

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

29 April 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



*The Flower Carrier, 1935*  
Diego Rivera (1886-1957)

**W**ELCOME to this Service of Worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich 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 blessing of this community and the blessings of God's love greet you today.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

*I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the color and fragrance  
of a flower – the light in my darkness, the voice in my silence.  
-Helen Keller*

#### **PRELUDE**

*Carillon of Joy*

*Palmer Handbells*

Kevin McChesney

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

#### **MOMENTS OF OPPORTUNITY**

*Craig Symons; Shirley Flierl*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **\*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* New Century (black) Hymnal 252

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Most high God who has humbled yourself to be among us in the person of Jesus Christ, may you be with us now through the Holy Spirit and through each of us gathered here. May we represent the holiness and goodness that is you in this time together and throughout all of our lives. Amen.

## CONFESSING TO GOD

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

There are times when our vision is limited, not necessarily by our ability to see, but by our openness to understanding,

Our willingness to believe,  
Our turning from those who need us,  
Our trust in the God who created us.

Clear our eyes, clear our hearts, clear our consciences, clear our spirits ... clear whatever needs to be cleared so that our vision may be restored and we may refocus on you and your purpose for us, O God.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### 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.*

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

#### Roll Call of Candidates

*(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)*

#### Commitment of Candidates

**Leader:** We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Do you affirm your consecration in God through Jesus Christ?

**Candidates:** I do.

**Leader:** Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the joys of Christian fellowship?

**Candidates:** I will.

**Clergy:** We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things most surely believed among us concerning faith, polity and fellowship.

### **Owning of the Covenant** (*all, standing*)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again, and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. As Jesus accepted, welcomed, included and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our search to walk in the ways of the Lord. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of God and laboring for the promotion of justice, the reign of peace and the realization of human understanding. Depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

## Right Hand of Fellowship

### SONG OF RESPONSE

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verse 1)*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

*(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.)*

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

#### FIRST LESSON

*Pat Larrabee*

Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

#### SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

*He Watching Over Israel*

*The Chancel Choir  
Felix Mendelssohn  
Jayson Engquist, organist*

## SECOND LESSON

### 1 John 3:16-24

**W**e know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

#### \*‡HYMN

*God Is My Shepherd*

New Century (black) Hymnal 479

SERMON “*Afraid of Healing*”

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

### RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Be Not Afraid*

*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**

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

New Century (black) Hymnal 267

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Hornpipe*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist*

G.F. Handel

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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](http://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.

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## New Members Joining Today

**Susan Doyle**, 17 Suburban Avenue, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-769-5441. Susan comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Susan is Assistant Head of Middle School at Greenwich Academy and has enjoyed working with young women of the community at the school for the past ten years. She and her husband, Sean, enjoy sailing year-round, and are excitedly expecting their first child in September.

**Amie and Tyler Hogan**, 139 East Elm Street, Greenwich, CT 06830, 203-485-0045. Amie and Tyler come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Amie is a physical therapist and is the Director of Recovery Physical Therapy in New York City. Tyler is a trader and principal with Prometheus Partners in Greenwich. They are the proud parents of their young son, Fischer (10 months). Amie grew up in Watertown, CT and Tyler is from Nashville, TN. They recently moved to Greenwich after living in Manhattan for many years. Amie enjoys cooking and baking while Tyler enjoys golf; but, most of all, they both enjoy spending time with Fischer!

**Craig Scott Symons and W. Vance Briceland**, 106A Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 586-419-1209 (Craig); 313-550-5394 (Vance). Craig comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from The First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak, MI. Vance comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Craig is Director of Music here at First Congregational Church and Vance is an author. Craig is a Michigan native and a life-long church musician while Vance was raised in Richmond, VA and lived in the Detroit area for 25 years. Craig and Vance were married here at FCCOG in 2010. They are the proud owners of two cats, Fred and Ruby (both girls).

**Daniel Schlorff**, 33 Virgil Street, Apt. 6, Stamford, CT 06902, 262-705-6675. Dan comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. He is Director of Christian Education at First Congregational Church of Stamford and is a Seminarian at Hartford Seminary. When not in church, you can find Dan singing with the Yale Camerata and its Chamber Chorus, Yale Pro Musica, or

playing double bass for the Hamden Symphony Orchestra. He enjoys skiing, tennis, camping, taking road trips and spending time with his two dogs, Stewie and Chicken.

## *Calendar*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

Today our children will be learning about different scriptures depending on their grade level. The 4th and 5th graders will hear Part 2 of the "Who Are We as a Congregation?" program. Led by Rosemary Lamie, today we will have guest speakers: Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse; Clem Lepoutre, Benevolence Steward; and Pat Larrabee who will bring artifacts of special interest to our children found by the Historical Committee.

#### **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**

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and the Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

#### **Bible Study**

Those Corinthians are at it again. Today we'll consider how factions form and how understanding ourselves can keep them from forming. We'll also introduce Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*, which will supplement our Biblical text.

**Next Sunday, May 6 – Another movie!** First join us for 10:00 am worship to hear our very own Dan England preach. Then, forget Bible Study, but plan to stay for the movie! Join us at 11:30 am in the Auditorium for a showing of the movie, *In Time*, the 2011 sensation that has a lot to do with Greenwich (it's mentioned in the movie). In a future where people stop aging at 25, but are engineered to live only one more year, having the means to buy your way out of the situation is a shot at immortal youth. Here Will Salas finds

himself accused of murder and on the run with a hostage - a connection that becomes an important part of the way against the system. The movie stars Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried. It is theologically and sociologically important. Discussion to follow and ...popcorn!



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme today is *Lessons in Music*. Do you have a favorite song that really speaks to you? We will spend some time today recognizing the theological connections we find in our everyday life, including songs we listen to. The service is casual so come as you are and bring all your friends!

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## THIS 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. This 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.

### Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteer Day

Mark your calendar for another FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor: *Saturday, May 5* from 8:30 - 10:30 am OR 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This is the last opportunity of this program year. Please let Rosemary know if and when you can be there.



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## NEWS AND NOTICES

## New FCCOG Forum

Churches run on communication. Even as we try to make sure that transparency is a normal part of our meetings and decision making, still there are bound to be "parking lot" conversations that really make a difference. But "parking lot" conversations aren't transparent. So we have created the *First*



*Congregational Church Forum*, a place where members and friends of FCCOG can post thoughts, observations and opinions and others can respond to form an online conversation. To get started, simply register and tell people what is on your mind. Politely, of course. You can even let everyone know what you think of the FCCOG Forum *on* the FCCOG Forum. We're trying to move our conversation from the parking lot to the serious conversation lot (if there is such a thing). Please help us get this initiative started. Maybe Google will buy it! To register go to [www.fccog.org/forum](http://www.fccog.org/forum) (or you can click on the forum link at the top of the homepage. For more details on how to register, check out the May MHM.

## Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale!

Tickets for the 42nd Annual Quilt Raffle can be purchased today during Coffee Hour. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will take place at the Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 16 at noon. You do not need to be present to win. The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful queen size quilt in a colorful "Ocean Waves" pattern this year. Tickets will be sold during Coffee Hour and at the Church Office prior to the drawing. An order form is also included in the May Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to local charities that benefit women, children and families.



## News from The Rummage Room

**April 30 through May 5:** Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13. Please think about The Rummage Room when you are shopping for your mothers and mothers-in-law. If in doubt, you also have the benefit of gift certificates for any amount you wish to give. You might be surprised how much fun a gift certificate from our shop can be.

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** High on the list are good handbags; Mother's Day gifts for giving; Summer clothing; bikes for all ages;

baby gates; and small furniture. Please sort your donations and bring only clean, salable items.

**Donation hours:** 10:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

*Shoot for the Moon. Even if we miss, we'll be among the Stars!*  
~ Unknown.

**Next Week at First Congregational Church**

**10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse**  
**Music by The Chancel Choir**  
*Dan England, preaching*

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**5:00 pm linc worship service – Auditorium**  
Next week we will be celebrating Mother's Day a little early.  
(No linc service on Mother's Day, May 13.)  
We will take a look at some scripture passages, artwork, stories  
and song that depict the Mothering aspects of God and faith.  
**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](http://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