

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

18 September 2016
10 o'clock in the morning



Sailing into Fall

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 our Sail into Fall Homecoming celebration.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Triumphal Song

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Harvey Gaul (1881-1945)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Chris Hartwell

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with faith and joy!

People: For God has done wondrous things for us.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

People: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!

All: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today!

SOLO

Bless this House

Thomas Woodman, baritone

May H. Brahe (1884-1956)

*** HYMN**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

New Century (black) Hymnal 59

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

Great Spirit, we gather here this morning in the safe harbor of your sanctuary, ever grateful for your guiding presence.

During this time together, may your Holy Spirit breathe new life into us, reviving our souls and inspiring our spirits. And when the time comes to faithfully weigh anchor and journey onward, may we pour out your love and grace to others, bringing comfort and joy to all the earth. Amen.

LITANY OF BLESSING

Rev. Richard DenUyl: Today, we mark the beginning of something new. New members, new classes, new teaching opportunities, new voices, a new program year, and new possibilities. We see opportunities for a stronger faith and a stronger church. We see opportunities to be a healthier and more vibrant community. As such, we ask each of you to proclaim your part in this faith journey we share. When your groups are called, please remain standing for the entire litany.

Will members of the Church Council, Diaconate, Asset Management, Buildings and Grounds, Budget, Personnel, Stewardship, and Nominating committees please stand?

Church Council, Diaconate, Asset Management, Buildings and Grounds, Budget, Personnel, Stewardship, and Nominating: We promise to use our resources with responsibility to further the message of God. Together, we will dream a future for our congregation that is responsible, bold, and faithful.

Rosemary Lamie: Will those serving as Church School teachers, members of the Church School Task Force, Faith Formation, Education, Preschool Board, and Historical committees please stand?

Church School Teachers and Church School Task Force Members and members of the Faith Formation, Education, and Historical committees: We accept the challenge, responsibility and

joy of teaching our youngest members to walk in the way of Christ and provide opportunities for people from all generations to walk their faith journeys together. We further promise to honor our past through good recordkeeping and safekeeping of our heritage.

Rev. Patrick Collins: Will members of our Youth Ministry program (SPF, JPF, 678, Confirmation), and all youth to please stand?

Youth: We promise to faithfully attend the programs designed to help us on our faith journey. Scripture tells us, “Your young ones will see visions.” We will do our part in helping our congregation live into the vision God has for us.

Craig Symons: Will everyone involved in the Music Ministry please stand?

Music Ministry Members: We promise to praise God in song, lifting the spirits of this congregation so that we may all go forth from this place, recognizing we do so in the fullness of God’s grace.

Rev. Avery Manchester: Will the members of our Stephen Ministry, Outreach, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Wellness committees, and Caregiver support group leaders please stand?

Caring Ministry and Outreach Committee Members: We promise to provide light to the world through the care and support we provide to those in emotional, financial, or spiritual need.

Rev. Richard DenUyl: Will members of the Women’s Fellowship, Rummage Room and Allocations Committee, please stand.

Women’s Fellowship, Rummage Room and Allocations Committee: We promise to bring opportunities to build faith and fellowship among the women of this church and to support the many needy populations of women and children our community, near and far.

Ginny Breismeister: Will members of our Welcoming Committee, Ushers, Greeters, and Community Relations please stand?

Hospitality Members: We will create an environment of welcome through our words, our programs, our caring and the grace we receive and give.

Rev. DenUyl: Will everyone please stand?

All of God's Faithful People: We promise to support this congregation and its mission with our time and resources, our faithful attendance and presence, our prayers, and by the compassion we learn here and carry into the world.

Rev. Collins: As an affirmation of our commitment to each other and the teachings of Jesus Christ, let us share together the prayer we were taught 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Barbara Norrgard

Psalm 104 : 1-4, 27-30

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your

hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

--New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

First Church Orchestra

Arr. Stan Pethel (b. 1950)

SECOND LESSON

John 3: 1-8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

--New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

Sailboat Church

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl

*** HYMN**

There's a Spirit in the Air

New Century (black) Hymnal 294

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Paul Kretschmann

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

The Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

*** 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**

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

New Century (black) Hymnal 282

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee L.V. Beethoven (arr. Katrina Gordon)

* * *

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

On this Homecoming Sunday morning, the flowers are given in loving memory of Richmond B. Hopkins by his family.

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

Welcome to your Church School Opening Day! We will be getting to know each other today and looking toward the year ahead. If you have not yet registered your child, please do so today on our website at www.fccog.org or in the preschool office area. Visitors are welcome to register their children, too! Registration helps us to know your children and puts you on our mailing list. At the end of the worship service, Babies and Toddlers will be picked up in either the Blue or Orange door classrooms in the preschool. Children 3 years old and older (through "678") will be picked up in the Daniels Center where the entire church school will be together for our own Benediction and Grace before the picnic. This will also be an opportunity for the children to meet Rev. Patrick Collins.

Thank you to all our teachers!

We are in very good shape with teachers for every class to begin the year. If you are still interested in giving it a try, there is always room for assistants – adult and high school. Just let Rosemary know you are interested and we can work out a plan convenient for you.

Church School Task Force

Congratulations to all those of you who have ever been Task Force members. This is the 40th anniversary year. We wonder who here was on the TF that long ago?

Child Care

Every Sunday there is Child Care for infants and Toddlers and a class for 3's and 4's that begins at 10 AM. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Preschool area. Ushers are able to direct you.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness Committee is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 5 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We're looking for volunteers to make refreshments or play the piano, so please sign up at community hour, or in the church office, or contact Betsy Kreuter at 637-3069 or Sue Asselin at extension 21. Of course, blood donors are always very much appreciated and appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Thank you for reaching out and being God's hands by helping others.

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

Monday, September 19: 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.

First Day of Autumn: If you are looking for warm clothing--hats, scarves, gloves, coats & jackets--The Rummage Room is definitely the one-stop place for all your Fall and Winter needs!

Wish List: Men's & ladies' sweaters; scarves; jewelry; and a double stroller.

Shop Hours: 10 -5 pm Monday-Friday & 10 -12:30 pm Saturday.

Donations: 9:30 - 4:30 pm Monday-Thursdau & 9:30 - 12:30 pm Saturday.

A prayer from a four year old today at Church School: "Our Father who does art in Heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

Kettle Quilters

Now is your chance to join as the Kettle Quilters work on the 2017 Raffle Quilt. 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 !

Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will meet on the second Sunday of the month. The next group will meet on Sun October 9th at 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Binney Conference room.

Hats Off

Our book discussion group, "Hats Off," has selected "Essays in Humanism" by Albert Einstein as our first read for the fall. We will share our reflections after reading this "inspiring collection of the great thinker's views on a rapidly changing world." How are these essays written between 1931 and 1950 still relevant today? Please call Jean Bruder, 203-661-1685 to order your copy. We meet on Thursdays from 10-11:30 up in the Binney Room.



SAIL INTO FALL
HOME COMING 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