

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **Third Sunday in Lent**

**28 February 2016**

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.*



**W**elcome to worship on this third Sunday of Lent at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We are glad that you are here and hope that this is a time of restoration and renewal. Please join us in our fellowship hour, following worship, in the auditorium.

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## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

### PRELUDE

*Largo*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano*

*F. M. Veracini (1690-1768)*

*Joseph Dermody, viola*

### CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.*

*Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.*

### FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

*Jean Watkins*

## PRAISING GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Olivia Pfetsch, Confirmand*

*Leader: Come, children of God: know that God has blessed you today.*

*People: We are blessed by work and rest, by word and silence.*

*Leader: Come, women and men who follow the Christ, who has not led you astray.*

*People: We have traveled His path, and know glory and sacrifice.*

*Leader: Come, saints and sinners all, receive God's love and bounty.*

*People: We offer our sacrifice of praise; we offer our very selves.*

*Leader: Let us worship God.*

### CHORAL INTROIT

*Jacob's Ladder*

*The Cherub Choir*

*Donald Haviland, director*

*Debbie Berner, piano*

### \*HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 15*

### UNISON PRAYER

*Rev. Meghan D. Young*

Gracious and Holy God,

We have gathered with a sense of the sacredness of this space,  
aware of your presence flowing from one person to another.

We come with our wounds wide open, with our defenses down.

We work hard all week long at being happy, at coping, at  
surviving, at holding on.

Today we gather here to let go and to open ourselves up to your forgiveness and healing.

Touch our lives, this morning, O God.

Rekindle our hope.

Revive our strength.

Refresh our faith.

And grant us your peace, that peace which passes all understanding.

All of this we ask in Christ's name who taught us to pray.....

### 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 MESSEGE

*(As we begin singing Jesus Loves Me, 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 Sanctuary (in the narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)*

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Jesus Loves Me*

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;*

*Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.*

*Refrain:*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,*

*Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. (Refrain)*

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

*Joe McBride*

Micah 7:18-20

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

*Lead Us, Heavenly Father*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Roger Quilter (1877-1953)  
*Drew Seigla, tenor*

*Lead us, Heav'nly Father, lead us,  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee;  
Yet possessing ev'ry blessing  
If our God our father be.*

*Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
All our weakness thou dost know.  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe.  
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
Thro' the desert thou didst go.  
Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heav'nly joy,  
Love with ev'ry passion blending  
Pleasure that can never cloy.  
Thus provided, pardon'd, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy. Amen*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 18:21-34

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt."

From *New Revised Standard Version*

\* HYMN

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

New Century (black) Hymnal 553

SERMON

*Forgiveness*

*Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

CALL TO OFFERING

*Bobbie Hopkins*

OFFERTORY

*After a Dream*

*Joseph Dermody, viola*  
*Gabriel Fauré (2845-1924)*

\*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

*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

*Amazing Grace*

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Rigaudon*

Andre Campra (1660-1744)

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*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the  
Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.*

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

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by friends in loving memory of Hans and Betty Farman who were devoted supporters of First Congregational Church for many years.

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. We also now have two rows in the back of the chapel reserved for parents with infants or little ones who are not ready for the Nursery where the parents can be comfortable *and* still be part of worship. Please see an usher if you need help finding either of these locations.

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](http://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*

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### TODAY

#### **Church School**

Today we continue our Holy Week rotation curriculum hearing about what happened to Jesus after his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. This Week: K & 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE in the Preschool RED DOOR; 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE in the Preschool GREEN DOOR; 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE in the Daniels Center Kitchen. When we leave the sanctuary, we will all gather in the Auditorium for a worship/storytelling time after which the children will be “shepherded” to their classrooms. All classes are scheduled to end at 11:00 am and not before. 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE continues to meet in Room 104 (the Rainbow Room) and “678” will be in the Daniels Center again. Next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their families will share a pancake breakfast at 9:00 am and the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and others who have prepared will participate in communion as a group during worship.

#### **Parish Nurse**

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Fellowship Hour following today's service.

#### **Bible Study**

Bible Study will meet today at 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. Please join us. All are welcome.

*Sunday Afternoons Live Concert Series Wraps Up Today*



The popular *Sunday Afternoons Live* concert series wraps up its 2016 season TODAY at 4:00 pm in the acoustical splendor of our Auditorium. Admission is \$20 per person and light refreshments will be served. Tickets are available at the door and all school-aged youth are free. The concerts are:

- **TODAY February 28:** *'Scape Trio*. Joseph Dermody, Adriana Maria Pera, and Nicole Sharlow had been performing in and out of New York City for over a decade when they established *'Scape Trio* in 2007. This trio will perform some of the great masterworks for strings.

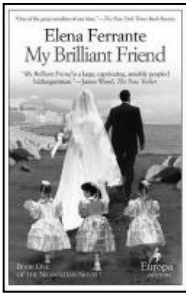


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## THIS WEEK

### *Hats Off* Book Discussion Group

Our book study group, *Hats Off*, has chosen its second read of 2016, *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. The story begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. Ferrante's *"inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of 2 friends that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship."* Please reserve your copy with the Greenwich Library or call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 to order your paperback. Our book study group meets on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 in the Binney Conference Room. We will begin discussing this book on *March 3*.



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## NEXT WEEK

### Refugee Co-Sponsorship Task Force

Many have expressed interest in continuing the conversation to learn more and assess the feasibility of FCCOG co-sponsoring a refugee family. If you are interested in moving this conversation forward, please consider being part of our task force. We will be meeting *Mondays, March 7 and 14* at 7:00 pm. For more information please email [meghany@fccog.org](mailto:meghany@fccog.org).

## Young Adult Ministries at FCCOG

We're FCCOG's group of 20- and 30-somethings who aim to support one another on our faith journeys, whether it's through prayer, an afternoon hiking excursion, or fellowship at local restaurants. We're kicking things off with **Table Theology** on *Saturday, March 12* from 5:00-6:00 pm at Fortina in Stamford, CT. Come for apps, drinks, and great discussion. For more information, and to RSVP email [meghany@fccog.org](mailto:meghany@fccog.org).

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### Thank You from Women's Fellowship

Thank you to all the soup makers and helpers and, of course, all those who purchased soups and helped to make this year's annual Women's Fellowship "Souper Bowl" Soup Sale such a huge success!

~ Sue McCalley and Jenny Gartner, Co-chairs

### Family Faith Nights @ FCCOG

Join us for our first Family Faith Night! Lenten Learning and Potluck on *Friday, March 11*, 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Daniels Center. Come for a pot-luck dinner (desserts and drinks provided) and a faith experience for the whole family. Family faith nights are great opportunities for children and parents to explore and discover their faith together. This month we will experience the powerful, life-changing Lenten and Easter events that we have been learning about in church school. Also, don't miss the debut of our labyrinth! Sign up at [signupgenius.com/go/20f094ca4ab2faaf58-family](http://signupgenius.com/go/20f094ca4ab2faaf58-family) or email Rosemary at [RosemaryL@fccog.org](mailto:RosemaryL@fccog.org).

### Call for Singers for Good Friday Chancel Choir Service

If you are interested in joining the Chancel Choir for the Good Friday service at 8:00 pm, we extend an invitation to join us on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:15 pm. This year we are presenting an anthem and reading format, and our program will feature:

<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	Gilbert Martin
<i>Et Incarnatus Est &amp; Crucifixus</i>	J. S. Bach
<i>The Lord is My Shepherd</i>	J. Rutter
<i>Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee</i>	J. Brahms

Rehearsals will continue throughout March (with the exception of March 3). Please let Craig know after worship today or email him during the week at [craigs@fccog.org](mailto:craigs@fccog.org) so music can be compiled for your participation.

**News from The Rummage Room**  
*191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich*

**Monday, February 29:** The Rummage Room REOPENS AT 1:00 pm with everything for spring. The Shop was completely emptied over the weekend and there will be wonderful spring merchandise in the shop for this 2016 reopening event. It is a wonderful time to come in and shop for you and your family. There will be nothing on sale for the week of 2/29-3/5. **Remember, the shop opens at 1 pm.** **Manager Leanne's Wish List:** Good bric-a-brac; adult and children's spring clothing and accessories; jewelry; shoes; and handbags. Also needed: bikes for all ages; strollers; and small furniture.

**Shop Hours:** 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday & 10 am-1pm Saturday.

**Donation Hours:** 9:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday & 9:30 am-12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

**Thought for Every Day:** *God promises He won't test us beyond that which we can endure. Sometimes we wish He didn't trust us so much!*

**Tai Chi Classes**

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. Drop-ins are welcome.

**Neighbor to Neighbor - Collection Barrel at Entrance to Church**  
Please don't forget those in need this winter. **Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.)** Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels. Tuna is **not** needed at this time.

Where to find us:

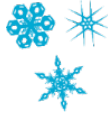
[www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791; [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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

Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Youth Coordinator: Donald Haviland

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Administrative Assistant - Communications: Rachael Schuster

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner