

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

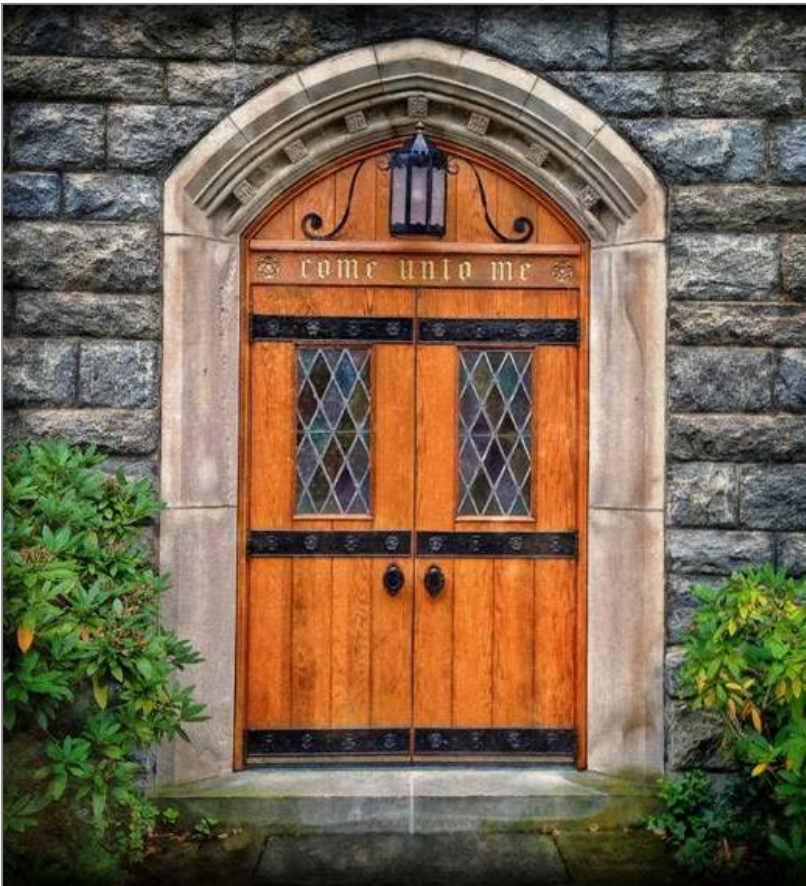
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

31 January 2016

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 The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Annual Meeting Sunday. May the welcome we extend to you, and the joy we trust you will find here in Word and Music, be of inspiration, comfort and challenge for you as we face the days ahead. May God's presence in our worship and in our lives become more real and vital because of this time we spend together.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

David Johnson

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Ruth Reed

CALL TO THE 345th ANNUAL MEETING

Kathy McLennan

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Deep and Wide

The Cherub Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eliza Keller, Confirmand

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the God of gods,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: who alone does great wonders,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

Leader: who by understanding made the heavens,

People: for his steadfast love endures forever;

*Leader: who spread out the earth on the waters,
People: for his steadfast love endures forever;
Leader: who made the great lights,
People: for his steadfast love endures forever;
Leader: the sun to rule over the day,
People: for his steadfast love endures forever;
Leader: the moon and stars to rule over the night,
People: for his steadfast love endures forever;
Leader: O give thanks to the God of heaven,
People: for his steadfast love endures forever.*

CHORAL INTROIT

*HYMN

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 20

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Meghan D. Young

Gracious God, your love for humankind
present in the beginning of all things,
extends throughout history
and touches even every life.
Your love sees failings
and forgives.
Your love feels pain
and wipes away our tears.
Your love knows grief
and comforts the sorrowful.
Your love sees sin
and still loves the sinner.
Forgive us when we fail to live
lives that reflect your love.
Forgive us the many times
when we take for granted
all that you have done for us.
Transform us, through your Spirit,
and empower us to serve you,
this day and all days.
Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us...

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roll Call of Candidates

Ginny Breismeister

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Clergy: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Today we welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

Senior Deacon: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the joys of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things we most surely believe.

The Covenant *(Congregation - All who are able please stand):* We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in

seeking to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be a people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for the dream of a compassionate world. Trusting in God's Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith, the world might be made new.

Right Hand of Fellowship

SONG OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

(As we begin singing, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms with Rosemary.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Psalm 33:12-18

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

From *New Revised Standard Edition*

ANTHEM

Lauda Anima

The Chancel Choir

Mark Andrews (1875-1939)

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!*

*Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!*

*Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand

over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. From *New Revised Standard Edition*

* HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 228

SERMON

The Power of Love

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Barbara Norrgard

OFFERTORY

The Storm is Passing Over

The Chancel Choir
Arr. Barbara Baker

*Have courage my soul and let us journey on,
though the night is dark and I am far from home;
thanks be to God, the morning light appears.
The storm is passing over, Hallelujah!*

***DOXOLOGY**

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.*

Refrain

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.*

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato

C. S. Lang

* * *

Please remain seated in the Meetinghouse immediately following the worship service for the Annual Meeting. Then join us for Fellowship Hour following the meeting in the Auditorium.

Child care is available during the Annual Meeting in the Blue Door in the Preschool.

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. We also now have two rows in the back of the chapel reserved for parents with infants or little ones who are not ready for the Nursery where the parents can be comfortable *and* still be part of worship. Please see an usher if you need help finding either of these locations.

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.

New Members Joining Today

Thomas (Tom) Connerton and Jean Erickson, 301 Commons Park South, Apt. 1201, Stamford, CT 06902, 860-573-4744 (Tom), 860-922-6543 (Jean). Tom comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith and Jean by Letter of Transfer from Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford. Tom is an inventor and owner of Safety Technologies. Jean is in the wine importing business for Golden Ram Imports in New York City. They both enjoy spending time at the beach. Tom also enjoys playing squash while Jean enjoys skiing, sailing and yoga. They are engaged and plan to be married next year.

Wendy Reilly Harris, 24 Edgewater Drive, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-344-1770. Wendy comes to First Congregational

Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. She grew up in Greenwich and recently returned after 35 years and living many places around the world. Wendy enjoys cooking, reading, many kinds of music, museums and the study of comparative religions. She has two daughters, Stephanie (20) and Michaela (18).

Thomas (Tom) and Tami Nelson, 16 Delwood Lane, Greenwich, CT 06830, 813-753-8340 (Tom), 813-215-3057 (Tami). Tom and Tami come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Tom is retired after 27 years in the U.S. Air Force and is currently working at Westchester County Airport for a flight department. Tami is a homemaker and is involved in community Bible Study in Old Greenwich. Tom and Tami are high school sweethearts, and they and their 3 children, Parker (24), Olivia (21) and Meredith (17), have moved together as a family 13 times!

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today we have many different activities going on in Church School. The 3's and 4's are learning *Who IS Jesus?* Kindergarten and 1st graders are continuing to learn about the meaning of the words in the Lord's Prayer. 2nd graders and their parents will meet in the Daniels Center and will make family banners that show what communion and church means to them. 3rd graders are learning about Jesus' baptism. 4th and 5th graders will meet with Pastor Meghan and learn about what we believe. And the "678" graders are cooking chili for the soup kitchen. Whew! Also, please know that we have child care and snacks for your children in the preschool blue door so you can attend the Annual Meeting after worship.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, R.N. is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Fellowship Hour following today's service.

Call to the 345th Annual Meeting

The 345th 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 2016;*
- *To act upon the recommendations of the College and University Loan Fund (CULF);*
- *To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.*

Still Time to Sign Up to Make Soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale!

The 6th Annual Women's Fellowship Soup Sale is coming up next *Sunday, February 7* but we still need more soups! Please sign up **today** during Fellowship Hour to donate soup or during the upcoming week in the Church Office (instructions and containers are there as well). Quarts of soup, chili or stew will be sold on February 7 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 email Jenny Gartner at jenniferhgartner@gmail.com.**



It's Not Too Late to See the Best, Most Amazing Talent Show Ever!

Join us **TODAY at 2:00 pm in the Auditorium**, to see the many talents of the FCCOG Youth Group! It's a great show full of song, dance, and food! All proceeds go to benefit the SPF (Senior



Pilgrim Fellowship) mission trip to the Appalachia Service Project. Appalachia Service works to eradicate poverty in Central Appalachia by assisting those in substandard housing in one of the poorest counties in the nation. Come

enjoy the show and help us help others! Purchase your tickets at the door. Tickets \$15; children under 12 \$10; family ticket max \$50. Dessert flight will be served at the conclusion of the show.

NEXT WEEK

Bible Study Returns!

Bible Study returns next *Sunday, February 7 through Sunday, March 20*, 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. We will be discussing the book, *Things Hidden: Spirituality in Scripture* by Richard Rohr. Copies available in the Church Office for \$16. It is all inspiration and insight. It addresses some of the great themes of the Bible, including grace, mystery, and power. Please join us. All are welcome.

"Souper Bowl Sunday" Annual Soup Sale Next Sunday!

Our annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" Soup Sale will be taking place next *Sunday, February 7*, in the Auditorium! Quarts of soup, chili or stew are being sold for \$10 each from 11:00 am–1:00 pm (or as long as supplies last!). All proceeds will go to support Women's Fellowship projects. Be sure to stop by and buy some soup!

Sunday Afternoons Live Concert Series Starts Next Sunday!

The 2016 winter season of our *First Music and Arts Series* kicks off with the ever-popular *Sunday Afternoons Live* starting next *Sunday, February 7* at 4:00 pm and continues 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. The upcoming concerts in February are:

- **February 7:** *Trident Ensemble – A Hidden Song*. Trident is a collaboration of nine critically acclaimed vocalists dedicated to unparalleled ensemble performances throughout New York City. Each singer is an outstanding soloist in their own right; together, they will present a program described as:

"From clandestine Catholics to Soviet subversives, music gives voice to the voiceless, and reveals the secrets of the soul."

- **February 14:** *Evelina Puzaitė, piano*. Lithuanian-born pianist, Evelina Puzaitė, is an internationally-recognized performer of natural sensitivity and strong charisma. She has



Trident Ensemble

performed extensively throughout Europe, including Italy, France, Greece, Sweden, Poland, Lithuania, as well as in Russia, Israel, and the USA.

- **February 21:** *Students from Music and Mentoring House.* Founded and run by acclaimed American soprano, Lauren Flanigan, Music and Mentoring House provides hands-on mentoring, coaching, professional introductions, and a safe place for artists coming to study, audition, or transition to New York City. Lauren will bring several of her students to share a wonderful vocal program with us.
- **February 28:** *'Scape Trio.* Joseph Dermody, Adriana Maria Pera, and Nicole Sharlow had been performing in and out of New York City for over a decade when they established 'Scape Trio in 2007. This trio will perform some of the great masterworks for strings.

Ash Wednesday Meditation Service

Join us on *Wednesday, February 10* for an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 pm in the Meetinghouse. There will be Communion and imposition of ashes.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Red Cross Blood Drive

POSTPONED: The Red Cross Blood Drive that was to be held on February 6 is canceled and has been rescheduled for *Wednesday, April 6*, 1:00-6:00 pm in the Auditorium. More details to come.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue

February 1: See Manager Leanne's 50% off sale on selected items for the week at www.fccog.org/the-rummage-room/.

Tuesday, February 2: If the Groundhog *doesn't* see his shadow today, there will be a 50% of sale on everything for the day except jewelry.

Monday, February 8-Saturday, February 13: 50% off all Valentine's Day clothing and decorations...everything RED.

Sunday, February 14: Happy Valentine's Day!

***February Bag Sales: Begin Thursday, February 25 through**

Saturday, February 27. You won't want to miss them!

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Spring clothing; handbags; shoes; jewelry; St. Patrick's Day decorations; strollers; bikes.

Shop Hours: 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday & 10 am-1pm Saturday.

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

Thought for the Week: *The world cares very little about what you and I know, but it does care a great deal about what you and I do in the world!* - Booker T. Washington

Summer at Silver Lake

Sign up for the Silver Lake Summer Program at www.silverlake.org.

There are brochures available in the Church Office.

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 are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor –

Food Collection Barrel in Entrance to the Church

Please don't forget those in need this winter. **Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.)** Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels. Tuna is **not** needed.

Where to find us:

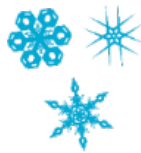
www.fccog.org

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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
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.
Transitional Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester
Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons
Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie
Youth Coordinator: Donald Haviland
Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton
Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White
Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister
Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov
Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN
Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner