

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The First Sunday after Christmas

29 December 2013

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 First Congregational Church on this Sunday after Christmas. May the fresh spirit of this beautiful season make our worship time together a blessing of God's grace.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Offertoire on Noels

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On the threshold of a new year, we sing a song of praise to God.

People: May our lives reflect God's love.

Leader: On the threshold of a new year, we sing a song of hope to God.

People: May our lives be refreshed by God's Spirit.

Leader: On the threshold of a new year, we sing a song of peace to God.

People: May our lives be made peaceful by God's grace.

Leader: On the threshold of a new year, we worship God together.

People: May our lives be a reflection of God's compassion.

*‡HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 120

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Our loving God, we bask in the glow of the Christmas miracle with hopeful spirits and renewed commitment for creating a peaceful world. We ask for your strength in seeing more clearly your plan for our lives. We pray that the inspiration of the

child in the manger will be a true power that will help us look up from the distractions of our lives, that we might see the beauty of life and the gifts of this world. May our prayer be a prayer of thanksgiving, that as the carols fade and the gifts are put away, your love might continue to shine in our souls. 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

Car Westbrook

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

New Year Carol

The Chancel Choir

Raymond Weidner (b. 1947)

Luke 5:27-35

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance." Then they said to him, "John's disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink. Jesus said to them, "You cannot make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

From New Revised Standard Version

*‡HYMN

What Child is This

New Century (black) Hymnal 148

SERMON

Gavin's Hill Thoughts

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

The Chancel Choir

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Lynette Pfund, soprano

Chris Pfund, tenor

***DOXOLOGY**

*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**

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
New Century (black) Hymnal 143

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Noel Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in our Preschool classrooms. 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.

Christmas Memory/Honor Flowers and Decorations (updated list)

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this holiday season were given in joyful and loving memory of:

Donald L. Penwell by his brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Mary Jane Penwell

Our parents, Jim and Thelma Young, and Leonard Larson by Kirk and Karen Young

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

My family by Bobby Littlefield

Catherine Weigner by Stephen Weigner

Catherine Weigner by Arthur Weigner

Melita and John Magness, and Dana Andersen by their family

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

Joan and Jim Kreuter by their children and grandchildren

Charlie and Bill Robertson by Eric and Betsy Kreuter

Lloyd L. and Ruth Shawber, and Lloyd Oberlin Shawber by Anne Shawber Stolley

Richmond B. Hopkins by his wife, Bobbie, their children and grandchildren

Michel A. Scrivan by his loving family

Our parents, Dot and Bill Johnson and Eleanore and Bob Bailey, and our friends, William A. Mitchell, Gillian Jones and Helen Allen by Cindy and Bob Bailey

Jane Crosley by Erlinda and Larry Haviland

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

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

Earl S. Moore Jr. by his family

Shirley Cook by the Kuppenheimer family

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

Our parents, Elmer and Lile Rasmuson, and Jack and Marian Gibbons by Lile and John Gibbons

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

William J. Provoost 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

Robert L. Liddel by the Liddel family

Anne, Bill and Sue Denne by their family, Joan and John Denne

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

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

Catherine G. Weigner by her husband, Arthur, and sons, Stephen and Ronald Weigner

Franklin, Douglas and Stephen by Nancy Hume

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

Our parents, grandparents and Aunt Mary by Dianne and Harry Culpen

Richard Vogt, anonymously

Family and friends by Diane and Paul Kretschmann

Lois and Cecil MacDonald by Roxanne MacDonald and family
My friend, Susan Jordan, by Betty Bonsal

Tim Manchester by his family

John L. Putnam by Wendy Putnam and Jennifer Maloney

Alvin Wachsman by Anne Wachsman

The decorations in the Meetinghouse this holiday season were given in honor of:

Carolyn Paulus and the Youth Choir

Andrew Bohannon, grandson, by Dale and Sherry Myer

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

A donation to the decorations in the Meetinghouse this holiday season were given by:

Mary Lennon

Jane Finch

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

There is no Church School today, but there is Child Care for those who would like it. Please see an usher if you need directions.

Choir Rehearsals

There is no Cherub, Children's or Youth Choir rehearsals today.

JPF & SPF Youth Groups

There are no Youth Group meetings tonight.

THIS WEEK

Kettle Quilters

The Kettle Quilters will not be meeting this week due to the New Year's holiday. We will resume our regular schedule of Mondays 9:00 am-12:00 noon and Tuesdays 7:30 pm-9:00 pm in Room 203 next week, *January 6 and 7, 2014*. Please join us then.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Merry Christmas from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Wednesday, January 1, 2014: *THE RUMMAGE ROOM IS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS.* The Rummage Room is wishing you, our shoppers and our donors, a very Happy 2014.

Thursday, January 2: The Rummage Room reopens at 10:00 am with a 50% off winter-clothing sale for the remainder of the week. All Christmas items will be 75% off.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS WHILE THE RUMMAGE ROOM IS CLOSED. Donations will be accepted again Thursday, January 2 and Friday, January 3 between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and on Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Holiday Windows: The Rummage Room won two awards in December. "The Best Original Storefront Holiday Window Decorating Award in Old Greenwich" from The Greenwich Chamber of Commerce; and "The Best Village Scene Display Award in Old Greenwich" from The Garden Club of Old Greenwich.

Congratulations to the designers, Maria Drieghe and Nancy Hamilton, for continually creating award winning windows using donations received from our donors.

As you make your New Year's resolutions, please don't forget The Rummage Room. Whether you shop, donate or volunteer, remember that *all* proceeds are distributed to many worthy organizations locally and around the world. And what we don't use in donations goes to The Veterans Group and many other worthwhile organizations around the area. Nothing is wasted!!!!

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 \$10 per class, \$8 for seniors. Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

January 5, 2014

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year by Alfred Fedak

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano and

Vasil Golodinskii, bass

Traditional Ukrainian Carols

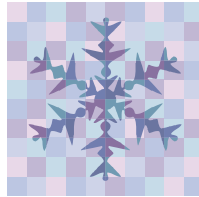
Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching

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

Check out our new [YouTube](#) page, too!

We're on [Instagram](#) too!



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 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 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