villiers Stanford

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

New Century (black) Hymnal 4

OPENING PRAYER

Be our vision today, O God,

so that we may see with new eyes.

Show us the sparks of your renewing love

in the most hopeless people

and situations we know.

Let us look upon our world today

with the eyes of faith,

knowing that finally everything is upheld

in your wholeness and love. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God of permanence,
we confess our fear of being tied down,
preferring to experience our lives as endless movement
toward goals of our own creation.

O God of perspective,
we confess our impatience with what has been,
wanting to hold our todays in safe distance
from those voices which reach us from our past.

O God of prospect,
we confess our personal flight from your plan,
desiring to chart our journey from those energies
whose origins we claim as our own.

Forgive us in this moment of beginning again
for running away from the deepest meaning of our creation,
for we would know you this day as the strength of our yesterdays
and the hope of all our tomorrows, 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

Peter Russell

Proverbs 29:6-11,18

In the transgression of the evil there is a snare,
but the righteous sing and rejoice.
The righteous know the rights of the poor;
the wicked have no such understanding.
Scoffers set a city aflame,
but the wise turn away wrath.
If the wise go to law with fools,
there is ranting and ridicule without relief.
The bloodthirsty hate the blameless,
and they seek the life of the upright.
A fool gives full vent to anger,
but the wise quietly holds it back.
Where there is no prophecy, the people cast off restraint,
but happy are those who keep the law.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Toccata of Praise

The Chancel Choir
Vance Briceland, piano
Joseph Martin

SECOND LESSON

Michael Russell

Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our

bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*‡HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 217

(As the hymn begins, the children will go with Rosemary to the Daniels Center for a Big Event. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center after worship.)

SERMON: *"Filling the Future"*

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
are the large fellowship of the Church, the people,
whom God loves.

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

The Chancel Choir

David Willcocks

***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

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Where are you going, I asked,

To places I have never been, was the answer.

People: What do you plan to do, I asked.

My purpose will be evident at journey's end.

Leader: Who has planned your itinerary, I asked.

Its plan will be revealed at times most unlikely.

People: Why would you consent to such a vague plan, I said.

*I accepted the challenge when I accepted God
was the answer.*

Mary Eleanor Rice

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Final Jubilante

Healey Willan



Music Notes:

Our Prelude and Postlude today come from two pillars in the world of sacred music on opposite sides of the pond:

- C.V. Stanford composed numerous pieces for choir, organ, and orchestra as well as for many other instruments. Stanford lived from 1852-1924 and taught composition at the Royal College of Music in London. Some of his pupils included Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Charles Wood and Herbert Howells.
- Healey Willan, often referred to as the “Dean of Canadian Composers,” lived from 1880-1968. Although an Englishman by birth, he moved to Toronto in 1920 to head the Theory Department at the Royal Conservatory of Music. While he continued to teach at the Conservatory and later at University of Toronto, Willan was most known for his post as Director of Music/Organist at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto, where he served from 1921 until his death in 1968. Despite his outwardly pious demeanor, his close friends and associates often called Willan “English by birth; Canadian by adoption; Irish by extraction; Scotch by absorption.”

(highlights extracted from *Wikipedia*)

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by Michael Pellegrino and John Stansell in memory of their parents and John's brother, Jere.

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 is a "Big Event" Sunday in Church School. After beginning in worship, our children ages 4 - 10 will go to the Daniels Center with Rosemary and her helpers for a multi-age program. Children 11 and older are invited to be helpers with our younger ones.

Second Hour

The Church Committee invites you to a Second Hour today immediately after Coffee Hour, to bring closure to concerns related to the resignation of Rev. Susan Murtha and to hear what has been learned from her exit interview. David will give a brief review of how we are handling our current transition and will be proceeding for the coming year with one fewer full-time clergy. We will also explain how you can be involved in the Church Committee's plans to take a fresh look at three important issues that Susan raised at her exit

interview and that the Committee feels affect us all: Church decision-making and governance, Clergy housing and compensation, and how we can be a more welcoming Church. These three areas will be discussed in future conversation within the congregation over the coming months. If you are not able to attend today's Second Hour, please know that there will be time and opportunity for you to be engaged in the conversation going forward. The Church Committee will follow up with a communication after the meeting that will detail this endeavor and the opportunities for participation.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Bible Study

There is no Bible Study today, but join us next Sunday when we will focus on the I AM sayings of Jesus and John. They are full of promise but sometimes troubling. Consider: "I am the way the truth and the life. No man comes to the father but by me." Wait a minute...Is Christianity an inclusive faith or an exclusive faith? What does he mean? What do you think he means? So join us at 11:20 am in the Lounge next Sunday (and beyond) for questions, insights and Bible study of an unusual kind.

Flu Vaccines

The Wellness Committee is again offering seasonal flu vaccines today after the 10:00 am Worship Service (from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm) and after the 5:00 pm LINC Worship Service (from 6:00 to 6:30 pm). 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.

New 5:00 pm Worship Service

Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our new **linc** worship service. Come in your jeans and t-shirt and experience something completely new. Mark Montgomery will be leading the service.

THIS WEEK

Hats Off - Book Discussion Group

"Hats Off" will begin reading a new book this *Thursday, October 13*; *A First Rate Madness* by S. Nasir Ghaemi. Copies will be available in the Church Office. Please join us from 9:45-11:30 am on Thursdays. Have any questions? Call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off

On *Monday, October 17*, Nights Off will meet at Sue Asselin's house for a Movie Night and refreshments. Please bring an easy appetizer and whatever beverage you would like to drink. Any questions, please call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email her at fbtworld@aol.com. All are welcome.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member class will be held on *Sunday, October 23* at 11:15 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. (Child care will be provided.) During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our Congregational denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Please feel welcome to join us. We will receive new members on Sunday, November 6 during the 10:00 am Worship Service. For questions or to indicate your interest in attending please contact David Young at dyoung@fccog.org or Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org.

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.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

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!**

Have You “Liked” FCCOG’s Facebook Page Yet?

Please check out our Facebook page either by going through fccog.org or searching 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

October: The Halloween Shop is open for business so come in and select Halloween costumes for the entire family. Be sure to bring the children so they can see the Halloween display in the front window, created entirely from donated items. If the past is any indicator, our amazing staff will again be honored with awards for “Best Window Display” in the Old Greenwich/Greenwich area. **Don’t miss it!**



Manager Maria’s Wish List: Clothing and costumes for Halloween, and items for seasonal decorating; small furniture; good handbags; never-used gifts for the Christmas Shop in December.

Volunteers Needed: The good news is that the shop continues to grow in sales and in the amount of money it generates for supporting women’s and children’s causes. With the closing of several other thrift shops in town, our donations, which require sorting, pricing, displaying and checking out at the cash register, have increased substantially. The bad news is that this increased activity is labor intensive and we have too few volunteers to handle it efficiently. **You could help** by volunteering even two hours a week at your convenience. Please call Maria Drieghe at 203-637-1875.

Donations: Donations are rolling in ... that's the good news! The bad news is that The Rummage Room is being used too often as a dumping ground. Approximately 70% of the donations are not salable at The Rummage Room and have to be disposed of in other ways. Although some of them are gifted to other charities, too much is in such poor condition that it goes directly to the dumpster. Of course, having the dumpster carted away several times a week is an expense that takes away from the funds The Rummage Room Allocations Committee distributes to the charities we support. We need clean, usable clothing that you would come in and buy yourself. As always, The Rummage Room is grateful to our many wonderful shoppers and donors who have been our salvation for the past 48 years!

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.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Chancel Choir, *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* by Leo Sowerby

The Children's Choir, *God of Grace and God of Laughter*

by John Bertalot

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Come as you are and bring all your friends
to this new worship service!

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery, preaching

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