

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

26 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.



We 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Grave-Adagio from Sonata #2

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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: With hearts open to the gentle voice of God's Spirit, we gather in worship this day.

People: Let us listen for guidance and wisdom.

Leader: We worship in deep awareness that our lives are supported by God's abundance.

People: Let us remember with gratitude all of the blessings in our lives.

Leader: May this time be an opportunity to let the stress and worry of life melt away.

People: May this time be the opening for our spirits to find peace.

***‡HYMN**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 263

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Gracious and loving God, we offer thanksgiving and praise to you this day as we celebrate the life of First Congregational Church. We acknowledge our gratitude for the continuing ministry and mission of this congregation through the years. We thank you for all that our church has meant to its members and to those its ministry has touched. In tender memory, we rejoice in the inspiration which has been found here, through the preaching of your word, through the singing of hymns to your praise, and through the sharing of life-sustaining sacraments. Look upon us this day with your blessing. Give us vision, courage and wisdom as we live into the future as your church family. May we continue to be a beacon of compassion and service to our world. We ask in Jesus' name, whose prayer we 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

The Youth Choir

John Rutter (b. 1945)
Carolyn Paulus, director
Vance Briceland, pianist

SECOND LESSON

Lynn Robertson

Mark 1:32-39

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

From New Revised Standard Version

(After the Second Lesson, 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.)

*‡HYMN

City of God, How Broad and Far

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 261

SERMON

Intermezzo

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Daniel B. England

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Song is Faith

The Chancel Choir
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

*DOXOLOGY

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.

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 317

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Choral Improvisation

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

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 most classes will learn a somewhat unfamiliar story about Jesus reading from the Hebrew scriptures in the temple on the Sabbath. The 2nd graders will be in class with their parents preparing to participate in communion next Sunday. The 3rd graders will be "introduced" to the New Testament from which they will learn for the rest of the year. The middle school class will learn about the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule and how they inform our everyday behavior.

Choir Rehearsals

Cherub Choir is rehearsing today from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room 104 and Youth Choir is rehearsing from 11:15 to 11:45 am in the Choir Room. There is no Children's Choir rehearsal today.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today's Worship Service.

Call to the 343rd Annual Meeting

The 343rd Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for **today 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.

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

Please sign up **today** to donate soup during Coffee Hour or anytime in the Church Office (instructions and containers are there as well) for the 4th Annual Women's Fellowship Soup Sale being held on *Sunday, February 2*. Quarts of soup, chili or stew will be sold that day 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.



Bible Study

There is no Bible Study today, but it will return next Sunday at 11:20 am in the Lounge.

THIS WEEK

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 meet Mondays, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Room 203. Come join us and help to finish the raffle quilt in time!

NEXT WEEK

The Return of *Sunday Afternoons Live!*

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/>

NEWS AND NOTICES

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 could use your help making refreshments or playing the piano. Please see Betsy Kreuter or Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, to volunteer; or look for sign-ups during Coffee Hour. One pint of blood donated has the potential to help 3 people, so blood donors are very much appreciated and appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Thank you for reaching out to help others.



Update on Pot Luck Dinners

The following pot luck dinner dates and locations are still available:

- **Thursday, Jan. 30**, Angel-Lalanne, 59 Windsor Road, Rye Brook, NY
- **Saturday, Feb. 8**, Kretschmann, 8 Fairchild Lane, Greenwich

Sign up lists are located on the wall outside the Lounge. We look forward to seeing and greeting you. Please contact Prill Meyer at 203-637-4214 or prillmeyer@optonline.net with any questions or reservations. Also, if anyone would like to host an additional dinner in February, please let Prill know.

New Member Orientation Opportunities

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? You will have two opportunities in February to participate in a First Church orientation session. Join us on **Sunday, February 16** at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office or **Sunday, February 23** at 9:15 am in the Lounge (child care will be provided at both sessions). Then if you choose, you can join on Sunday, February 23. You may RSVP to Ginny Breismeister (ginnyb@fccog.org) or John Collins (jcollins@fccog.org) or call the Church Office at 203-637-1791 if you would like to attend one of these two sessions, or just drop in. *You will be entering a fellowship of people who will support you, pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*



Nicaragua Donations

We have our group ready who will represent us in Nicaragua in 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-Organization-Nicaragua>. There you can learn more about our trip and make a secure, online donation to help cover the cost of our trip.



News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, January 27 – Saturday, February 1: Look for 50% off selected items determined by Manager, Maria.

Wish List: Last call for Valentine's Day clothing and decorations.

Needed: St. Patrick's Day items, good bric-a-brac, and good jewelry.

A look forward to February: Valentine's Day sales beginning February 10 through February 14. Come and view the Valentine's Day Window.

February 17: President's Day 50% off everything for the day.

February 24 - 26: 50% off everything through Wednesday, Feb. 26.

February 27: First Day of *Bag Sales* ... \$12 per bag.

February 28: Second Day of *Bag Sales* ... \$8 per bag.

March 1: Third and last day of *Bag Sales* ... \$1 per bag.

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 to 12:30 on Friday and Saturday.

Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use.

(Charles Schultz)

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

February 2, 2014

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

As Truly as God is Our Father by William Mathias

Toccata of Praise by Joseph Martin

The Cherub Choir

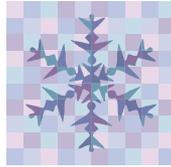
Allelu Allelu (Traditional)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

How Peaceful by Sergei Rachmaninov

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!
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