

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

27 January 2013

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.

Welcome to this service of worship at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We are glad you are here. This year our church celebrates its 357th year, and with this wonderful longevity comes great responsibility. How will this place continue, be relevant, be engaging, be inspirational and be faithful to the teaching of Christ in the future? We can never know for sure, but in this moment, right now, we ask the question and begin the work. May God bless this time of worship and revelation.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Jayson Engquist, organist

Chorale Prelude on *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. John W. Collins

Please sign and pass the red book.

CALL TO THE 342nd ANNUAL MEETING

Phoebe Griffith

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gather us in, Mysterious Maker God.

People: That being close to you we will understand your intention for creation.

Leader: Weave us into one, Sweet Savior of All.

People: That living your ways we will create communities of faith and peace.

Leader: Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal.

People: That treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.

Leader: Weave us into one, Holy One in Three.

People: That women, men, children and all of your creation together may be the signs of your presence, the weavers of your communities and the witnesses to your coming. Gather us in this day so that we might gather strength from You. Amen.

*‡HYMN

Praise to the Living God

New Century (black) Hymnal 8

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

God of then and now, God of what is to come
God of our coming and our going
God of our ancestors and our children
God of all that is and all that is to be,

You have spoken to your people through the coo of a child
The violence of storm
The drama of a bush burning or angel descending
The simplicity of a prayer

Your call exists even now
May we hear it
Revel in it
Be amazed by it
And respond to it even now.

God of then and now,
Be with us in this moment.
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.

***GLORIA**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

(As the Gloria begins, 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

Pat Larrabee

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he

said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Acceptable Year

The Chancel Choir
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.

He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year, the year of the Lord.

To give to them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of gladness instead of their tears,

the garment of praise for their spirit of heaviness, that they may be called mighty oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.

This day, in your midst, are these words fulfilled.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to

bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*‡HYMN

Jesus, Still Lead On

New Century (black) Hymnal 446

SERMON

No Time Like the Present

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY SOLO

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

How Beautiful Are the Feet of Him (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

*How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.*

*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

Children of God

New Century (black) Hymnal 533

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Chorale Fantasy on *Bryn Calfaria*

R. Vaughan Williams

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

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. 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

Regular Church School resumes today. The 2nd graders are spending the entire hour in their class with their parents as Rosemary conducts a lesson on Communion. The children and their parents will make family banners expressing what communion means to them. Next Sunday, these same families will worship together in the Meetinghouse and participate in communion with the congregation. Most of our other classes will be learning about Jesus' call to his disciples to follow him and will learn what it means to follow Jesus in our own lives. Next Sunday, the 4th and 5th graders will be cooking chili during the church school hour.

Call to the 342nd Annual Meeting

The 342nd Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, is hereby called for *today*, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To create and elect a Search Committee for a new Senior Pastor.
- 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 2013;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
- CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE

Contribution Envelopes

For those who requested them, a set of contribution envelopes for the year 2013 continues to be available in the Auditorium during Coffee Hour every Sunday in January. If you neglected to ask previously, but still would like a set, please contact Kirk Young at kirky@fccog.org or ext. 32; we still have a few left that have not yet been spoken for.

"Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale – Just One Week Left!

Get your soup recipes ready to donate soup for next *Sunday, February 3* when the Women's Fellowship Soup Sale takes place. Please sign up to donate soup **today** at 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 3 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 as a donation.) For more information call Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526.



Greeters Needed

If you can smile and say "Good morning" we need you to help us welcome everyone to worship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up to

help at Coffee Hour **today** or contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or Mary-Ann Assing at mazalman@aol.com. You'll be contacted by email with available dates. Please help! You'll be glad you did! Greeting is fun!

Bible Study

There is no Bible Study today due to the Annual Meeting. Please join us again next week at 11:20 am in the Lounge.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Parish Nurse

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

Volunteers Needed for Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness and Women's Fellowship Committees are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday February 9*, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Auditorium. We're looking for volunteers to make refreshments or play the piano, so please **sign up at Coffee Hour today**. 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.



Join us at our *linc* service today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium. Our theme today is *Water that Heals – John 4:7-15*. This is the oft-told story of the woman at the well. Who was this woman? What was her story? Read the story again for yourself. I'm taken with the fact that every time I read it, her eagerness is astounding. She wants something new in her life, but can't quite get there on her own. The images of water seem to propel her, help her, heal her. Rev. Dan England is preaching. This is a casual service good for all ages, so come as you are and bring the whole family!

THIS WEEK

Ordination of Jack Davidson

Friday, February 1, 2013, 7:30 pm

Many of you had the privilege of being a part of Jack Davidson's Ecclesiastical Council. It was a wonderful event, resulting in the unanimous recommendation that Jack be approved for ordination. We now have the great honor of hosting a *Service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament* for Jack. This is the final step in Jack's journey toward Ordination and Full Standing within the Fairfield West Association and the United Church of Christ as a Pastor. Please join us *February 1, 2013* at 7:30 pm in the Meetinghouse for this service. A reception will follow



NEXT WEEK

Children's Choir Rehearsals

The Children's Choir, for children in grades 3-6, will move their rehearsals to *Sundays beginning February 3*. Because of a marked interest in a Sunday rehearsal, we are changing to attract more singers. Rehearsals are held in Room 303 (Craig's office) and will begin at 11:15 am and run until 12:00 noon each Sunday, and will run according to the other choir formats in that when they sing in church on a Sunday, there is no rehearsal following church. For more information, call Craig at 203-637-1791 ext 22 or email him at craigs@fccog.org.

First Music and Arts Series Returns: February 3, 4:00 pm

Our winter season of the *First Music and Arts Series* begins with the ever popular *Sunday Afternoons Live at 4:00 pm each Sunday afternoon* in February. Held in the acoustical splendor of the First Congregational Auditorium, admission is \$20 per person and coffee, tea, and sweet treats will be served. The focus this year is *The Greenwich Connection*. All the performers have a connection to our church, either current or past. On *February 3* join us for *Chamber*



Music for Violin and Piano. Violinist Edita Orlinyte (our concert mistress for the *Messiah* orchestra) and pianist Rimantas Vingras, two Lithuanian born musicians and graduates of the National M. K. Ciurlionis Art School, will be performing chamber music by Handel and Schubert, as well as one of the greatest violin concertos of the Romantic era, composed by Polish virtuoso, Henryk Wieniawsky



NEWS AND NOTICES

Senior Transportation: Call-A-Ride

If you are over sixty and need a ride to doctors' appointments, the pharmacy, grocery stores, physical therapists, the library, the Senior Center or even to visit with friends, Call-A-Ride is ready to give you a **free** ride within Greenwich between the hours of 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. Our volunteer drivers are most happy to accommodate you. Just call our office at **203-661-6633** to make an appointment. The First Congregational Church of Greenwich is one of the founding sponsors of this program and continues to participate through its Outreach program. Also Call-A-Ride is always in need of volunteer drivers. Please call for further information about volunteering.



CROP Walk 2013 – Representative Needed

The 2013 Greenwich CROP Walk will take place on *Sunday, April 21*. It will begin at First Presbyterian Church again this year. We at First Church have been very supportive of this mission and we hope to continue to be. The Planning Team is in need of a representative from our congregation. There are only a few meetings left before the event. Please let Rosemary know if you can help and she can fill you in. Reach her at RosemaryL@fccog.org or at 637-1791 ext. 20.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, January 28: Manager Maria's 50% off selected items through Saturday, February 2.

Shopping Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday.

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

Wish List: Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day clothing and decorations.

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

Life isn't about waiting for the snow to thaw; it's about learning to dance in the snow! Hundreds of women, children and families want to dance in the snow so they continue to need your help. Thank you for shopping and donating at The Rummage Room.

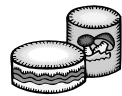
Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte



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 \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it! **All are welcome.**

Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor, between the hurricane and the holiday season. Please remember to contribute food each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will continue to make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items in need include:



- Cereal
- pasta sauce
- dried beans
- canned tomatoes
- smaller size peanut butter
- jelly
- 100% juice

If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email 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

Choral Music by:

The Cherub Choir

We Shall Overcome, Adapted from *I'll Overcome Someday*

by Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933)

The Youth Choir

Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door, Arr. John Carter

The Chancel Choir

There Is a Balm in Gilead, Arr. William Dawson

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching



linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

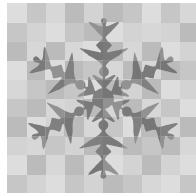
Our *linc* worship is casual, so just come as you are!

Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!

We're now on Twitter @FCCOGCT

Check out our new YouTube page, too!

And visit our Forum and start a conversation.



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