

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Stewardship Sunday**

16 October 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



*“Circle of Life” Quilt Credits:  
Maggie Szafranski, Quilter (<http://maggiemayquilts.blogspot.com/>)  
Jacqueline de Jonge of Be Colourful, Pattern Designer*

**W**ELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. This is Stewardship Sunday when our hearts and minds begin to meditate on our pledged intentions in support of the church's ministry during the coming year of 2012. Theologian, Paul Tillich, reminds us of a twin truth:

*Religion is, first, an open hand to receive a gift, and,  
second, an acting hand to distribute gifts.*

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**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

**PRELUDE**

*Trumpet Tune*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ  
Christopher Tambling*

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Dr. David D. Young*

**PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

New Century (black) Hymnal 70

**OPENING PRAYER**

Your purposes touch our lives  
at the growing edge,  
O God of encouragement.

Be present to us  
as a faith community  
in this brief hour  
of growth and stewardship,  
that we might be equipped  
for faithful living  
in the company of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

You have called us to a life of simplicity,

O God of our salvation, but our lives are cluttered  
with many things, rendering us insensitive to your calling.

You have prompted us in the rich ways of sharing,

O God of our redemption, but we are skilled at holding tight,  
pushing us beyond your prompting.

You have prodded us toward a lifestyle of service,

O God of transformation, but we are more comfortable  
with being served, distancing us from the influence of  
your prodding.

Forgive us this day for our dimness in seeing and following,  
for we would be renewed as disciples of Jesus whose  
simplicity, whose sharing, whose service, marked his life  
as one which was faithful to your purposes.

We now pray the prayer he taught us, saying...

#### 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

*Gwen Pfetsch*

Malachi 3:6-12

**F**or I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?” Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

#### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*God of Grace and God of Laughter*

*The Children's Choir*  
*Vance Briceland, piano*  
John Bertalot

#### SECOND LESSON

*Anne Wachsmann*

#### Matthew 21:33-43

“**L**isten to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

**\*‡HYMN**

*Take My Gifts*

New Century (black) Hymnal 562

*(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.)*

**SERMON:** “*The Circle of Life*”

*Dr. David D. Young*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The world needs all of our power and love and energy, and each of us has something we can give. The trick is to find it and use it, to find it and give it away, so there will always be more. We can be lights for each other, and through each other’s illumination we will see the way. Each of us is a seed, a silent promise, and it is always spring. Let it be. Amen.

*Merle Shain*

**\*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. Avery C. Manchester*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*

*The Chancel Choir  
Linnea Conley, alto  
Leo Sowerby*

\*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

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

*New Century (black) Hymnal 565*

\*CLOSING SENTENCES

*Leader: A Christian is someone to whom God entrusts all of  
humanity.*

*People: Without sacrifice there is no resurrection. Nothing  
grows and blooms save by giving.*

*Leader: All you try to save in yourself wastes and perishes. How  
do you know the fruit is ripe? Because it leaves the bush.*

*People: All things ripen for giving's sake and in the giving are  
consummated.*

*Dwight L. Moody/Andre Gide*

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "God of Grace"*

*Paul Manz*

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### Music Notes:

Continuing a thread from last week on some of the great composers of various nationalities, this week we come upon Leo Sowerby, who was born in Grand Rapids, MI in 1895. To many, he is referred to as the “Dean of American Church Music.” For the bulk of his career, from 1927-1955, Sowerby was Director of Music/Organist at St. James Episcopal Church in Chicago. He is a Pulitzer Prize winning composer, receiving the distinguished award for his cantata *Canticle of the Sun* in 1944. Shortly after his retirement from St. James, Sowerby was called to the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. to help found the College of Church Musicians. He died in 1968 in Port Clinton, OH.

John Bertalot was born in England in 1931 and, for a short time, was Director of Music/Organist at Trinity Episcopal in Princeton, NJ from 1983-1998 as well as an adjunct professor of church music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. *God of Grace and God of Laughter* was written for the Connecticut Diocesan (Episcopal) Choir Camp in 1988.

### *Next Week at First Congregational Church*

#### **10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse**

Anthems by The Chancel Choir:

*Jubilate Deo* by Benjamin Britten

*O Thou, the Central Orb* by Charles Wood

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

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#### **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

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of Connie Stack, by her daughter, Heather, and Jeffrey, Ainsley and Tommy Sahrbeck.

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](http://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*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

Today most classes will look at the story of Jacob's Ladder, while our 6th graders will learn about Joshua. There are Regular Church School classes every Sunday from now until November 18 when the entire congregation worships together for Harvest Sunday. On *Sunday, October 30*, the 5th Grades will go to a Halloween party at Pilgrim Towers in Stamford. And on *Saturday, October 29*, Church School families are invited to volunteer at Neighbor to Neighbor. Let Rosemary know if you are interested.

#### **The Hunger Mission Team**

This is "Bread for the World" Sunday and to "honor" it, Mission Team representatives will be in Coffee Hour with information about this Christian organization dedicated to ending hunger at home and abroad. They will also have information about local opportunities to

help feed the hungry. Stop by and see what's new or sign up to join the team!

### **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**

Join us today at 11:20 am in the Lounge as we continue our focus on the I AM sayings of Jesus and John.

### **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.

### **linc**

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.

### **Y! - Youth Ministry**

The Youth Ministry programs (Y!) for FCCOG will meet tonight! Come to linc first at 5:00 pm, if you'd like, and then stick around for the Y! programs. SPF (Grades 9-12) will gather on the stage in the Auditorium and JPF (Grades 6-8) will meet in the Daniels Center. Both JPF and SPF start at 6:00 pm.

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## **THIS WEEK**

### **Nights Off Movie Night**

Nights Off, the Women's Fellowship evening group open to all, will meet tomorrow, *Monday, October 17*, 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 or directions, please call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email her at [fbtworld@aol.com](mailto:fbtworld@aol.com). Please join us.

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## NEXT WEEK

### Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next New Member class will be held next *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](mailto:dyoung@fccog.org) or Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org).

### Another Neighbor to Neighbor opportunity for FCCOG

On *October 29* from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm we will be filling the volunteer spots for both the Food Pantry and the Clothing Room at Neighbor to Neighbor. We were fortunate to have had sufficient volunteers in September so let's keep our track record going. This day is "sponsored" by the Hunger Mission Team but everyone is invited to help - family groups, couples, singles, young and younger! Please contact Rosemary Lamie (ext. 20 or [RosemaryL@fccog.org](mailto:RosemaryL@fccog.org)) if you will join us.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Hold the Date for Wonderful Wednesday – *November 9*

Mark your calendars for the first Wonderful Wednesday of the new program year!

## **First Congregational Church Preschool Enrollment for 2012-2013**

The First Congregational Church Preschool offers an active preschool experience for 3 and 4 year old children. The Preschool also offers a Connecting Program for children who are eligible for kindergarten but are not quite ready to attend the public school program.

Children need to be three years of age by December 31, 2011 in order to be eligible for the 2012-2013 preschool programs. **Note:** Active members of our congregation are given 1st priority in their class selection if you have submitted your application and deposit by **November 4**. Please contact Interim Preschool Director, Penny Gelman at 203-637-5430 or [pennyg@fccog.org](mailto:pennyg@fccog.org) for more information about enrolling your child for the 2012-2013 school year.

## **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](http://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**

**Manager Maria’s Wish List for the Coming Week:** *Halloween clothing, costumes and decorating items; a card table; good handbags; a single jogging stroller.* The manager has a **50% Off Sale** on three or four different categories of Rummage Room merchandise beginning Monday mornings and available for sale through Saturdays. The choices are different every week.

**Volunteers Needed:** The Rummage Room especially needs volunteers during the coming Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Plus several thrift shops have closed in our area in the past few years and, while we have been blessed to have their former customers, the increased activity for The Rummage Room means we need more volunteers to price, display, and help run the shop. If you have even

two hours a week to donate, please call Maria Drieghe at The Rummage Room, 203-637-1875, and know that your help will be a God send!

Please continue to donate clean, presentable clothing and other goods. In these particularly difficult times, we need even more help for the charities The Rummage Room helps support. Life is precious to all of us and it has been often said that “we make a life by what we give rather than what we receive!” Let us make the giving to our women and children groups the most we can give during the coming seasons. Thanks to all.

### **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. If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto: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.



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## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

[www.fccog.org](http://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