

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

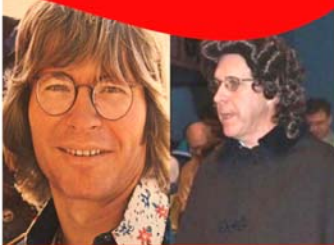
*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

31 August 2014

10 o'clock in the morning



## A Fond Farewell:

If you took the compassion of Father Mulcahy (from M\*A\*S\*H) and the musical stylings of John Denver, added in a bit of "calm in the midst of chaos" and the ability to deliver a wonderful sermon, you would have John Collins. John has worked with us during the interim period leading up to the arrival of our new Senior Pastor. For the congregation, he has offered the right balance of healing, challenge and vision. For our staff, he has offered an unparalleled combination of support and affirmation. Though our worship services always give thanks to God and center on the wonderful things that God has brought our way, we would be remiss if, today, we did not say a special word of thanks to God for the gift of John Collins.

Let us worship the God who has led us through times of trial and joy.

Let us worship the God who sends our way the people to shine light on our journey.

Let us worship God.



*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 greet you with joy as you join us for worship here at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As we quiet our souls and seek God's healing Spirit, may your spirit feel God's deep peace of renewal.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

**PRELUDE**  
*Berceuse*

*Vance Brice Land, Craig Scott Symons, piano*  
Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**  
*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Clem Lepoutre*

### **PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Mariel Laffan*

*Leader: God's touch of hope meets us in unexpected places.*

*People: God's touch of kindness walks toward us when we are most alone.*

*Leader: God's touch of healing reaches down into the depths of our souls.*

*People: Let us open our hearts that we might be touched by God's love and surprised by God's grace.*

**\*HYMN**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 15

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Wendy Reynolds*

Eternal God, we gather today to thank you for creating the world and all living creatures. We come seeking the light of your Spirit and to live together as the people of Christ. Give us the strength to honor our covenant with you, that our souls might be restored in moments of doubt. Grant us the courage and insight to

extend the grace of Christ to all we meet. Grant us your peaceful blessing as we journey through our lives. We pray as Jesus taught us,

### 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

*Pat Larrabee*

#### Psalm 139:1-10

**O** Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
From *New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM  
*Steal Away*

*Women's Chorus*  
Arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

SECOND LESSON

*Car Westbrook*

**John 8:2-11**

**E**arly in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."  
From *New Revised Standard Version*

\*HYMN

*Lord God of Hosts, Whose Purpose Never Swerving*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 411

SERMON

*May I Wrap That for You?*

*Rev. John W. Collins*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Paul Olmsted*

CALL TO OFFERING

*Chris Hartwell*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Jubilate Deo*

*Men's Chorus*

Berthold Tours (1838-1897)

\*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, the Lord is King*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 204

LITURGY OF FAREWELL TO REV. JOHN COLLINS

**Elaine Teeters:** *Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with Rev. John Collins as he completes his ministry among us.*

*On June 1st, 2012, The First Congregational Church of Greenwich called John Collins to serve as Interim Senior Minister.*

**Rev. John Collins:** *I thank First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown to me during my time of ministry here. I am grateful for all the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me your spirit and all that I have learned here.*

**Congregation:** *We receive your thankfulness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your*

*time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.*

**Elaine:** *Do you the members and friends of First Congregational Church release John from the duties of Interim Senior Minister?*

**Congregation:** *We do with the help of God.*

**Chris Cantwell:** *Do you John, release this church from turning to you and depending on you? Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here as Rev. Richard DenUyl begins his ministry as the Settled Senior Minister?*

**John:** *I do, with the help of God.*

**Rev. Mark Montgomery:** *Let Us Pray, O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with John in worship, in learning and service. Guide us as we hold these memories but move in new directions, embracing Rev. Richard DenUyl as our settled Senior Minister with the guidance of your Spirit. We pray in your many names, Amen.*

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

*The Summer Choir*

Peter Lutkin (1858-1911)

**POSTLUDE**

*March*

*Vance Briceland, Craig Scott Symons, piano*

R. S. Morrison

*Immediately following this morning's service we will hold a Special Time of Fellowship to say farewell to Rev. John Collins and wish him God's blessing as he begins a new chapter of ministry in his life. It is a bittersweet time in the life of our congregation and we will deeply miss John's presence and ministry to First Church. Please join us to express your gratitude to John as we celebrate his ministry among us.*

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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.

## *Calendar*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

Summer Church School: **Next Sunday, September 7** marks the *LAST Bible Stories at the Beach* for this summer season. This exciting program will return next year! Bring your children to the 8:00 am Beach Service at Tod's Point next Sunday and 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 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.

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### NEXT WEEK

#### **Beach Services during the Summer**

Beach Services are held each Sunday at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point, weather permitting, **through next Sunday, Sept 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.

#### **Next Church Committee Meeting**

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

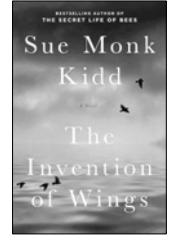


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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### ***Hats Off* Book Discussion Group is Back!**

*Hats Off* will begin on **Thursday, September 18** in the Lounge from 10:00-11:30 am. The first pick for our fall reading is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Since there are 30 copies in the Greenwich library we will be using our fine library for our editions. Please call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 if you'd like to purchase a book instead.



### **“Bach With Verse” Concert**

All are invited to a *Bach With Verse* concert to highlight the issue of prison ministry on **Sunday, Sept. 14** from 4:00-6:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located at 1 West Putnam Avenue (at the top of Greenwich Ave). The hour-long concert features Richard “Dobbs” Hartshorne playing the music of J. S. Bach transcribed for bass viol. Richard is a world-traveled musician who has made it his lifework to play for prisoners and refugees across the world. He combines inspiring music with stories of his adventures. A reception will follow where Greenwich folks involved with prison ministry, along with Family Re-Entry folks, will have information available about this important ministry. No reservation necessary for this free concert. Questions? Call Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526.



### **Outreach Opportunity**

St. Catherine of Siena Church’s Social Justice Committee presents the second in its series, *Dinner with a Cause*, through which they introduce area organizations that are supporting the principles of social justice. This session on **September 18** will highlight the work of *New Covenant House* (known more familiarly as “The Soup Kitchen”). During this session, you will learn about their mission and the opportunities for becoming involved. Brian Jenkins, the director of New Covenant House, will lead the discussion. A simple supper will be provided at 6:30 pm in the Lucey Church Hall at St.

Catherine's, lower level of the Church, located at 4 Riverside Ave. Riverside. Please RSVP to [psloane@optonline.net](mailto:psloane@optonline.net) if you wish to come for supper. \$10 free-will offering will benefit NCH. The presentation will begin at 7:15 pm and end by 8:30.

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

The Grand ReOpening of The Rummage Room on August 25 was a great success as measured by the crowds of happy customers who spent \$12,266 the first day! Manager Maria gives credit to: the **Donors** whose generosity keeps a never ending supply of quality merchandise; to the **Shoppers** whose purchases generate the funds to support Women's and Children's causes throughout the world; and to the **Volunteers** who continually keep the shop displayed and restocked. Collectively, all are responsible for raising and distributing over \$4 million dollars during the life of The Rummage Room, begun in 1964 by the Women's Fellowship in the basement of First Congregational Church.

**Wish List:** Jewelry, good hand bags; watches; good bric-a-brac; Apple or other iPod; child's bike seat for an adult bike; child's bike; men's golf driver; croquet set.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday-Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**Donation Hours:** Monday -Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and Friday -Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

*Thought for the Day:* We seldom stop to think how many people's lives are entwined with our own. It is a form of selfishness to imagine that every individual can operate on his or her own ... or can pull out of the general stream and not be missed!!! REV. JOHN COLLINS, you WILL be missed!!! You have motivated us with your faith, your sermons, your gentle sense of humor and your guitar. You have been The Rummage Room's biggest cheerleader and for that we shall remain grateful. God Bless.

**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.**

# Homecoming 2014



**10:00 am Worship**

**Picnic immediately following on the front lawn**

- New “Chuggy Choo-Choo” and the favorite “Double Trouble” Obstacle Course!
- Games for all ages.
- See old friends. Meet new friends. Invite friends to join you here!
- Grilled items, rolls, condiments, drinks and dessert will be provided by the Parish Life Committee.

Please bring to share, if your last name begins with:

- A-P - a salad or side dish to serve 8-10
- Q-Z - dessert to serve 8-10 people.

Reserve your spot TODAY during Coffee Hour or email [barbaraw@fccog.org](mailto:barbaraw@fccog.org) with the # in your party.  
\$5/person, \$20 max/family.

**All are welcome! Please join us on Sunday, September 14!**

**Next Week at First Congregational Church**

**LAST 8:00 am Worship Service at the Beach (Tod's Point).**  
New Senior Pastor, Richard DenUyl  
will be preaching his first sermon!

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

**Music by:**

**The Chancel Choir**

*The Unsearchable Riches* by Craig Phillips

*We Come, O Christ* by Russell Schulz-Widmer/Alfred Fedak

**Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr.'s FIRST Sunday!**

Where to find us:

[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#),

[YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)



***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 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