

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

8 October 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 Memory Garden.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Prelude on "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: To know the warmth of love,

People: To have the assurance that someone cares,

Leader: To be confident of our worth,

People: To be bold to love in return,

Leader: To be washed over with grace,

People: To be accepted as we are:

Leader: This is to know a bit of God.

People: Then let us worship our God.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 7

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Lord, help us to relax.

Take from us the tension
that makes peace impossible.
Take from us the fears
that do not allow us to venture.
Take from us the worries
that blind our sight.
Take from us the distress
that hides your joy.

Help us to know
that we are with you,
that we are in your care,
that we are in your love,
Now and forever more.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Patrick Collins

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.

(All sing, as children exit)

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

**Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live. (Refrain)**

(After the Lord's Prayer, all children will go directly to their classrooms. Kindergarten and 1st grade is in the Red Door. 2nd grade is in the new Gold Door (on the lower level; next to the Rainbow Door). 3rd grade is in the Rainbow Door. 4th and 5th graders are in the Lounge (across from the auditorium.) 6th grades go to Patrick's Office on the 3rd floor and 7th and 8th graders go to the new Youth Room just past the kitchen.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Mary Fike

Psalm 139: 1-18

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
 you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
 O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
 Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
 and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

—New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

If I Ruled the World

Drew Seigla, tenor
Bricusse/Ornadel

If I ruled the world
Every day would be the first day of Spring.
Every heart would have a new song to sing.
And we'd sing of the joy every morning would bring.

If I ruled the world
Every man would be as free as a bird.
Every voice would be a voice to be heard.
Take my word, we would treasure each day that occurred.

My world would be a beautiful place
Where we would weave such wonderful dreams.
My world would wear a smile on its face
Like the man in the moon when the moon beams.

If I ruled the world
Every man would say the world was his friend.
There'd be happiness that no man could end.

No my friend, not if I ruled the world.

Every head would be held up high.

There'd be sunshine in everyone's sky.

If the day ever dawned when I ruled the world.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8 (selected verses)

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

—New Revised Standard Version

SERMON

God's Will

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

* HYMN

Kum Ba Yah

1 *Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba
2 Some - one's cry - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's
3 Some - one's sing - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's
4 Some - one's pray - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's

yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord,
 cry - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's cry - ing, Lord,
 sing - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's sing - ing, Lord,
 pray - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's pray - ing, Lord,

kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

O Love, How Deep

Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
 how passing thought and fantasy
 that God, the Son of God,
 should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us he prayed; for us he taught;
 for us his daily works he wrought:
 by words and signs and actions
 thus still seeking not himself, but us.

For us to wicked men betrayed, scourged,
 mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
 he bore the shameful cross and death;

for us at length gave up his breath.

For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here to guide,
to strengthen, and to cheer.

To him whose boundless love
has won salvation for us
through his Son, to God the Father,
glory be both now and through eternity.

*** 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**
Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 63

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
Festival March in D Paul C. VanDyke

* * *

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.

A Note to Parents

Relax! God put the wiggle in children, do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of children is a Gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the Church, and to one another.

To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

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 most classes will continue their workshops based on Paul's first letter to the Corinthians Chapter 13; the often-quoted scripture on love. Be sure to ask your children what they did in class. 3rd graders will begin looking at Genesis.

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. Most importantly it is where you record your child's allergies and/or special needs.

Choir Rehearsals

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:
Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45

Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00

Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

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.

Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will resume on Sunday, October 8th at 11:15 am in the Binney Conference room. For questions about the group, call Dorothy Mueller at 203-588-9896 or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com

UPCOMING

Interested in Learning About Joining First Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held on Sunday, October 15th at 11:20 am in the Lounge. It will last approximately an hour and a half and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and our church. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will then be received on Sunday, October 22nd. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 203 637-1791 x 26.

Pizza, Pumpkins, & Play

Saturday, October 21, 5 to 8 pm

Sign up now for our annual Halloween celebration, the fun-for-all Pizza and Pumpkins event. This year "The Big Green Truck" will be making their famous pizzas. Pizza serving starts at 6 pm but we will open the doors at 5 pm for the always exciting pumpkin carving and decorating. Patrick will unveil our new storytelling booth! So plan to be here and bring your neighbors and friends on Saturday, October 21 from 5 – 8 pm. Fun for all ages. RSVP online at www.fccog.org in

the Upcoming Events section on the homepage. Pay at the event: \$20 per adult. \$10 children. \$60.00 maximum per family.

First Church Preschool Open Enrollment

First Church Preschool will be conducting an Open Enrollment for 2018-2019 from October 1, 2017 through October 16, 2017. We will be hosting informational tours of our preschool and new Nature Classroom on October 5th at 9:45 AM and October 12th at 9:45 AM and 7 PM. To sign up for a tour or for more information about our programs and how to register, please contact the preschool at 203-637-5430 or melanieg@fccog.org. Please note, if you are interested in the 2 year old program, your child must be 2 by 12/31/2018.

Hurricane Relief Yoga Classes

Andrea Woodman Osker will be giving yoga classes to benefit the victims of the many hurricanes which have wreaked such havoc. The classes will be gentle in nature. Classes will be held in the Daniels Center at 1:00pm. The dates are Saturdays on October 21, November 18, and December 16th. Live music will be performed by Kevin Makarewicz. Please come and support those who have suffered so! The suggested donation is \$20.00. Please bring a yoga mat. All levels are welcome.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Reminder for October: The “Best Little Halloween Shop in Greenwich” is stocked with great Halloween merchandise. Don’t wait ... come in soon for the best selections. You will find costumes and accessories for children, teenagers, and adults that will delight all. The supply is still plentiful. Be sure you look at the Rummage Room windows as you enter the Shop.

Mgr. Leanne’s Wish List: Small electronics (clocks, radios, etc.); ladies blouses; jewelry.

Shopping Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 pm and 10 to 1 pm Saturday.

Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 pm & Saturday 10 to 12:30 pm.

October is the beginning of The Rummage Room’s establishment 64 years ago. The Women’s Fellowship’s Mission Statement supports local, national and international charities. The sales support the

charitable efforts of the Women's Fellowship. All proceeds go to women and children's organizations for their many needs. Our wonderful Mgr., Leanne Meyer, the part-time Asst. Mgrs., and sixty volunteers—some who have been at the Rummage Room for more than 40 years—make all this possible.

Prayers for the months ahead for those in San Juan and Last Vegas. Father, we have control over many things, but not the wind and the water in San Juan. And again ... and way too recently ... those who lost their lives at a concert in Las Vegas ... and the families who have to try to carry on without them. Lord, so many of your flock are in their deepest valley and need your presence. Hopefully, with the light you shed upon them, they will soon be able to scale the peak.

Hurricane Maria Relief Drive for Puerto Rico

A long-time Greenwich resident and member of the Byram Volunteer Fire Department is organizing a relief drive for non-perishable food and supplies for her native Puerto Rico with the support and assistance from the Town. Donations for the relief drive may be dropped off at the Greenwich Police Headquarters, 11 Bruce Place, between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., beginning October 2 and continuing through October 10, 2017.

Non-perishable foods ranging from water and Gatorade to protein bars, instant oatmeal packs, baby food and formula, and rice may be donated. There also is a need for over-the-counter drugs and personal items such as aspirin, Tylenol, Advil and Motrin; baby wipes, diapers for both babies and adults, deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Donations of portable batteries, flashlights, blankets, tarps and mosquito repellent, solar cell phone chargers and battery-operated fans also will be accepted.

**Next Week at First Church
Sunday, October 15**

Rev. Avery S. Manchester, preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir
Joys Are Flowing Like a River—Jay Thomas
Steven Russell, guest organist/director

Music by the Youth Choir
Many Gifts, One Spirit—Alan Pote



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

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers & Rev. Sally Colegrove