

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Fourth Sunday in Lent

6 March 2016

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.



We welcome our children who are celebrating Communion with us this morning, some for the first time. They are: Sarah Bodenstein, Michael Conley, Matthew Golodinskii, Kristen Jacks, Drew Moore, Avery Quake, Amelie Dellascenza, Ainsley Sahrbeck, Caitlin O’Gorman, Tyler Quake, Will Pratt, and Emma Pratt.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE

Jon Hunt, Guest Organist/Director

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Meghan D. Young

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

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Wendy Reynolds

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hayden Witmer, Confirmand

Leader: Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

People: We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.

Leader: Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

People: No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.

Leader: Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,

People: and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!

CHORAL INTROIT

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Pilgram (red) Hymnal 101

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

O God, with gladness and expectation we gather in this space today. You are the one who makes all things new. You are the one who satisfies our hunger and restores our soul. In this holy space, help us, your children, to know that you always love us. Through our worship today, help us know that if we stray away from you, you are always ready to receive us with open arms. Prepare our hearts, as we worship you, to welcome and embrace all of your children as you do us. With gladness and expectation we pray, in Jesus' name,

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

(As we begin singing Jesus Loves Me, Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms.)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,

Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. (Refrain)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins
New Century (black) Hymnal 642

Psalm 32

(Organ will play response once, choir will sing response, then all sing)

SECOND LESSON

Stuart McCalley

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the Prodigal Son or the Loving Parent. This is the last in of three parables that portray God as seeking out that which is lost. It is an attempt to show that Jesus had no other choice than to seek the lost. And so, here we are...

*HYMN

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

SERMON

When Wars Don't End

Rev. Meghan D. Young

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Sherry Myer

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Savior again to thy dear name

The Chancel Choir

George Chadwick (1854-1931)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

*Saviour, again to Thy dear Name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
We stand to bless Thee, ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly kneeling, wait Thy word of peace.*

*Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.*

*Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life;
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace. Amen.*

*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Communion Class

Like a tent in the wilderness

the table of God stands open and ready
as a place of sanctuary and safety,
of hospitality and healing.

So come, all you who are tired and travel stained,
footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travelers
and find companionship and comfort;
for here, Jesus –
who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle
in desert places –

**waits to meet us and welcome us in,
offering us rest and restoration,
solace and stretch,
for the journey still to come.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the tradition of our church, let us partake of the bread (note, gluten-free bread is available) as it is served, remembering our individual uniqueness in the eyes of God and our diversity within the Body of Christ. Let us hold the cup (grape juice) until all have been served, remembering our oneness with God and our unity in the Body of Christ.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God has called us to journey for a season through the wilderness places.

**And so, as Jesus did before us,
we will set out once more
to wander in an uncomfortable landscape
and wrestle with its challenges,
that through the tempering action of the Spirit,
we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

New Century (black) Hymnal 332

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Epilogue

Norman Gilbert



* * *

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 memory of their fathers, James Anderson III and Donald Winston Tufts by Ty and Cindy Anderson.

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

Church School

Today our 2nd graders and their parents are sitting together in the front of the church to better see and participate in the celebration of Communion. They have shared a learning experience and made the banners you see displayed. As is customary, older children who have not had this opportunity prior to this year are joining in this celebration as well.

The Kindergarten, 1st, 4th and 5th graders will continue their Holy Week Rotation curriculum. When we leave the sanctuary, these classes will gather in the Auditorium for a worship/storytelling time after which the children will be "shepherded" to their classrooms. K & 1st will be in the Preschool Red Door. 4th and 5th graders will be the Preschool Green Door. This week's storytelling topic is "The Crucifixion, Death and Burial." 3rd grade will be in their Room 104 and "678" will finish the labyrinth in the Daniels Center.

REMEMBER TO SIGN UP for our first **Family Faith Night!** Lenten Learning and Potluck this Friday, March 11, 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Daniels Center. Bring a dinner dish to share with 8-10 people. Desserts and drinks provide. Family faith nights are great opportunities for children and parents to explore and discover their faith together. Just email Rosemary to let us know you are coming. More details in THIS WEEK section in the bulletin.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Fellowship Hour.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet today at 11:15 am in the Daniels Center. Please join us. All are welcome.

