

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

26 June 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



"Looking Back - The Man at the Plow" by James Tissot

*“Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loose, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.”*

- W. B. Yeats

“Too often the price exacted by society for security and respectability is that the Christian movement in its formal expression must be on the side of the strong against the weak. This is a matter of tremendous significance, for it reveals to what extent a religion that was born of people acquainted with persecution and suffering has become the cornerstone of a civilization and of nations whose very position in modern life too often has been secured by a ruthless use of power applied to defenseless peoples.”

- The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

“We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred, and the mistrust. . . . We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.

- Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

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 warmly welcome you to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. Please join us after worship for our Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Gavotte

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

G. B. Martini

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O Lord, fill us with simplicity of a divine purpose,

People: *that we may be inwardly at one with your holy will,
and lifted above vain wishes of our own.*

Leader: May we heartily surrender our powers to the work
which you have given us to do,

People: *counting it as our crown of blessing if we may join the company of the
faithful who have kept your name and witnessed to your kingdom in
every age.*

by James Martineau

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

Come to Tend God's Garden

New Century (black) Hymnal 586

GATHERING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Eternal God, who commits to us the swift and solemn trust of life: since we know not what a day may bring forth but only that the hour for serving you is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of your holy will, not waiting for tomorrow, but yielding today. Lay to rest, by the persuasion of your Spirit, the resistance of our passion, indolence, or fear. Consecrate with your presence the way our feet may go; and the humblest work will shine, and the roughest places be made plain. Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust into faith and hope and charity by a simple and steadfast reliance on your sure will; and so may we be modest in our time of wealth, patient under disappointment, ready for danger, serene in death. In all things, draw us to the mind of Christ, that your lost image may be traced again, and you may own us at one with him and you. All this we pray in Christ's name, saying together the prayer he taught us to say,

by James Martineau

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.

*Following the Lord's Prayer, children will leave with Rosemary for
Church School – Summer Faith.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

John Russell

Galatians 5: 1, 13-25

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

*From "The Message", by Eugene H. Peterson
The Summer Choir*

ANTHEM

When Silence Filled the Formless Night

Richard Shepherd

*When silence filled the formless night
And worlds unmade in darkness waited,
God spoke the word and gave us light,
And loved what he created.*

*Beyond the ancient writer's art
The word affirms our primal story:
How love illuminates the heart
As heav'n declares his glory.*

*His voice still speaks through clouded years,
Past prisons of our own devising,
And still to shadowed lives appears
The brightness of his rising.*

*He comes in Pentecostal flame,
In tongues unloosed, in bondage broken;
To all united by his name,*

The word of life is spoken.

*Let there be light and hearts be stirred
To know in Christ their sun ascending;
In our beginning is the word,
and in the word our ending.*

SECOND LESSON

Michael Russell

Luke 9:51-62

When it came close to the time for his Ascension, he gathered up his courage and steeled himself for the journey to Jerusalem. He sent messengers on ahead. They came to a Samaritan village to make arrangements for his hospitality. But when the Samaritans learned that his destination was Jerusalem, they refused hospitality. When the disciples James and John learned of it, they said, "Master, do you want us to call a bolt of lightning down out of the sky and incinerate them?"

Jesus turned on them: "Of course not!" And they traveled on to another village.

On the road someone asked if he could go along. "I'll go with you, wherever," he said.

Jesus was curt: "Are you ready to rough it? We're not staying in the best inns, you know."

Jesus said to another, "Follow me."

He said, "Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father's funeral."

Jesus refused. "First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent: Announce God's kingdom!"

Then another said, "I'm ready to follow you, Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home."

Jesus said, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day."

From "The Message", by Eugene H. Peterson

SERMON

“Seize The Day!”

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

New Century (black) Hymnal 593

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Meghan D. Young

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Phil Bradford

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lost Chord

Arthur Sullivan

Thomas Woodman, bass

***DOXOLOGY**

New Century (black) Hymnal 779

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

New Century (black) Hymnal 531

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Festival March in D

Paul VanDyke

* * *

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

*Please join us for Community Hour in the
Memory Garden (weather permitting) following worship.*

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Call to Special Meeting

July 10, 2016

A Special Meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for Sunday, July 10, 2016 in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10 am worship service for the following purposes:

- To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Search Committee to call a new Associate Pastor;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

****Please Note:** There will be no beach service on July 10th, as it is a Candidating Sunday.*

Church School – Bible Stories at the Beach and Summer Faith
Today we begin “Bible Stories at the Beach” at the 8 am service. Our story is from Matthew’s gospel Chapter 14 when Jesus walks on water to get to the disciples in their boat. Note: There will be **no**

Beach Service on July 10 so we will reschedule our God's Creation lesson with Susie Baker for a Sunday later in the summer.

“Summer Faith” is a multi-age program during the 10 AM worship, for children ages 5-10, which begins today. Children 3 and 4 years old are welcome in child care or in Summer Faith depending on the number and ages of children. For safety considerations, we need to be mindful of the age range of children together. We also need to have two adults with each group at all times. We look forward to seeing your children anytime during the summer that they can be here!

Summer Reading!

Make reading a part of your summer with Krista Tippett's, *Becoming Wise*, and Jim Wallis', *America's Original Sin*. Both are excellent books, highly recommended by Pastor Avery. He urges you make these books a part of your summer. To purchase the books today, look for Avery during coffee hour.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Calling all Poets, Artists, and Musicians of ALL ages!

This summer we are hoping to incorporate the poetry, art, and musical gifts of our church and local community at our Beach Services. If you are interested in participating, please email Meghan Young at MeghanY@fccog.org.

Caregiver Support Group

This group is for those who currently are, or recently have been, a caregiver for a family member or friend. The group offers a confidential place where participants can share experiences, learn new information and receive emotional support and comfort from others in similar situations. The group meets on the first Sunday of the month from 11:15 am–12:00 pm in the Binney Conference Room. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister and group facilitator can be reached at 203-588-9896 or email dorothymueller1@gmail.com with any questions.

Refugee Task Force

The Refugee Task Force needs help locating people who speak, Arabic, French, Farsi, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Tigrinya or Amharic. If First Church decides to sponsor a refugee family, we will need one or more interpreters. Because we would have only two weeks notice for making final preparations, we need to locate potential interpreters ahead of time. If you can help us or know someone who can, please contact Jean Bruder (203-661-1685 or gfbruder1@verizon.net) or The Rev. Meghan D. Young (203-637-1791 or MeghanY@FCCOG.org). Next meeting is Wednesday, June 29, at 4 PM in the Binney Conference Room.

SUMMER SINGS begin June 29

Come as you are from 7:30-9:30 PM on the Wednesday evenings listed below and, within two hours, we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an 'instant performance' of great choral music.

Music will be provided. Hospitality, refreshments, and fun are all included! No sign-up necessary, just come ready to sing. Donation of \$10 per person.

Wednesday, June 29 — **Handel's Messiah**

Craig Scott Symons, conductor, Alistair Reid, accompanist

Wednesday, August 3 — **An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan**

Eric Peterson, conductor, Dorothy Kolinsky, accompanist

Wednesday, August 31 — **The BEST Anthems in the World!**

Craig Scott Symons, conductor, Mark Swicegood, accompanist

Summer Worship

Beach Services are at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). Communion is served every Sunday. We're trying some new and creative things this summer, so come and join us for this casual service. If the Beach Service is canceled due to inclement weather, a notice in red will be posted on our website by 7:30 am and a white piece of paper will be taped to the sermon sign on the church lawn. The 10:00 am service in the Meetinghouse will continue every Sunday throughout the summer.

Summer Choir – All Welcome!

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, starting at **9:00 am in the Meetinghouse** for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship, and it's also a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 22).

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, June 27 – Saturday, July 2: View 50% off items for the week at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Monday, July 4: RR closed for Independence Day

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Small Electronics: Coffee Makers; Small Radios; CD Players; Decorative Lamps; Jewelry; Good Handbags.

Shop Hours: 10:00-5:00 pm Mon - Fri & 10:00 to 1:00 pm on Sat.

Donations: 9:30 - 4:30 pm Mon-Thurs & 9:30 - 2:30 pm Fri.-Sat.

REMINDER: *Friday, July 8: The RR will begin early Friday closings at 3:00 pm for the remainder of July.*

REMINDER: *Saturday, July 16 is last day for donations until Tuesday, August 30.*

REMINDER: *The RR will close at 1:00 PM on Sat, July 30 for restocking. The 52nd Grand Reopening will take place on Monday, August 22, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.*

Thought for Independence Day: “Patriotism is supporting our country all the time and our government when it deserves it.” Mark Twain



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fcog.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

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner