

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

*No act of kindness,
no matter how
small, is ever
wasted.*
(Aesop)



The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

2 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.



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As you prepare for this time of contemplation and renewal consider this, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” What kindnesses have helped form the person you are? When you have needed kindness that was shared, how were you affected? We can shrug off kindness as a “Nice but not necessary” thing. It can be deemed above and beyond, but is it really?

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ, God's Only Son

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Franz Tunder (1614-1667)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Allelu, Allelu

The Cherub Choir

Traditional

Donald Haviland, director

Debbie Berner, pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡HYMN**

You Servants of God

New Century (black) Hymnal 305

OPENING PRAYER

Give us, o Lord, an eye for injustice. For it is only when we are able to recognize injustice and feel its awful sting that we will be moved to make things right.

Give us, o Lord, a tender heart. Sometimes we are too hard-hearted to recognize when we have been uncaring, unfeeling, or unkind.

Grant us, o Lord the ability to view life from the dust. All our lives we have been taught to make others proud, to be proud of ourselves, to hold our heads high -- all the while missing the virtues of being poor in spirit.

In this time together, may we be reminded of the importance of justice, kindness and our humble journey with you. Hear our gratitude for your presence among us, echoed in the prayer taught to us by Jesus... Adapted from the *Africana Worship Book*

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.

(After the Lord's Prayer, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in third grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Joe McBride

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his

people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

From *New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

As Truly as God is our Father

The Chancel Choir

William Mathias (1934-1992)

*As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is he our Mother.
In our Father, God Almighty, we have our being; in our merciful
Mother we are remade and restored.
Our fragmented lives are knit together.
And by giving and yielding our selves, through grace, to the Holy
Spirit we are made whole.*

*It is I, the strength and goodness of Fatherhood.
It is I, the wisdom of Motherhood.
It is I, the light and grace of holy love.
It is I, the Trinity,
It is I, the unity.*

*I am the sovereign goodness in all things.
It is I who teach you to love.
It is I who teach you to desire.
It is I who am the reward of all true desiring.
All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.*

(Julian of Norwich, b. 1342)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

From *New Revised Standard Version*

*‡HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table New Century (black) Hymnal 332

SERMON

Nice, but Not Necessary

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. John W. Collins

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Toccata of Praise

The Chancel Choir

Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

*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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our commitment to bear your name and to follow you wherever you lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

New Century (black) Hymnal 181

COMMISSIONING OF OUR DELEGATES TO NICARAGUA
AND BLESSING

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Partita

Bernardo Pasquini (1637-1710)

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

Second Graders and Teachers

Gwyneth Mair
Lara Olmsted
Warren Pfund
Madeleine Phillips
Kate Wentworth

Unable to be here today: Tyler and Kelsey Fong

Church School Teachers: Peg Wentworth, Cara Olmsted, Olivia Hartwell, Melanie Pfetsch, Alex Mair

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 2nd graders and their parents are sitting together in the front of the church to better see and participate in the celebration of Communion. They have shared a learning experience and made the

banners you see displayed. 3rd graders are discussing the one Bible story about Jesus as a young boy and the rest of our classes are hearing the story of the *Great Catch* found in Luke 5:1-11. There is a Teachers' Meeting at 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. Child Care is in the Preschool.

Choir Rehearsals

Children's Choir is rehearsing today from 11:15 am to 12 Noon Room 303 (Craig's office) and Youth Choir is rehearsing from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub Choir rehearsal today.

Parish Nurse

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

Today's the Day! - "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale

11:00 am – 1:00 pm (or as long as supplies last!)

The Women's Fellowship Soup Sale will be held today during Coffee Hour. Soup, chili and stew will be sold for \$10/quart. All proceeds go to support Women's Fellowship projects. Come buy some soup!

Bible Study

Now Belshazzar is having dreams! (If you don't know who Belshazzar is we'll explain it). Then there is Daniel in the Lion's Den! All exciting stuff, but nothing compared to Daniel 7 which is certainly the most important chapter in the book and one of the lynchpins of the whole Bible, but it will test your prophetic skills. Hurry to get a good seat. And the answer to the question, without Daniel, do the lions get fed? Join us at 11:20 am in the Lounge. Led by Dan England.



The Return of *Sunday Afternoons Live!*

Our winter season of the *First Music and Arts Series* begins **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 *Sax-O-Philm* with Chad Smith, saxophone.

Sax-O-Philm is a unique theatrical concert experience which recreates the atmosphere of the 1920's. It is a fully scripted and produced show, featuring the music of vaudeville saxophonist Rudy Wiedoeft, as performed by Broadway saxophonist Chad Smith, on both alto and c melody saxophones. *Sax-O-Philm* will transport audiences of all ages back to a time during which radio, ragtime, silent movies and flappers were all the rage. Projected silent films, photo montages, and interesting anecdotes of the period round out the show. Piano and harp accompany Chad to capture the unforgettable sound of the Golden Age. The storyline embodies the character of Wiedoeft through his style, humor, charm and showmanship. *Sax-O-Philm*'s unique blend of live music, world-class talent and multimedia make this a concert event unlike any other. Please visit saxophilm.com for more information. Chad Smith first developed his interest in 1920's saxophone virtuoso Rudy Wiedoeft while studying with Ted Hegvik at West Chester University in 1992. Chad's talent with multiple woodwind instruments has made him a sought after Broadway, film recording and concert performer. He has been a member of the Broadway orchestras of *Wicked*, *Legally Blonde*, *Follies* and *A Christmas Story*.



Youth Groups (JPF and SPF)

Hogwarts Dueling Club tonight 6:00-7:30 pm. Don't feel like rooting for any of the teams in the Super Bowl? Fret not, Hogwarts Dueling Club is here to help! Help us foster some good old house spirit by tailoring robes, crafting wands, and practicing some spell-slinging before the Tri-Wizard Tournament in June! Join us at 6:00!

THIS WEEK

Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness and Women's Fellowship Committees are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday February 8*, from 8:00

am to 1:00 pm. We could use your help making refreshments or playing the piano. Please see Betsy Kreuter or Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, to volunteer; or look for sign-ups during Coffee Hour. One pint of blood donated has the potential to help 3 people, so blood donors are very much appreciated and appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Thank you for reaching out to help others.



Kettle Quilters

Kettle Quilters meet Mondays, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Room 203. Join us to share in the fun of working with other quilters and “quilters” in training.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Update on Pot Luck Dinners

There is still room for the pot luck dinner being held on **Saturday, Feb. 8**, at the Kretschmann home at 8 Fairchild Lane, Greenwich. The sign up list remains **on the wall outside the Lounge**. We look forward to seeing and greeting you. Please contact Prill Meyer at 203-637-4214 or prillmeyer@optonline.net with any questions or reservations. **Also, if anyone would like to host an additional dinner in February, please let Prill know.**

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 on *Sunday, February 16* at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office or *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.*



Nicaragua Donations

We have our group ready who will represent us in Nicaragua in February! We are excited about the work before us. We are looking for donations of school supplies to take with us. During the month of January, please feel free to bring in pencils, crayons, children's scissors, notebooks, stickers and other supplies to donate. You can bring your contributions on Sundays to the Auditorium during Coffee Hour or drop them off at the Church Office marked to Mark Montgomery's attention. If you would also like to help us financially, please visit our fundraising website at <http://www.razoo.com/team/Fabretto-Children-S-Organization-Nicaragua>. There you can learn more about our trip and make a secure, online donation to help cover the cost of our trip.



News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR:

Monday, February 3: Selected items 50% off for the week.

Monday, February 10 through February 14: 50% off everything Red. Happy St. Valentine's Week!!

Monday, February 17: In Celebration of President's Day - 50% off on everything for the day.

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

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: Everything for Spring ... adult and children's clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, hats, St. Patrick's Day items, an accordion, a room divider.

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.

The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand other things as well. ~Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Oxford, English Author (1717 - 1797)

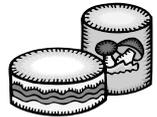
Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

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. Items especially needed at this time include: Canned fruit, canned meat (i.e. chili, Spam), peanut butter (18 oz), jelly (18 oz), cereal and soup.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
February 9, 2014

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

Alleluia by Jean Berger

The Children's Choir

Can You Count the Stars? by Robert Powell

Christopher Pfund, tenor

Atonement by Ludwig van Beethoven

Rev. Avery Manchester, 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