

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

23 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 bid you a warm welcome to worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich this morning and we are glad you are here! May this time be a true blessing to your spirit and may God's gentle and renewing presence be felt in our time together.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We worship God who is our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the world was created, God's Spirit was there.

Leader: Let us therefore turn from the darkness of confusion and doubt.

People: Let us worship God in wisdom, trusting in the transforming light of grace.

*‡HYMN

Come Forth, O Love Divine New Century (black) Hymnal 289

OPENING PRAYER

God of our lives, we gather in this place as people called to be your hands and your voice in the world. We come, longing to witness the reality of your love in the midst of days where vision is dim and joy hides beneath veils of sorrow. Grant us strength and courage, O God. Lift us up and guide us as we claim the

power of your love over violence and oppression. And hold us close, as we claim the joy we have in you and in this sacred community. We pray as Jesus taught 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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roll Call of Candidates

Ginny Breismeister

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Clergy: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Today we welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

Senior Deacon: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the joys of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and

in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things we most surely believe.

The Covenant (*Congregation: All who are able please stand*):

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be a people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for the dream of a compassionate world. Trusting in God's Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith, the world might be made new.

Right Hand of Fellowship

SONG OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verse 1)

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

(During Song of Response, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second 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.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Joe McBride

Matthew 5:21-24

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you

will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

From *New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

This is the Day

The Youth Choir

Abe Caceres

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, piano

SECOND LESSON

Lynn Robertson

Matthew 5:38-44

“**Y**ou have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”

From *New Revised Standard Version*

*‡HYMN

You are the Way

New Century (black) Hymnal 40

SERMON

The Story

Rev. John W. Collins

SOLO

Standin’ in the Need of Prayer

Thomas Woodman, bass

Hall Johnson (1888-1970)

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

*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

Joyful Joyful

New Century (black) Hymnal 4

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

This morning it is a pleasure to welcome new members into our Church Fellowship. Please join us at our Coffee Hour reception after worship to greet our newest members and the rest of our Church family as we celebrate this special day.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Cyrus Edward "Bill" Ridenour III, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

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 most classes are learning the story of Jesus calming the storm as found in Luke. The 3rd Grade will continue to prepare for their *Bible Jeopardy* challenge to their parents being held at the Bible Breakfast next *Sunday, March 2* at 9:00 am.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room 104; Children's Choir from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room 303 (Craig's office); and Youth Choir from 11:15 to 11:45 am (note the time change) in the Choir Room.

Nicaragua Presentation by Youth Mission Team

Join us TODAY 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.

Sunday Afternoons Live! Concert Series Concludes...

Our fabulous winter season of the *First Music and Arts Series* concludes TODAY with the ever popular *Sunday Afternoons Live at 4:00 pm held in the Meetinghouse*. 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, was 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 *Music of Bach's Time and Our Time*, featuring Masayuki Maki on harpsichord. This program will present

harpsichord music composed by J. S. Bach, his teacher Georg Böhm, and his son, C. P. E. Bach, and, at the same time, you will hear harpsichord music composed by our contemporaries, such as the Dutch composer Louis Andriessen and the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu. Hearing the music from the old and new, the east and west, do you think the music is changed by time and space, or is our perception of them changed by music?

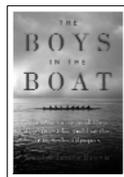
A multi-instrumentalist on various classical keyboard instruments, *Masayuki Maki* has extensive experience in lecturing and performing in America and Asia. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College of the City University of New York, teaching harpsichord, organ, fortepiano, and chamber music and he is also completing his doctorate in harpsichord at Stony Brook. Maki often performs in prestigious concert venues such as Carnegie Hall, Forbidden City Concert Hall (China), and Suntory Hall (Japan). Don't miss this last *Sunday Afternoons Live* concert of the season!



THIS WEEK

Hats Off Book Group

Hats Off has just begun 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. All quilters on board! The raffle quilt has to be done by March. Make sure that some of the stitches are yours! Come join us!

NEWS AND NOTICES

News from The Rummage Room

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

Monday, February 24 through February 26: Winter Clearance Sale - 50% off everything in the shop to get ready for 'Spring.'

Thursday, February 27: 1st day of Bag Sales. Each full bag, \$12.

Friday, February 28: 2nd Day of Bag Sales. Each full bag: \$8.

Saturday, March 1: 3rd 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 OPENS at 1:00 pm with everything for 'SPRING'. (Closed for restocking Monday morning.)

Manager Maria's Wish List for 'Spring': Hand bags; shoes; 'SPRING' clothing; jewelry; hats; St. Patrick's Day; clothing for twins. We know you are *thinking* 'SPRING,' so please *think* cleaning out your closets.

Thank you for supporting The Rummage Room, which has helped provide funds for women and children's organizations during this hard Winter. When we lose hope and think Winter will never end, God is sure to smile and say, "Relax, my child, it's just a bend in the road" ... *SPRING IS COMING!!!!*

Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

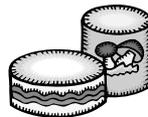
Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class, \$8 for seniors. Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**



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. Neighbor to Neighbor is in need of:

- canned fruit
- canned meat (i.e. chili, Spam)
- peanut butter (18 oz.)
- jelly (18 oz.)
- cereal
- soup



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
March 2, 2014
Communion

Music by:

Palmer Handbell Choir

Air and March by G. F. Handel

The Chancel Choir

My Eternal King by Jane Marshall

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Ave Maria by Giuseppe Verdi

Rev. Dan England, 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