

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Transfiguration Sunday

7 February 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



Transfiguration, Jesus Mafa

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 this morning. May your spirit relax into the peace of God's presence as we share this time together.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Aria

Jon Hunt, guest organist/director

Flor Peeters

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Meghan D. Young

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

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Betty Bonsal

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eva Moore, Confirmand

Leader: Something drew us together this morning

*People: Something we can't name
but which we experience in worship*

Leader: Some holy mystery we call God

People: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus

Leader: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit

*People: May our experience of the Divine transform
our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.*

CHORAL INTROIT

*HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

New Century (black) Hymnal 182

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Come down, Answerer of our questions, so we might have the faith to bring healing to the broken, to share our abundance with the needy, to brighten the faces of those in the shadows.

Come down, Lover of justice, removing our blinders of prejudice, to see others as our sisters and brothers, to lift the burdens that weigh down so many.

Come down, Spirit of freedom, and clothe us in your dazzling hope, so we may act boldly for justice, deal honestly with all, build fairness in our communities.

Come down, God in Community, Holy in one, as we seek to set aside our fears to draw ever closer to you, as we 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 MESSAGE

(As we begin singing Jesus Loves Me, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms.)

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

Pat Mendelsohn

Exodus 34:29-35

God renews the covenant with the people, and the Ten Commandments are re-issued. Moses spends forty days and nights with God, fasting, praying, and writing the words of the covenant on the tablets. Then he comes down off of Mount Sinai, and we witness with awe his face shining, for he has been talking with God.

ANTHEM

Go Ye Into All the World

The Youth Choir

Eugene Butler

Carolyn Paulus, director

*Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature!
Jesus said, "This is the great commandment:
that ye love one another as I have loved you.
Greater love hath no man than this;
that he lay down his life for his friend."
"Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God,
If you believe in God, you believe in Me!"*

SECOND LESSON

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Luke 9:28-36

The transfiguration. Moses and Elijah appear representing the Law and the Prophets, and a cloud represents the presence of God. Jesus' identity is revealed to the inner circle of Jesus' friends. Here human nature meets God as Jesus becomes the connecting point between heaven and earth.

* HYMN

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

New Century (black) Hymnal 183

SERMON

The Shining (No, not that one)

Rev. Meghan D. Young

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Paul Kretschmann

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Father, All Holy

The Chancel Choir

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

*Father, all-holy, merciful, and tender;
Son co-eternal, worthy to be praised;
Spirit of comfort, fount of loving-kindness;
God everlasting,*

*Trinity holy; Unity unchanging;
Goodness unbounded; very God of heaven;
Light of the Angels; Refuge of the friendless;
Hope universal.*

*All thy works hymn thee; all thy Saints adore thee;
They for thy pleasure are, and were created;
Now while we also worship thee devoutly,
Hear thou our voices.*

*Thine be the glory, Deity Almighty,
One in Three Persons, Monarch in the highest;
Glory and honour, song and praise beseem thee
Now and forever. Amen.*

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (note, gluten-free bread is available) 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 (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, in gratitude, in deep gratitude,
for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.

Take us out

to live as changed people

because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us,

enable much by us, encourage many through us. *Amen.*

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

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

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

Charles Callahan

* * *

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.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Peter McLennan, by Kathy, daughters and granddaughter.

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. 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 we begin our Lenten rotation curriculum, *Jesus' Death and Resurrection*. Children in the following grades will be in a different classroom each week. This Week:

- Kindergarten and 1st grade – Red Door in the Preschool
- 2nd Grade – Auditorium Stage
- 4th and 5th grades – Green Door in the Preschool

All children will be “shepherded” to their rooms after a Storytelling time in the Auditorium right after we leave the sanctuary. All classes are scheduled to end at 11:00 am and not before. All other classes meet Sun in their classes as usual, except the “678” class which is temporarily meeting in the Daniels Center. Next Sunday is a Service Sunday for all 5 year olds and older. We will meet in the Daniels

Center and learn about supporting the children in Flint, MI and our Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia.

Today is the "Souper Bowl Sunday" Annual Soup Sale!

Our annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale is taking place TODAY in the Auditorium! Quarts of soup, chili or stew will be sold for \$10 each from 11:00 am–1:00 pm (or as long as supplies last!). All proceeds will go to support Women's Fellowship projects. Be sure to stop by and buy some soup!



Bible Study is Back!

Bible Study returns TODAY at 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. We will be discussing the book, *Things Hidden: Spirituality in Scripture* by Richard Rohr. It is all inspiration and insight. It addresses some of the great themes of the Bible, including grace, mystery, and power. Please join us. All are welcome.

Caregivers Support Group

Our Caregivers Support Group will meet today from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm in the Binney Conference Room. This group, which meets the first Sunday of each month, is for those who currently are, or recently have been, a caregiver for a family member or friend. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister is the group facilitator and can be reached at 203-588-9896 or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com.

Sunday Afternoons Live Concert Series Returns Today!

The 2016 winter season of our *First Music and Arts Series* kicks off with the ever-popular *Sunday Afternoons Live* TODAY at 4:00 pm and continues each Sunday afternoon in February 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 upcoming concerts in February are:

- **Today, February 7:** *Trident Ensemble – A Hidden Song*. Trident is a collaboration of nine critically acclaimed vocalists dedicated to unparalleled ensemble performances throughout New



York City. Each singer is an outstanding soloist in their own right; together, they will present a program described as: *“From clandestine Catholics to Soviet subversives, music gives voice to the voiceless, and reveals the secrets of the soul.”*

- **February 14:** *Evelina Puzaite, piano.* Lithuanian-born pianist, Evelina Puzaite, is an internationally-recognized performer of natural sensitivity and strong charisma. She has performed extensively throughout Europe, including Italy, France, Greece, Sweden, Poland, Lithuania, as well as in Russia, Israel, and the USA.
- **NEW PROGRAM - February 21:** *A Concert of Vocal Music with Drew Seigla, tenor and Gianna Barone, soprano.* Join us for an afternoon of vocal solos and duets with two of the most beautiful people in town. Drew is the tenor section leader here at First Church and stars in the longest-running Broadway musical, *The Fantasticks* and will be joined by his lovely girlfriend, Gianna, who is a recent graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music.
- **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.

THIS WEEK

Ash Wednesday Service

Join us this *Wednesday, February 10* for an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 pm in the Meetinghouse. There will be Communion and imposition of ashes.

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off Women’s Group Valentine’s Day Party

Our *Nights Off* Women’s Group will be meeting *Monday, February*

15 for a Valentine’s Day Party at the home of Kathy

Riley. We will meet at 6:30 pm for a light dinner.

Please bring an appetizer to share and whatever you would like to drink. Also, please bring something sweet to be donated



to the food pantry (cookies, box of brownies or cake mix, etc.). We will also be playing Valentine's Day Jeopardy. All are welcome! Please join us and bring a friend along. If you have, please contact Shirley Flierl at fbtworld@aol.com. See you there!

NEWS AND NOTICES

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue

Monday, February 8: All Valentine's Day clothing, decorations, and all things RED will be 50% off for the entire week. Go to www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/ for more info.

Mark Your Calendars: Bag Sales run **Thursday, February 25 to Saturday, February 27**. Everything must go to make way for spring.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: St. Patrick's Day clothing and decorations; spring clothing for men, women and children; shoes; and handbags.

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 the Week: *Life isn't about waiting for the winter to pass; it's about learning how to dance in the snow! After all, would we really enjoy spring as much if there was no winter??*

Summer at Silver Lake

There is still time to sign up for the Silver Lake Summer Program at www.silverlake.org. There are brochures in the Church Office.

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 –

Food Collection Barrel in Entrance to the 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

Facebook,

Twitter

YouTube

Instagram



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

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

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner