

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The First Sunday after Epiphany

11 January 2015

10 o'clock in the morning



The Baptism of the Christ #2
by artist, Daniel Bonnell
www.bonnellart.com

*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. 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

We Bless Thee for Thy Peace, O God E. S. Hosmer (1862-1945)

*We bless thee for thy peace, O God,
deep as the unfathomed sea,
which falls like sunshine on the road of those who trust in thee.*

*We ask not, Father, for repose which comes from outward rest,
if we may have through all life's woes thy peace,
thy peace within our breast.*

*That peace which suffers and is strong,
trusts where it cannot see,
deems not the trial way too long, but leaves the end with thee.*

*That peace which flows serene and deep,
a river in the soul, whose bank, a living verdure,
keep God's sunshine o'er the whole.*

*O Father give our hearts this peace, what e'er the outward be,
till all life's discipline shall cease and we go home to thee. Amen.*

CALL TO COMMUNITY
Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

CALL TO THE 344th ANNUAL MEETING

Kathy McLennan

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Great Spirit, you have turned your face earthward and opened your heart to your children.

People: And so, O God, do we turn to you now.

Leader: We turn to you for purpose and correction.

People: For joy and peace,

Leader: For a way out of hopeless situations,

People: For justice,

Leader: For forgiveness,

People: For love.

Leader: We turn to you, O God, for all these things offered through Jesus the Christ the maker of redemption and the bringer of hope.

People: Amen.

* HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 267

OPENING PRAYER

O God, in our spiritual wandering you search us and know us and long to bring us back to you. In our anxious quest to be all that we can be, we lose touch with our loved ones and our own true selves. When we take ourselves too seriously, remind us that we are only human. Make us patient with our mistakes and the mistakes of others, to forgive as you forgive us that we may be born anew. And, above and beyond everything else, remind us that we are precious, not because we are good but because you have accepted us for who we are and called us to be your very own. All of this we pray in Jesus' name, whose prayer we pray 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

Rosemary Lamie

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go, My Children (to the tune All Through the Night)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river

I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing – you are my own.

(As we begin singing Go, My Children, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their workshops: Kindergarten & 1st grades meet Mrs. Jacks in the Narthex and then go to the Daniels Center (front) together; 2nd & 3rd grades go to the Daniels Center (back); 4th & 5th grades go to Room 104. "678" go to the Youth Room.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Daniel Lepoutre

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in

my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Arise, Shine

The Chancel Choir

Daniel Moe

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the people.*

*But the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And the nations shall come to your light,
and Kings to the brightness of your rising.*

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a

dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

From *New Revised Standard Version*

* HYMN

Like a Tree beside the Waters New Century (black) Hymnal 313

SERMON

Born Anew

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

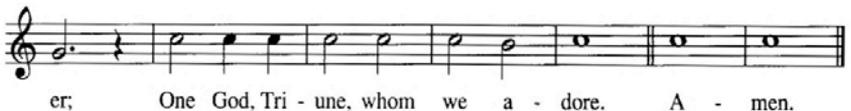
Behold, the Tabernacle of God

The Chancel Choir

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you,
and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you.
For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.
For the love of whom you do this day
celebrate the joys of the temple
with a season of festivity. Alleluia.*

*DOXOLOGY



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 370

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fugue

Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

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 Norman Wylie by Maesie.

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. On Church School Sundays we also have a class for 3 and 4 year olds during the entire 10:00 am service. Please see an usher if you need directions to child care or Church School.

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

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make our first week of Rotation Workshop a success! Today kindergarten and 1st grade will

do carpentry, 2nd and 3rd grades will do games, and 4th and 5th grades will do cooking. "678" will continue their introduction to Islam. Next week is a Service Sunday during which all ages will gather in the Daniels Center for a community service project.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 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): Room 303 (Craig's office, 3rd floor) 11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Craig Symons, director.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Choir Room (3rd floor), 11:15 am -12:15 pm - Carolyn Paulus, director.

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

Get your soup recipes ready to donate to the 5th Annual Women's Fellowship Soup being held on *Sunday, February 1*. Please sign up

today to donate soup during Fellowship Hour or anytime in the Church Office (instructions and containers are there as well). Quarts of soup, chili or stew will be sold on February 2 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 smccalley@bhhsne.com.



Pledge Envelopes

Pledge envelopes for the year 2015 will be available **today** during Fellowship Hour or any day in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Summerton at steves@fccog.org or ext. 38 during the week.

Bible Study

Our New Bible Study class with Rev. Avery Manchester continues **today** and next *Sunday, January 18*. Come and join the fun at **11:20** am in the Lounge. Previous attendance is not necessary. Just come with your interest in the Bible and Avery will do the rest!

THIS WEEK

Hats Off Book Discussion Group

Join our *Hats Off* book study group for our first book of 2015, *The Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriana Trigiani. This book takes us on new adventures to the Italian Alps, the cobblestone streets of Little Italy, the mansions of NYC and the lakes of northern Minnesota. *Hats Off* meets **Thursdays at 11:30 am** in the Lounge. Please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110 with any questions.



NEXT WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

The first gathering of the *Nights Off* Women's Group in 2015 will be **Monday, January 19** (Martin Luther King Day) at the home of Irene Savage. We will meet at 6:30 pm and will be making soup for the annual Women's Fellowship "Souper Bowl" Sunday Soup Sale being held on February 1. All are welcome! Lots of hands will make this a fast and fun project, so please join us and bring a friend. We promise a lot of laughs and fun conversation! Also, please bring an appetizer to share and whatever you would like to drink. If you have questions or would like to be added to the email list, please contact Shirley Flierl at fbtworld@aol.com. See you there!

You're Invited to Tea with an Author!

Join us on **Thursday, January 22** at 3:30 pm in the Auditorium and enjoy tea and goodies with Barbara Stretton, author of the *Tori Trotter Mysteries*, much beloved stories of a feline detective (www.ToriTrotter.com). And bring your kids along as these books are great for 8-12 year olds (as well as cat lovers of all ages!). Barbara was featured in an article in the *Greenwich Citizen* in January 2012 as the author of "cat-o-nine tales." Barbara will be speaking about her books and they will be available and autographed after her presentation. No reservations or RSVPs required.



NEWS AND NOTICES

Call to the 344th Annual Meeting

The 344th Annual Meeting of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT, is hereby called for *Sunday, January 25, 2015*, 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 2015;*
- *To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.*

Save These Dates

Friday, January 23: Moms' Group for moms with very young children, 9:30-10:30 am in Room 104.

Sunday, January 25: 344th Annual Meeting immediately following the worship service.

Friday and Saturday, January 30 & 31: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, 7:30 pm in the Auditorium.

Sunday, February 1: "Souper Bowl Sunday" Annual Soup Sale, 11:00 am-1:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Sunday, February 1: First performance of this season's *Sunday Afternoons Live*, 4:00 pm – Andrew Armstrong, piano.

Saturday, February 7: Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Wellness Committee and Women's Fellowship, 8:00 am-1:00 pm.

More details about all of these events are available on our website at www.fccog.org, in the January issue of the Meetinghouse Monthly and "to come" in future Sunday bulletins.



Andrew Armstrong,
piano

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, January 12: Good winter clothing, including ski clothing, available for adults and children. 50% off Manager's choice of categories for the week.

Manager's Wish List: Items for Valentine's Day; spring clothing; good jewelry; handbags; and Christmas gifts you will never use. **Needed ASAP:** Bric-a-brac which would include dishes, glasses, cups, vases,

pitchers (anything used for serving or decoration). The shelves are almost bare. **Note:** Donations of skis and ski boots cannot be accepted.

Volunteers Needed: Please consider giving several hours of your time, either weekly or part-time, as many of the volunteers go away for some part of the winter. Call Manager Maria Drieghe at 203 637-1875.

Tax Slips for Donors: Only one tax slip required during the year of 2015. Ask any volunteer for help.

Shop Hours: 10 am-5 pm Monday-Fridays and 10 am-1 pm Saturdays.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Mondays-Thursdays and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Fridays-Saturdays.

Thought for 2015: *Let us leave 2014 in the silence of the past. Let it go completely if it was not perfect, and let us thank God that He has given us a fresh start.*

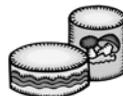
Tai Chi Classes

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 welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Now that the holidays are over, please don't forget those in need and continue to donate food items to Neighbor to Neighbor.

Items especially needed at this time include: Cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter (regular sized jars please) and jelly. Also, sheets and towels are always needed.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

January 18, 2015

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

Before the Heavens Were Spread Abroad

by Horatio Parker

Joseph Dermody, viola:

Prelude and Offertory Solos

Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching

Where to find us:

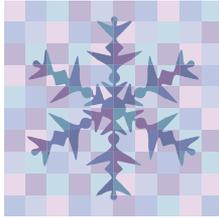
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The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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.

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: 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