

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

# **The First Sunday after Epiphany**

**12 January 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.*



**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.

‡Seating of latecomers.

#### **PRELUDE**

*Sonata*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano*  
*Malcolm Dickinson, clarinet*  
Henri Eccles (1670-1742)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

#### **CALL TO THE 343rd ANNUAL MEETING**

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: Redeemer, you have created waters that have refreshed and restored us.*

*People: May we each remember our baptism.*

*Leader: Creator, you have shared a world that engages us, supports us and sustains us.*

*People: May we be caretakers of these gifts.*

*Leader: Sustainer, you have given us strength for the journey.*

*People: May our time together embolden us for your work in the world.*

*All: Let us worship together.*

**\*‡HYMN**

*Your Ways Are Not Our Own* New Century (black) Hymnal 170

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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 MESSAGE**

*Rev. John W. Collins*

*(After the Children's Message, 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*

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

**H**ere is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth

justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

## ANTHEM

*Jesus Calls Us*

*The Chancel Choir*

Joy Patterson (b. 1931)

*Christopher Pfund, tenor*

*Malcolm Dickinson, clarinet*

## SECOND LESSON

*Barbara Norrgard*

### Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

*From New Revised Standard Version*

\*‡HYMN

*Hear the Voice of God, So Tender*

New Century (black) Hymnal 174

SERMON

*Traditions and Rituals*

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

CALL TO OFFERING

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

OFFERTORY SOLO

*Sonata*

*Malcolm Dickinson, clarinet*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

\*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

*Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult*

New Century (black) Hymnal 172

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur in C*

Charles-Alexis Chauvet (1837-1871)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.*

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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](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 our classes will learn about Jesus listening to the rabbis and even teaching them in the temple at the age of 12! Of course, most interesting for our children is his doing that without his parents' knowledge. Our third grades will be learning about the Book of Psalms continuing their overview of the Bible this year. **Mark Your Calendars...** *Friday, January 24*, Family Fun Night in the Daniels Center, 6:30-8:30 pm. Dinner and activities for all ages! Sign up boards at Coffee Hour and in the Preschool entryway.

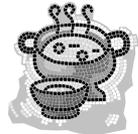
#### Choir Rehearsals

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 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

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

Get your soup recipes ready to donate to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Fellowship Soup being held on *Sunday, February 2*.

Please sign up **today** to donate soup during Coffee 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](mailto:smccalley@bhhsne.com).

### **Contribution Envelopes**

Contribution envelopes for the year 2014 will be available **today** during Coffee Hour. If you have any questions, please contact Kirk Young at [kirky@fccog.org](mailto:kirky@fccog.org) or ext. 32 during the week.

### **Bible Study**

We will continue in our study of the book of Daniel in the Old Testament, with a renewed introduction for those who may have missed last week's gathering (though there was a very good turnout in spite of the weather trying to kill us all). Daniel is an important book for lots of reasons (exciting stories and mysterious visions are only part of it) because it raises the question of how much or how little we participate in the culture around us: The Amish say not at all; nominal Christians don't understand the question and everyone else is in between. Daniel doesn't tell us the answer either but Jesus clearly knew Daniel's writings and referred to them often. So don't be Left Behind (something else Daniel speaks to), and join us **today at 11:15 am in the Lounge**.

### **JPF & SPF Youth Groups**

Our Youth Groups will not be meeting this evening.

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## **THIS WEEK**

### ***Hats Off* Book Study Group**

*Hats Off* began 2014 with *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. Please join us on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.

### **Kettle Quilters**

The Kettle Quilters have resumed our regular schedule of Mondays 9:00 am-12:00 noon and Tuesdays 7:30 pm-9:00 pm in Room 203. We hope that you will join us and give some of your precious time to help us finish our raffle quilt by March.

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## NEXT WEEK

### *Nights Off*

All are welcome when The Women's Fellowship Group, *Nights Off*, meets next *Monday, January 20* at 6:00 pm at the home of Irene Savage. Our activity for the evening will be making soup for the



annual Women's Fellowship "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale being held on February 2 at the church.

Lots of hands will make this a fast and fun project.

We will also have a lot of laughs and fun

conversation so please join us and bring a friend!

Upon completing making the soup, a light supper will be provided.

Please bring an appetizer, salad or light dessert to share and whatever

you would like to drink. If you have any questions or would like to

be added to the email list, please contact Shirley Flierl at 203-629-

4939 or at [FBTWorld@aol.com](mailto:FBTWorld@aol.com). All women of the church are

invited to participate. It is a great way to see old friends and make

new ones!

### **Fellowship and Tea**

Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and tea, sponsored by the

Women's Fellowship, on *Thursday, January 23* at 3:30 pm in the

Auditorium. Learn about the history and benefits of tea from the

Bigelow Tea folks. Bigelow Tea and other goodies will be served.

### **For Moms of Very Young Children**

Are you a mom of a baby, toddler and/or 2 year old? Do you know

that we have a great opportunity for you to meet and relax with other

moms and their young children? Our Moms Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and

4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month (the next meeting is *Friday, January 24*)

from 9:30-10:30 am (note this new time) in Room 104. For more

information, contact Kristen Jacks at [kmj33z@yahoo.com](mailto:kmj33z@yahoo.com) or call her

at 203-344-1961.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### **Call to the 343rd Annual Meeting**

The 343rd Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of

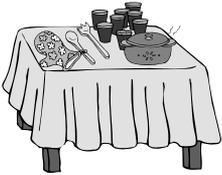
Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for

*Sunday, January 26, 2014*, 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 discuss the budget process for 2014;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

### You are Invited

You are all invited to join in a wonderful tradition that has been enjoyed by the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich. At least twice a year they have a series of Pot Luck Dinners at congregants' homes, usually in the spring and then again in the fall. Everyone is invited. This is not unlike what we used to do here at First Church



in the past. The home hosts are only obligated to set a date convenient for them and to set the table. All other responsibilities are shared by the attendees, thereby giving us all a wide choice.

Currently we have seven host homes and ideally **would like three more.** **Sign-up lists are posted on the bulletin board outside the Auditorium.** Please join us at one of these dinners and welcome the chance to walk in the door as possible strangers and walk out as new friends. What better way to celebrate the New Year and each other?

### Nicaragua Donations

We have our group ready who will represent us in Nicaragua this coming February! We are excited about the work before us. We are looking for donations of school supplies to take with us. During the month of January, please feel free to bring in pencils, crayons, children's scissors, notebooks and other supplies to donate. We would also love to get lots and lots of stickers of any sort to take with us. So bring it on! You can bring your contributions on Sundays to the Auditorium during Coffee Hour or drop them off at the Church Office marked to Mark Montgomery's



attention. If you would also like to help us financially, please visit our fundraising website at <http://www.razoo.com/team/Fabretto-Children-S-Organization-Nicaragua>. There you can learn more about our trip and make a secure, online donation to help cover the cost of our trip. Our goal is lofty, but not as high as our hopes!

### **The Return of *Sunday Afternoons Live* this February**

It is with great excitement that *First Music and Arts* presents another outstanding season of **Sunday Afternoons Live** held each Sunday in February at 4:00 pm in the intimate setting of our Auditorium, complete with coffee, tea, and light snacks. Tickets are \$20/person (available at the door), and all school-aged youth are free. Our season, this year, is 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. Our season includes:

- **February 2:** *Sax-O-Philm* with Chad Smith, saxophone
- **February 9:** *The Guitar In America* with Peter Griggs, guitar
- **February 16:** *The Many Faces of Love* with Lindsay Kesselman, soprano and Christopher James Lees, pianist
- **February 23:** *Music of J. S. Bach and his Contemporaries* with Masayuki Maki, harpsichord

More details about each program can be found on the church website at: <http://www.fccog.org/music/sunday-afternoons-live/>

### **Happy 2014 from The Rummage Room 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich**

**Monday, January 13 – Saturday, January 18:** Got the Winter Blues? Take The Rummage Room cure ... come shop for great winter clothing and ski wear.

**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturday.

**Donation Hours:** 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** Valentine's Day items; good handbags; jewelry; spring clothing. Love that word ... 'spring'!!

**Volunteering:** The Volunteers at The Rummage Room not only agree it is 'The Best Little Shop in Town,' but that it is 'The Best

Place to Work.' Give Maria a call at 203-637-1875 and come decide for yourself.

**Updated version of a line from a Broadway play:** *Let us leave 2013 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.*

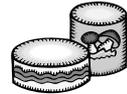
### Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte



Improve your balance, health and well being. 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

The holidays may be over, but the need is still great at Neighbor to Neighbor and their shelves need to be restocked. Please help out by contributing food each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. Adding a few non-perishable items to your weekly grocery store visit will continue to make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email [fccoghungermission@gmail.com](mailto:fccoghungermission@gmail.com) with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home.



### *Next Week at First Congregational Church*

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

*January 19, 2014*

Music by:

*The Chancel Choir*

*Prayer for Today* by Margaret Tucker

*Donald Haviland, tenor*

*The Lost Chord* by Arthur Sullivan

*Jon Hunt, guest director/organist*

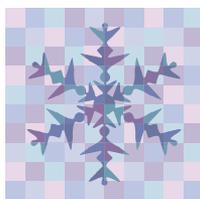
**Rev. John Collins, preaching**

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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](http://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