

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Third Sunday after Epiphany

25 January 2015

10 o'clock in the morning



*Jesus calling Simon Petrus and Andreas*  
by Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308-1311)

*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**e warmly welcome you to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Annual Meeting Sunday. Worship is always at the heart of who we are as a church and we are glad that you are here to share the inspiration of music, word and prayer. May your spirit be refreshed in our time together this morning.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*\*All who are able please stand.*

**PRELUDE**

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

**CALL TO THE 344<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

*Kathy McLennan*

### **PRAISING GOD**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: We come as seekers, unsure of what we seek.*

*People: We come as followers, never fully understanding the One we follow.*

*Leader: We come to pray, with sighs too deep for words.*

*People: Holy One, by your grace, meet us where we are.*

*All: Meet us here. Meet us now. All praise to you. Amen.*

\* HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 8

OPENING PRAYER

You call us, wanderer of seashores and sidewalks,  
inviting us to sail out of our smug harbors  
into the uncharted waters of faith  
to wander off from our predictable paths to follow You  
into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom;  
to leave the comfort of our homes and accompany  
You into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid.  
As we wait, in our simple, sometimes crazy,  
constantly uncertain lives,  
speak to us, Spirit of Grace:  
of that hope which is our anchor;  
of that peace which is our rock;  
of that grace which is our refuge. In Christ's name we pray.  
Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Margaret Anne Blasberg (Mimi),*

*daughter of Ashley Staton Blasberg and Eric John Blasberg*

BAPTISM PRAYER (*in unison*)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and  
pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your  
blessing on **Margaret** that you will watch over her and guide her  
as she grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own  
baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey  
your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your  
Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.

## BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.*

*(During the Baptismal Response, the Church School children and teachers should go to the Daniels Center for their Rotation Workshops.)*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Rick Woodman*

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

*God is a Spirit*

*The Youth Choir*

Gary Matheny

*Carolyn Paulus, director*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*

SECOND LESSON

*Joe McBride*

**Mark 1:16-20**

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

\* HYMN

*God of Abraham and Sarah*

New Century (black) Hymnal 20

SERMON

*The Subtext of Our Lives*

*Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.*

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

OFFERTORY

*The Heavens Are Telling*

*The Chancel Choir*

F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

*Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano*

*Drew Seigla, tenor*

*Vasil Golodinskii, bass*

*The heavens are telling the glory of God.*

*The wonder of his works displays the firmament.*

*Today, that is coming, speaks it the day;  
 the night, that is gone, to following night.  
 The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
 The wonder of works displays the firmament.  
 In the all the land resounds the word,  
 never unperceived, ever understood.  
 The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
 The wonder of works displays the firmament.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all  
 creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter -  
 er; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD**

**\* HYMN**

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 1

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rigaudon*

Andre Campra

\* \* \*

*Directly following the service, Rev. Manchester will remain at the front of the Sanctuary to be available to anyone who needs, or knows of someone who needs, pastoral care.*

*Please join us for a very brief Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium following the worship service.  
We will then reconvene in the Meetinghouse for the Annual Meeting.*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of the baptism of Margaret Anne Blasberg by her parents, Ashley and Eric Blasberg.

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](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 concludes our first Rotation series on "Growing up in Jesus' Time." We will all gather in the Daniels Center for a brief introduction and then go to our workshops as follows: Kindergarten & 1st Graders will meet in the Daniels Center Kitchen with Donna Hascher; 2nd & 3rd Graders will meet in Room 104 with Ben Quick & Bob MacLea for woodworking; and the 4th & 5th Graders will stay in the Daniels Center for games with Colleen Alfano. Please try to bring in school supplies for the children in Nicaragua before next

Saturday, February 7. Also, during the Annual Meeting our children will meet for snacks and Valentine making in the Blue Door of the Preschool.

### 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

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 to 11:45 am 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.

### Call to the 344<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The 344th Annual Meeting of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT, is hereby called for *TODAY* 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.*

**Note:** There will be Child Care and snacks for the children available during the meeting.

### "Souper Bowl Sunday" Annual Soup Sale

There is still time to donate your soups (chili or stew) to the 5th Annual Women's Fellowship Soup being held **NEXT 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 for

\$10 each on **February 1** from 11:00 am–1:00 pm (or as long as supplies last!) in the Auditorium. All proceeds will 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).

### Sign Up for Silver Lake Summer Programs NOW!

Registration for Silver Lake Summer Programs has begun online. If you know which session you want, register TODAY! If you have never been to a Silver Lake Summer session, this is the year to start. Once you go, you always go back! In order to attend, you must be going into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2015 or older. See Rosemary, Mark or Donald for more info or visit their website at: [http://www.silverlakeect.org/pdfs/SLCC\\_calendar\\_summer2015.pdf](http://www.silverlakeect.org/pdfs/SLCC_calendar_summer2015.pdf).



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### THIS WEEK

#### *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!*

Don't miss this wonderful performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, being performed by the FCCOG Youth Group Players this *Friday, January 30* and *Saturday, January 31* at 7:30 pm in the First Church Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 and all proceeds benefit the Youth Group's mission trip to Nicaragua this February. Seating is general admission only. Space is limited so make your reservations TODAY. Call 203-637-1791 to reserve your seats and then pick up your tickets and pay for them at the door. OR purchase your tickets today at Fellowship Hour or any day in the Church Office between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.



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### NEXT WEEK

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

The winter season of our *First Music and Arts Series* kicks off with the ever-popular *Sunday Afternoons Live* held at 4:00 pm 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. This year's lineup is a real treat!

- **February 1:** *Rededication of the Victor Borge Steinway* with pianist, Andrew Armstrong.

- **February 8:** *The Chamber Players of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra* with violinist Krystof Witek, violist David Cresswell, cellist Daniel Miller, and pianist Andrew Gordon.
- **February 15:** *Songs of the Heart* with harpist, Wendy Kerner, vocalists Steve Magnuson and Marjorie Donalds, and pianist Joe Mennonna.
- **February 22:** *Asylum Quartet* with four classically-trained saxophonists, Joseph Abad, Tony Speranza, Max Schwimmer, and Andrew Barnhart.

For more information about any of these programs, visit the church website: [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org).

### Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness and Women's Fellowship Committees are co-hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday, February 7* from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. This community event is made complete with



deviled eggs and live piano music. To schedule an appointment to give blood, please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Also, please contact Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse (ext. 21) if you'd like to volunteer to play piano for a

one-hour shift or bring a refreshment. Thank you for reaching out and being God's hands by helping others.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### SAVE THESE DATES:

**Monday, February 16:** *Nights Off* Women's Group Valentine Party, 6:30 pm at the home of Kathy Riley.

**Wednesday, February 18:** Ash Wednesday Meditation Service, 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. Imposition of ashes and optional meditation. Meetinghouse will remain open for all until 10:00 pm.

**Saturday, February 21:** Stewardship Pledge 'Thank You' Party with music, wine and hor d'oeuvres, 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

### News from The Rummage Room

*191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich*

**Monday, January 26:** 50% off selected items chosen by Mgr. Maria.  
**Maria's Wish List:** Last call for Valentine's Day clothing and

decorations. Especially Needed: St. Patrick's Day clothing and decorations; good bric-a-brac; jewelry; handbags.

We wish to thank our donors for bringing in only clean, salable items. It lessens the work for those who sort what you donate.

**A look forward to February:** Valentine's Day sales **February 9** through **February 14**. Come view the Valentine's Day window!

**February 16:** President's Day-50% off everything for one day only.

**February 23 through February 25:** Winter Clearance Sale-50% off everything in the shop.

**Shopping Hours:** 10 am-5 pm Mon-Fri & 10 am-1:00 pm Saturday.

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

Thought for the Week: *Time does not become sacred to us until we have lived it; until it has passed over us and taken with it a part of ourselves.* - John Burroughs (1837 - 1921)

### **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**

Please don't forget those in need. 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**

***February 1, 2015***

**Music by:**

**The Chancel Choir:**

*The Name Above All Names* by Carson Cooman

**The Children's Choir:**

*Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep* by Richard DeLong

**Hanna Golodinskii, soprano:**

*Great Peace Have They* by James H. Rogers

***Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching***

Where to find us:

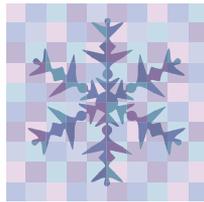
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*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791; [www.fccog.org](http://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