

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Fourth Sunday of Easter

17 April 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



Psalm 23 © 2015 John August Swanson | Eyekons

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 warmly welcome you to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this springtime Sunday morning. With the world coming to life all around us, we hope that your spirit is inspired and

renewed by your time in worship today. Please join us after worship for our Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Prelude in A Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Meghan D. Young

CALL TO MEETING

Car Westbrook, Church Clerk

A Congregational Meeting for the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for Sunday May 1, 2016 in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10am worship service to vote on the new church By-Laws and certain transitional provisions to properly effectuate the new governance structure that was previously approved.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eliza Keller, Confirmand

Leader: You invite us to worship, O God, and we rejoice!

People: We are able to leave the anxieties of our daily lives behind.

Leader: You invite us to worship, O God, and we give thanks!

People: We realize the full extent of your wonderful gifts.

Leader: You invite us to worship, O God, and we remember!

People: We are aware of your love, so graciously shown in Jesus Christ.

Leader: You invite us to worship, O God, and we respond!

People: We are ready to act compassionately and justly, in Christ's name.

CHORAL INTROIT

***HYMN**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Pilgram (red) Hymnal 80

OPENING PRAYER

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

(As we begin singing "Go, my children, with my blessing", Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go, my children, with my blessing

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me to water in places of repose;
He renews my life;
He guides me in right paths
as befits His name.
Though I walk through a valley
of deepest darkness,
I fear no harm, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff – they comfort me.

You spread a table for me in full view
of my enemies;
 You anoint my head with oil;
 my drink is abundant.
Only goodness and steadfast love shall pursue me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 for many long years.

From: *JPS TANAKH Translation*

SOLO

From this Valley

Williams & White
Linnea Conley, Mezzo Soprano

*Oh the desert dreams of a river
That will run down to the sea
Like my heart longs for an ocean
To wash down over me*

*Oh won't you take me from this valley
To that mountain high above
Oh I will pray, pray, pray till I see your smiling face
I will pray, pray, pray to the one that I love*

*Oh the outcast dreams of acceptance
Just to find pure love's embrace
Like an orphan longs for its mother
May you hold me in your grace*

*Oh won't you take me from this valley
To that mountain high above
Oh I will pray, pray, pray till I see your smiling face
I will pray, pray, pray to the one that I love
Oh the caged bird dreams of a strong wind
That will flow beneath her wings
Like a voice longs for a melody
Oh Jesus, carry me*

*Oh won't you take me from this valley
To that mountain high above
Oh I will pray, pray, pray till I see your smiling face
I will pray, pray, pray to the one that I love*

*Oh I will pray, pray, pray till I see your smiling face
I will pray, pray, pray to the one that I love*

SECOND LESSON

Jean Watkins

Revelation 7: 1-8, 9-17

In the book of Revelation there are clear tensions between the community that worships the Lamb and the world that has been pulled into the cult of the emperor. While this is a part of Revelation's revelation of the Lamb and why the Lamb merits worship, Revelation 7 is more interested in who voices the praise.

SERMON

From This Valley

Rev. Meghan D. Young

HYMN

My Shepherd is the Living God New Century (black) Hymnal 247

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Eric Schless

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Song is Faith

The Chancel Choir
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

*The song is faith: our wonder now professing,
we take up hymns that heav'n itself has sung
in praise of God, the giver of the blessing,
who comes in Christ to sing with human tongue.
Before all time, God sent the music sounding,
a seamless, flawless, endless melody,
a lilt of grace to set the spirits bounding
of all God's children made forever free.
Let God's good pleasure breathe in songs ascending
God's grace indwell the music we now lift,
a hymn of Christ, beloved and unending,
the earthly echo of a heav'nly gift.
The song is love: it sounds in all our living
as saints are fed, and struggling souls find rest.
A servant song becomes our high thanksgiving,
a canticle in work made manifest.
O Christ, sing on in every new endeavor,
enlightened music, glorious Godly dance,
that gives your people now, here, and forever,
a song of hope as our inheritance.*

*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

* HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? New Century (black) Hymnal 539

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

* * *

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

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium following the worship service.

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Meet the Mission Team

The FCCOG Youth Group is back from helping repair homes for low-income families in Brenton, WV. Join them during coffee hour to see pictures and hear stories from their Appalachian Service Project.

Church School

This Sunday Kindergarten, 1st, 2ND, 4th and 5th graders return to our Rotation Workshops for Fruits of the Spirit for most classes. When we leave the sanctuary, these classes will gather in the Auditorium for a worship/storytelling time after which the children will be “shepherded” to their classrooms. K & 1st will be in the Preschool Red Door Classroom. 2nd Grade will be in the Preschool Green Door. 4th and 5th graders will be Daniels Center and Kitchen. 3rd grade will be in their Room 104 and “678” will be in the Binney Conference Room.

Next **Sunday, April 24**, we will put our own treasures into the time capsule to be buried for 50 years. The entire congregation will celebrate the end of our 350th year anniversary with a very special brunch. And if you are wondering about a one week sleepover camp experience at Silver Lake, our “veteran” Silver Lakers are eager to tell you why it is the best ever experience!

On **Sunday May 1st**, come to the Family Faith Breakfast at 9 am. This is open to the congregation. Hosted by the church school task force – pancake makers par excellence! We will consider the Fruits of the Spirit.

Finally, be sure you have **June 5** on your calendar when our children will lead worship and share their own fruits of the spirit with you!

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet today at 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. Please join us. All are welcome.

Parish Nurse

Betsy Kreuter, PT, a volunteer from the Wellness Committee, is available to perform blood pressure screenings in the Auditorium following today's worship service.

THIS WEEK

Night's Off

Night's Off is meeting on **Monday, April 18th**, at 6:30 PM at the home of Lucille Baldwin for an evening full of fellowship and charades. Please bring whatever you would like to drink and an hors d'oeuvre to share. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Lucille Baldwin via email bobalu827@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Flierl at fbtworld@aol.com. As always, all are welcome - "walk-ins" and guests appreciated

Pasta, Pajamas & Parenting:

How to Support Your Child's Healthy Sexual Development and Gender Identity in Young Children

This Parenting Speaker Series, cosponsored by the Church School and Preschool, will be held on **Thursday, April 21**, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You may have heard recent media coverage of a family's journey with their child's transgender experience as written in the book "Raising Ryland". While this topic is not all we will discuss it is certainly something for which we want to be informed and have sensitivity.

Missy Sturtevant, LCSW, of MaeBright in Boston MA will speak and lead a panel of parents and children who will share their personal experiences. Knowing that parents prefer to be the first source of information for their children about values and life choices, this is a perfect opportunity for you to gather information and ways to communicate your values to your children. RSVP to DarlaK@fccog.org so we have enough food and child care for all.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Music & Friendship Sunday

You'll want to mark your calendars for **April 24** at 10 a.m. when First Church's annual Music & Friendship Sunday helps wrap up our year-long celebration of 350 years as a congregation in Greenwich. The service will be chock full of great music as we shift our focus to "Lean forward" into the next chapters of our church history. The theme will be "The World is Our Neighbor" and will include music from a variety of cultures and languages to help become a more inclusive congregation in the coming decades.

Be sure to join us for a **festive fellowship brunch after the church service**. Invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome. Don't miss this milestone Sunday

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, April 24th at 2 pm is the day for this year's CROP walk. The walk has a different format from previous years, but its purpose remains the same: to raise funds to combat hunger and poverty around the world. Walk teams from each church and organization will carry water, recognizing the millions worldwide who must carry water for their daily needs. For more information, or to make a donation, go to: cropwalkonline.org/greenwichct.

First Music & Arts Concert Series

First Church hosts our annual Spring Festival of the Arts beginning **Friday, April 29**. The Art Society of Old Greenwich will have artwork on display throughout from Friday evening through Sunday early afternoon in our auditorium, beginning Friday with a Gala Wine and Cheese reception from 6-7:30 p.m. Each year, the number of art pieces has expanded, and we anticipate this year is the biggest yet.

On **Saturday, April 30** at 7:30 p.m., the First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Craig Scott Symons, will be in concert with a performance of Schubert's Mass in G and Rutter's *Feel the spirit*. Our Chancel Choir section leaders, Hanna Golodinskii,

Linnea Conley, Drew Seigla, and Thomas Woodman, will be the featured soloists in these beautiful pieces of music.

Tickets for this concert are \$25 for adults, and ages 18 and under are free. Admission will be sold at the door on the evening of the concert, so plan to attend now!

Call to Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting for the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for **Sunday May 1, 2016** in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10am worship service to vote on the new church By-Laws and certain transitional provisions to properly effectuate the new governance structure that was previously approved.

Car Westbrook,
Church Clerk

The new church By-Laws reflecting the comments received at the recent Church Hall meeting will be voted on at a Congregational Meeting on May 1st. If you would like to receive a copy to review in advance of the vote, please email Donna White (donnaw@fccog.org) to request a copy. Printed copies will also be available at the church office.

Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale!

Tickets for the 46th Annual Quilt Raffle are now available for purchase for **\$5 each**. The drawing will take place at the *Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday May 11*. You do not need to be present to win. This year, the quilt is a lovely queen-sized named *Dots & Dashes*. This pattern is a combination of the basic quilt standard nine-patch and a traditional rail-fence block. It is a great pattern for using a variety of color and fabric design and most of the fabric came from the quilter's stash. It is also set on a bias, or diagonal, providing more interest than a horizontal/vertical pattern. If you view the quilt from the side, it creates an optical illusion and looks very different than a straight-on view.

Tickets are now being sold during Fellowship Hour following Sunday worship (each Sunday now through May 10), in the Church Office and an order form is included in the April Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to support charitable organizations that benefit women, children and families.

Interested in Learning About Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held next **Sunday, May 15** at 11:30 am in the Senior Pastor's office. 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 to learn more about 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, May 22**. 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 637-1791 x 26.

Usher at FCCOG

We always welcome new ushers for our Sunday services! It's a lovely way to meet people. For more information and to sign-up, please email Pat Larrabee at patlarrabee@hotmail.com or sign up on: j.mp/FCCOG_ushers.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, April 18: See website for this weeks' 50% off sale items on the FCCOG website.

Tuesday, April 19: The Annual Thank You Breakfast for the RR Volunteers will be hosted by The RR Committee, and Manager Leanne Meyer. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am in the church auditorium. There is always great camaraderie between the 64 volunteers who work the 11 shifts Monday through Friday and a half day on Saturday. The volunteer who has worked the longest has been at the RR 49 years, and the newest has been there 3 weeks.

Friday, April 22: Earth Day. A day The RR remembers as a purpose to help keep the earth green, and to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". It has been part of the mission statement the past 53 years to raise money for those less fortunate by giving RR proceeds to organizations who help women, children and families. Thanks to our customers for all the years you have been supportive in buying and donating!

Leanne's Wish List: Spring shoes; Jewelry; and Table Linens.

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

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

Thought for Earth Day: When we were born, we cried and the 'World' Rejoiced. It is hoped we will live our lives so that when we die, the World cries and 'WE' Rejoice. -A Cherokee Wisdom Expression.



WHERE TO FIND US:

[WWW.FCCOG.ORG](http://www.fccog.org), FACEBOOK, TWITTER,
YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM

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.

Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Youth Coordinator: Donald Haviland

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Administrative Assistant - Communications: Rachael E. Schuster

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner