

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

27 July 2014

10 o'clock in the morning



*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed
that someone took and sowed in his field ...*

Matthew 13

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 welcome you to worship here at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this summer morning. In this hour of prayer and inspiration we invite you to set aside the burdens of life and open your heart to God's graceful Spirit.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

55th Psalm

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Charles Wood (1866-1926)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With gratitude born of love we give thanks to you O God.

People: We are thankful for the beauty and bounty of nature, for the warmth of summer and the varied joys which every season brings.

Leader: We are grateful for the joys and comforts of life, for home and family, for our friends and for the love and goodwill of persons near and far.

People: We are thankful for all true knowledge of you and the world in which we live.

Leader: May our worship today be a prayer of thanksgiving,

People: And may our lives be generous in response.

***HYMN**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

New Century (black) Hymnal 59

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, in the midst of distracted lives we seek your peace. We have rushed through our days neglecting the tender embrace of your presence. We have looked in all the wrong places for

fulfillment while your gentle Spirit beckons us toward service and peace. In this hour of worship, let your wisdom seep deeply into our souls, giving us fresh energy for love and for life. We ask these things in the name of Christ, 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or

distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Day by Day

The Summer Choir

Martin How (b. 1931)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

Make Me a Blessing (words and music below)

1. Out in the high - ways and by - ways of life, _____
2. Tell the sweet sto - ry of Christ and His love, _____
3. Give as 'twas giv - en to you in your need, _____

1. Man - y are wea - ry and sad; _____
2. Tell of His power to for - give; _____
3. Love as the Mas - ter loved you; _____

1. Car - ry the sun - shine where dark - ness is rife,
2. Oth - ers will trust Him if on - ly you prove
3. Be to the help - less a help - er in - deed,

1. Mak - ing the sor - row - ing glad. _____
2. True, ev - ery mo - ment you live. _____
3. Un - to your mis - sion be true. _____

Make me a bless - ing, Make me a bless - ing,

Out of my life _____ May Je - sus shine; _____

Make me a bless - ing, O Sav - ior, I pray, _____

Make me a bless - ing to some - one to - day. _____

SERMON

Just Trying to be a Blessing

Daniel Schlorff, guest preacher

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. John W. Collins

CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Suite in D

Leonardo di Vinci (1452-1519)

*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

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

New Century (black) Hymnal 537

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Psalm 104

Charles Wood

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Memory Garden
(weather permitting) 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

Summer Church School (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) will not be meeting next **Sunday, August 3**, because of the Greenwich Triathlon. At 10:00 am worship during the summer we have Child Care for infants through 4 years old (in **Room 104**). 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.

THIS WEEK

Summer Sings! Returns this Wednesday!

Do you miss singing in your choir during the summer months? Then join *Summer Sings!* and come as you are this **Wednesday, July 30**, from 7:30-9:30 pm and within these 2 hours we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of Rutter's *Requiem* (chamber version with instruments) with soloist, Hanna Golodinskii, soprano. Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included! No sign-up necessary. Just come ready to sing! (Suggested minimum donation of \$5 per person). We will meet in our air conditioned Meetinghouse. Non-singers are also welcome to enjoy the evening! Also, mark your calendars for the last *Summer Sings!* of the season which will be held on **Wednesday, August 27** when we will 'perform' Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Haydn's *Te Deum in C*.



NEXT WEEK

Beach Services during the Summer

Note: There is no Beach Service next *Sunday, August 3*, due to the Greenwich Triathlon. Join us, instead, in the Meetinghouse for our 10 am service. The 8:00 am Beach Service will then return to Greenwich Point on *Sunday, August 10* and continue through *September 7* (when our new Senior Pastor, Richard DenUyl will preach his first sermon there!) before ending for the season. Communion is served every Sunday at the Beach Service. Come and join us for this casual service.

Calling all Singers for Summer Choir!

Please join us on **Sunday mornings** 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.

Upcoming Church Committee Meetings

ALL church members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend our Church Committee meetings which are held on the first Monday of every month. Mark your calendars for upcoming meetings on *Monday, August 4* and *Monday, September 8* from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Lounge. See you there.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Summer Work

From time to time members of our congregation ask if we know of any young people who can help them with yard work, household chores, child care, etc. Anyone who is looking for some work and who is interested in these possible opportunities, please call Rosemary at 203-637-1791 ext. 20 or email her at RosemaryL@fccog.org. Of course, if you are one of those who are in need of help, please contact Rosemary as well!



Community Volunteer Opportunity The Hunger Mission Team Needs You!

The Hunger Mission Team is still in need of a Coordinator to be responsible for the serving aspect of the Soup Kitchen on the 1st Monday of each month. Chili and other food need to be transported from the church to the Soup Kitchen in Stamford on the first Monday of each month (this can also happen on Sunday) and four food servers are needed at the Soup Kitchen as well. If you are interested in helping with this very important community project, please contact Tom Mahoney for more details and to volunteer at 203-622-6460 or email fccoghungermission@gmail.com.

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

Sales before *August 2* Closing:

Monday, July 28-Wednesday, July 30: *Everything* in The Rummage Room will be 50% off from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Manager Maria's Famous Closing Bag Sales:

* **Thursday, July 31:** All you can jam in a brown paper bag for \$12 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

* **Friday, August 1:** All you can cram in a brown paper bag for \$8 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

* **Saturday, August 2:** All you can stuff in a brown paper bag for \$1 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

* **Saturday, August 2:** The shop will be closed for cleanup and repairs until *August 25*. *Please DO NOT leave donations while The Rummage Room is closed!!!*

August Grand Reopening of The Rummage Room:

Monday, August 25: The Rummage Room will celebrate its 50th Reopening Day on *Monday, August 25* from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Tues, August 26: Donations accepted again from 9:30 am-4:30 pm.

"I think I've discovered the secret of life ... you just hang around until you get used to it." ~ Charles M. Schulz: (1922 -2000)

Tai Chi Classes

Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises with our new teacher, Joe Black. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class. Join us! You can even just drop in. **All are welcome.**

Where to find us:
www.fccog.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#),
[YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)

Next Week at First Congregational Church

There is no 8:00 am Beach Service next Sunday (8/3) due to the Greenwich Triathlon – the Beach Service will return on *Sunday, August 10* and will run through *September 7* (when new Senior Pastor, Richard DenUyl will preach his first sermon!)

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Summer Choir

Awake, Awake to Love and Work by Craig Scott Symons

Dan Schlorff

The Earth is the Lord's by Don McAfee

Rev. John Collins, preaching

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 Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: 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