

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

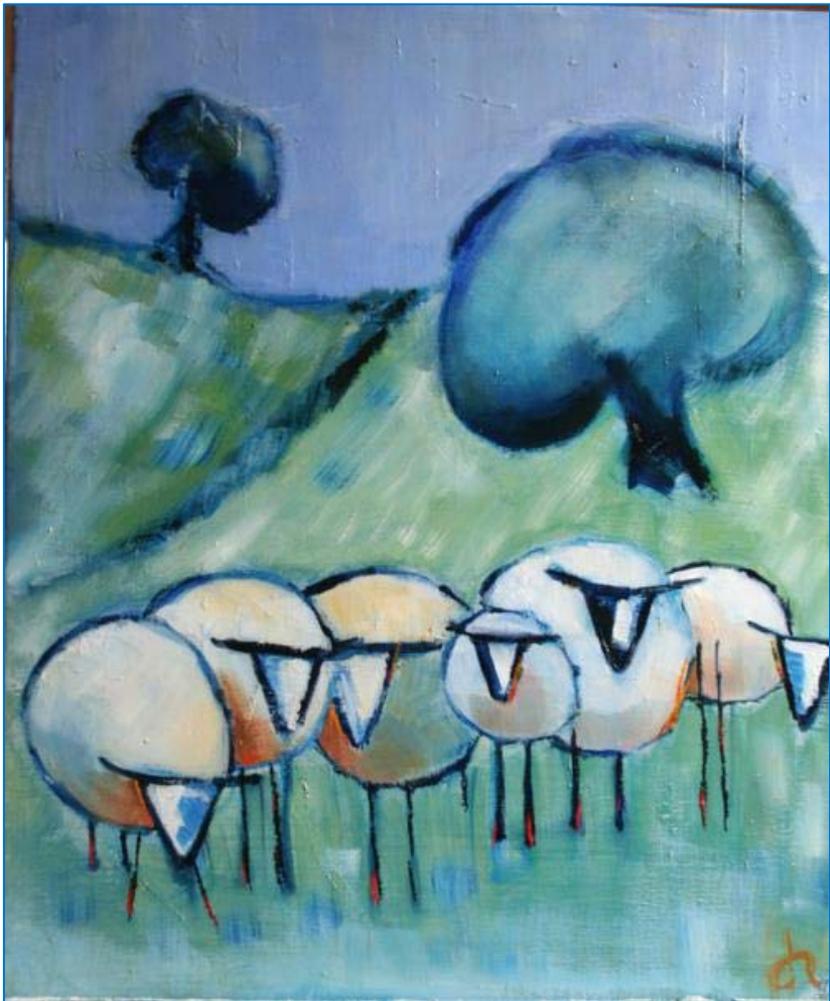
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

21 April 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Sheep 1 by Irish artist, Denise Hussey
www.denisehussey.com/

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 First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Sunday morning.

*The high,
The low
All of creation,
God gives to humankind to use.
If this privilege is misused,
God's Justice permits creation to punish humanity.*

Hildegard of Bingen

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Meditation and Marche

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the presence of God, through whom all families on earth receive their life and their name.

People: We wish to be strengthened in our inner selves, that Christ may dwell in our hearts.

Leader: We seek to be rooted and grounded in God's love and in the love of Christ which surpasses understanding.

People: We come to worship and to praise the source of love and peace.

All: Glory be to God in the church and in Jesus Christ to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

From Ephesians 3:15-21

*‡HYMN

How Beautiful the March of Days

New Century (black) Hymnal 434

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!

The heavens declare Your glory,
the arch of sky displays Your handiwork.

In Your love You have given us the power
to behold the beauty of Your world
robed in all its splendor.

The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose Your presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of Your awesome might,
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak Your wondrous will.

In Your goodness You have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that You are in our midst.

A divine voice sings through all creation.

We pray as Jesus taught us, saying...

Jewish Prayer

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.

*GLORIA

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

*Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Paul Beavers, Hospital Chaplain

Harper Josephine Rao, daughter of Geneva and Michael Rao

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Mendelsohn

Psalm 23

God, my shepherd!
I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
True to your word,
you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through
Death Valley,
I'm not afraid
when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook
makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner
right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head;
my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God
for the rest of my life.

From *The Message*

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM
Sing Joyfully to God

The Children's Choir
Michael Joseph
Vance Briceland, piano

SECOND LESSON

John 10:11-18

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He’s only in it for the money. The sheep don’t matter to him.

“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They’ll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.”

From *The Message*

*‡HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 66

(As the hymn begins, the 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

Feeling Secure?

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Daniel B. England

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands

The Chancel Choir
John Rutter (b. 1945)

*O clap your hands together all ye people.
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the lord is high and to be feared.
He is the great king upon all the earth.*

*He shall subdue the people under us;
And the nations under our feet
He shall choose out an heritage for us
Even the worship of Jacob whom he loved*

*God is gone up with a merry noise
And the lord with the sound of the trump*

*Oh sing praises, sing praises unto our God
For God is the king upon all the earth
Sing ye praises with understanding
O clap your hands all ye people.*

***DOXOLOGY** To the tune of *All Creatures of Our God and King*
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Church School

Church School classes meet today and will consider the lesson in the story of Paul's escape from Damascus (Acts 9:19-25). Also, please join us at the CROP Hunger Walk at 2:00 pm. Details later in this bulletin. Also, if you are interested in helping to plan Church School at the Beach or the curriculum options beginning in September, please contact Rosemary to express your interest.

Blood Pressure Screenings

A member of the Wellness Committee will be available to take blood pressures in Room 203 immediately following the Worship Service.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub or Children's Choir rehearsal today.

New Members Class TODAY!

Our new member class is being held **today** at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office. It will last approximately 2 hours 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 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. New members will be received next Sunday, April 28. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. Last minute attendees welcome.



Bible Study

The Sunday Bible Study – Join us today at 11:20 am in the Lounge.
Mid-Week Bible Study – There will be **no** Mid-Week Bible Study this Thursday, April 25, but it will return on May 2 at 10:15-11:15 am. As a reminder, this is a basic



Bible Study class for people who may know nothing or next to nothing about the Bible but figure, "Hey, I'm a pretty educated person and faith is important to me. Why shouldn't I know at least something about the Bible so I can at least understand what questions to ask?" Both classes led by Dan England.

CROP Hunger Walk TODAY at 2 pm

CROP Hunger Walk is a two-mile course that starts at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenwich and ends at Christ Church, which is the home of Neighbor to Neighbor, the area's resource center to fight hunger. Please join us TODAY for this short walk, or consider donating money toward our goal of \$1,200. To donate or raise money (and walk!), pick up a donation envelope in the Auditorium or donate online at: www.crophungerwalk.org/greenwichct. If you walk, please bring a food donation even if just one item.



Would You Like to Join Our Group of Gardeners Who Are Growing Food for Neighbor to Neighbor This Summer?

Join us **today** from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. We are starting our 3rd season in the Armstrong Court Community Garden! Over the last 2 years we have grown and donated hundreds of pounds of organic vegetables to the food bank at Neighbor to Neighbor, serving many families in our community. Today we rally all gardeners and other interested volunteers to tackle the jobs of getting the overall garden ready for the season. If you would like to join our merry band of gardeners come out to meet the team, see the possibilities and pitch in. If you are unsure about joining, come out anyway to check out this great community garden, give us a bit of help and then decide. We love teenagers and all levels of gardening experience are welcome! All tools provided - just bring your favorite work gloves. Contact Terri Browne Kutzen for info at 203-253-6264.



Our 5:00 pm service will actually take place at **2:00 pm today** as we worship with our feet! Get on your walking shoes to take an actual journey of faith as we join together to raise money and awareness during the **2013 CROP Hunger Walk**. The walk will begin at First

Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenwich and conclude at Christ Episcopal Church, the home of Neighbor to Neighbor, one of the recipients of funds raised through the walk. Join us!

THIS WEEK

Wonderful Wednesday Returns This Wednesday!

Wonderful Wednesday is this week, *April 24* so plan to join us for this “wonderful” spring event! Join us for dinner, fellowship, learning, fun and prayer. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm and then we will break into groups led by Rev. Montgomery, Rev. Collins and Rev. England. Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, will have some fun activities for the kids. (Please see the [April Meetinghouse Monthly](#) for descriptions of these groups.) The evening will conclude by 8:00 pm. **Please RSVP to Barbara Wilkov at barbaraw@fccog.org or call 203-637-1791 ext. 24 to let us know if you plan to attend.**

Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale!

Tickets for the 43rd Annual Quilt Raffle are now available for purchase at \$5 each. The drawing will take place at the *Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 15* at noon. You do not need to be present to win. The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful queen size quilt in a “White on White” pattern this year. Tickets are currently being sold in the Church Office and an order form can be found in the April Meetinghouse Monthly. Tickets will be sold at Coffee Hour starting next Sunday (4/28). All proceeds are donated to support charitable organizations that benefit women, children and families.



Hats Off Book Discussion Group

Hats Off has begun their spring reading with *Dear Life: Stories* by Alice Munro. As these are short stories, most of which take place in Munro's home territory - the small Canadian towns around Lake Huron – you can jump right in. Come join us on Thursday mornings from 10:00 -11:30 am in the Lounge. Any questions please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



First Music and Arts Presents...

Join us this *Friday evening, April 26*, at 8:00 pm for a wonderful Organ Recital. And then come back again on *Sunday, April 28*, at 4:00 pm for a very special performance of Johannes Brahms' *Requiem*. Come early before each show to view artwork by the talented artists of *The Art Society of Old Greenwich*. See the inside back cover of this bulletin for more details.

NEXT WEEK

Wellness Committee Second Hour Presentation

Sunday, April 28 - The Wellness Committee is pleased to present a Second Hour: *Care for Your Joints - Treatments for Joint Pain & Immobility*. We will welcome back Dr. Janet



Freedman MD, a physiatrist with Greenwich Hospital's Physical Medicine Department. Dr. Freedman has 25 years of experience in physical and rehabilitative medicine, treating pain or immobility of

the knees, hips, shoulders and other joints. Join us as she explains various preventative measures, diagnostics, and treatments available for joint ailments. We will meet in the Lounge following the 10:00 am worship service.

A Community Service Opportunity for All Ages

On *Sunday, April 28*, right after worship, we will take a short drive over to Pilgrim Towers on Washington Court in Stamford. This is our annual Gardening Day - we prepare the beds, plant, transplant and mulch. Then, afterward, the residents provide and join us for lunch. All you need to do is let Rosemary (RosemaryL@fccog.org) know you want to come, and bring gloves and perhaps a gardening tool or two. Pilgrim Towers is an apartment building built and partially supported by UCC congregations in Western Fairfield County. It is for seniors (singles and couples) who are independent and meet income guidelines as defined by HUD. Several members of our congregation are on the Board of Directors, including Joe McBride who is the President. Our Church School has been visiting three times a year for over 5 years.

First Music and Arts

Join us for a very special performance of Johannes Brahms' *Requiem* next *Sunday, April 28*, at 4:00 pm. More details can be found on the inside back cover of this bulletin.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Notice of the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting/Luncheon *Wednesday, May 15*, 11:30 am in the Auditorium. Quilt Raffle will take place at Noon followed by a catered luncheon. The entertainment this year will feature Mark Montgomery and John Collins. Reservations by check for \$10.00/person are a MUST. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship, Att: Irene Savage, and send or leave at the Church Office by **Sunday, May 12**. We regret that we cannot accommodate reservations by phone, walk-ins, or reservations without payment.

Silver Lake Summer Programs

Silver Lake Summer Programs are filling up! Information about this wonderful camp experience in Sharon, CT, sponsored by the CT UCC churches, is on the bulletin board outside the Lounge. The programs are for children going into the 4th grade right through high school. For more info, talk to Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie or any of the 12 or so children from our church who have gone and keep going back! Also, check out our video of some of these kids talking about their camp experiences by going to www.fccog.org and clicking on the link on the homepage.



News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, April 22: Earth Day - Celebrate the day by donating and shopping at The Rummage Room. When gently used merchandise is donated and resold, it may not utilize any of the earth's natural resources, yet it generates the funds to help support the many women's and children's causes selected by the Women's Fellowship Allocations Committee each year. What better way could Earth Day be honored and celebrated? Make every day an Earth Day by

donating, shopping and volunteering at the Best Little Shop in Town.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Items for Mother's Day gifts; hats; Communion items and dresses; wedding and mother-of-the-bride dresses; wedding gift items; graduation dresses; boys' sport coats; bikes; strollers; tennis racquets and tennis clothing.

Shopping Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

We do not inherit the land from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children thus we must take care to preserve this gift for them.

-Native American Proverb

Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us! **Good for all levels.**

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

The Chancel Choir:

Know Ye Not by Edwin Bairstow

The Youth Choir:

The Solid Rock, arr. Dale Peterson

Rev. John Collins, preaching



The wonderful worship opportunities here at FCCOG continue at 5:00 pm as Mark leads us in a time of worship focused on telling our own stories. Listen to the song, *I Love to Tell the Story*. This *linc* worship is casual and appropriate for all ages, so come as you are and bring the whole family!



First Music and Arts 2012-2013 Series Continues

Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28

First Music and Arts will add visual arts to their community offerings when they partner with *The Art Society of Old Greenwich* who will have artwork on display in the Auditorium and a few pieces in the back of the Meetinghouse. One hour before and after each performance throughout the weekend, you will have a chance to view artwork from the membership of the Art Society. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this wonderful opportunity to experience the talents of our local artists.

Friday, April 26, 8:00 pm – Organ Recital

Our wonderful Austin pipe organ will be heard in an organ recital by many Greenwich organists, including Jamie Hitel, Craig Scott Symons, Jon Hunt, Frederick Tripodi, Alistair Reid, and Sean Jackson.

Suggested donation is \$20 per person.

Sunday, April 28, 4:00 pm – Requiem by Johannes Brahms

The First Church Festival Chorus will be using Brahms' own 4-hand piano version, with Jayson Engquist and Jon Hunt at the keyboard. Our soloists will be soprano Hanna Golodinskii and bass Samuel Hepler, all under the direction of Craig Scott Symons.

Suggested donation is \$20 a person.

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, May 19, 7:00 pm – Jubilate Ringers

The Meetinghouse will be filled with the sounds of bells as we welcome the Jubilate Ringers from Wilton. This group is conducted by Ellen Dickinson, Director of Music at Norfield Church in Weston. Jubilate Ringers is comprised of ringers from the Norfield Church and the Unitarian Church in Westport as well as the surrounding community.

Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!
(help us get to 200 “likes”!)

We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT

Check out our [YouTube](#) page, too!



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
Interim Senior Pastor: Rev. John W. Collins
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 Communications: 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