

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday of Easter

15 April 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Unity by Nelum Walpola

www.PaintingsbyNelum.com

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church during this Easter season! We are glad that you are here and hope that this time of worship, music, reflection and community is restorative for you. May the blessings of this community and the blessings of God's love greet you today.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Canzona

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Johann Pachelbel

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Donna Hascher

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

I've Got the Joy Down in My Heart

The Cherub Choir

Donald Haviland, director

Traditional

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

Now the Green Blade Rises

New Century (black) Hymnal 238

OPENING PRAYER

O God, in our time of worship and throughout the hours of our days, remain the center of our thoughts and actions. When all that we do seems to fly off in scattered bits and pieces as our lives spin on, draw us back to you. Hold us together as individuals and as a community of faith. In our looking outward into time and toward your creation, enable us to focus our hopes and to hit the mark when we aim to do your will. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God broke the barrier of sin and pain which separates us from our neighbor, ourselves, and our God. We seek God's grace so we might move from alienation to new life.

People: So God, grant us new life in you.

Leader: When we deny your presence in our busy days --

People: O God, grant us new life in you.

Leader: When we feel justified in our anger and resentment toward others --

People: O God, grant us new life in you.

Leader: When we judge others before looking at ourselves --

People: O God, grant us new life in you.

Leader: When we occupy ourselves in worldly matters and reject your peace and assurance --

People: O God, grant us new life in you.

Leader: When we refuse to follow your will because we are fearful and untrusting --

People: O God, grant us new life in you.

Leader: When we seek the security of false gods and turn our faces from your Light --

People: O God, grant us new life in you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND 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.

‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Sue McCalley

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

SECOND LESSON

Soloist will sing through once and then congregation will sing.

Psalm 133



SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Blessed are the Men Who Fear Him

The Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

Jayson Engquist, organist

THIRD LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and

with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

***‡HYMN**

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

New Century (black) Hymnal 256

(As the music begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)

SERMON “Common Ground, Holy Ground”

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Thanks Be To God

The Chancel Choir
Felix Mendelssohn
Jayson Engquist, organist

*DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION

The Day of Resurrection

New Century (black) Hymnal 245

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

Andre Campra

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of John D. Leinbach by his loving family.

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.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Church School classes resume today. We hope to see everyone at the Pancake Breakfast next Sunday (see next page for details).

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub Choir rehearsal today.

Wellness Event

Today 11:30-12:30 in the Lounge - Whole Person Approach to Weight Loss with Henri Roca, MD, Medical Director of Greenwich Integrative Medicine. One basic principle of holistic medicine is that people are individuals, and their plans for improving health should be tailored to their unique needs. Dr. Roca will discuss a holistic approach to weight management, and the various complementary medical disciplines that can help one achieve an optimal weight. He is board-certified by the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Board of Holistic and Integrative Medicine. In addition to providing comprehensive conventional care, Dr. Roca is a medical acupuncturist, hypnotherapist, massage therapist and biofeedback practitioner. So, please join us for what is sure to be an enlightening program.



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme today is *Seasons of Doubt*. Doubting

Thomas...what a way to be remembered! We are going to take a look at this scripture passage in a wildly creative way, recognizing our own seasons of doubt and the power of God to transform us. The service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends!

THIS WEEK

Nights Off

Nights Off will be meeting at Sue McCalley's home tomorrow night, **Monday April 16**, at 6:00pm. We will spend the first part of the evening assembling crepes (the ingredients will already be prepared). These will be added to the food we prepared last month and frozen at the church for families in need (such as when there is an illness, death, etc.). We will then play the game, Bunco, and have refreshments. All ladies of the church are welcome. Any questions, call or email Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or FBTworld@aol.com.



NEXT WEEK

Church School Pancake Breakfast

The Church School Task Force invites the entire congregation to join us for a Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, April 22** in the Daniels Center. You may arrive anytime between 8:30 and 9:30 am for a full breakfast and fellowship.

Interested in Learning about Joining the Church?

Our next **New Member Class** will be held next **Sunday, April 22** at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. (Child care will be provided.) During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our Congregational denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Please feel welcome to join us. We will receive new members on Sunday, April 29 during the 10:00 am Worship Service. For questions or to indicate your interest in attending please contact



Mark Montgomery at mmontgomery@fccog.org or Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org.

Bible Study - It's Coming!

Bible Study will start next *Sunday, April 22* at 11:20 am in the Lounge.

CROP Hunger Walk

“CROP” stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. We invite you to join us next *Sunday, April 22* for the 5th annual Greenwich/Port Chester CROP Hunger Walk, this year being held at **First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich**, 1 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. Registration - 1:15 pm; Walk (under 2 miles) - 2:00 pm. For more information and to sign up to walk and/or volunteer, please visit the CROP Walk table at Coffee Hour or contact Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie.



“Swing into Spring”

It's coming up! *April 28* is our fundraising gala at the Riverside Yacht Club. There will be a lovely dinner, entertainment and a live and silent auction. We have collected over 50 interesting auction items in the fields of travel, design, food, and entertainment.



Plus, come and see our congregants' many talents on view in the silent auction. Send in your reply cards as soon as possible so we can make space for you. If you need additional information, please call Nanette Laffan or Prill Meyer.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Ushers Needed

One of the most important jobs in the church is also one of the most pleasant -- ushering on Sunday morning. We need people who will communicate with a smile and a friendly greeting how very glad we are that visitors and members have arrived. Other duties include taking the collection, counting those in attendance and occasionally answering questions from people who may need directions or help. Your commitment is to usher about once a month. To volunteer for

this valuable ministry, please contact Bobby Littlefield at Bobbylitt@aol.com or 203-967-3341.

News from The Rummage Room

- **April 16 through April 21:** The Rummage Room shopping hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday. Donation hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Friday and Saturday. Please do not leave donations outside when the shop is closed. Manager Maria will have three or four categories of clothing and/or items on sale all week. The decision is made for the week on Monday.
- **Manager Maria's Wish List:** Mother's Day items (gifts received but never used); Jewelry; Handbags; Bric-a-Brac; Small furniture; Bikes for all ages; Flat screen TV; Spring and Summer clothing. Please sort your donations and bring only clean and salable items. Thank you.
- **April 17:** The annual "*Thank You Breakfast*" for The Rummage Room Volunteers will be held in the church auditorium at 9:00 am. The Rummage Room Committee and Manager, Maria Drieghe, will be hosting the breakfast to show their appreciation for a "job well done" by many hands.
- Oscar Wilde once said: *If we are together nothing is impossible, and if we are divided, all will fail.* 2012 is The Rummage Room's 48th year in existence at 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich.

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need are: Cereal, Oatmeal, Pasta Sauce, Dried Beans, 100% Juice, Canned Tomatoes, Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please) and Jelly.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Choral Music by:

The Chancel Choir from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Avery C. Manchester, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Next week's theme is *Come as a Child*.

We will use lots of creativity to channel and celebrate

our child-like nature as children of God!

Take a look at 1 John chapter 2.

Come as you are and bring all your friends!

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

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Communication/Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell