

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

3 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.



We warmly welcome you to worship here 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 to share these moments of music, prayer and inspiration. We also hope you will stay after worship for our Fellowship Hour in the Memory Garden, which is to the left of the vestibule as you leave. May you feel God's relaxing Spirit as we worship together.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Allegretto

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Louis Lefébure-Wely (1817-1869)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lauren Mickley

Leader: Today we are called to this sacred place from the stress and noise of our daily lives.

People: Let us put down the burdens of our living and open our spirits to God's calming grace.

Leader: Today we are called to this sacred place to remember the richness of God's blessings.

People: Let us take the time to be deeply grateful for all we have received.

Leader: Today we are called to this sacred place to deepen our compassion for others.

People: Let us reach out in relentless love to those in need.

***HYMN**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 195

OPENING PRAYER

Infinite God, as the hand is made for holding and the eye for seeing, you have fashioned our lives for joy. Share with us the vision that sees joy in all things: in the wild violet's beauty, in the birdsong of morning, in the faces of strangers, in a child's laugh, in a parent's love, in the ever present wonder of your creation. May unexpected joy find us even in the struggles of life, and may we remember that your graceful joy is our birthright. We ask in Jesus name, whose prayer we 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

Isaiah 61:1-4

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all

who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

From New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

The Earth is the Lord's

Daniel Schlorff, bass

Don McAfee (b. 1935)

SECOND LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Matthew 13:53-58

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house." And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

O for a Closer Walk With God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 349

SERMON

Stopping the Madness

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

The Summer Choir

Craig Scott Symons

***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**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*in unison*)

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our commitment to bear your name and to follow you wherever you lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 355

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*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 (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) is held at the 8:00 am Beach Service. At 10:00 am worship during the summer we have Child Care for infants-4 years old (in **Room 104**). 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.

Blood Pressure Screening

Betsy Kreuter, PT, a member of the Wellness Committee, will be available for blood pressure screenings immediately following the Worship Service today in Room 203.

THIS WEEK

Church Committee Meeting Tomorrow

ALL church members are welcome and encouraged to attend our Church Committee meetings which are held on the first Monday of every month. Join us tomorrow, *Monday, August 4* from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Lounge for this month's meeting, and mark your calendars for *Monday, September 8* when the September meeting will be held. See you there.

NEXT WEEK

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.

Calling all Singers for Summer Choir!

There's still plenty of 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

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: *Our Sunday School teacher used to tell us the story of Adam and Eve. First God created Adam, she always said, and then God looked at Adam and said, "I think I can do better," so He created Woman!!!*

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.**

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#),
[YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)

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

Carol Woodman soprano

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, arr. by Stephan Casurella

Sarah and Lauren Mickley

Ancient Words by Michael W. Smith

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

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