

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

11 August 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Photography by Wendy Amdahl

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.



Summer at this time of year is like trying to hang on to a fading romance. The boys of summer aren't so much swatting balls out of the park as getting hit with fines and suspensions. More on that later. Even the end to the Beach Service is in sight (last beach service Sept. 8) as people seem to want to import September into these few days of a less-than-full schedule. We are glad that you have chosen to spend a few minutes of reflection, song and prayer with us here at First Congregational Church of Greenwich this morning. For while many demands slow down for a moment more, our need of God's peace is still strong. So welcome to this service of worship. If you are a visitor, we hope you will become a regular and find a church home with us.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Fantasy in C

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come here, unfathomable God, to fathom you.

People: But so taciturn you sometimes are that we can't read you at all.

Leader: Still, we long, we pant for you.

People: So come near today, we ask.

All: And we will be grateful.

*‡HYMN

"Lift Up Your Hearts!"

New Century (black) Hymnal 38

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord God, we try to hold on to summer because it is a time of rest. We are a people wearied by all we do but, more than that, by all that is expected of us. Long and lazy days help some when we can get hold of them, but they expire before even the autumn is out. So help us to find a rest that has no calendar, no vacation home -- the rest that comes in knowing you, the rest and comfort of kind words from friends and lovers and family, the peace of soul that strivers never know. Lord, come into our community, our congregation, our beings and our being together. Fill us with wonder at your love so that others might wonder and rejoice at our love for them. Come to us today, we pray, even as we find strange comfort in the words we know so well, the ones Jesus taught saying...

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

From *NRSV*

PSALM

Psalm 33

The Congregation

New Century (black) Hymnal pg 643

SECOND LESSON

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said,

‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

From *NRSV*

***‡HYMN**

Incarnate God, Immortal Love

New Century (black) Hymnal 414

SERMON

Jesus and A-Rod

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. John W. Collins

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Summer Choir

Let All Things Now Living Arr. Katherine K. Davis (1892-1980)

***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**

At the Name of Jesus

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 197

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Minuet

Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.
Weather permitting, we will meet in the Memory Garden.*

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

Each Sunday at this service we have Child Care for infants through 4 years old. Today we are in Room 104 which is at the bottom of both stairways leading to the preschool main entrance. Ushers are able to direct you. **Summer Church School (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) is currently on hiatus but will return on September 1 & 8.**

NEWS AND NOTICES

FCCOG is now on Instagram!

Check us out on Instagram @fccogct and follow us!

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

August Calendar: The Rummage Room is now closed for restocking and repairs. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS WHILE THE SHOP IS CLOSED! They will not be processed. Please bring donations on Tuesday, August 27 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The Rummage Room will celebrate its 49th Grand Reopening beginning Monday, August 26 at 10:00!

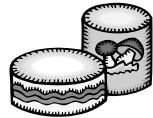
Mark your calendar on this date as **Opening Week** is the "BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!" The shop is restocked with all 'new' quality merchandise every day. Open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Every time you shop or donate at The Rummage Room, you are providing comfort to those less fortunate. It is a 49 year tradition thanks to our Shoppers, Donators, Staff and Volunteers. While we can't name all who contribute so much of their time and talent week in and week out, we can recognize our wonderful volunteers. Some of the volunteers have been at The Rummage Room 30 to 40 years and, hopefully, will be there 30 more!

Thought for the Day: *"It is said that we miss a really great joy in life when we scramble for bargain-counter happiness."* Whoever wrote that has certainly never worked at The Rummage Room!!!

Food Collection – Emergency Call

People seem to forget about the need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor over the summer months, but hunger doesn't take a holiday. And now the food supply is dwindling. Please, remember that a Food Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse as well as at the Beach Service. Items can even be brought to the Church Office for pick up. Please just pick up an extra few items when you go to the grocery and donate them for those in need. Items especially needed at this time include: Canned fruit, Canned meat (i.e. Chili, Spam), Peanut butter (18 oz), Jelly (18 oz), Cereal and Soup.



Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!

(We have 198 "likes"... help us get to 200!)

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

Check out our [YouTube](#) page!

And now we're on [Instagram](#) too!



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by The Summer Choir

Sing Praise to God by Lawrence Curry

Josh Hall, oboe

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

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acrilinc *Beach Service*
get connected

Beach Services are held each Sunday at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). Communion is served. Join us for this casual service. *Bible Stories at the Beach*, our Summer Church School, is on hiatus during August and will return on **September 1 & 8!**

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