

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Second Sunday in Lent

1 March 2015

10 o'clock in the morning



*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.*



Welcome to worship this morning at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich as we continue our journey through the season of Lent. We pray that this time together will be a tonic for your spirit and an opportunity to feel deeply the graceful peace of God's love.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE

Jon Hunt, guest director/organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

The Cherub Choir

Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Traditional Zulu Hymn

Donald Haviland, director

Debbie Berner, pianis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have started down a road that will take us to the cross.

People: It is a journey we take together, and a journey each makes alone.

Leader: We are invited to notice things on the way -

People: To notice the sharp stones, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade, the faithfulness of those who walk with us.

Leader: We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts:

People: Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow.

Leader: On this walk we rest and sing and pray and listen.

People: In our worship, we rest and sing and pray and listen.

All: Then let us worship God.

*** HYMN**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 150

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of everlasting mercy, hear our prayer today, as we bring our lives before you. We come as people who often dwell on the past. We want to face your new day with life and hope in our hearts, but many times the events of our own lives weigh us down. We fail to forgive one another. We dwell on our own past mistakes. We refuse to bury dead issues and cherished hurts. We become our own worst judge. Free us, free us from ourselves, God, so that we might walk your new pathways, alive with grace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without
end. Amen. Amen.*

(During the Gloria, the children and teachers will go to the Daniels Center – which is on the lower level of the building; please ask for directions if needed – for their Rotation Workshops.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Hebrews 11-12 (*selected verses*)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received God's approval.

By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household;

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

By faith Rahab, the prostitute, did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Haste Thee, O God

The Chancel Choir

Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

*Haste Thee, O God to deliver me, make haste to help me.
Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul.
Let them for their reward be woe brought to shame,
that cry over me: "There, there, there."
But let all those who seek thee be joyful and glad in thee,
and let all such as delight in thy salvation say always:
"The Lord be praised!" Amen.*

SECOND LESSON

Pat Mendelsohn

Matthew 5:38-48

“**Y**ou have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

From New Revised Standard Version

* HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 288

SERMON

Be Perfect

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Elaine Teeters

OFFERTORY SOLO

The Holy City

Drew Seigla, tenor

A. R. Gaul (1837-1913)

*To the Lord, our God, to our God belong mercies and forgiveness.
For like as a father pitieth his children,
even so is the Lord merciful to them that fear Him.*

*DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elaine Teeters

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM (*in unison*)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I 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 my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 63

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

* * *

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 Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium following the worship service.

CORRECTION: The flowers in the Meetinghouse last Sunday, February 22, 2015, were given in loving memory of Cyrus Edward "Bill" Ridenour III, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.

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. On Church School Sundays we also have a class for 3 and 4 year olds during the entire 10:00 am service. Please see an usher if you need directions to child care or Church School.

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

Today we begin our next Rotation Series for March. The workshops today are: Betsy Burleson doing the Cooking workshop with Kindergarten & 1st graders in the Daniels Center kitchen; Cara Olmsted and Peg Wentworth leading the Cross Craft workshop with 2nd & 3rd graders in Room 104; Judy Goodchild and Janet Blasberg doing a Planting activity with 4th & 5th graders in the front area of the Daniels Center. Next week is Youth Sunday and because this is always a special worship service, our Kindergarten and older classes will be in worship for the entire service. Rotation resumes on 3/15.

Bible Study

Please join us at Bible Study today at 11:20 am in the Lounge. All are welcome. This will be our last Bible Study lesson until we resume again on *Sunday, April 19*. Mark your calendars.

Blood Pressure Screening

Ros Brady, RN, a volunteer from the Wellness Committee, is available to perform blood pressure screenings in Room 203 following today's worship service.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Children's Choir from 11:15 am to 12 Noon in Room 303 (Craig's office) and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub Choir today.

THIS WEEK

The Mask You Live In Film Screening

First Congregational Church and First Church Preschool are

partnering with the Greenwich YWCA and The Junior League of Greenwich to present a new documentary film by Jennifer Siebel



Newsome, director of *Miss Representation*. *The Mask You Live In* is an exploration of young American masculinity and asks the question, “Are we failing our boys?” One-time-only showing on **Tuesday, March 3** (inclement weather date: March 31) at Bow Tie Criterion Cinemas, 2 Railroad Ave., Greenwich.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$10 in advance at

<http://www.ywcagreenwich.org/events/womens-leadership-seminars>, \$15 at the door. \$5 for 18 and under (film not suitable for children under 13 years).

Hats Off Book Discussion Group

Our *Hats Off* book study group has chosen *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese for its third winter read which will begin this **Thursday, March 5**. Ann Packer writes, “*A marvel of a first novel. Verghese’s generosity of spirit is beautifully embodied in this gripping family saga...an unforgettable story of love and betrayal and forgiveness.*” Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 am in the Lounge. Reserve your book at our Greenwich Libraries or order one from Jean Bruder, 203-661-1685.


NEXT WEEK

Second Hour – Palliative Care Presentation

Next **Sunday, March 8**, join us for a Second Hour Presentation on *Palliative Care Perspectives* at 11:30 am-12:30 pm in the Lounge. Dr. Donna Coletti, MD and Director of Greenwich Hospital’s Palliative Care Department will discuss the principles behind palliative care, and give an overview of the program in place at Greenwich Hospital. Palliative care focuses on quality of life and comfort, rather than a cure at all costs. Dr. Coletti will explain the nuances of palliative care and dispel some of the myths associated with this philosophy of care. There will also be time for Dr. Coletti to answer questions from attendees.



CPR and AED Refresher Classes

On *Saturday, March 14*, Greenwich EMS instructors will review CPR, including the use of the defibrillator. This class is for individuals who are already certified in CPR, such as those who took the full certification class in March of 2014. For those who took the  American Heart Association CPR course in 2014, your certification is good for 2 years. This non-mandatory class provides an excellent opportunity for review and hands-on practice. For individuals who have received their certification elsewhere, this provides an opportunity to familiarize yourself with our equipment. The class is offered at 2 times that morning: **9:00-10:00 am** or **10:30-11:30 am**. To sign up for a class or ask questions, please stop in to see Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, in Room 203 or call her at ext. 21.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Interested in Learning About Joining the Church?

Our next **New Member Class** will be held on *Sunday, March 15* at 11:20 am in the Senior Pastor's office. It will last approximately an hour and a half and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will then be received on Sunday, March 22. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 637-1791 x 26 or call the Church Office.



Church Town Hall Meeting

Join us on *Sunday, March 22*, following 10:00 am Worship Service for a Church Town Hall Meeting. First Church will be 350 years old in May 2015! To celebrate and honor this milestone, the 350th Anniversary Committee is planning a year-long series of events, activities and programs. Come hear about the plans and be part of

this exciting year in the life of our church. *Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Leaning into the Future.*

*** Do You Have a Favorite Hymn? Share it with us! ***

Many folks have asked to sing a favorite hymn of theirs over the past few months, so we came up with a new way to help get your favorite hymn in the service. **When you sign the red attendance pad, put your favorite hymn on the line under your name** (hymnal and hymn number) and we will include it in worship, where appropriate, beginning after Easter. The hymn will be designated in the bulletin by "CC" after the hymn, which means "Congregational Choice."

Stop Hunger Now Project – March 15

Join us after worship on *Sunday, March 15* in the Daniels Center and volunteer for our meal packaging event. "From your hands to their tummies. Stop Hunger Now!" For more info, call Mark Montgomery at 203-637-1791 ext. 15.



Springtime News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, March 2: The Rummage Room **opens at 1:00 pm** with all Spring clothing. The shop will be closed for restocking from 10 am-1 pm. Shoppers will find The Rummage Room definitely in a 'Spring-time State of Mind' after one of the worst Winters in history!!

Sunday, March 8: Daylight Saving Time begins. We doff our Spring hats to longer, warmer days.

Manager Maria's Wish List: St. Patrick's Day clothing and decorations; Easter clothing and decorations; baby strollers; bikes for all ages; nice bric-a-brac; small furniture; shoes; **jewelry & handbags.**

Shop Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday & 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday & 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday. Thank you for donating only clean, salable goods.

Thought for March: *Just as out of the dark, snow-covered ground comes the beautiful blossoms of Spring...God comes out when the dark, cold dilemmas of life need His warm, all-encompassing love. Hallelujah, Amen.*

Tai Chi Classes

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 \$10 per class. Drop-ins welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please don't forget those in need. **Items especially needed are canned meats, such as Spam, chili, etc.** Tuna is **not** needed at this time. Other items include: Cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, and jelly. Sheets and towels are always needed.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

March 8, 2015

Youth Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Begins:

Be sure to turn your clocks “ahead” Saturday night before going to bed so you don't miss church!

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

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 Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell