

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday of Easter

22 April 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Earth Day 2012

WELCOME to this Service of Worship at The First
Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Earth Day. In
the spirit of the day, we start with this declaration from the United
Nations:

*Great Spirit, give us hearts to understand,
never to take from creation's beauty more than we give,
never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed,
never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty,
never to take from her what we cannot use.
Give us hearts to understand that to destroy earth's
music is to create confusion,
that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty,
that to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench,
that as we care for her she will care for us. Amen.*

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Two Hymn Preludes

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Carillon Fantasy on O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Marilyn Biery

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

New Century (black) Hymnal 42

OPENING PRAYER

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. *Jewish Prayer*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Grandfather,
Look at our brokenness.
We know that in all creation
Only the human family
Has strayed from the Sacred Way.
We know that we are the ones
Who are divided
And we are the ones
Who must come back together
To walk in the Sacred Way.
Grandfather, Sacred One,
Teach us love, compassion, and honor
That we may heal the earth
And heal each other. *Ojibwa Prayer*

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

We join with the earth and with each other
To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air.

We join with the earth and with each other
To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures.

We join with the earth and with each other
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars.

We join with the earth and with each other
To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children.

We join with the earth and with each other.

We join together as many and diverse expressions
of one loving mystery; for the healing of the
earth and the renewal of all life.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

*Gloria

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without
end. Amen. Amen.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Peter Russell

1 John 3:1-7

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.

All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously lawless, for sin is a major disruption of God's order. Surely you know that Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. There is no sin in him, and sin is not part of his program. No one who lives deeply in Christ makes a practice of sin. None of those who do practice sin have taken a good look at Christ. They've got him all backward.

So, my dear children, don't let anyone divert you from the truth. It's the person who acts right who is right, just as we see it lived out in our righteous Messiah.

The Message

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Gloria from Gloria

The Youth Choir

Antonio Vivaldi

Luke 24:36-48

While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

He asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses.

The Message

*‡HYMN

Touch the Earth Lightly

New Century (black) Hymnal 569

(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 “*You Are My Witnesses*”

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

From Elijah

O Rest in the Lord

He That Shall Endure to the End

The Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

*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

Come to Tend God's Garden New Century (black) Hymnal 586

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

All Glory Be To Thee

Egil Hovland

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Betsy Kreuter being cancer free and to honor her family, friends, medical professionals and First Congregational Church Cancer Support Group who supported her on the road to recovery.

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

We hope you were with us this morning for the pancake breakfast brought to you by the Church School Task Force! Today our children will hear the story of Jesus' breakfast on the beach for his disciples. We hope to see you this afternoon at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich anytime after 1:15 when registration for the CROP Walk begins. We will leave "First Presby" at 2:00 pm and walk down Greenwich Avenue and up Mason Street, ending at 2nd Congregational Church. Join us rain or shine!

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

There is no Youth Choir today. Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Bible Study is Here!

Bible Study, led by Dan England, resumes today at 11:20 am in the Lounge with a leap into I Corinthians, which was written about 53 or 54 AD. Trying to determine how this letter to a pretty crazy church applies to us will be at times vexing but at times reassuring, too (I'm pretty sure we haven't had too many instances of people getting drunk at our potluck suppers). One of the questions before our church now is how to do church. That is exactly the question the Corinthians were trying to discern and Paul is trying to help them. The trouble is, it seems, that at least one letter he sent to them caused more trouble than it relieved, proving that even Apostles were not perfect pastors. There is no instant fix in these pages and it will take our collective wisdom to get beyond 1st century specifics to find the underlying principles, but we'll sure have fun trying. Join us!

New Member Class

Our New Member class will be held today 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.



CROP Hunger Walk

“CROP” stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.



We invite you to join us today at **First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich**, 1 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich for the 5th annual Greenwich/Port Chester CROP Hunger Walk.

Registration - 1:15 pm; Walk (under 2 miles) - 2:00 pm. You are

invited to bring food items for the Food Pantries at Neighbor to Neighbor and Carver Center, too!



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme today 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. The service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends!

THIS WEEK

“Swing into Spring”

Don't forget to send in your reply cards for Swing into Spring being held *Saturday, April 28* at the Riverside Yacht Club. If you have misplaced yours, please contact Ruth Reed and she can help you reserve a place. We are expecting a great turn-out for a wonderful evening. Our staff and clergy are planning to attend too ... so make sure you are part of the fun and help First Congregational Church continue our wonderful programs.



NEXT WEEK

First Music and Arts Spring Festival of Music

First Music and Arts presents a *Spring Festival of Music* that brings our inaugural season to a rousing conclusion. On *Friday, May 4*, at 8:00 pm, the First Church Festival Chorus and Orchestra will present Mendelssohn's epic oratorio *Elijah*. Singing the title role of Elijah is baritone Randal Turner. You can read more about Randal and his career in the April Meetinghouse Monthly. The performance is free and all are encouraged to attend. If you can place posters in your favorite business, please stop by the Church Office and take a few posters. Take what you need, as posters are limited, but please use all you take! Share information about this concert with all your friends and neighbors.



NEWS AND NOTICES

Women's Fellowship Project

Would you like to help end child hunger? Do you buy any of these ConAgra products?: Chef Boyardee, Orville Redenbacher's, Healthy Choice, Marie Callender's, Hunt's, Banquet, Snackpack, Hunt's Manwich and Peter Pan. Then be on the look-out for these products with Child Hunger Ends Here on the front and an 8-digit code on the back. Enter the 8-digit code at ChildHungerEndsHere.com and a monetary donation will be made to Feeding America. If you also enter your zip code ConAgra will donate the monetary equivalent of 80,000 meals (\$10,000) to each of the ten Feeding America-affiliated food banks that receive the most number of codes entered within their service area (based on zip code). Ours is Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven which is in 8th place as of this printing. This program goes thru August 31, 2012 and it started December 12, 2011 so be sure to look through your pantry and freezer to see if you have labeled products already. Please spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors. If you buy these products but aren't able to enter the codes, there will be a box in the Church Office to collect them or call Pat Stock Schay at 203-698-1979 and she'll pick them up from you. Thanks for your help.



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 22: Today the nation is observing *Earth Day*. The Women's Fellowship's Rummage Room has been involved in practicing the 3

"Rs" of conservation for almost 50 years. Reduce, reuse and recycle have always been the basis of The Rummage Room's existence and has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised and distributed to worthy organizations locally, nationally and worldwide.

If you have never donated or shopped at The Rummage Room, give us a try. We are located at 191 Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Clean, salable clothing; Mother's Day items (like gifts you've never used); Handbags; Shoes; Jewelry; Bric-a-Brac; Bikes for all age; Strollers. Donation hours are 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday hours are 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Gift Certificates Available: Think Mother's Day, birthdays, graduations, Father's Day, or just because you love someone.

Albert Einstein - It is our obligation to put back into the World at least the equivalent of what we take out of it!

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 exercises. 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! You'll love it! **All are welcome!**



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. They continue to need: Cereal, Oatmeal, Pasta sauce, Dried beans (kidney and black), 100% juice, Canned tomatoes, Peanut butter (no larger than 28 oz.) and Jelly.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by The Chancel Choir:

Be Not Afraid; He Watching Over Israel

(from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*)

Prelude by Palmer Handbell Choir

Mark Montgomery, preaching

5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium

Next week's theme is *Lessons in Music*.

Do you have a favorite song that really speaks to you?
If so, send Mark Montgomery an email and let him know
what it is. Then we will spend some time recognizing the
theological connections we find in our everyday life.

Come as you are and bring all your friends!

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

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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