

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

15 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.



Ware so glad you are here at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich for worship as we continue our journey through the Lenten Season toward the bright warmth of Easter. May our time together touch your life with inspiring hope and nourish your spirit with peace.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE

Eugene Sirotkine, guest director/organist

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You have walked with the faithful through times of wilderness.

People: May we also be called faithful and know that you are with us.

Leader: You have empowered people, in the midst of their own shortcomings, to be beacons of light and hope.

People: May we also be called light.

Leader: You have found the lost and set their feet upon a new path.

People: May we also be called found.

Leader: God of all, we gather to worship you as people of faith and light.

People: Find us here so that we may also find you.

* HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

There are moments where we find ourselves overwhelmed by the complexities of this world, where the wilderness is bigger than we imagined.

Remind us that you are the God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.

Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.

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

Pat Larrabee

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they

bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

From *New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

Create In Me a Clean Heart

The Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God.

SECOND LESSON

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

From *New Revised Standard Version*

* HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (verses 1-4)

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 80

SERMON

The First Thing You Learn

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Eugene Sirotkine

*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

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

Amazing Grace

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

*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.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving remembrance of Catherine G. Weigner on the occasion of her birthday by her husband, Arthur C., and sons, Stephen A. and Ronald C. Weigner.

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.

New Member Class TODAY!

Interested in learning about joining the church? Then join us at our **New Member Class TODAY** 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 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 next Sunday, March 22. Child care is available. Please feel welcome to join us.

Next Week:

Church Town Hall Meeting
Sunday, March 22
(following 10:00 am worship)

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.*

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today we resume our Lent to Holy Week Rotation. Kindergarten and 1st graders will be doing a Cross Craft with Shauna Dellascenza in the Red Door classroom. 2nd and 3rd graders will do planting with Mary-Ann Assing in Room 104. 4th and 5th graders will be cooking pancakes in the Daniels Center kitchen. Next Sunday will be the final week in this Rotation. Today all families are invited to join in the **Stop Hunger Now** activity in the Daniels Center after worship.

Parish Nurse

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

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104, 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.

Stop Hunger Now Project – March 15

Join us after worship TODAY in the Daniels Center and volunteer for our meal packaging event. “From your hands to their tummies. Stop Hunger Now!”



THIS WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

Our *Nights Off Women's Group* will be meeting tomorrow, *Monday, March 16* for a film outing! Come for dinner, come for the show or come for both! We will meet at 5:45 pm at Tai Basil at 95 Railroad Avenue in downtown Greenwich for dinner, appetizers or just a beverage. Then we will head across the street to the Greenwich Bow Tie Criterion Cinema for a 7:15 pm showing of *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. All are welcome! Please join us and bring a friend along. If you have questions or would like to be added to the email list, please contact Shirley Flierl at fbtworld@aol.com. See you there!

NEWS AND NOTICES

*** 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.”

Lunch and Learn: DASH Diet for Cardiac Health

Join us on *Monday, March 23* from 12:00-1:15 pm in the Auditorium for lunch as Denise Addorisio, a Registered Dietitian at Greenwich Hospital, teaches us about DASH or “Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension.” DASH is aimed at lowering blood pressure, but the benefits of this diet extend to promoting cardiac health and overall well-being. Denise



will explain the principles of the diet and how to incorporate them into our lifestyles. A light lunch will be served as the Denise speaks. **Seating is limited so please RSVP to Sue Asselin, your Parish Nurse, at extension 21.**

FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Join us on *Saturday, March 28* as FCCOG volunteers at Neighbor to Neighbor! We need at least 8 people for each of two shifts 8:30 to 10:30 am and 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. If these exact times are not convenient for you, please let me know (RosemaryL@fccog.org) and I



will see if we have enough people to be flexible. Neighbor to Neighbor requires that our children who volunteer with their parents be between the ages of 12 and 14. If any of your children who are younger than 12 have volunteered with you before, they are “grandfathered in” and can continue to come when we are there as a group. **I know there are several of you who would like to bring your younger children. I would like to offer an introduction session to those families from 10:00 to 11:00 am that morning at Neighbor to Neighbor. We will talk about who needs the services of Neighbor to Neighbor and include a tour. I hope this will be helpful to those families with younger children.**

Lenten Offering 2015

Raise up a child in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not turn from it. -Proverbs 22:6

Providing a safe place in which young people can explore who they are and the ways God is working through and with them has long been a goal of those who work with the youngest among us here at First Church. We have sought to raise our children well and our prayer is that we will plant the seeds of faith that will serve them their whole lives. This year, our Lenten Offering seeks to offer that same grace to two communities outside of our church walls: **Silver Lake Conference Center** and **Covenant to Care for Children**. Join us during this Lenten journey as we learn more about the ways we may respond to the need of God’s children in the world. More information can be found about both



communities in the March Meetinghouse Monthly and in a mailing which you should have received in the mail.

Film Screening Rescheduled for March 31

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?” This one-time-only showing was rescheduled due to inclement weather and is now on *Tuesday, 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/mask-live-movie-screening/>; \$15 at the door. \$5 for 18 and under (film not suitable for children under 13 years).

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, March 16: 50% off everything **green**.

Tuesday, March 17: *Happy St. Patrick's Day!* The one day of the year when everyone is **Irish!**



Friday, March 20: It's with a sigh of relief that The Rummage Room acknowledges that on this day...this date...it is **The First Day of Spring!** In celebration of the passing of winter, Manager Maria is declaring a “**50%-off-all-items-in-the-shop-day!**”



Manager Maria's Wish List: Spring clothing; **spring handbags are needed badly**; spring hats; jewelry; DVDs; men's suits and sport jackets; bric-a-brac.

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.

Our country will remain the “Land of the Free” and the “Home of the Brave” as long as we practice “Equality and Freedom for all”...no matter

*the color of the person's skin or their religious beliefs. God has assured us time and time again that he love us **one and all** just as we are.*

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 22, 2015

Music by:

The Children's Choir

Bring Forth the Kingdom of God by Marty Haugen

The Chancel Choir

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

by Gilbert Martin

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

These Are They by A. R. Gaul

Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter,](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Instagram](#)



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