

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Fourth Sunday of Advent

21 December 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.



Welcome to this fourth and final Sunday of Advent at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As we light the fourth candle, we remember the Love of God. Today, our 6th, 7th and 8th graders will lead our worship service. We are glad you are here!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the season of holy waiting.

People: We watch for the One who scatters the proud and lifts up the lowly.

Leader: We wait for the day when our spirits will rejoice to know God's favor.

People: We watch while the light of day begins to fill the sky.

All: Come let us walk in the light of God!

by Marney Wasserman based on Luke 1:47-52

* HYMN

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 117

OPENING PRAYER

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.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Riddell Family

MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING *The Palmer Handbell Choir*

Unto Us a Child Is Born

Arr. Keith Burroughs

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 3:12-14

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

From New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

O Holy Night

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

* HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 116

MESSAGE

How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY

People, Look East

The Chancel Choir

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

*People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

*DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all
creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter -
er; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

New Century (black) Hymnal 129

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Offertoire for Christmas Day

Charles Collin (1827-1911)

*Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the
Auditorium following the worship service.*

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. On
Church School Sundays, we also have a class for 3 and 4 year olds
during the entire 10:00 am service. Please see an usher if you need
directions to child care or Church School.

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.

Christmas Memory/Honor Flowers and Decorations

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful and loving memory of:

Hal and Mae Mendelsohn, and Bill and Norah Fielding by the Mendelsohn family

Melita and John Magness, and Dana Andersen by their family

Stanley R. Rawn Jr. by Barbara Rawn

Charles J. Veith IV by his sister, Linda V. Glover

Our son, Kim Reynolds, and Brenda Stiers by Harlan and Wendy Reynolds

Donald Lee Penwell by M.J. and Bill Penwell

William J. Provoost Jr. by his wife Suzanne; daughter, Patti; and son, Jack

My parents Dorothy and John Green, in-laws Willa and Bill Provoost, Sr., and grandson, John Provoost by Suzanne Provoost

My husband, Clinton, and my grandson, Tucker Davis by Eleanor Olsen

Our parents, Alma and Steve Karch, and Betty and Fred Breismeister, and Don's brother, Fred, by Ginny and Don Breismeister

Richmond B. Hopkins by his family

John Provoost by Jack, Judy, Michael, Jennifer and David Provoost

Roger A. Lepoutre by the Lepoutre family

Catherine G. Weigner by Arthur, Stephen and Ronald Weigner

Beth T. Baldwin by Anne B. Castine

Eric and Susan Robertson, my father and sister by Lynn Robertson

Our parents Purisima and Feliciano Teria, and Louise and Richard Haviland by Erlinda and Larry Haviland

Marian and Fred Hout by Susie Hout Baker, Sara, Charlie and Liz

Our parents Barbara and Maurice Lorthioir, and Hermione Schoen by Fred Lorthioir and Christina Schoen

Robert and Joyce Turvey, and Angela Turvey Wyman by Helen Turvey Ingraham and family

All those family members, missed so much, who brought such love and laughter into our lives by the Hoffman and Kneen families

Our son, William, Meg's parents Bill and Pegg Selkirk, and Dave's parents, Jay Stewart and Nancy Stewart Downes by the Stewart family

Our parents, Efraim and Victoria Olson, and Ryan and Margaret Rosendale, and aunt, Erna Nelson by Ken and Erna Olson

Our parents Louise and Harrison Reed, and Margaret and Carleton Gisborne by Ruth and Gifford Reed

Michel A. Scrivan by his devoted and loving family

John L. Putnam by Wendy Putnam and Jennifer Maloney

Joan and Jim Kreuter from their children and grandchildren.
Charlie and Bill Robertson from Eric and Betsy Kreuter

John and Betty Briggs from the Kreuter and Briggs families

My parents Helen and Kip Couch by Prill Meyer and family

My parents Cloty and Joe Swiatek by Janet Blasberg

Paul G. Hudson and George Finch by the Finch and Hudson families

My father, Charles W. Ford, and grandparents, Calvin and Marie Ford by April, Olivia, Peter and Granny Ford and Gurciullo

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in honor of:

Our 'grands,' Finn, June and Maeve Audrey by Stu and Sue McCalley

Our grandchildren, Finn, June, Gunther and Alta Breismeister by Ginny and Don Breismeister

A donation to the decorations in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by:

Bobby Littlefield

Christmas Eve Giving Opportunity

White Gifts

White Gifts are offerings of new clothing, toys, books or other useful items wrapped in white paper that are offered during our 10:00 am, 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm services on Christmas Eve. The white paper gives the illusion of snow under the trees in the Meetinghouse. Ribbon and bows are not necessary but **please attach a tag listing the contents, including age, gender and size.** (Hint: If you find yourself without white paper, some patterned papers reverse to white, or use

white tissue paper.) All gifts donated to Covenant to Care for Children.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today our Church School children will be in worship for the entire service – except our 3’s and 4’s whose teachers are happy to have them in class! We hope some of you will participate in the Live Nativity outside at the crèche this afternoon, anytime between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm for a 30 minute time slot. The program is flexible, so “do not fear!” We have costumes. Just come to the Red Door classroom in the Preschool to select your garb. We look forward to seeing many of you on Christmas Eve. Church School resumes on January 4, 2015.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today’s Worship Service.

Choir Rehearsals

Cherub Choir (grades K-2): Room 104 (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45 am (*note new times*) - Donald Haviland, director.

Children’s Choir (grades 3-6): Room 303 (Craig’s office, 3rd floor) 11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Craig Symons, director.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Choir Room (3rd floor), 11:15 am - 12:15 pm - Carolyn Paulus, director.

Interactive Live Nativity

Don’t miss First Church’s 2nd annual Live Nativity around the crèche on the front lawn TODAY from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. There will be live sheep, live people and, new this year, *The Buzz Truck* with coffee, tea, hot chocolate and other goodies (until 1:30)...and your first cup is free! If you would like to participate as a “player” in the Live Nativity, please email Rosemary at RosemaryL@fccog.org asap.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Merry Christmas from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, December 22: The Rummage Room is closed for the Holidays.

Friday, January 2: *The Rummage Room Reopens* at 10:00 am with a 50% Winter Clearance sale, and 75% off ALL Christmas clothing and decorations, both Friday and Saturday.

Shop Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Mondays - Fridays and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturdays.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Mondays - Thursdays and 9:30 am to 12:30 Fridays and Saturdays.

Manager Maria's Wish List for January 2: Ski pants and jackets, snow boots, mittens, scarves and hats; **shopping bags.**

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS while The Rummage Room is closed. There will be no one there to accept them and they will be ruined if left outside.

Come by The Rummage Room and view the Christmas windows designed by Maria Drieghe and Nancy Hamilton who won '**The Best Spirit of Old Greenwich 2014 Award**' from The Garden Club of Old Greenwich.

Jesus said, "*Let the little children come unto me, for the kingdom of God belongs to these.*" Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

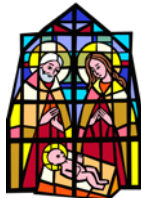
Christmas at First Church

21: Live Nativity on the front lawn by the crèche TODAY
11:30 to 2 pm.

24: Christmas Eve Celebrations – Note new times

- **10 am: Lessons and Carols for our youngest families;** Nativity Pageant; Cherub Choir; White Gift Offerings*
- **3 pm: Family Service;** *Once in Royal David's City* Nativity Pageant; Children's Choir; White Gift Offerings*
- **4 pm: Community Carol Sing** around the crèche on the front lawn
- **6 pm: Festival Carol Service with Brass Ensemble;** *Once in Royal David's City* Nativity Pageant; Chancel Choir; White Gift Offerings*
- **9 pm: Candlelight Service with Communion;** Youth/Alumni Choir

**White Gifts are clothing, toys, books or other useful items wrapped in white paper to be offered during our 10 am, 3 pm and 6 pm services on Christmas Eve. The white paper gives the illusion of snow under the trees in the Meetinghouse. Ribbon and bows are not necessary but gifts should be labeled, indicating an appropriate age and gender.*



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Sunday after Christmas

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

Here is the Little Door by Herbert Howells

I Sing the Birth by Hubert Parry

Rev. Richard DenUyl, preaching

Where to find us:

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

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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

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