

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

28 July 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Red Barn on Buck Creek Road by Jo Ann Williams Walker
<http://joannwilliamswalker.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.



It is a pleasure to welcome you to worship here at First Congregational Church of Greenwich as we bask in this mid-summer season of warmth and relaxation. We extend a special welcome to our visitors this morning and invite everyone to our Coffee Hour immediately following worship in our Memory Garden. (Turn left at the rear of the Sanctuary and go outside). May you feel God's Spirit of Peace in our time together.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Two Hymn Preludes:

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

Wendy Lynn Stevens

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases: God's mercies never come to an end.

People: They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness!

Leader: "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, therefore I will hope in God.

People: The Lord is good to those who wait, to the soul that seeks compassion.

Leader: Let us worship God.

People: Let us worship in thanksgiving and praise.

***‡HYMN SING**

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven (verses 1 & 4)

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 16

OPENING PRAYER

Our loving God, whose power to calm our spirits and heal our broken days is ever present, let us use this quiet hour to find renewal. As we remember with aching hearts the grief of the past, inspire in us a new courage for turning sadness into hope. In the places where we feel lost, grant us the persistence to wait for your wisdom. O God, when the world distracts us from hearing your voice, teach us patience, that your love might rise in our hearts. Let us live in gratitude for all moments of hope and healing. Through Jesus 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.

*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 90:1-6

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

From *NRSV*

ANTHEM

The Summer Choir

Praise, O Praise, Our God and King

S. Drummond Wolff (1916-2004)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

From *NRSV*

*‡HYMN

O for a Closer Bond With God

New Century (black) Hymnal 450

SERMON

The I-95 Classroom

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

2 How Great Thou Art

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Psa. 48:1

CARL BOBERG
TRANS. BY STUART K. HINE

Swedish Folk melody
ARR. BY STUART K. HINE



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



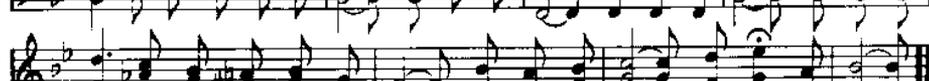
all the worlds^{*} Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. Then sings my
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art.



soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!



*Translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."

competition in July 1884. It opens with the voice of Lia, the mother of Azael, who longs for her son who has left home to seek fortune and adventure. Sung this morning is the opening aria from this 35-minute work.

*The years follow years in vain
To each season returned
Their games and revels of each returning season
sadden me in spite of myself
They reopen my wound and my grief grows
I come to seek the solitary shore... Involuntary pain!
Superflous Efforts!*

*Lia weeps still the child which she has no longer!
Azael! Azael! Why did you leave me
In my maternal heart your image has remained.
Azael! Azael! Why did you leave me*

*However the evenings were mild
In the plain of the planted elms
When, loaded with the gathered harvest
The great red oxen were led back
When the work was finished
Children, old men and servants
Workers of the fields or shepherds,
Praised the gracious hand of God*

*Thus the days followed the days
And in the pious family,
The young man and the young woman
Shared their chaste loves
Others feel not the weight of old age*

*Happy in their children,
They watch the years flow by
Without regret as without sadness
How heavy weight the years on disconsolate hearts*

Azael! Azael! Why did you leave me?

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Karina Saari by her family.

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. Today we are in Room 104 which is at the bottom of both stairways leading to the preschool main entrance. Ushers are able to direct you.

Parish Nurse

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

NEXT WEEK

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

Volunteers Needed!

It's that time again, when The Rummage Room is in need of volunteers to help clean out and restock the store. The clean out will take place on *Wednesday July 31* at 1:00 pm. The restocking days are *Thursday, August 8* and *Friday, August 9*, 9:00 am both days. Please sign up at The Rummage Room or call 203-637-1875. Hope to see you there! This is a perfect opportunity for our high school students to rack up some Community Service hours and Maria has put a "shout out" to you especially!

FCCOG in the Media!

At our recent Founders Day Celebration, we were honored to have representatives from the Town in attendance, including First Selectman Peter Tesei and Selectman David Theis. We also attracted some media attention in the form of the *Greenwich Post* (Thursday, July 18 issue) and a video news service called It's Relevant (www.itsrelevant.com). If you would like to see the very good video segment It's Relevant has been 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

July Calendar:

Mon, July 29 - 10 am to 5 pm - All you can stuff in a bag for \$12.

Tues, July 30 - 10 am to 5 pm - All you can cram in a bag for \$8.

Wed, July 31 - *10 am to 1 pm* - All you can jam in a bag for \$1.

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

NOTE: The Rummage Room will close for cleaning and restocking on **Wednesday, July 31 at 1:00 pm**. Please do **NOT** leave donations while the shop is closed! They will not be processed.

August Calendar:

Mon, August 26 - 10 am to 5 pm - **The Rummage Room will celebrate its 49th Grand Reopening!**

Mark your calendar, as **Opening Week** is the "BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!" The shop is restocked with all 'new' quality merchandise every day.

Every time you shop or donate at The Rummage Room, you are providing comfort to those less fortunate. It is a 49 year tradition thanks to our Shoppers, Donators, Staff and Volunteers. While we can't name all who contribute so much of their time and themselves week in and week out, we can recognize our wonderful manager, Maria Drieghe and our assistant managers, Nancy Hamilton, Connie Fauci, Veronica Klinka and Betty Shopovick. The Rummage Room wouldn't be the "9th Wonder of the World" without all who contribute to its success. *The love we give away is the only love we keep.*
-Elbert Hubbard, Author.

Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!

We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT

Check out our [YouTube](#) page, too!

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Summer Choir

Lord of the Worlds Above by Eric Thiman

Mary Fike, flute

Sicilienne by Gabriel Faure

Rev. John Collins, preaching

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 *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!

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