

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

19 February 2017

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 this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Sunday morning. Please join us after worship for our Community Hour in the Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Monologue and Fugue

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Woodman

Leader: The sun shines on everyone,

People: It doesn't make choices.

Leader: When it rains it rains on everyone,

People: It doesn't make choices.

Leader: The One Spirit, lives in everyone,

People: It doesn't make choices.

Leader: When we pray, we pray for everyone, we don't make choices.

All: Peace to All, Life to All, Love to All.

--Snatam Kaur

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

All People that on Earth Do Dwell New Century (black) Hymnal 7

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ Jesus you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. In times of violence and fear, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, so that we may not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good. Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray 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.

(Following the Lord's Prayer, all church school children 5 and older will go to the Daniels Center for a Service Sunday project. Three and four year olds are welcome in Child Care.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Helen Ingraham

Enemies, by Wendell Berry

If you are not to become a monster,
you must care what they think.
If you care what they think,

how will you not hate them,
and so become a monster
of the opposite kind? From where then

is love to come—love for your enemy
that is the way of liberty?
From forgiveness. Forgiven, they go

free of you, and you of them;
they are to you as sunlight
on a green branch. You must not

think of them again, except
as monsters like yourself,
pitiable because unforgiving.

ANTHEM
Ever with Me

The Chancel Choir
Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)
Vance Briceland, piano

O Lord, hear my prayer.
Be in my head. Be in my eyes. Be in my mouth.
Lead me, Lord. Lead me in the paths of peace.
God be in my head. God be in my eyes. God be in my mouth.
God be in my joy and in my laughing.
God be with me ever.

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5: 38-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the

Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

--New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

Perfect Love

Rev. Patrick Collins

*** HYMN**

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Pilgrim (black) Hymnal 249

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Pam Grunow

OFFERTORY SOLO

A Simple Song

Thomas Woodman, bass
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

I will sing the Lord a new song
To praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing His praises while I live All of my days.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
Blessed is the man who praises Him.
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
And walks in His ways.

I will lift up my eyes
To the hills from whence comes my help.
I will lift up my voice to the Lord
Singing Lauda, Laudē.

For the Lord is my shade,
Is the shade upon my right hand,
And the sun shall not smite me by day
Nor the moon by night.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,
And walks in His ways.
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē,

Lauda, Lauda di da di day.
All of my days.

*** DOXOLOGY** Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling New Century (black) Hymnal 43

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
Fantasy on "Foundation" Alice Jordan (1916-2012)

* * *

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

Last week's flowers in the Meetinghouse were given in loving
memory of Catherine G. Weigner and Arthur C. Weigner by their
sons, Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner. We regret the oversight.

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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

TODAY

Church School

Today is a Church School Service Sunday. We will learn about a particular need in the community and also make greeting cards for people in our congregation. Next Sunday we will wrap up our rotation workshops on "Celebrations in the Bible."

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Community Hour, following today's worship service. During the week she is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 21.

Sunday Afternoons Live Returns!

Our popular Sunday Afternoons Live series returns today in the acoustic splendor of the First Church Auditorium. Each Sunday at 4:00 p.m., a wonderful performance by outstanding local and national artists will surely delight all in attendance. Tickets are \$20 for each performance and are available at the door. As always, school-aged children are free.

Today, February 19: Edita Orlynte, Violin, with Rimantas Vingras, piano

Edita's program includes the Violin Concerto in A minor by J. S. Bach, Poeme, the most famous work of the French romantic composer Ernest Chausson. Preludes for piano solo by the visionary Lithuanian artist and composer M.K. Ciurlionis, known as a representative of symbolism and modernism, as well as the virtuosic "Formosa Suite" by contemporary composer Albert Markov, where a variety of styles and techniques meet. Edita and Rimantas come together once again to bring us an inspiring performance filled with emotion.

UPCOMING

Nights Off

Please join Nights Off on February 20th, at the home of Kathy Riley (36 Shore Road, Old Greenwich) for the rousing, annual Valentine's Day Jeopardy! Amaze your friends with your knowledge of trivial information! This will be a pot luck dinner, so please bring an appetizer or entree to share. Also, bring what you would like to drink. We will meet from 6:30 pm until . . . ?

