

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

26 August 2012

10 o'clock in the morning





We welcome you with joy to this service of worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. May this time spent in meditation, prayer and song be a tonic for your soul and open your heart to God's graceful presence.

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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

**PRELUDE**

*O God, Thou Faithful God*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist*  
Johannes Brahms

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. John C. Collins*

**PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: How shall we enter the house of God?*

*People: With songs of great praise and rejoicing!*

*Leader: How shall we prepare ourselves to receive God's blessing?*

*People: With hearts, minds and spirits that are unburdened and open.*

*Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down,*

*People: Let us offer our praise to God who has redeemed us.*

**\*‡HYMN**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 195

*(Please remain standing for the Opening Prayer through the Gloria)*

**\*OPENING PRAYER (In unison)**

Loving and eternal God, through the heat of summer we have looked for the touch of your healing hand. We have suffered needlessly by turning away from your love. We have neglected to

remember the countless ways you have blessed our lives, allowing ourselves to be easily distracted by the passing winds of the world. In this quiet hour, clear our minds of anxious clutter and allow us to hear your gentle voice, a calm reassuring voice that makes us whole again. We pray in Jesus name, who taught us to pray 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**

*Sue McCalley*

**Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.”

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods

of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

## PSALM

### Psalm 27 The Lord Is My Light

Refrain

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, of  
whom should I be a - fraid, of whom should I be a - fraid?

Verses

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom should I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom should I shrink?
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord; for this I long;  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
3. I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living;  
hope in him, and take heart. Hope in the Lord!

## SECOND LESSON

*Stu McCalley*

### Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of

blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

\*‡HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

New Century (black) Hymnal 473

SERMON

*“Joshua Has a Question”*

*Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers, Senior Pastor Emeritus*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

### **RESPONDING TO GOD**

CALL TO OFFERING

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

*The Summer Choir*

Allen Pote

*Vance Briceland, piano*

**\*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**

*Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing* New Century (black) Hymnal 303

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*March*

William Rowan

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by Len and Yanna Saari in celebration of the life of their daughter, Karina.

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.

### Church School

There are no Church School classes from now until Homecoming Sunday, September 16. However, there is Child Care every Sunday in the Preschool. Usually we use the Blue Door Classroom but today we will be in Room 104. Please ask an Usher or Greeter for directions.

### 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.

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### THIS WEEK

#### Our Last Summer Sings – This *Wednesday, August 29!*

The second season of Summer Sings wraps up in the Meetinghouse from 7:30-9:30 pm this *Wednesday, August 29*. That evening we gather to sing one of the great choral works, *Requiem*, by Johannes Brahms, which will bring our Summer Sings to a close. Joining us that evening will be our own soprano soloist, Hanna Golodinskii and duo-pianists Jon Hunt and Jayson Engquist, all under the direction of Craig Scott Symons. We rehearse sections of the work, then take a short break, then perform the work for ourselves, as well as any others who might be around just to listen. You don't need to have any church affiliation or sing regularly with any choir. Just have a love of singing! *Requiem* will also be our Festival Choir work that concludes our 2012-2013 Music and Arts Series in late April. We hope to see you on Wednesday!



### News from The Rummage Room

48TH GRAND REOPENING OF THE RUMMAGE ROOM  
TOMORROW!

- **Monday, August 27:** All "New" merchandise on racks and shelves. Shopping hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.



- **Tuesday, August 28:** First day for donations. Donation hours are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, and on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- **Wish list for September:** Jewelry; good handbags; shoes; good bric-a-brac; musical instruments; small furniture; new and gently used clothing.
- All proceeds from The Rummage Room go to organizations that support women, children and families. More than two and a half million dollars have been raised in the past 15 years for these causes. Your continued help is appreciated.
- Since it has been often said that *“If we want to change the world, we need to learn to care about one person at a time,”* The Rummage Room awaits you!

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## NEXT WEEK

### Join Us at the Beach for the Last Beach Service!

Only **ONE** Beach Service left! Join us at Greenwich Point next Sunday morning, *September 2*, for the very last 8:00 am Beach Service of the 2012 Summer season (weather permitting). Communion will be served.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Friendship Quilt for Michelle and David Young

We are glad to report that we have reached phase IV of this project, thanks to all the swift stitchers in our midst. The quilt is now on the frame, ready to be quilted by you. Consider giving a few hours of your time to help us with our project (if you've never quilted before, we shall show you how). Let this be a joint effort.



The names of the workers will be listed on the back of the finished quilt. We meet **Monday mornings from 9:00 am to 11.30 am** and **Tuesday evenings 7:30 pm to 9.00 pm** in Room 203. Please call to make sure we are meeting: Call Inge Thalheim 203-637-9614 or Hilary Lawrence 203-637-1214.

## Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

Improve your balance, health and well being. 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 \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it! **All are welcome.**



## Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor.

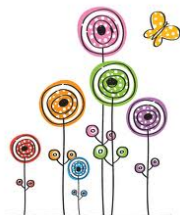
Currently, the items most in need are: Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter (small size), Cereal, Canned Meat/Tuna and Jelly (small size). If you’ve forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto:fccoghungermission@gmail.com) with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.



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

Visit our new [Forum](#) and start a conversation



*Next Week at First Congregational Church*

**10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse**

**Choral Music by The Summer Choir:**

*Christ is the World's True Light* by W.K. Stanton

Jayson Engquist, guest director/organist

**Rev. Daniel B. England, preaching**

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**Last 8:00 am linc Beach Service – Greenwich Point**

Please join us for the last Beach Service of the 2012 summer season. FCCOG's summer Beach Service is a wonderful, casual time for worship, communion and community.

## *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

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 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