

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

11 September 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
Offertoire

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist
César Franck (1822-1890)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl

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

REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Leader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

CHORAL INTROIT

* HYMN

O for a World

New Century (black) Hymnal 575

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

O God, your steadfast love is always there for us in times of joy and trial. Your steadfast love is there for us when apathy grips us, and when enthusiasm is ours. Your steadfast love is there for us in our solitary moments, and when we share faith in community. Your steadfast love is there for us as we stay in familiar territory, and as we venture and risk. Your love never leaves us! Living God, Love itself, live in our hearts now and forever. We ask this in Jesus' name, saying the words he teaches us...

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Exodus 32: 7-14

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"' The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

--New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

Ninety and Nine

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Ira Sankey (1840-1908)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 15: 1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

--New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

Come Celebrate with Me

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*** HYMN**

O God of Love, O God of Peace New Century (black) Hymnal 571

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Phil Bradford

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Kumbaya

The Chancel Choir
arr. Paul Sjolund (b. 1935)

*** 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**

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer New Century (black) Hymnal 18

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Cwm Rhondda'

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

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Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

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

9/11 Memorial

This afternoon, Sunday, September 11, the town of Greenwich will hold a 9/11 event at the Cos Cob Park at 5 p.m. Two glass towers were dedicated last year as a lasting tribute to the victims of the 2001 tragedy. Our own Rev. Richard DenUyl will be offering a prayer at this gathering.

Church School

Classes begin on Homecoming Sunday, September 18 but you can register your children now on our website, www.fccog.org. Homecoming is a great day to invite friends and neighbors and that includes children! The first Sunday in church school is a "get to know each other" day as well as an introduction to the year ahead. Since we have children from many different schools, this is a great time to be introduced to each other.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following worship in the Memory Garden during Community Hour.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Sunday, September 11: Remembering 9/11/2001: Tears are often the telescope through which we can see into Heaven. We continue to weep for SO many!

Monday, September 12: Manager Leanne's 50%-off sale items for the week may be found on the church website at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Shopping Hours: 10 - 5 pm Mon-Fri pm & 10 – 1 pm on Sat.

Donation Hours: 9:30- 4:30 pm Mon-Thur & 9:30-12:30 pm Sat.

Manager's Wish List: Small appliances like radios, coffee makers etc. in good condition; ladies sweaters; winter boots for children; and a double stroller.

Thought for the week: To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

Kettle Quilters

The Kettle Quilters are putting together the 2017 Raffle Quilt, which needs to be completed by the spring. Good fellowship, advice, laughter and tips for young and old are freely exchanged.

Join us in the Binney Conference room on Monday mornings 9 - 12 and Monday evenings 7 - 9 pm. Please let us know you will join us at kettlequilters@gmail.com !

First Church Orchestra

If you play an instrument, please join us for our First Church Orchestra! We will be playing in worship on Homecoming Sunday, Sept 18. There is only one rehearsal, Saturday September 17, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., in the Meetinghouse. Invite your friends to come with you, too! There will be two pieces played in worship: Joyful Joyful (which was played in June for Children's Sunday) and Sent Forth by God's Blessing. Please email Craig at craigs@fccog.org as soon as possible to get the music and reserve your spot.

**SAIL INTO FALL
HOMECOMING 2016**
Sunday, September 18
10 am Service & Church School
Followed by Picnic and Fun for Everyone!



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.

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

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