Upcoming Sunday Afternoon Live Performances

February 26: Peter & Will Anderson, Jazz Saxophonists

Peter and Will Anderson are one of the most extraordinary set of brothers performing music today, and are known for their unique renditions of classic jazz songs. Their ensemble has performed in over 35 U.S. States, toured Japan, and featured four times in NYC's famed "Highlights in Jazz" series. "Virtuosos on clarinet and saxophone" (New York Times).

March 5: Wholly Brass

The Wholly Brass has been entertaining and dazzling audiences since 1996. With performances at New York's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and many more prestigious venues, Wholly Brass brings music in an educational and entertaining fashion everywhere it goes. The group was founded and nurtured while the players were still students at The Juilliard School. The repertoire of the group includes classical masterpieces, jazz, Broadway, world and Hollywood music. To date, Wholly Brass has performed in over 30 states in United States in concerts and special events.

March 12: First Church Musicians LIVE!

All of your favorite First Church musicians wrapped up in one concert! These outstanding musicians have graciously donated their services to make this a special afternoon of vocal music to benefit the Music Ministry at First Church. Performers include Linnea Conley, Hanna Golodinski, Carolyn Paulus, Drew Seigla, Gianna Barone, Vasil Golodinskii, Craig Symons, Vance Briceland, Carol Woodman, Tom Woodman.

**Why “Feast or Fast at First Church?” on
Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 – 8 pm?**

Well, it IS ‘Mardi Gras’ or ‘Fat Tuesday’. In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before the Lent season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available.

It was a great or ‘fat’ feast! So we are going to have our own version to help us to move into Lent. We will feast, party with Mardi Gras beads, make our own masks, listen to Mardi Gras music and even end with a devotional time. Visit fccog.org to RSVP. There is no charge but we would like to be prepared for everyone who will join us. Also, if you have a waffle iron to loan us for the evening, let us know that too. All ages are invited!.

Second Hour: March 5

We are pleased that Rabbi Bruce Freyer of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester will speak at Second Hour about his experiences over several decades with Afghan people. The talk will take place at 11:20, following the March 5 service, in the Auditorium.

Caregivers Support Group

Please join us for the Caregivers Support Group for those who currently are, recently have been, or no longer are, a caregiver for a family member or friend. The group offers a confidential place where participants can share experiences, learn new information, and receive emotional support and comfort from others in similar situations. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Binney Conference Room. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister, is the group facilitator. For more information, please call Dorothy at (203) 588-9896, or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com .

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, February 20, President’s Day: The Rummage Room will be open from 10:00 to 5:00 pm.

Monday, February 27 through Wednesday, March 1: Winter clearance sale begins. 50% off everything in the shop!

Three-day Famous Bag Sales Begin Thursday, March 2! 1st day of Bag Sale: Everything you can ‘stuff’ in a bag: \$12

Friday, March 3: 2nd day of Bag Sale: Everything you can ‘pack’ in a bag: \$8

Saturday, March 4: 3rd day of Bag Sale: Everything you can ‘cram’ in a bag: \$1

Saturday, March 4: Shop closes at 1:00 pm.

Monday, March 6: The Rummage Room reopens at 1:00 pm with everything for spring. And since you are thinking about spring, also think about cleaning out your closets!

Manager Leanne’s Wish List: Ladies’ spring blouses; lamps; table linens.

Shop Hours: 10:00-5:00 pm Monday to Friday & 10:00-1 pm Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30-4:30 pm Monday to Thursday & 9:30-12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

Thought for the day: When we think winter will never end, God is sure to smile and say: “Relax, my child, it’s just a bend in the road. Spring is coming!” So today, dear God, please remind us to spend our smiles lavishly so that everyone we meet and greet will pass their smiles on to others too. Amen.

Next Week at First Church

Sunday, February 26

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir

Praise Ye the Lord—Luigi Cherubini

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano



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

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