

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

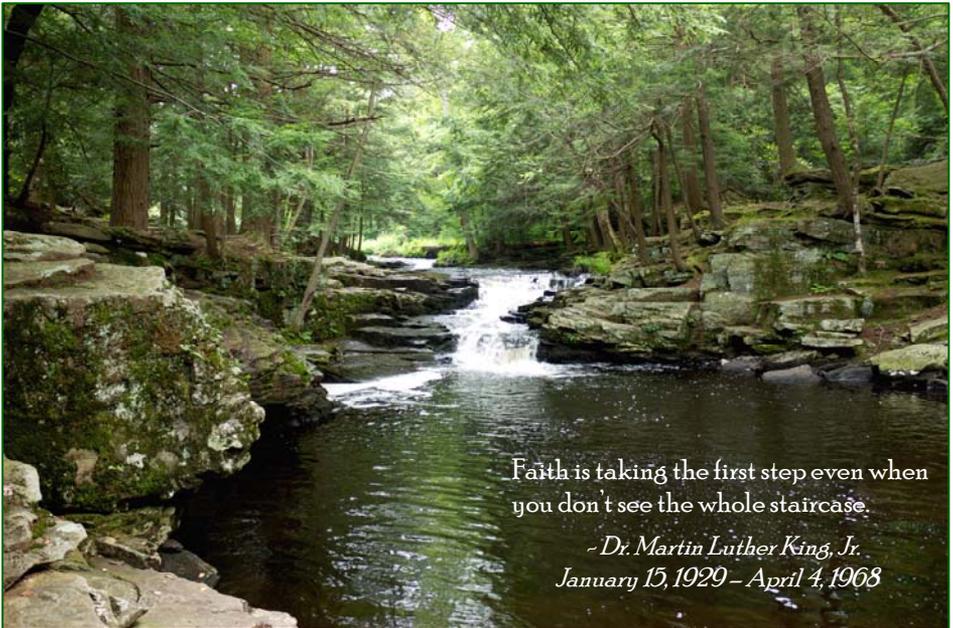
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

19 January 2014

10 o'clock in the morning



Faith is taking the first step even when
you don't see the whole staircase.

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968*

Promised Land State Park, Pennsylvania

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.



As the world settles into the cold reality of mid-winter, we warmly welcome you to worship at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich! We are so glad that you have taken time to refresh your soul in the inspiring embrace of our Sunday morning service. We invite you to relax and let God's healing Spirit renew your heart for living the extraordinary gift of life. Welcome!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Litany

Jon Hunt, guest organist
Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

CALL TO THE 343rd ANNUAL MEETING

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Each new generation is called by Christ to renew the Spirit of Compassion.

People: Each new generation is called to renew the Spirit of Love.

Leader: As we begin our worship this day, let us take up Christ's challenge to live with hearts open and ready to care.

People: Let us meet the challenge to be Christ's hands and arms, reaching out to a world of people in need.

Leader: As we begin our worship this day, let us know that we are not alone.

People: Let us remember that God is closer to us than our next breath, that our lives are supported by God's loving embrace.

***‡HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 38

OPENING PRAYER

Infinite Spirit of Love, we seek on this winter's day to set down the burdens of our week, and find in this place, the opening to your Spirit of healing and inspiration. We have easily forgotten what is important in our lives, allowing ourselves to be distracted by passing concerns and anxieties. But now, O God, let us truly set aside the stress of the moment and allow your presence to fill our souls. Open our hearts to your healing grace. Where we feel broken or lost, let us be mended and found. Where we feel betrayed or disappointed, let us find forgiveness and perspective. With faith in your perfect mercy, let us find peace. 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

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

(After the Children's Message, the children will go to the Daniels Center for a "Service Sunday" program. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center – which is on the lower level of the building; please ask for directions if needed – after worship.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

Genesis 17:1-8

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

A Prayer for Today

The Chancel Choir

Margaret Tucker (b. 1936)

Mary Fike, flute

SECOND LESSON

Helen Ingraham

Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his

peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”
From *New Revised Standard Version*

*‡HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 327

SERMON

The Promised Land

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

The Lost Chord

Donald Haviland, tenor
Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

*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

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 204

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

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. 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 is a "Service Sunday" when we identify a need in the community and take action to address it. We will be introducing our children to the upcoming youth mission trip to Nicaragua and will do valentines to send to the children there. We will also learn something about the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Regular Church School classes resume next Sunday.

