

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

21 July 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Sheep by Avalisa
Stretched Wall Art
www.avalisa.com

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.



There are all kinds of things to do on summer Sunday mornings besides come to church, especially when life is so hectic during the week. But for many of us, it is precisely that glut of activity that necessitates a time to pause, reflect, pray and reconnect with God, friends and ourselves. So we welcome you to this service of worship here at First Congregational Church of Greenwich where all of those good outcomes happen. If you are visiting with us, please make yourself known to one of the pastors. And please know we are very glad you're here.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Andante from *Symphony #5*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has created and sustains us and we gather as a grateful people.

People: Christ has redeemed and is redeeming our lives and we lift up his name.

Leader: The Holy Spirit has come upon the church and comes to us today. We acknowledge the Spirit's presence.

All: So to the One and Triune God, we raise our voices in praise.

***‡HYMN**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 195

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. John W. Collins

O Lord, how good it is to gather as your people in this community of faith that sustains and keeps us. We are the sheep of your pasture, and the people of your congregation. You have promised to lead us and to go after us when we stray. But we give you thanks that we are not alone in our struggle to be faithful: you have granted us the good news of the gospel in our hearts, the power of the Holy Spirit to make us bold, and the compassion and support of Christian friends to give us strength in times of trouble and to laugh with us in times of joy. We come, therefore, with grateful hearts, glad for this hour of our lives. We ask, as always, in Jesus' name who taught us to pray 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.

*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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

From *The King James Bible*

SOLO

Come, Ye Blessed

Carolyn Paulus, soprano

John Prindle Scott (1877-1932)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 15:1-7

By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

“Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it—there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

From *The Message*

*‡HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 327

SERMON

The Twenty-third Psalm without the Funeral

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Joys of Life

The Summer Choir

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

*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

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

New Century (black) Hymnal 49

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Plein Jeu

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.
Weather permitting, we will meet in the Memory Garden.*

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.

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

Summer Church School (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) is now on hiatus until the first two weeks of September. **At the 10:00 am service** we have Child Care for infants through 4 years old. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Undercroft. Ushers are able to direct you.



linc has moved to the Beach for the summer! Our 5:00 pm service is done until the fall, but *linc* is now taking place at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point weather permitting. Be sure to join us!

NEXT WEEK

Hymn Sing Next Sunday

It's been a few years since we've done a Hymn Sing at the beginning of worship, so start thinking of your favorite hymn now. Next **Sunday, July 28** we will sing 5-6 of your favorite hymns. You know the drill...simply call out your hymn and we will sing a verse or two!

Summer Choir

Please join us on Sunday mornings this summer at 9:00 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal for the music being done that Sunday. Everyone is welcome to come before the start of the service to learn a simple anthem. Come any Sundays that you are available to help lead the



congregation in worship. It's also a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 22).

NEWS AND NOTICES

FCCOG in the Media!

Last week at our Founders Day Celebration, we were honored to have representatives from the Town (we can take some credit for elections because of our historical position of a Congregational Polity), including First Selectman Peter Tesei and Selectman David Theis. We also attracted some media attention in the form of the *Greenwich Post* and a video news service called It's Relevant (www.itsrelevant.com). If you would like to see the very good video segment they are showing visit our website www.fccog.org and click on the link under *News You Can Use*.

Bible Study Online

Could you benefit from a five minute Bible Study? Well, it couldn't hurt certainly. If so, tune in online by going to the church website each week at: <http://www.fccog.org/faith-formation/adult-opportunities/bible-study/> (Home Page to Faith Formation tab to Adult Opportunities to Bible Study). Sometimes the Scripture passage discussed will tie into the Church School lesson and sometimes it will preview the lesson for the worship service. And sometimes it will be just about an interesting passage.

Facebook Update

It's important that everyone who is on Facebook for at least some of your communication with friends and family also take a moment to



"Like" the **First Church Facebook page**. That way, depending on your settings, people who would not otherwise know about us will learn of activities and programs we offer. It's an easy way to reach out to people you know and maybe some people you have forgotten know you. It's also a great way for *you* to keep up to date with many of the wonderful things we have going on at church. We're up to 196 likes so far...help us reach 200 and beyond!

News from The Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, July 22 through Wednesday, July 24: 50% off Manager Maria's "Merchandise Picks of the Week."

Thursday July 25 through Saturday, July 27:

50% off sale on *everything* in the shop!

Monday, July 29: All you can get in a bag - \$12

per bag; **Tuesday, July 30** - \$8 per bag; and

Wednesday, July 31 - \$1 per bag.

Wednesday, July 31: *The Rummage Room will close at 1:00 pm for repairs and restocking.*

Monday, August 26 through August 31: *The 49th Grand*

Reopening Day and Week at The Rummage Room! Please plan to be there for exciting 'new' merchandise. The shop will be continually restocked with 'new' merchandise every day the entire week!

Tuesday, August 27: Donations will be accepted again beginning at 9:30 am. *Please DO NOT leave donations while The Rummage Room is closed!!*

July Shopping Hours through Wednesday, July 31: Monday through Thursdays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm;

Did you know that there is absolutely no risk of developing eye-strain from always looking on the bright side of life? Try it ... you will be amazed!!!!!!



Summer 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 **Thursdays** at 9:00 am throughout the summer.

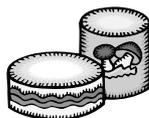
(Wednesday morning classes will return in the fall). Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us!

You'll love it! **All are welcome.**

Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor. Please remember to contribute each week.

The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. At this time, Neighbor to Neighbor is in particular need of:



- canned fruit
- canned meat (i.e. chili, Spam)
- peanut butter (18 oz.)
- jelly (18 oz.)
- cereal
- soup

First Church *Alive!*

In the past few months we have been developing our revitalization program called **First Church Alive!** Our first significant step in this process will be **A Membership Blast on Friday evening, July 26** at Paul and Cara Olmsted's house. We will begin with a light supper at 6:30 pm and then work in a casual and enjoyable way on our membership list. We'd love to have you join us!! We still need 7-10 people and if you can help please talk to John Collins or e-mail him at jcollins@fccog.org.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Summer Choir

Praise, Oh Praise, Our God and King

by S. Drummond Wolff

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

L'enfant prodigue (Prodigal Son) by Claude Debussy

Rev. John Collins, preaching

* * *

get connected **smilinc** *Beach Service*

Beach Services are held each Sunday at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). Communion is served. Come and join us for this casual service.

Bible Stories at the Beach, our Summer Church School, is on hiatus during August and will return on September 1 & 8!

Note: There is **no Beach Service** or **Summer Church School on July 28** due to the Greenwich Triathlon.



Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!
We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT
Check out our [YouTube](#) page, 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