

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

21 August 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



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.



Welcome to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this beautiful Sunday morning! Please join us after the service for refreshments and conversation during Community Hour in the Memory Garden.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Elegie

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Joseph Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Paul Ghaffari, violin

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Meghan D. Young

(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love—

**People: neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers—
a community of kindred hearts.**

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know—

**People: strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,
the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

Leader: People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here.

**People: In me, in you, in each of us,
God's spirit shines for all to see.**

Leader: People of God, come. Let us worship together.

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

Womb of Life, and Source of Being

New Century
(black) Hymnal 274

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving God, too often we play hide and seek with you.

**We know you are always ready to receive us
but we are not as ready to open ourselves
to your abiding presence.**

**Ready or not, God, here we come,
bounding into your presence
enlivened by your own spirit
rushing energy through all our veins.**

**Ready or not, here we come,
knowing all too well that we are the ones
who hide ourselves from you.**

**You are the seeking one,
you are the God who finds our lost hearts.**

**Ready or not, here we come,
some of us struggling to quiet ourselves,
some of us trying hard to get excited.**

Stir in us all a spirit of expectation and a love of surprises.

**Gather us together: your children, one and all –
ready to laugh
ready to cry
ready to sing
ready to love and be loved.**

Ready or not, God, here we come!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Spencer William Gartner, son of Jennifer Gartner & James Gartner

BAPTISM PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Spencer that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

New Century
(black) Hymnal 325

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

(During the Baptismal Response, children will leave with Rosemary for Church School – Summer Faith.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Judges 6:11-24a

Jean Watkins

(This is Gideon's story. The tribes of Israel are continually being attacked, oppressed by the Midianites, and forced to worship Baal. God calls upon Gideon, the weakest and the least. Eventually Israel will have 40 years of peace in the days of Gideon.)

SOLO

Andrew Peterson, baritone
Lord God of Abraham (from Elijah) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Draw near, all ye people, come to me!

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel; this day let it be known that
Thou art God,

And I am Thy servant! Lord God of Abraham!

Oh shew to all this people that I have done these things according to
Thy word!

Oh hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and
Israel,

Oh hear me and answer me, and shew this people that Thou art Lord
God.

And let their hearts again be turned!

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 1:4-10

(Jeremiah's call and commission. He is just a boy. But he is, and will be, a great prophet. God appoints him, not a king, over nations and kingdoms. God will eventually make a new covenant with Jeremiah, one in which the human heart will be transformed to intimately know God.)

SERMON

The Wrong People

Rev. Meghan D. Young

*** HYMN**

Thuma Mina

New Century (black) Hymnal 360

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Barbara Norrgard

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Summer Choir

O Bless the Lord, My Soul Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1935)

O bless the Lord, my soul, and let all that is within me bless his holy name.

O bless the Lord, my soul, and do not forget all of his generous acts: who forgives all of your wrongs, your iniquities, your sins, and who heals all your diseases, all of your ills; who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with loving kindness, compassion and steadfast love. (Psalm 103:1-4)

*** DOXOLOGY**

New Century (black) Hymnal 779

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter, One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

Take My Life and Let It Be

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 404

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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The flowers in the meeting house this morning are given in joyful celebration of the baptism of Spencer William Gartner.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in the Preschool classrooms. Your children are always welcome in child care for the entire worship service or for a respite time if needed. We also now have two rows in the back of the chapel reserved for parents with infants or little ones who are not ready for the Nursery where the parents can be comfortable and still be part of worship. Please see an usher if you need help finding either of these locations.

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.

Child care remains available at the 10:00 am service every Sunday for babies through 4 years old.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Church School – “Bible Stories at the Beach” & “Summer Faith”
“Summer Faith” is a multi-age program during the 10 a.m. worship, for children ages 5-10. Children 3 and 4 years old are welcome in child care or in Summer Faith. Also, at 8 a.m. at Greenwich Point, between the Innis Arden Cottage and the Susie Baker Pavilion, there is a children's program - “Bible Stories at the Beach”. Upcoming sessions are: Aug 28 and Sept 4.

Please join us on Sunday, August 28 for a celebration of the ministry of Rev. Meghan D. Young as she concludes her tenure as Transitional Associate Pastor. Following the 10 a.m. worship service, we will gather as a community to bid her farewell and Godspeed. Meghan will be in attendance at both services that morning. If you're not able to attend that Sunday, please share your gratitude with Meghan through a phone call or email.

News from The Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

WHO: The Rummage Room

WHAT: The 52nd Grand Re-opening

WHEN: Monday, August 22nd. Doors open promptly at 10:00 am!

WHERE: 191 Sound Beach Avenue

WHY: The Rummage Room was established in 1964 by The Women's Fellowship with the intent that all proceeds would go to help women, children, and families in need. Over 5 million dollars has been raised and distributed in the past 52 years, thanks to devoted Customers and Donors.

Tuesday, August 23: Donations will be accepted again at 9:30 am.

Leanne's Wish List: Jewelry, men's ties, and table linens.

Question of the Week: Isn't it amazing how certain events can expand our hearts as big as a hot air balloon and set us sailing across the sky? Not only does a trip to The Rummage Room elevate us, but makes it possible for those less fortunate to sail across the sky with us!!

Summer Sings

Come as you are from 7:30-9:30 on Wednesday, August 31 and, within two hours, we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of great choral music. Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included! No sign-up necessary, just come ready to sing. Donation of \$10 per person.

Wednesday, August 31 — The BEST Anthems in the World!

Craig Scott Symons, conductor, Mark Swicegood, accompanist

Summer Choir – All Are Welcome!

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, starting at **9:00 am in the Meetinghouse** for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship, and it's also a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 22).

Refugee Task Force

The Refugee Task Force needs help researching employment opportunities for a refugee family. We are assuming that there will be two adults who initially speak little or no English. Entry level jobs that require minimal English are needed to help the refugee family become self-sufficient. Being accessible by public transportation would be a plus.

If Church Council approves an application to sponsor a refugee family, it will be several months before they would arrive. However, we need to include information on the availability of jobs on any such application.

If you can help with this research or know of available jobs, please contact Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 (gfb Bruder1@verizon.net), or Mary Ferry at 203-637-9385 (ferry600@gmail.com).



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. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner