

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Ingathering Sunday

6 November 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



The Lens of Community

*Photo Credit: World of Bubbles Project
Tom Storm, photographer - www.TomStorm.net*

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church as we celebrate Ingathering Sunday. This is a season to connect gratitude, gifts, service, commitment, and community! This morning we are focusing our faith through the lens of community. In the words of Albert Schweitzer, the great medical missionary:

“The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed, when we feel we have been needed somewhere and have lent a helping hand, is the nourishment the soul requires. Without those times when we feel ourselves to be part of the spiritual world by our actions, our souls decay.”

It is through stewardship in all its manifestations that we are connected to God’s great circle of life. Welcome!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Larghetto Religioso

Dorothy Darlington, English horn

Oskar Wermann

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

New Century (black) Hymnal 400

OPENING PRAYER

O God,

whose enlivening spirit

enables all creation to be,

touch us in this holy hour
at the growing edge
of our relational being
that we might be renewed
in those covenants we have chosen
after the image of your faithful child
even Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

O God, 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 community and 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

Phoebe Griffith

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Steal Away

The Chancel Choir

Arr. John Leavitt

Dorothy Darlington, English horn

Vance Briceland, piano

SECOND LESSON

Joe McBride

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between

us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*‡HYMN

I Come with Joy

New Century (black) Hymnal 349

(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 Community*”

Dr. David D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roll Call of Candidates

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Leader: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Do you here affirm your consecration in God through Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Leader: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of one Master in the Church Universal. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the bonds of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things most surely believed among us concerning faith, polity and fellowship.

Owning of the Covenant (*all, standing*)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again, and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. As Jesus accepted, welcomed, included and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our search to walk in the ways of the Lord. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of God and laboring for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human understanding. Depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

Right Hand of Fellowship

SONG OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verse 1)

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Daniel B. England

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And I Saw a New Heaven

*The Chancel Choir
Edgar Bainton*

*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

A WORD OF COMMITMENT

Tim Coleman

(Presentation of pledge cards will be included in Communion)

INGATHERING AND COMMUNION

Words of Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Serving of the Bread and Cup

This morning we will receive communion by intinction as we combine the movement of coming forward to receive the elements with the act of presenting our pledge cards. The ushers will direct the congregation in coming down the center aisle and returning by use of the side aisles. If you need to remain in your seat, the ministers will bring communion to you. Gluten-free bread is available.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Canticle

*Dorothy Darlington, English horn
Charles Callahan*

John Leavitt was born in Kansas in 1956 and received his undergraduate education at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, a Master's Degree from Wichita State University, and the Doctorate of Musical Arts from The Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has composed and arranged hundreds of compositions, primarily for choir. He currently teaches on the faculty of the MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, KS.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given in loving memory of C.A. and Joan Westbrook by their family.

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.

New Members Joining Today

Margaret (Maggie) and Chris Lange, 108 Shore Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-388-8492. Maggie comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith and Chris by Reaffirmation of Faith. Chris is an investor at Shumway Capital and Maggie is a part-time realtor with William Raveis. They just welcomed their first child, Thomas Henry, and also live with their Burnese Mountain dog, Klaus, and cat, Keelesh. Maggie and Chris

both enjoy skiing and traveling. Chris is originally from Ossining, NY and Maggie from Concord, MA.

Lenore and Marc Mallett, 235 Sycamore Terrace, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-276-0766. Lenore comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith and Marc by Letter of Transfer from University Congregational Seattle. Marc is a VP of Sales in Internet Marketing and Lenore is a stay-at-home mom. They met at Yahoo, Inc. and were married in 2007. Marc is originally from Seattle, WA and Lenore from Kingston, NY. They moved to Stamford in 2005. Their daughter, Eloise, was born in 2009 and they are expecting their second child in December 2011.

Susan Heidere and Michael Simko, 30 Bramble Lane, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-637-0830. Susan and Michael come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. They have two sons, Carter (7) and Alexander (3).

Sara and Charles Stuckey, 310 Halliwell Drive, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-355-2820. Sara comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith and Charles by Reaffirmation of Faith. Charles works for RBS in the Finance Department and Sara is a mother and homemaker. They are both originally from Kansas City and have lived in Connecticut for six years. Sara and Charles have two children, Charlie (2) and Alison (1). They are excited to have found a church to get themselves and their children involved in.

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 this month, 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 most of our classes will continue learning about Joseph and his dreams. The 3rd graders will review what they know about David and learn some new material about Daniel. The 6th graders (who continue to meet in the Pastor's Office next to David Young's office) will also learn about David as King. Pastor's Class is in worship today.

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

At this week's Bible Study in the Lounge at 11:20, we'll be considering the delightful story in John 5 and the difficult "I am" saying in John 14, where Jesus compares himself to a gate and a shepherd. Huh? Oh, and guess who the sheep are? Anyway, if you aren't interested in the text, you might be amused when members of the class ask questions the leader sometimes can't answer. All in all, a very sporting time.

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.

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. The theme today will be *Support System - Philemon verses 4-7*: Do you have someone in your life that is your rock? The

person on whom you can rely regardless of the circumstances? Do you have more than one person that fits this description? Come hear the story of Paul and his relationship with Philemon as we explore the importance of relationships and the ways that they encourage our understanding of God. 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. JPF and SPF will both meet at 6:00 pm for Teepee night!

THIS WEEK

Wonderful Wednesday is this *Wednesday, November 9*

Join us this Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for a *wonderful* time! We'll start with a delicious dinner at 6:00 pm and then break up into groups to attend some mentally and spiritually stimulating and fun classes, including one especially for kids. Please see the November Meetinghouse Monthly for more details and a complete listing of classes. See you on Wednesday!

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off

Nights Off, the Women's Fellowship evening group, will gather on *Monday, November 14* at the home of Barbara Norrgard to participate in the Church World Service Kit Program...a worthy project that supplies School Kits that provide kids in impoverished schools, refugee camps and other difficult settings with some of the basic tools of learning. For further information, directions or to be added to the email list, please contact Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email her at fbtworld@aol.com. All are welcome.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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

Manager, Maria’s Wish List for November: Thanksgiving donations, as they will be constantly in need this month; small furniture; good handbags (and many thanks to you who have responded to this need).

Hours: The Rummage Room is open 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 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday.

Rupert Stephens, pioneering organic farmer and father of Arran, Nature’s Path founder, once said, *“Always leave the Earth better than you found it!”* Because of your donations and your purchases of new and gently used goods, you are helping to leave this Earth a better place by your recycling. And equally important, the proceeds from your generous giving go to help women and children’s organizations who so desperately need these funds to feed and clothe those less fortunate.

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*:

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord, Felix Mendelssohn

Lay Me Low, Arr. Kevin Siegfrid

Dr. David D. Young, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Broadway Bible

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

Leader: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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