

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

30 October 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



The Lens of Commitment

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we focus our faith during this season of Stewardship. Today is Reformation Sunday and we are specifically looking to focus our faith through the lens of commitment. May our time of worship strengthen both your devotion and commitment to God and God's work in the world.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Legende et Final Symphonique (1882) Felix-Alexandre Guilmant

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Dr. David D. Young

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century (black) Hymnal 558

OPENING PRAYER

You have called us into your church, O God,
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to serve you in serving the human family,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil.

In gratitude we accept your call,
we praise your holy name,
and we testify to your loving deeds. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

We have promised
to live as your people, God.
Yet we must confess
we often fail you and one another,
we do not honor each other,
we do not work together to your glory,
we too often refuse your cry for help
in the voice of the poor, the hungry, the homeless.
We are unfaithful
to the trust you place in us.
Merciful God, receive us as we are
and forgive us.
Encourage us with your love
and renew in us your right Spirit.
Through the grace you show us
in Jesus Christ, 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

Charlotte Lorthioir

Proverbs 16:1-9

The plans of the mind belong to mortals,
but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

All one's ways may be pure in one's own eyes,
but the Lord weighs the spirit.
Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.
The Lord has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of trouble.
All those who are arrogant are an abomination to the Lord;
be assured, they will not go unpunished.
By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
and by the fear of the Lord one avoids evil.
When the ways of people please the Lord,
he causes even their enemies to be at peace with them.
Better is a little with righteousness
than large income with injustice.
The human mind plans the way,
but the Lord directs the steps.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*The Youth Choir; Charlie Baird, soloist
Carolyn Paulus, director*

Elohai N'tzor (from the closing of the "Amida" Prayer)

Danny Maseng

*Elohai n'tzor l'shoni meira,
Us'fatai midabeir mir'ma,
V'lim'kal'lai naf'shi tidom,*

*O God, keep my tongue from evil,
and my lips from deceit.
Help me to be silent in the face of
derision,*

*V'naf'shi ke'afar lakol
tihiyeh, Elohai*

*Humble in the presence of all, O
God.*

*P'tach libi b'toratecha.
Y'hiyu l'ratzon im'rei fi
V'hegyon libi l'fanecha,*

*Open my heart to Your Torah.
May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart be
acceptable to you,*

Adonai tzuri v'goali.

God, my Rock and my Redeemer.

SECOND LESSON

Sue McCalley

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

*‡HYMN

We Are Not Our Own

New Century (black) Hymnal 564

(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 Lens of Commitment*"

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Leader: Thou that has given so much to me
Give one thing more – a grateful heart.*

*People: Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had spare days;
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.*

*Leader: Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me
best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower*

where I thought a flower would grow.

People: *And so we offer ourselves and gifts of hand and heart, that this place of worship and community life might be enabled and strengthened for continued faithfulness in the ministry of Christ.*

Leader: *The Lord who created must wish us to create and employ our creation again in God's service which is already God's in creating.*

People: *For humankind is joined spirit and body, and therefore must serve as spirit and body. Visible and invisible, two world's meet in humankind; visible and invisible must meet in God's Temple.*

Leader: *Because it is by grace you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God.*

People: *We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning God has meant us to live it.*

George Herbert/Abraham Lincoln/T.S. Eliot/Paul of Tarsus

***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 AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Lovely Are Thy Messengers

*The Chancel Choir
Felix Mendelssohn*

***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.*

Foundation of the Church.” (Resource: from the table of contents in the Dover edition *Franz Liszt Organ Works*)

Felix-Alexandre Guilmant was born in France and began early study of the organ with his father, who was a student of the famous Belgian organist Jacques Lemmens. He composed hundreds of compositions for the organ, including a version of his 1st Symphony for organ and orchestra, which you may remember was performed in another version in this Meetinghouse by virtuoso Hector Olivera. Guilmant was appointed organist at La Trinite in Paris, a position he held for over 30 years. In addition to his church position, he taught organ at the Paris Conservatory, where he succeeded Charles Marie Widor as organ professor.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

**10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Communion Sunday**

Music by:

Dorothy Darlington, English horn

Anthems by The Chancel Choir:

And I Saw a New Heaven by Edgar Bainton

Steal Away, Arr. John Leavitt

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 flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Lillian and Edmund Hoffman by their families.

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

Task Force Sign-Up

At the Second Hour held on October 9, the Church Committee announced its plan to look at three topics of current interest and concern to First Congregational Church: *church governance, pastor housing, and becoming a more welcoming church community*. A task force will be formed to study each of these areas, discuss how they could and should reflect our priorities and aspirations, and come up with recommendations as to how that can be accomplished.

Conversations around these topics will begin in November, and take place over the winter months. The Committee is hoping for widespread participation from the congregation -- this is a chance to speak up and be heard! **Please sign up for one or more of these task forces at Coffee Hour after today's service, or call the Church office to indicate your interest.**

Church School

Today the 5th graders begin their Outreach program with a trip to Pilgrim Towers in Stamford. We will leave the church at 11:15 am

and return at 1:00 pm. Most of our classes will be learning about Joseph and the coat of many colors his father gave him and why that was significant. The 3rd graders continue their unit on Moses and the 6th graders will learn about King Saul as found in 1 Samuel.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

There will be no Youth Choir rehearsal today. Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Bible Study

Today, we will take a look at a saying found only in the Gospel of John, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the father but by me." This saying troubles some people but understood in the context of the entire 14th chapter, it makes sense. Still, it should make for interesting thinking and talking. Led by Dan England, this study of John will also take a look at Jesus' healing of the official's son in chapter 4. So join the throng in the Lounge at 11:15 am.

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.

THIS WEEK

First Congregational Church Preschool Holiday Boutique

The FCCOG Preschool holiday boutique will be held *Wednesday, November 2* from 1:00-9:00 pm. There will be many unique vendors and silent auction items. Be sure to join us. For more information, please contact Jenny Allen, Fundraising Chair of Parent Committee, at 203-637-0275 or jennifer.allen01@yahoo.com.

NEXT WEEK

It's Time to Fall Back!

Daylight Saving Time ends next *Sunday, November 6*. Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.

Wonderful Wednesday is Coming – November 9

Mark your calendars for the first Wonderful Wednesday of the new program year! Look for details in the November Meetinghouse Monthly out this week.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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 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!**

Join Us on Facebook

Please check out the FCCOG 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

Halloween: Tomorrow, *Monday, October 31* is Trick or Treat Night for the youngest to the oldest goblins, witches, and pirates! All day tomorrow manager Maria has declared a treat for all those who enter The Rummage Room... 50% off **everything** in the shop. The trick is that you **must** come in Halloween costume in order to have your treat! Come one, come all and shop ‘til you drop. Remember, you are helping many women and children’s organizations when you buy and donate.

Wish List: Thanksgiving items; small furniture; good jewelry; good handbags.

Volunteers: Women and men volunteers are needed, particularly through the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Call Maria at The Rummage Room at 203-637-1975.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once said, *“Happiness means having something to do and something to live for.”* We guarantee, the friends you make at The Rummage Room will bring you happiness and become an important part of your life!

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