

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

16 February 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 at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Presidents' Day weekend. In our time together, may you feel the extravagant welcome of our Church Family and the deep, healing and renewing love of God.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Cantilena

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Mary Fike, flute

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O God, forever.

People: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever.

People: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: May our worship reflect your steadfast love.

People: May we find strength in your constant faithfulness.

*‡HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 15

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we enter worship today in gratitude for the blessings in our lives and in awe of the beauty of creation. We thank you for your Spirit, which sustains our souls with joy. We thank you for your Word, which is a light for our journey in life. We thank

you for your Strength, which supports our dreams for the future. May our gratitude grow with each passing day as we pray in the words that Jesus gave 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

(After the Children's Message, the children will go to Room 104 for a "Service Sunday" program. Parents should meet their children in Room 104 – which is on the lower level of the building; please ask for directions if needed – after worship.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Psalm 139:1-12

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.

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord, Always

The Chancel Choir

Anonymous (16th century)

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Psalm 139:13-18

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

From New Revised Standard Version

***‡HYMN**

God Is My Strong Salvation

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 373

SERMON

The Sugar Cube

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Daniel B. England

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Expectans Expectavi

The Chancel Choir

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

***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**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

New Century (black) Hymnal 80

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Catherine G. Weigner by her husband, Arthur C. Weigner and son, Stephen A. Weigner.

The flowers in the Chapel and Narthex this morning are given by John and Anna Sie in loving memory of Hana Jane Barton whose service was held here Saturday, February 15.

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today our children will help shape Service Sundays for the rest of the year. With a little Bible Study, identifying needs of children and brainstorming ways to help others, we will begin to develop a plan for Lent and beyond. We will return to our regular Church School schedule next Sunday.

Choir Rehearsals

There is no Cherub or Youth Choir rehearsal today. Children's Choir will rehearse from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room 303 (Craig's office).

Bible Study

Join us **today** at 11:20 am in the Lounge for Bible Study. There will be **no** Bible Study next *Sunday, February 23*, but we will resume again on *March 2* when we will finish our study of Daniel. Then the class will turn its attention to the Psalms for a few weeks entitled, *The Story Behind*



the Psalms, which will examine stories in the Biblical Record that inspired the Psalmist to reflect on those events. Led by Dan England.

New Member Orientation Opportunities

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? You will have two opportunities in February to participate in a First Church orientation session. Join us **TODAY** at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office OR next **Sunday, February 23** at 9:15 am in the Lounge (child care will be provided at both sessions). Then if you choose, you can join on **Sunday, February 23**. You may RSVP to Ginny Breismeister (ginnyb@fccog.org) or John Collins (jcollins@fccog.org) or call the Church Office at 203-637-1791 if you would like to attend one of these two sessions, **or just drop in**. *You will be entering a fellowship of people who will support you, pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*



Sunday Afternoons Live! Concert Series Continues...

Our winter season of the *First Music and Arts Series* continues **TODAY** with the ever popular *Sunday Afternoons Live* at **4:00 pm**. Held in the intimate setting of our Auditorium, admission is \$20 per person and all school-aged youth are free (tickets are available at the door). Coffee, tea, and light snacks will be served. Our season, this year, is gratefully underwritten by the late Stella Miazga, a non-church member who attended our concerts and generously bequeathed funds to support the series after her death. **Today** join us for *The Many Faces of Love* with Lindsay Kesselman, soprano and Christopher James Lees, pianist.



The Many Faces of Love presents a stirring assortment of pieces that bring light to various corners, many rarely heard, of this elusive emotion. Using contemporary American vocal music, sacred and romantic songs are intermixed with passionate flights of fancy, darkly private and overwhelmingly exuberant expressions of affection. We guarantee you'll "love" it!
Lindsay Kesselman is an American soprano currently on tour with the Philip Glass Ensemble as a member of his groundbreaking opera,

Einstein on the Beach. A specialist in contemporary vocal repertoire and chamber music, Ms. Kesselman actively commissions and records accessible, vibrant, and thought provoking music of our time.

Christopher James Lees is a prize-winning orchestral conductor, and has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, and National Arts Centre Orchestra among many others. He is the Associate Director of Orchestras at the University of Michigan and moonlights as a collaborative pianist, primarily of contemporary vocal music. Join us at 4:00 pm!



Youth Groups (JPF and SPF)

Our Youth Mission Team is returning from their Nicaragua trip today. They will share their experiences with us during a special service next *Sunday, February 23* at 6:00 pm in the auditorium. JPF and SPF will not be meeting this evening.

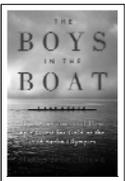
THIS WEEK

Nights Off

All are welcome to join us when *Nights Off*, The Women's Fellowship Group, meets tomorrow, *Monday, February 17* at 6:30 pm at the home of Kathy Riley. We will enjoy a potluck supper and party to celebrate Valentine's Day. Please bring along a food item to share and whatever beverage you would like to drink. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the email list, please contact Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or at FBTWorld@aol.com. All women of the church are invited to participate. It is a great way to see old friends and make new ones!

Hats Off Book Group

Hats Off is just beginning their 2nd read of 2014 - *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Books are available in the Church Office. Join our book discussion on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Lounge. Please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110 with any questions.



Kettle Quilters

Kettle Quilters meet Mondays, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Room 203. We need your help to finish our raffle quilt by March, so please join us!

NEXT WEEK

Nicaragua Presentation

Join us next *Sunday, February 23* at 6:00 pm in the auditorium for a special worship service and presentation by our Youth Mission Team. During this service, we will sing, pray and offer stories from our time together in Nicaragua. We will also have some of the food we enjoyed on the trip for you to sample.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Ushers Needed

Ushering is easy and a great way to meet people. Ushers are friendly, hand out bulletins, count attendance, take the offering, and neaten up after. The Head Usher helps guide you. Please join us! Just choose when you want to usher and sign up by clicking here: <http://doodle.com/bqtsdvck9qitsq35> or call Pat Larrabee at 203-637-4023. Thank you!

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich; 203-637-1865

February Calendar:

Monday, February 17: In Celebration of Presidents' Day - 50% off everything in the shop.

Monday, February 24 through 26: Winter Clearance Sale - 50% off everything through Wednesday, February 26.

Thursday, February 27: First Day of Bag Sales. **Each full bag \$12.**

Friday, February 28: Second Day of Bag Sales. **Each full bag \$8.**

Saturday, March 1: Third Day of Bag Sales. **Each full bag \$1.** The Rummage Room closes at 1:00 pm. Everything must go!!!!

Monday, March 3: The Rummage Room **reopens** at 1:00 pm with 'Everything Spring.' (Closed for restocking Monday morning)

Manager Maria's Wish List: Adult and children's Spring clothing including shoes, handbags, jewelry and hats; St. Patrick's wear and decorations.

Hours of Operation: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Hours for Donations: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Friday and Saturday.

God gives us relatives; thank God, we can choose our friends.

~ Addison Mizner, American Architect (1872 - 1933)

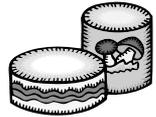
Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

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.**



Food Collection

People seem to forget about the need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor after the holidays, but their need is as great as ever. A Food Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse each week. Please just pick up an extra few items when you go to the grocery and donate them for those in need.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

February 23, 2014

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless

by Everett Titcomb

The Youth Choir

***This is the Day* by Abe Caceras**

***Solo* by Thomas Woodman, bass**

Rev. John Collins, preaching

Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!
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