Sign up today! ... for our Family Fun Night on *Friday, January 24*, 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

There is no Cherub, Children's or Youth Choir rehearsal today.

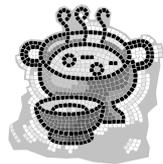
Blood Pressure Screening

A member of the Wellness Committee will be available to take blood pressures in Room 203 immediately following the Worship Service.

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

Get your soup recipes ready to donate to the 4th 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.



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 or ext. 32 during the week.

Bible Study

You've got to come to Bible Study this week beginning at 11:20 am and ending sharply at 12:30 (in the Lounge) because you don't want to lose any ground in the study of Daniel. This week join Daniel (England) in the fiery furnace where that other Daniel isn't, but where his friends are. We'll also take a look briefly at another book in some Bibles called the *Song of the Three Children* that became a part of Daniel for a while. It's not too late to start if you haven't already -- about 40 people are coming regularly. Find out why.

JPF & SPF Youth Groups

The JPF and SPF Youth Groups will not be meeting tonight.

THIS WEEK

2013 Annual Reports

2013 Annual Reports will be available in the Church Office on *Thursday, January 23*, if you would like to see one prior to the Annual Meeting next Sunday.

Nights Off

All are welcome when The Women's Fellowship Group, *Nights Off*, meets tomorrow, *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. 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, this *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.

Family Fun Night

Join us this *Friday, January 24*, for **Family Fun Night**, hosted by the Church School Task Force, held in the Daniels Center from 6:30-8:30 pm. Dinner and activities for all ages! Sign up boards are located in the Auditorium and in the Preschool entryway.

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 2nd and 4th Friday of every month (the next meeting is this *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 or call her at 203-344-1961.

Hats Off Book Study Group

Hats Off is currently reading *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

Kettle Quilters will **NOT** be meeting tomorrow *Monday, January 20*, due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day but **WILL** meet *Tuesday, January 21*, 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Room 203. Please remember to give us some time this week. We desperately need your help to finish the raffle quilt.

NEXT WEEK

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 approve the budget for 2014;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

NOTE: there will be Child Care and snacks for children during the meeting.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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 Bach's Time and Our Time* 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/>

Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness and Women's Fellowship Committees are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday February 8*, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We'll be looking for volunteers to make refreshments or play the piano, so look for sign-ups at Coffee Hours. And as always, blood donors are very much appreciated and appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Thank you for reaching out and being God's hands by helping others.



Update on Pot Luck Dinners

The dates and locations for our pot luck dinners have been set and are as follows:

- **Friday, Jan. 24**, Hartwell, 46 Parsonage Road, Greenwich
- **Saturday, Jan. 25**, Breismeister, 22 Keofferam Road, Old Greenwich
- **Sunday, Jan. 26**, Meyer, 321 Riverside Avenue, Riverside
- **Thursday, Jan. 30**, Angel-Lalanne, 59 Windsor Road, Rye Brook, NY
- **Friday, Jan. 31**, Ekernas, 13 Clover Place, Cos Cob
- **Saturday, Feb. 8**, Frazier, 41 West Way, Old Greenwich
- **Saturday, Feb. 8**, Kretschmann, 8 Fairchild Lane, Greenwich

Please contact Prill Meyer at 203-637-4214 or prillmeyer@optonline.net with any questions or reservations. **Sign up lists are located on the wall outside the Lounge.** We look forward to seeing and greeting you.

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, stickers and other supplies to donate. 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-](http://www.razoo.com/team/Fabretto-Children-S-Organization-Nicaragua)

[Organization-Nicaragua](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.

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

Monday, January 20: The Rummage Room celebrates *Martin Luther King, Jr.* Day with a 50% off-everything-sale.

Tuesday, January 21: Manager Maria has a 50% off sale on selected items through Saturday, January 25.

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

Hours for Donations: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Friday and Saturday.

Wist List: Valentine's Day clothing and decorations; good handbags; and jewelry.

Mission Objective: Proceeds from The Rummage Room are distributed by The Allocations Committee of The Women's Fellowship to women and family organizations throughout CT and worldwide.

Has the weather gotten you down a bit? *Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a songbird will come.* An old Chinese Proverb.

Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

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.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

January 26, 2014

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

The Song is Faith by Alfred Fedak

The Youth Choir

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter

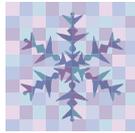
Rev. John Collins, preaching

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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

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