

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Celebrating 350 Years - 1665-2015

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9 August 2015

10 o'clock in the morning



Jacob's Dream, William Blake, c. 1799-1800

*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. We hope that this time together brings you to a greater connection to your faith, and from here, a more compassionate connection to the world in which we live.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Andante

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Pat Larrabee

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Anders Ekernas

PRAISING GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Let us give thanks for God is good,

Leader: And God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Amen!

(based on *Psalm 118:19-29*)

CHORAL INTROIT

***HYMN**

O Worship the King

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 6

OPENING PRAYER (*In Unison*)

Most gracious, most merciful, most just God of steadfast love, You are indeed with us as we gather this morning, as we speak, as we listen, as we pray, as we sing. May this time be one of restoration, healing, empowerment and peace. All this we ask in the very presence and the very power of the Christ. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Emmaline Ruehs Spayde (Emmy),

daughter of Nicole A. and Ryan P. Spayde

BAPTISM PRAYER *(in unison)*

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on **Emmy** that you will watch over her and guide her as she grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Lois Berlin

Genesis 28:10-18

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep

you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. From *New Revised Standard Version*

SOLO

My Little World

Carol Woodman, soprano
Ralph Carmichael (b. 1927)

*Oh God of the stars, the sun and the moon,
Oh God of the wind and the sea;
Though you're everywhere,
how amazing it is that you can be here with me.*

*The uncharted craters of the planets beyond,
you know like the palm of your hand;
And yet, you're concerned with my little world,
O help me to understand.
I know that miracles happen to people like me
the moment we dare to believe.
For we are the object of God's mighty love,
love greater than our little minds can conceive.*

*The stars could collide, the sun could grow dim,
this whole universe pass away;
Still nothing can change the promise he made,
and Christ in my heart will stay.*

SECOND LESSON

Daniel Lepoutre

Matthew 14:22-32

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to

pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

From *New Revised Standard Version*

***HYMN**

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 418

SERMON

The Way Love Works

Rev. Bill Federici, Guest Preacher

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Jubilant Song

The Summer Choir
Allen Pote (b. 1945)

*Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.
Rejoice and sing and let the earth be glad,
Let the heavens be filled with joy, and a jubilant song.*

*Sing alleluia to the Lord, alleluia, alleluia;
Tell of His salvation from day to day.
Shout His marvelous works among the people,*

*For great is the Lord, great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were made, or the land and the sea were born,
From age to age you are God, and we pray for the coming of your
Kingdom.
We shall rejoice, we shall be glad all the days of our lives.*

*Sing to the Lord a jubilant song,
Rejoice and sing and let the earth be glad,
Let the heavens be filled with joy, and a jubilant song.*

***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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**
Just As I Am, Without One Plea Pilgrim (red) Hymnal
319

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
Allegro Maestoso Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

* * *

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

**Our Guest Preacher today, Rev. Bill Federici, who served as
Associate Pastor here at First Church for much of the 90's, is now the**

Senior Pastor of The United Church, an historic congregation in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington, D. C. He was a member of the Potomac Association Committee on Church & Ministry, and coordinated the “God is Still Speaking” project for the UCC Central Atlantic Conference. He believes that every worship service should leave you feeling “precious, sacred and beloved.” Bill remembers First Church with much love and affection, and is very happy to be here this morning.

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 continued this morning at our 8:00 am Beach Service and will continue August 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.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. If our Fellowship Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside due to the weather, Sue will be available in the Church Office.

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.

Nights Off Women's Group Gathering – All Welcome!

Weather-permitting, the *Nights Off* Women's Group will meet **Monday, August 17** at Greenwich Point. For anyone who is in town and interested, please meet us at **6:00 pm** at the beach for a great time to socialize and catch up on what everyone is doing this summer. Please bring a snack to share and whatever you would like to drink. Look for the group after going around the point past the Yacht Club and the sailing school. We will gather at one of the picnic tables along the water, so just start down the path from the parking lot and look for us. All are always welcome to our *Nights Off* gatherings. Please join us and bring a friend along!



September Meetinghouse Monthly Deadline

September will be here before we know it! The deadline for materials to be submitted for inclusion in the **September Meetinghouse Monthly** newsletter is **Monday, August 17**. Please submit your

materials or direct any questions to Barbara Wilkov at
barbaraw@fccog.org.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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

AUGUST CALENDAR:

Monday, August 24: The Rummage Room will celebrate its 51st Grand 'Reopening' with all 'new' merchandise from 10 am to 5 pm. Mark your calendars as Reopening Day will be the biggest event of the year at 'The Best Little Shop in Town.'

Tuesday, August 25: Donations will be accepted 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 August 25 to replenish what is sold on Reopening Day. **Needed:** Cashmere sweaters; good handbags; good jewelry; good bric-a-brac; fall and winter clothing; shopping bags.

In the last 50 years over 4 million dollars has been raised and allocated to organizations dedicated to helping women and children in need. How difficult is it to raise that kind of money out of a small store front in Old Greenwich? "Only impossible describes the degree of difficulty."

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



Next Week at First Congregational Church

August 16, 2015

8:00 am Beach Service at Greenwich Point

10:00 am Worship Service in the Meetinghouse

Music by The Summer Choir

Joys are Flowing Like a River by Jay Thomas

Rev. Richard DenUyl, preaching

Until Rev. DenUyl's return from vacation on August 11, **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.

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