

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Celebrating 350 Years - 1665-2015

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 August 2015

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 this morning as we continue to bask in the relaxing season of summer. Wherever you are on life's journey, we are glad you are here with us to share these moments of music, prayer and inspiration. May you feel God's loving Spirit as we worship together.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Improvisation

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Joe McBride

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Elaine Teeters

PRAISING GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This is the day our God has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: We might have chosen to be somewhere else this morning, but we were drawn to come to worship you.

People: We bring you our joys. We bring you our faith and trust. We bring you our doubts and our fears and our unanswered questions.

Leader: We come to give thanks for countless blessings and to offer our gifts.

People: We come seeking your wisdom. We come to pray for each other and for ourselves.

All: Be close to us, we pray, and speak to each of us according to your will and our personal need. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

*HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies New Century (black) Hymnal 86

UNISON PRAYER OF UNBURDENING

Gracious God, we come into your presence just as we are. We know we have no righteousness or standing apart from the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for the precious gift of your Son, who cleanses and washes away our sin. We ask that you forgive us for things we have done...and for things we have left undone. Help us to treat others as we would wish to be treated and help us to think about what Jesus would do as we make choices each day. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Luke 8:4-8; 11-15

This passage from Luke recounts the familiar parable of sowing the seed: While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: *"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."*

Later, his disciples asked Jesus what the story meant.

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's

worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

ANTHEM

At the River

The Summer Choir

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

*Shall we gather by the river, Where bright angels' feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God.
Yes, we'll gather by the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river That flows by the throne of God.*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver With the melody of peace.
Yes we'll gather by the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river, That flows by the throne of God,
That flows by the throne of God.*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 6:25, 32 & 33

These verses come from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?...indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

***HYMN**

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

New Century (black) Hymnal 172

SERMON

Tennis Balls and Rice

Doug Halley, Guest Preacher

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (“debts”)

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Communion

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Today communion will be by intinction. Congregants are invited to come forward down the center aisle to one of the communion stations by the chancel, receive the bread (gluten-free), dip in the cup and partake. Those who need to stay in the pew should indicate their need to be served there to one of the ushers or greeters. Someone will come to serve you.

SOLO DURING COMMUNION

Panis Angelicus

Thomas Woodman, bass
Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

*Panis angelicus Fit panis hominum;
Dat panis coelicus Figuris terminum:
O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum*

Pauper, servus et humilis.

*Te trina Deitas, Unaque poscimus,
Sic nos tu visita, Sicut te colimus;
Per tuas semitas Duc nos quo tendimus,
Ad lucem quam inhabitas.*

*The bread of the angels becomes the bread of man;
the bread of heaven is given a bounded form.
O wondrous thing!
The poor, the slave and the humble man feed on their lord.*

*Of you, threefold and one God, we ask:
Come to visit us as we worship you;
lead us on your paths to where we want to go:
to the light in which you dwell.*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

Take My Life and Let It Be New Century (black) Hymnal 448

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in G Major

John Alcock (1715-1806)

* * *

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

Our Guest Preacher today, Doug Halley, is a second-career UCC licensed minister. The focus of Doug's ministry is leading Sunday worship and guest preaching. He began preaching in 1996 with the encouragement of his pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Clarke. Doug pursued his call by retiring in 2002 from a thirty-five year career in aerospace engineering at Sikorsky Aircraft to attend Yale Divinity School. He is a member of the First Congregational Church in Stratford where he has served on Stewardship, Benevolence, Deacons and Board of Trustees. He also served as Chair of the Lead Gift Team for the church's capital fund drive. He and his wife, Luci, live in Shelton.

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. Please see an usher if you need directions to child care.

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

Rev. DenUyl Will Be on Vacation until August 11

During this time, Sue Asselin will be the 24/7 point person for all hospital visits and emergencies. She will check messages, do hospital visits and contact Rev. DenUyl directly if there is a death or requested memorial service via Donna or a family. Sue can be reached at 203-637-1791 ext. 21 or susana@fccog.org.

Church School

Bible Stories at the Beach resume this morning at our 8:00 am Beach Service and will continue August 9, 16, 23, 30, September 6 and 13. Although there are no formal Church School classes at this 10:00 am service in the summer, we do have adults and teenagers who can provide activities for your child during worship. These activities take place in the Preschool area and any usher can direct you.

THIS WEEK

Off Beat Players *Bye, Bye Birdie*

Our own Donald Haviland is the Musical Director of the upcoming Off Beat Players' production of *Bye, Bye Birdie*. Be sure to get your tickets today! The show is this **Wed, August 5-Sat, August 8** at the Arch Street Teen Center in Greenwich. Tickets are \$15 at the door. More info: www.OffBeatPlayers.org. The Off Beat Players is a non-profit organization that mixes children of all ability levels into their productions and prides itself in including those with special needs.

NEXT WEEK

Summer Beach Services

Beach Services are held at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point throughout the summer, weather permitting. Communion is served every Sunday. Come and join us for this casual service. Summer Church School will also take place at this time down at the beach, so bring the whole family! If the Beach Service is cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice in red will be posted on our website by 7:30 am and a white piece of paper will be taped to the sermon sign on the church lawn. The 10:00 am service in the Meetinghouse will continue every Sunday throughout the summer.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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

AUGUST CALENDAR:

Monday, Aug 3 until Monday, August 24: The Rummage Room is **closed** for cleaning and the restocking of merchandise.

Monday, August 24: The Rummage Room will celebrate its 51st Grand 'Reopening' with everything 'new' from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Tuesday, August 25: Donations will be accepted again from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Needed: cashmere sweaters, good jewelry, handbags, good bric-a-brac, and shopping bags. New donations will be needed to replenish what is sold, so please save for when we reopen. Over 4 million dollars has been raised in the last 50 years to help generate funds for organizations that help women's and children's causes throughout the world.

The Three C's of Life: *You must make a CHOICE to take a CHANCE or your life will never CHANGE. No use looking backwards....we're no longer going that way.*

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 – Food Collection

Please don't forget those in need. **Items especially needed are canned meats, such as Spam, chili, etc.** Tuna is **not** needed at this time. Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels.

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

Facebook

Twitter

YouTube

Instagram



Rev. DenUyl Will Be on Vacation until August 11

August 9, 2015

8:00 am Beach Service at Greenwich Point

10:00 am Worship Service in the Meetinghouse

Bill Federici, guest preacher

Music by The Summer Choir

A Jubilant Song by Alan Pote

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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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell