

180 Old Greenwich,
Church
Connecticut

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

United
of Christ

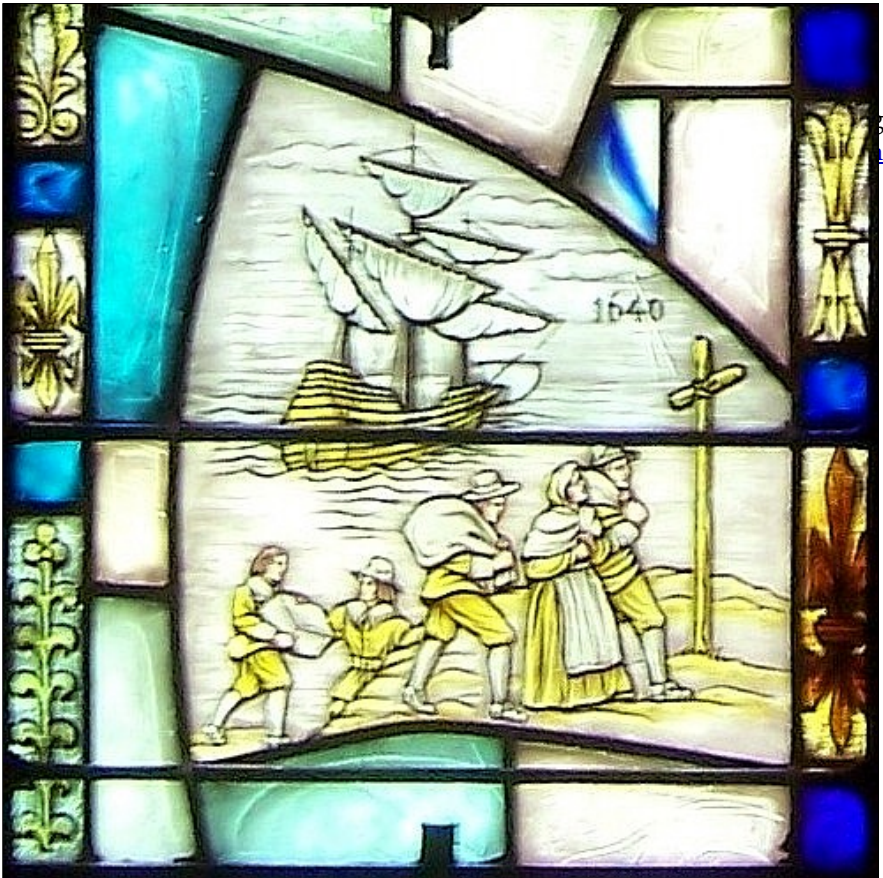
Founded in 1665

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

15 July 2012

10 o'clock in the morning

Celebrating Founders' Day



The landing in 1640 of the first settlers of Greenwich



Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time. Above all, trust in the slow work of God, our loving vine-dresser.

~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Welcome to this service at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As we move through the summer season, may this hour of worship and praising God bring you rest, renewal and perspective in your life.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Fugue in E-flat (St. Anne)

Jayson Engquist, guest organist

Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PROCLAMATION

*Peter Tesei,
First Selectman of the Town of Greenwich*

PRAISING GOD

***‡HYMN**

For Living Saints Who Labor Bravely On
(Sung to the tune of *For All Saints*)

Herman Reissig

*For living saints who labor bravely on,
Who keep the faith through battles lost or won,
To Christ, their leader, let our praise be sung:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In days of joy, in suffering's darkest night,
Be thou, O Christ, their constant, shining light,
That none may falter in the fiercest fight:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Bind all together in love's service strong,
Fighting for all 'gainst ev'ry human wrong,
That all may join in resurrection song:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found,

All: Call upon God while God is near.

Leader: Let us turn to the Lord for mercy,

All: To our God, who is generous in forgiving.

OPENING PRAYER *(In unison)*

Be with us in this place, O Lord, and let your Spirit guide our worship. May our hearts be turned to you through the reading and the preaching of your Word and in thanksgivings and praises. Help us to know that this worship is for us a sacred trust and a calling to discipleship among all people, and, so, 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

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed – what gospel is that?

Archbishop Oscar Romero

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

O God, make me discontented with things the way they are in the world and in my own life. Make me notice the stains when people get spilled on. Make me care about the slum child downtown, the misfit at work, the people crammed into the

mental hospital, the men, women and youth behind bars. Jar my complacency, expose my excuses, get me involved in the life of my city and world. Give me integrity once more, O God, as we seek to be changed and transformed, with a new understanding and awareness of our common humanity.

Diana Butler Bass, *Holy Discontent*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olivia Hartwell

Psalm 24:1-6

God claims Earth and everything in it,
God claims World and all who live on it.
He built it on Ocean foundations, laid it out on River girders.

Who can climb Mount God? Who can scale the holy north-face?
Only the clean-handed, only the pure-hearted;
Men who won't cheat, women who won't seduce.

God is at their side; with God's help they make it.
This, Jacob, is what happens to God-seekers, God-questers.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

O Savior of the World

The Summer Choir

John Goss

SECOND LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?"

Jesus said, "'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."

*‡HYMN

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

New Century (black) Hymnal 306

(As the hymn begins, the Church School children will leave for Summer Church School with Rosemary.)

SERMON

“Does Our Heritage Nourish Our Hope?” Rev. Avery C. Manchester

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*AN AFFIRMATION

Rev. John W. Collins

Love people even in their sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth. Love all of God’s creation, the whole and every grain of sand of it. Love every leaf, every ray of God’s light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lullaby

Jayson Engquist, guest organist

Arthur Wills

*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

Children of God

New Century (black) Hymnal 533

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E-flat

Jayson Engquist, guest organist
J.S. Bach

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in memory of Judy Carey by Bob Carey, Libby Callaway and the Carey children: Matt, Leah, Ann and Martha.

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 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

Summer Church School

Summer Church School continues today. We meet in a one-room

schoolhouse format with children 4/5 – 9/10; younger children are welcome in child care and older children are needed to help. You can meet your children after worship in the Preschool.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

THIS WEEK

Nights Off Pool Party

The *Nights Off* women's group will meet tomorrow night, **July 16**, at the home of Kathy Riley for a pool party! Please bring along an



appetizer to share and whatever you would like to drink. Enjoy chatting with some old friends, making some new ones and cooling off in the pool! All women of the church are welcome to join in. If you are not on the *Nights Off* regular

email list and would like to be added, please email Shirley Flierl at FBTworld@aol.com with "*Nights Off*" in the subject line. For more information about tomorrow night or for directions, please call Shirley at 203-609-1020.

Programs for Children and their Families

As you may know, the clergy and the Church School Task Force are in the midst of assessing our programs for children and families including our Church School. We have completed compiling the results of a questionnaire and now we would like to have some conversations (Focus Groups) to more fully understand where we are and, more importantly, talk about how we can best serve our families going forward. There are two opportunities for these conversations, both on **Thursday, July 19**: 10:00 am (with Dan England and staff) and 7:00 pm with John Collins and staff. Both gatherings will be held in the Lounge. Anyone who has an interest in this area is welcome to participate in one of these groups.

NEXT WEEK

Summer Sings - Wednesday, July 25

Do you miss singing with your choir during the summer months? Come as you are from 7:30-9:30 pm and, within two hours, we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of a great choral work. Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included — FREE! No sign-up necessary. Just come ready to sing! All 'performances' are held in the air conditioned Meetinghouse.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Summer Bible Study

There will be two special Summer Bible Studies on the books of 2 Peter and Jude, closely related in many ways, but often ignored. The first will be on *Sunday, July 29* at 11:20 am after worship and the second will be *August 12*. To prepare, please read the two books -- it won't take you long -- and see if you can figure out why they were written and possibly to whom. There are clues all over the place. Still, they were latecomers to the New Testament and it will be fun to try to figure out why and why they don't get much air time these days. Led by Dan England.

Summer Choir

A new option for Summer Choir is available on *August 5*. On that Sunday, anyone who would like an extra rehearsal of the anthems for the month of August is welcome to meet in the Choir Room following church from 11:30 am -12:00 noon.

Meanwhile, everyone is welcome to join the Summer Choir! Simply show up *any* Sunday at 9:00 am and you have a great opportunity to lead and share your voice to enhance the worship service.

The anthems for the rest of July are:

July 22: My Song in the Night, Arlen Clarke

July 29: All Things Bright and Beautiful, John Rutter



Join us at the Beach!

Join us at Greenwich Point on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am for worship (weather permitting). Communion is served every Sunday. (Note: There is **no** beach service on Sunday, July 29, due to the Greenwich Triathlon.)

News from The Rummage Room

Monday, July 16 through Wednesday, July 18: 50% off four or five categories of items selected by Manager Maria on Monday morning.

Thursday, July 19 through Saturday, July 21: Old Greenwich *Sidewalk Sales*. Everything in The Rummage Room 50% off.

Summer Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Same times for leaving donations.

Manager's Wish List: Bikes for adults and children; pocketbooks; shoes; hats and wallets.

Saturday, July 28: *Note:* The Rummage Room will close at 1:00 pm for a month and **reopen on Monday, August 27**. **Please Remember:** No donations may be dropped off between Saturday, July 28 and Tuesday, August 28. If you have donations, please drop them off in the next 10 days. Thank you.

Monday, August 27: The Rummage Room opens at 10:00 am for the **Grand Reopening**. Mark the date on your calendar; you will want to be there!

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: *Each moment of the year has its own beauty ... a picture which was never before and shall never be seen again!*

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

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a

few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need are: Cereal, Oatmeal, Pasta Sauce, Dried Beans, 100% Juice, Canned Tomatoes, Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please) and Jelly. 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 and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

The Summer Choir:

My Song in the Night by Arlen Clarke

Carolyn Paulus, soloist:

Prayer of St. Francis by Jan Nieland

Prelude and Postlude:

Vance Briceland and Craig Symons, piano four-hands

Rev. John Collins, preaching

8:00 am linc Beach Service – Greenwich Point

FCCOG's summer Beach Services are a wonderful, casual time for worship, communion and community.

Please join us.

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 Publications: 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