JPF & SPF 4:00 - 6:15 PM

All middle and high school students are invited to join us this afternoon for a follow-up on our Sleep Out for the Homeless event. We will be watching the documentary *A Place at The Table* and continuing our discussion on the hunger epidemic in our own country and discussing ways we can help to fight it.

THIS WEEK

Family Faith Nights @ FCCOG

Join us for our first Family Faith Night! Lenten Learning and Potluck on Friday, March 11, 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Daniels Center. Come for a pot-luck dinner (desserts and drinks provided) and a faith experience for the whole family. Family faith nights are great opportunities for children and parents to explore and discover their faith together. This month we will experience the powerful, life-changing Lenten and Easter events that we have been learning about in church school. Also, don't miss the debut of our labyrinth! Sign up by emailing Rosemary.

CPR Certification

A few openings remain in our CPR training class this Saturday, March 12, 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM. Classes, which include the use of a defibrillator, are appropriate for new and seasoned CPR

students. We are grateful that Greenwich EMS is providing the training at a reduced fee, so there is no cost to participants who are active at First Church. Please contact Sue Asselin, your Parish Nurse, at extension 21 if you would like to attend.

FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Please join your fellow church members on **Saturday, March 12** from 8:30 – 10:30 OR 10:30 - 12:30. We will be stocking the food pantry and sorting and displaying the clothing and linen contributions. Neighbor-To-Neighbor is located at Christ Church in Greenwich (across Putnam Avenue from the YWCA). Please contact Rosemary, or see the easel in Fellowship Hour to sign up. This is a great opportunity for a parent/child team or a teen and a friend as well as individuals. Children need to be at least 11 years old and accompanied by a parent if under 16.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Young Adult Ministries at FCCOG

We're FCCOG's group of 20- and 30-somethings who aim to support one another on our faith journeys, whether it's through prayer, an afternoon hiking excursion, or fellowship at local restaurants. We're kicking things off with Table Theology on Saturday, March 12 from 5 PM – 6 PM at Fortina in Stamford, CT. Come for apps, drinks, and great discussion. For more information, and to RSVP email Rev. Meghan D. Young.

Refugee Co-Sponsorship Task Force

Many have expressed interest in continuing the conversation to learn more and assess the feasibility of FCCOG co-sponsoring a refugee family. If you are interested in moving this conversation forward, please consider being part of our task force. We will be meeting Mondays, March 7 and 14 at 7 PM in the Binney Conference Room. For more information, please email Rev. Meghan D. Young.

Read Scripture at FCCOG

One of the ways we experience the holy is through the reading and receiving of scripture. Help us bring the stories of our faith to life and consider sharing your gifts in worship by reading our weekly scripture lessons. For more information and to sign-up, please email Pat Larrabee.

Springtime News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, March 7: Shoppers were thrilled last week when The Rummage Room opened with all 'new' spring merchandise. Record-breaking sales were made and were all greatly appreciated! Please come in to "The Best Little Shop" in Greenwich and take advantage of this coming week as all things spring are being donated every day!

Thursday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day - 50% off everything green -

Sunday, March 20: First Day of Spring and Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday - Remembering Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Leanne's Wish List: Spring Clothing; shoes; handbags; St. Patrick's Day clothing and decorations; Easter decorations and other merchandise; jewelry; and good Bric-a-Brac.

Shop Hours: 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday & 10 am-1pm Saturday.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday & 9:30 am-12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

Thought for Spring: The Rummage Room has been prosperous for 51 years; we owe our success to all those who've been supportive throughout the many years that we've been in business! Our Maker has been making a difference in our lives for over 2000 years, so the least we can do is to try and continue to make a difference in the lives of those who are in need. Thank you one and all!

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 are welcome.

**Neighbor to Neighbor:
Collection Barrel at Entrance to Church**

Please don't forget those in need this winter. **Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.)** Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels. Tuna is **not** needed at this time.

**Food for Thought:
Using Food Labels to Make Healthy Choices**

Denise Addorisio, a Registered Dietitian from Greenwich Hospital, will be speaking about interpreting food labels on **Tuesday, March 15, 10:00 am to 11:15 am**. Learn which fats are the healthiest, what "percent of daily value" means, which carbohydrates are more desirable, and much more. The Wellness Committee will be hosting this event in the Auditorium. To help us plan for our healthy snack, please RSVP to Sue Asselin, your Parish Nurse, at extension 21.

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.

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

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Administrative Assistant – Communications: Rachael E. Schuster

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner