

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Second Sunday of Easter

3 April 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



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

Trumpet Tune in G

Dr. Craig Scott Symons

William P. Rowan (b. 1951)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Springtime changes are bursting forth around us

People: The earth awakens from winter with a display of wondrous color.

Leader: The cycle of living and dying continues.

People: As it has for ages past and will for ages to come.

Leader: Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter Sunday is over.

People: But the message of new life, new awakens, and new possibilities remains with us. Glory to God! Alleluia!

***HYMN**

New Century (black) Hymnal 238

Now the Green Blade Rises

UNISON PRAYER

God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of struggle, and for commitment to each other's growth. We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence. We are not willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world; show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior,

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.

COMMISSIONING OF THE MISSION TEAM

Ivan Golodinskii

Drew Mohn

Yevgeniya Golodinskii

Mark Mohn

Donald Haviland

Emma Schuren

Daniel Lepoutre

Gillian Woodman

Charlotte Lorthior

Stephanie Woodman

C| Fred Lorthior

;

Meghan Young

in D. Young

(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

Barbara Norrgard

Acts 5: 27-32

Bringing them back, they stood them before the High Council. The Chief Priest said, "Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name? And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man."

Peter and the apostles answered, "It's necessary to obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, the One you killed by hanging him on a cross. God set him on high at his side, Prince and Savior, to give Israel the gift of a changed life and sins forgiven. And we are witnesses to these things. The Holy Spirit, whom God gives to those who obey him, corroborates every detail."

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

I want to walk as a child of the light;

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world;

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all;

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

*I want to see the brightness of God;
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ;
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.*

SECOND LESSON

Sue McCalley

John 20: 24-31

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”

But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.” Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

HYMN

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

New Century (black) Hymnal 256

SERMON

“Peace be with you”

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Paul Kretschmann

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hallelujah

The Chancel Choir

L. V. Beethoven (1770-1827)

*DOXOLOGY

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.

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Like a tent in the wilderness

the table of God stands open and ready
as a place of sanctuary and safety,
of hospitality and healing.

So come, all you who are tired and travel stained,
footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travelers

and find companionship and comfort;
for here, Jesus –
who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle
in desert places –

waits to meet us and welcome us in,
offering us rest and restoration,
solace and stretch,
for the journey still to come.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (note, gluten-free bread is available) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God has called us to journey for a season through the wilderness places.

And so, as Jesus did before us,
we will set out once more
to wander in an uncomfortable landscape
and wrestle with its challenges,
that through the tempering action of the Spirit,
we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom.
Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN
The Day of Resurrection

New Century (black) Hymnal 245

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Processional

Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

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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

Church School

Regular Church School Classes return today. We will begin a new Rotation Unit with "Fruit of the Spirit", a SPARK curriculum. Next Sunday, April 10, we will have a special Church School event when,

using materials donated by Crayola for our anniversary celebration, we will produce a colorful piece to put into the new time capsule. We will resume our Rotation workshops on April 17.

FCCOG KIDS will contribute to the Time Capsule

Hopefully your family received a letter inviting children and parents to create your own idea of what should be in the time capsule. Ideas include... On **Sunday, April 24**, we will put our own “relics” into the time capsule to be buried for 50 years and opened in 2065!

April 10 – a special Church School event when, using materials donated by Crayola for our anniversary celebration, we will produce a colorful piece to put into the new time capsule.

Bible Study

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

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Fellowship Hour.

THIS WEEK

Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness Committee is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Wednesday April 6**, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We're looking for volunteers to make refreshments or play the piano, so please sign up at coffee hour, or contact Betsy Kreuter at 637-3069 or Sue Asselin at extension 21. And as always, blood donors are very much appreciated and appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Thank you for reaching out and being God's hands by helping others.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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 DarlaS@fccog.org so we have enough food and child care for all.

Youth Mission Trip: Help us get there!

The FCCOG high school youth group is headed to West Virginia with the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) to repair homes for low-income family in the heart of Appalachia. We believe that God calls us to love our neighbors, and so we're doing just that. Please consider becoming a sponsor and donating to our trip. For more information visit: j.mp/YouthMissionTrip or stop by our table during coffee hour.

Flint Water Project

Easter Sunday was the end of our Lenten Project when we finished collecting and returning bottles and cans for money to send to the Woodside UCC Church in Flint, MI to use in whatever way they find most needed. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated, especially the Task Force members who went from store to store to locate working machines to collect the money!

Recommended Reading

Looking for your next good read? Rev. Avery C. Manchester has recommended some thought-provoking books that are available for sale in the Church Office. These books include: *What the Mystics Know: Seven Pathways to Your Deeper Self*, and *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*, both by Richard Rohr; and *On America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*, by Jim Wallis.

Read Scripture at FCCOG

One of the ways we experience the holy is through the reading and receiving of scripture. Help us bring the stories of our faith to life and consider sharing your gifts in worship by reading our weekly scripture lessons. For more information and to sign-up, please email Pat Larrabee at patlarrabee@hotmail.com.

News from The Rummage Room *191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich*

Monday, April 3: See Manager Leanne's categories of merchandise on sale this week at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Leanne's Wish List: Good jewelry and handbags.

Gift Certificates Available: It's spring which means proms, weddings, Mother's Day, birthdays and other occasions. What better place to purchase gift certificates for your favorite people in any amount you wish.

To Our Customers: Please bring ONLY salable donations! The RR pays for the removal of every full dumpster, and every load taken away means less proceeds go to organizations who help care for women, children and families. Many Thanks.

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 the Week: We cannot find peace by avoiding life. May we live each day like it was our last.

Tai Chi Classes

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 \$10 per class. Drop-ins are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor - Collection Barrel at Entrance to Church
Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.) Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels. Tuna is **not** needed at this time.



WHERE TO FIND US:

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