

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

# The First Sunday after Epiphany

10 January 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 this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. May the spirit of God be with each of us as we seek understanding, as we recognize grace, as we hope for renewal, and as we live into our faith.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

*Prelude and Fughetta*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*  
*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

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

*Rev. Meghan D. Young*

#### **FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK**

*Gary Lico*

#### **CALL TO THE 345<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

*Kathy McLennan*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Alex Fortunato, Confirmand*

*Leader: Here in this place, now in these moments;  
we gather to meet our God,*

*People: whose Word runs sprints  
through the rough streets of our lives.*

*Leader: Here in these people, now with shared cares and prayers,  
we hope to see our God,*

*People: who transfigures our shadows into light,  
who transforms our grief into gratitude.*

*Leader: Here in our silence, now in our songs,  
we long to know our God,*

*People: who gathers us in from every far place,  
who melts our frozen hearts with love.*

## CHORAL INTROIT

### \*HYMN

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

New Century (black) Hymnal 7

## OPENING PRAYER

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

O Word made Flesh, You have come into our midst as light and wisdom, desiring to be known to us in our lives and to be found in the world around us. Open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to recognize you where you dwell—in our midst—Challenging, heartening, lighting the way to truth, peace, justice. God in community, Holy in One, even as we pray as we have been taught, saying,

## 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

## 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)*

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

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Car Westbrook*

#### **Psalm 29**

#### **New Century (black) Hymnal 638**

*(organ will play response once, choir will sing response, then all sing)*

*A hymn of praise in honor of God's glory and power as revealed in  
a thunderstorm. We remember the power of God's voice.*

### **ANTHEM**

*The Chancel Choir  
Raymond Weidner*

*O Gladsome Light*

*O gladsome light, O grace of God the Father's face,  
Eternal splendor wearing; celestial, holy Lord,  
Our Savior, Christ, adored, we joy in your appearing.*

*Now, at the dawn of day as sunlight comes our way,  
With hearts and hymns outpouring, we praise you, God of might,  
Incarnate Son of light, and Spirit all adoring.*

*To You all praise belongs; to You we raise our songs,  
O Son of God, Lifesaver; to You, O Lord most high  
The world does glorify and shall exalt forever.*

### **SECOND LESSON**

*Barbara Norrgard*

#### **John 1:1-18**

*The poetically beautiful words of the prologue to John's Gospel carry  
multiple meanings and references. God's Word (Logos), in addition to*

*being the agent of all of creation, is also identified with the terms “life” and “light,” both central concepts in the Fourth Gospel. We are reminded of the power of the “Word,” and the invited to participate in and with it.*

\* HYMN

*Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense*

New Century (black) Hymnal 406

SERMON

*Breaking Points*

*Rev. Meghan D. Young*

PASTORAL PRAYER

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

CALL TO OFFERING

*Donna Hascher*

OFFERTORY

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Peter Mathews (b. 1944)

*O splendor of God's glory bright,  
O Thou that bringest light from light;  
O Light of light, light's living spring,  
O day, all days illumining.*

*O Thou true Sun, on us Thy glance  
Let fall in royal radiance;  
The Spirit's sanctifying beam  
Upon our earthly senses stream.*

*Creator, too, our prayers implore,  
Creator of glory evermore;  
Creator of all grace and might,  
To banish sin from our delight.*

*To guide what're we nobly do,  
With love, all envy to subdue;  
To make ill fortune turn to fair,  
And give us grace, our wrongs to bear.*

**\*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**

*God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

New Century (black) Hymnal 556

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Plein Jeu*

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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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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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.

### Church School

Today in Church School we begin a special January series tailored to each grade level. The Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade will begin with an introduction to prayer and learn many ways of praying. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade begins their series on communion. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade continues their Bible series with an introduction to the New Testament. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades will be hearing some facts about First Church that they may not know and some interesting information about the UCC. '678' will continue their lessons on World Religions specifically looking at Buddhism this week.

### Parish Nurse

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

### Choir Rehearsals

**Cherub Choir (grades K-2):** Room 104 (Lower Level), 11:15-11:45 am - Donald Haviland, director.

**Children's Choir (grades 3-6):** We will meet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway from now on (until construction begins), 11:15 am - 12:00 pm – Craig Symons, director.

**Youth Choir (grades 7-12):** Meetinghouse, 11:15 am -12:15 pm - Carolyn Paulus, director.

**\*No choir rehearsals next *Sunday, January 17.***

### "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale – Sign up Today!

Get your soup recipes ready to donate to the 6th Annual Women's Fellowship Soup Sale being held on *Sunday, February 7*. Please sign up **today** during Fellowship Hour to donate soup or anytime in the Church Office (instructions and containers are there as well). Quarts of soup, chili or stew will be sold on February 7 from 11:00 am–1:00 pm (or as long as supplies last!) in the Auditorium. All proceeds go to support Women's Fellowship projects. (Note: Ingredients to make the soups are tax deductible.) For more information call Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526 or email [smccalley1@gmail.com](mailto:smccalley1@gmail.com) (please note that this is a new contact email address and that is the #1 after Sue's name).

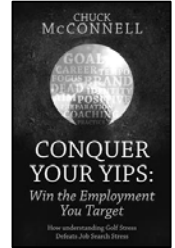


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## THIS WEEK

### Men's Fellowship Gathering

Join us this *Friday, January 15* at 6 pm in the Auditorium for a Men's Fellowship Gathering. Dinner will be provided at shared cost. We will be bidding a fond farewell to our friend, Chuck McConnell. He will share his thoughts and inspiration, and will talk about his book, *Conquer Your Yips: Win the Employment You Target (How Understanding Golf Stress Defeats Job Search Stress)*. Reservations are appreciated. Please call the Church Office at 203-637-1791.



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## NEXT WEEK

### Second Hour: Refugee Crisis

Join us next *Sunday, January 17*, following worship in the Daniels Center for a refugee info session. Come learn more about the refugee crisis and what it would take for First Church to co-sponsor a refugee family. This is purely informational at this time. Based on interest and resources, we will discern, at a later date, whether this is a commitment we are called to make. Please join us.

### *Nights Off* Women's Group Gathering

The first gathering of the *Nights Off* Women's Group in 2016 is *Monday, January 18* at 6:30 pm at the home of Ginny Breismeister. All are welcome as we gather to make soup for the annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale being held on February 7. Lots of hands will make this a fast and fun project, so please join us and bring a friend. We promise lots of laughs and fun conversation! Also, please bring an appetizer to share and whatever you would like to drink. And, then mark your calendars now for our annual Valentine's Day celebration on *Monday, February 15* when we will gather for a rousing game of Valentine Jeopardy and dinner at the home of Kathy Riley. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Flierl at [FBTWorld@aol.com](mailto:FBTWorld@aol.com) and put "Nights Off" in the subject line.



## Annual Women's Fellowship Tea

Be sure to join us for the annual Women's Fellowship Tea on *Wednesday, January 20* at 3:30 pm in the Auditorium. Come and enjoy tea, good company and a presentation about women in the history of First Church with our very own church historian, Pat Larrabee. This is not to be missed! All are welcome!

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

**\*The Church Office will be closed *Monday, January 18* for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day\***

### Call to the 345<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The 345<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT, is hereby called for *Sunday, January 31, 2016*, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- *To hear and act upon the annual reports of the pastors, officers and committees;*
- *To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers for the coming year;*
- *To adopt the budget for 2016;*
- *To act upon the recommendations of the College and University Loan Fund (CULF);*
- *To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.*

### Interested in Learning About Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held on *Sunday, January 24* at 11:30 am in the Senior Pastor's office. It will last approximately an hour and a half and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church.

Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will then be received on Sunday, January 31. Child care will be



provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or 637-1791 x 26.

### Summer at Silver Lake

Silver Lake Summer Program sign up has begun. Go to [www.silverlake.org](http://www.silverlake.org). Some conferences fill up very quickly, so, if you know you want to go and what you want to do, sign up today! There is a brochure available in the Church Office.

### Save These Upcoming Dates

**Saturday, January 30, 7 pm & Sunday, January 31, 2 pm:** *Youth Fundraiser Talent Show* in the Auditorium. Tickets on sale soon.

**Sundays, February 7-March 20:** Bible Study returns! 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. We will be discussing *Things Hidden* by Richard Rohr. Copies available in the Church Office. A great and inspirational study.

**Sunday, February 7:** “Souper Bowl Sunday” Annual Soup Sale, 11:00 am-1:00 pm in the Auditorium.

**Saturday, February 6:** Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Wellness Committee and Women’s Fellowship, 8:15 am-1:15 pm.

**Sunday, February 7:** First performance of this season’s *Sunday Afternoons Live*, 4:00 pm, Trident Ensemble – *Hidden Song*.



Trident Ensemble

*More details about all of these events are available on our website at [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org), in the January issue of the Meetinghouse Monthly and “to come” in future Sunday bulletins.*

### News from The Rummage Room

*191 Sound Beach Avenue*

**Monday, January 11, 2016:** Got the winter blues? Take The Rummage Room Cure...come in and shop ‘til you drop! Visit [www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/](http://www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/) to see the weekly sale items.

**Manager Leanne’s Wish List for January:** Items for Valentine’s Day; spring clothing; blouses; men’s dress shirts; jewelry; handbags; and, especially, bric-a-brac.

**Tax Slips for Donors:** Only one tax slip is required during the year of 2016. Ask any volunteer for help when you come in.

**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.

**Volunteering:** Volunteers not only agree that The Rummage Room is 'The Best Little Shop in Town' but also 'The Best Place in Town to Work!' Call Manager Leanne at 203-637-1875 if you have a couple of hours a week to help out.

**Thought for 2016:** Let us leave 2015 in the silence of the past. Let it go completely if it was not perfect, and let us thank God that He is giving us a fresh start. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

### 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.

Where to find us:

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

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