

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## The Last Sunday of Epiphany

2 March 2014

10 o'clock in the morning



*Sunset from the Mirador in Nicaragua*

*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 this service of worship this morning at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. People come here with all of the joys and struggles, the relationships and circumstances of their lives in order to connect with God and a Christian community of faith. We hope that connection will happen for you. If you are visiting with us this morning, please make yourself known to one of the pastors. And do join us for light refreshments in the Coffee Hour that immediately follows this service in the Auditorium (out the back and up the stairs). Again, welcome.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

#### **PRELUDE**

*Aria and March*

*The Palmer Handbells*

G.F. Handel

*Mary Fike, flute*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

O Lord of our lives, we come here today because we need a bit of refuge from the chaos and swirling of the world around us. We need time to think and to pray. We need beauty and peace and challenge, all at once. So meet us as we pray in our need. Let us feel your presence and know that you are God. This we pray in the name of the one 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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery*

*(After the Children's Message, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Stephanie Woodman*

### Psalm 121

**I** lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

*My Eternal King*

*The Chancel Choir*  
Jane Marshall (b. 1924)

*My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby,  
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally,*

*Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;  
For me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold  
disgrace.*

*Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?  
Not for the hope of winning heav'n, or of escaping hell;*

*Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;  
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!*

*E'en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;  
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.*

SECOND LESSON

*Rick Woodman*

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

*From New Revised Standard Version*

\*‡HYMN

*I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes*

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 85

SERMON

*It's a Hill! It's a Mountain! Pay Attention! (Before they read  
Psalm 121 for the last time)* Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

*Ave Maria*

*Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano*  
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

\*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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Today communion will be by intinction, which means taking the  
bread (representing Christ's body) before dipping it in the cup  
(representing Christ's blood, shed for you). Please make your way  
down the center aisle to one of the communion stations by the chancel  
and receive communion. Those who need to stay in the pew should  
indicate their need to be served there to one of the ushers or greeters.  
Someone will come to serve you.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with  
you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our  
commitment to bear your name and to follow you wherever you

lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

### \*HYMN

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

New Century (black) Hymnal 403

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

*March*

Felix Alexandre Guilmant

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.*

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory by friends of Hans and Betty Farman who were devoted supporters of First Congregational Church for many years.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday in our Preschool classrooms. 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](http://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.

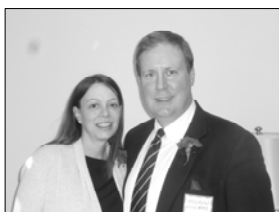
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## New Members Who Joined February 23

**Virginia and Greg Richards**, 15 Linwood Avenue, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-344-1162. Virginia comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from First Scots Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC and Greg comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Virginia is a Medical Examiner for Westchester County, NY, and Greg works in Finance in New York City. Virginia hails from Virginia, while Greg grew up in Maine. They are the proud parents of Callie (6), Charley (4) and Adair (11 months).



**Lesley (MacLeod) and Andrew Williams**, 149 Shore Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-990-0226. Lesley comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith, while Andrew comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from Old First Church in Huntington, NY. Lesley is Head Agent in the stylist division of Art Department, an art agency, and is expecting a baby boy in May. Andrew is Senior Consultant at Maxus Group in New York City. Rounding out the family are Catherine (9) and Charlie (8). The Williams enjoy tennis, paddle tennis and reading.



**Ben Velishka**, 109 Burwood Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-667-6266. Ben comes to First Congregational by Reaffirmation of Faith. Ben is the owner of Dayton Builders, LLC, and hails from Massachusetts. He moved to the area in 1997. Ben enjoys many outdoor activities, including fishing, boating, hiking, and sailing. He is married to Jen Tortolani and they have 2 children, a son, Reese (7) and a daughter, Jessie (9).





TODAY

**Church School**

Today most children will be hearing the story of the time when children approached Jesus and the disciples tried to discourage the interaction. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders have just finished their Bible Breakfast and a rousing game of Bible Jeopardy with their parents. Also, if you detect the smell of cooking chili when reading this, it is because our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are cooking for the Soup Kitchen. Finally, we hope to see you at Wonderful Wednesday this week!

**Bible Study**

There will be no Bible Study this week but it will return next week with a series on the Psalms. The Psalms explore the range of emotions and dilemmas in our relationships with other people and with God. They despair, hope, are angry, joyful, even petulant, but always in touch with inner fears and triumphs.



And always aware it is with God we have to do. So join us *Sunday, March 9* at 11:20 am in the Lounge for a special series, *The Story behind the Psalms* led by Dan England.

**Choir Rehearsals**

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:15 am to 12 Noon 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.

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THIS WEEK

**Wonderful "Ash" Wednesday!**

Ash Wednesday is this week on *March 5*, and, like in years past, we are having another Wonderful Wednesday on this day, concluding with a brief worship. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm and we will break into groups led by members of our clergy and staff. (Descriptions of these break-out groups are listed in the March Meetinghouse Monthly page 7). The evening will



conclude by 8:00 pm. You'll want to attend this special evening to begin the Lenten season with your church family. **RSVP to Barbara Wilkov at [barbaraw@fccog.org](mailto:barbaraw@fccog.org) or call 203-637-1791 ext. 24.** This is important so we can plan dinner. See you on Wednesday!

### **Lunch and Learn Presentation – This Thursday**

Join us this *Thursday, March 6* 12:00 noon until 1:15 pm for *Arm Yourself for Nutritional Success*. Erica Christ, Registered Dietitian and Manager of Outpatient Nutrition Services at Greenwich Hospital, will explain strategies to help us succeed with incorporating healthy eating habits with today's busy lifestyles. Learn what kinds of "convenience" foods will set us up for nutritional success, at home and on the go. A lite lunch will be provided, so please register for this popular event by calling your Parish Nurse at extension 21.

### **Kettle Quilters**

Quilters needed! Join the Kettle Quilters Mondays, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and/or Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Room 203.

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## **NEXT WEEK**

### **CPR Training Opportunities**

*Saturday, March 15, 9:00-11:45 am or 12:00-3:00 pm;*  
*or Saturday, March 29, 9:00-11:45 am*

It's time for those of us certified through classes here at FCCOG to re-certify for CPR. Those interested in becoming newly certified are also welcome to this training, which includes the use of our automatic external defibrillator (AED). Attendance is only required at ONE of the three sessions. Thanks to the generosity of the Greenwich EMS, and to the church covering the reduced fees, we can offer the classes at no cost to the participants. Please consider being a blessing to others. Contact your Parish Nurse at extension 21 to register for a class.



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## **NEWS AND NOTICES**

## Memorial for Brenda Stiers

A memorial for Brenda Stiers is scheduled for *Saturday, March 22* at 1:00 pm here in our Meetinghouse.

## News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich; 203-637-1865

**Monday, March 3:** The Rummage Room opens at 1:00 pm with everything Spring. As far as The Rummage Room is concerned, WINTER IS OVER!! (NOTE: The RR will be closed Monday, March 3 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for restocking.)

**Wednesday, March 5:** Ash Wednesday.

**Sunday, March 9:** Daylight Saving Time Begins.

**Monday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day:** All merchandise 50% off.

**Monday, March 20, First Day of Spring:** Celebration time in Ye Olde Rummage Room!!

**Manager Maria's Wish List:** St. Patrick's Day items; a double stroller; bikes; Easter clothing and decorations; Spring clothing, shoes, handbags and jewelry; musical instruments ... guitars, accordions and other musical instruments; horse figurines; clothing for twin babies or any age children for a Spring window; also, need horses for a window scene of a barn, fences and other farm buildings. Plastic horses can be any color.

**Operation Hours:** Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and 9:30 to 12:30 on Friday and Saturday. *Have you ever started the day with a big box of patience, and found the box empty within a few hours? Laughter is the only cure for days like that!!*

## Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

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, \$8 for seniors. Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**



## Food Collection

A Food Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse each week. Please just pick up an extra few items when you go to the grocery and donate them for those in need.

*Next Week at First Congregational Church*

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse  
*March 9, 2014*  
*Youth Sunday*

Music by:  
*The Youth Choir*

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!  
We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT  
Check out our new [YouTube](#) page, too!  
We're on [Instagram](#) too!



*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870  
203-637-1791; [www.fccog.org](http://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