

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10 August 2014

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.



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We are glad that you have chosen to spend this portion of your Sabbath day together with this community of faith. Consider the words Belief, Faith and Trust. How would you describe each of these? When you consider your own journey, how do these words come into play? In our scripture lessons today (and in a couple that are not in this program), we hear these words. May God speak through these words, the words we say, the words we hear so that we may recognize God's message of love and hope in this place. Let us worship God.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in Bb

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Richard White (b. 1947)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarah Micklely

Leader: Our ancestors heard the voice of God calling from the heavens.

People: Let us listen for God now.

Leader: Jesus' disciples saw the work of God in the calming of the seas.

People: May we see God at work in this place.

Leader: Paul called together the people of God's church saying, "You must believe!"

People: We believe that God is doing a new thing, even now, in this place and throughout the world.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***HYMN**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

New Century (black) Hymnal 276

OPENING PRAYER

Hear our prayer God.

We call to you from the pews and aisles;

From choir loft and pulpit.

We call to you from our cities and from our towns.

From our workplaces and play places, we call to you.

From hospital and home, hear our call.

We call, lifting this prayer:

May we be made new so that, by the light that shines forth from us, the world will have a better understanding of you.

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

THE PSALM

Barbara Norrgard

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him.

The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.

He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

That they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

From New Revised Standard Version

DUET

Ancient Words

Sarah and Lauren Mickley

Lynn Deshazo

THE EPISTLE

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

From New Revised Standard Version

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

*I am weak but thou are strong; Jesus, keep from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.*

Chorus:

*Just closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee, let me be, dear Lord, let it be.*

SERMON

I Believe So

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

The Summer Choir

Stephen Casurella (b. 1973)

Carol Woodman, soprano

*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

Come, We Who Love God's Name (verses 1, 3, 5)

New Century (black) Hymnal 382

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Marche

Pierre Kunc (1865-1941)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Memory Garden
(weather permitting) following the worship service.*

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

Summer Church School: We have been having so much fun at the beach this summer, we have decided to continue *Bible Stories at the Beach* every Sunday. So if you are in town during August, bring your children to the 8:00 am Beach Service at Tod's Point. They can join Rosemary and helpers to explore God's creation and have some fun doing it. Meanwhile there is Child Care for infants-4 years old (in **Room 104**) at this 10:00 am service. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Undercroft. Ushers are able to direct you.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today's Worship Service.

NEXT WEEK

Come One, Come All!

On *Sunday, August 31*, we will have not one, but TWO choirs for John Collins' final Sunday: A women's chorus and a men's chorus, each singing a special song. To give folks a chance to prepare more than just that morning, we will have a 15 minute rehearsal in the choir loft after worship for the next two Sundays. On *August 17*, the ladies will gather following worship, and on *August 24*, the male voices will gather. Then, on *August 31*, the men will gather at 8:30



am in the choir loft, and the ladies will gather at 9:00 am, with a break at 9:30 for coffee and fellowship. Change your vacation schedules and join us for the extra special musical offering!

Beach Services during the Summer

Beach Services are held each Sunday at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point, weather permitting, **through September 7** (when our new Senior Pastor, Richard DenUyl will preach his first sermon there!). Communion is served every Sunday. Come and join us for this casual service.

Have You Joined Us for Summer Choir Yet?

There's still time to participate in the Summer Choir! Just join us on **Sunday mornings** at 9:00 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal for the music being done that Sunday. Come any Sundays that you are available. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Mark Your Calendar for the Last *Summer Sings!*

Do you miss singing in your choir during the summer? Then mark your calendars and join us for the last *Summer Sings!* of the season on **Wednesday, August 27**. Just come as you are from 7:30-9:30 pm that evening and within these 2 hours we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of Handel's *Zadok, the Priest*, and Haydn's *Te Deum in C*. Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included! No sign-up necessary. Just come ready to sing! (Suggested minimum donation of \$5 per person). We will meet in our air conditioned Meetinghouse. Non-singers are also welcome to enjoy the evening!



Upcoming Church Committee Meetings

All church members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend our Church Committee meetings which are held on the first Monday of every month. Mark your calendars for the next meeting on **Monday, September 8** from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Lounge. See you there.

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

The Rummage Room will be closed until *August 25*.

Monday, August 25: The Rummage Room will celebrate its *Grand Reopening* with all 'new' merchandise from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Mark your calendar now as August 25 will be the biggest event of the year at the 'Best Little Shop' in Old Greenwich!!

Tuesday, August 26: Donations will be accepted again from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. **Please do not leave donations while the shop is closed!!** There will be no one to process them. *New donations will be needed so please save for when we reopen.* **The Rummage Room**

counts on your donations. Over 4 million dollars have been raised in the past 50 years to help generate funds for those less fortunate.

Manager Maria is in need of shopping bags for Reopening Day:

Would you please leave any contribution of bags you may have at

The Rummage Room on *August 11* or *August 12*? Maria thanks you.

Thought for the Day: *Aging, unfortunately, seems to be the only available way to live a long life!* - Composer Francois-Esprit Auber

Tai Chi Classes

Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises with our new teacher, Joe Black. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class. Join us! You can even just drop in. **All are welcome.**

Next Week at First Congregational Church

8:00 am Worship Service at the Beach (Tod's Point).
Beach Services will run through *September 7* (when new Senior
Pastor, Richard DenUyl will preach his first sermon!)

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Summer Choir

And I Saw a New Heaven by Malcolm Archer

Lynette Pfund, soprano

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Domine Deus (from *Mass in C minor*) by W. A. Mozart

Daniel Schlorff, guest preacher

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

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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 Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: 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