

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Founded in 1665

Pentecost

15 May 2016

10 o'clock in the morning



“Pentecost” by Mark Wiggin

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 on this day of Pentecost as we celebrate the Confirmation of 9 of our young people. 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

*3 Chorale Variations on
"Veni Creator Spiritus"*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Meghan D. Young

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cameron DelCristo &

Hayden Witmer

Leader: Welcome to this place – we are here to celebrate the new members of this church.

People: We watch them grow on their journey to understand God.

Leader: Welcome to this place – where we openly accept anyone's choices, thoughts, and beliefs.

People: We continue to watch them and help them grow into adulthood as they join our community.

ALL: We hope you find love, joy, and freedom.

CHORAL INTROIT

*** HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 228

UNISON PRAYER

Eliza Keller

*We will not judge them off the basis of their beliefs.
We will not judge them off the basis of their race.
We will not judge them based off of how they love.
We will not let our grudges interfere with our humanity.*

*Every day we will find peace.
We will refill the souls of those who are broken.
We will lift those who have fallen
and invite them to our table of love.*

*Help us find God with those
who are still only just beginning their journey of faith.
We ask this in Jesus' name,
and we pray the words our Savior taught us ...*

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

Lauren O'Donnell &
Olivia Pfetsch

*As we begin singing, Church School children
and teachers will leave for their classrooms.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

2016 Confirmation Class

Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit has been anticipated. Promises have been made. Fifty days have passed since Easter, and now, all are gathered in one place. The 12 Apostles, the 120 followers of Jesus, they are together – one community. They have grieved the death of Jesus, they have been living in fear, and they are resolute in continuing their ministry. Hope has been sparked – it is growing. The Holy Spirit is coming. The Holy Spirit is here. Let us listen for the still speaking word of God in this story of the Pentecost.

ANTHEM

I Believe

The Youth Choir

Mark Miller

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, piano

Gillian Woodman, Stephanie Woodman, soloists

SERMON

Dangerous Conversations

2016 Confirmation Class

Songs:

“7 years” by Lucas Graham

“Hall of Fame” by The Script (featuring Will.i.am)

“From a Distance” by Bette Midler

HYMN

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

New Century (Black) 351

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Rosemary Lamie

Barbara Fortunato

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Rev. Meghan D. Young

Roll Call of Confirmands

Joshua Kyle Arnold
Cameron William Delcristo
D. Alexander Fortunato
Parker Blaisdell Freeman
Eliza Baker Keller
Eva Barrett Moore
Lauren Grace O'Donnell
Olivia Carolyn Pfetsch
Hayden Scott Witmer

Questions of Candidates

Question of Congregation

The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

Rite of Confirmation

Please join us in singing as we call upon the Holy Spirit.

Ostinato (repeated continuously)

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.
Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Laying on of Hands and Presentation of Crosses

Prayer of Confirmation

Declaration of Membership

Pam Grunow, Senior Deacon

PASTORAL PRAYER

Josh Arnold &
Alex Fortunato

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Eva Moore

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit

The Chancel Choir

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

***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**

God, When I Came into This Life

New Century (Black) 354

***BENEDICTION**

Parker Freeman

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

Johann Nepomuk Hummel
(1778-1837)

* * *

*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.*

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 children will begin preparing for their participation in worship on Children's Sunday, June 5. There will be readings, prayers, an orchestra and more. So children will gather in their own classrooms including Kindergarten and 1st grade in the Red Door; 2nd grade in the Green Door and 4th & 5th grades in the Daniels Center. "678" will be in worship to witness the Confirmation of our class of 2016. Next Sunday the 4th & 5th grades will be gardening at Pilgrim Towers. Anyone is welcome to join us; we will be leaving at about 11:15. We will leave PT at about 1PM. Lunch is included.

Interested in Learning About Joining the Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held **Today at 11:30 am** in the Senior Pastor's office. It will last approximately 90 minutes, 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 your journey of faith. New members will then be received on **Sunday, May 22**. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us.

This is Our Moment to Shape the Future

Members of the Capital Campaign Committee will visit with church members to solicit your thoughts as well as your commitment. We hope that these conversations will inspire you to play a leading role. We are First Church. We can be the hands of Christ in the world. Together, we can do great things. Take a tour today, Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 am as we begin in the Auditorium.

Parish Nurse

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

NEWS AND NOTICES

Let's Put Together an Orchestra!

On Sunday, June 5, we will have an all-ages orchestra playing in church for Children's Sunday. We'll do ONE piece, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee. If you play an instrument, please send an email to Craig Symons (craigs@fccog.org) and let him know you're going to play. We'll have a rehearsal on Saturday morning, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Meetinghouse. It's crucial to let him know what instruments are going to be played so there are enough parts covered. Dust off that instrument and let's have some fun!

Children's Sunday & Volunteer Sunday

Be sure you have **June 5** on your calendar. Our children will lead worship and share their own Fruits of the Spirit with you! Our Outreach Committee is hosting a volunteer fair with the organizations our church supports. Find out all about the ways you can volunteer with them!

Undies Sunday Thank You!

A great big thanks for the generosity of so many people in our caring congregation who donated new underwear to improve the lives of our neighbors in need. If you were unable to participate and wish to do so, it's not too late! The donation bins will be at the back of the church and at fellowship hour again this Sunday. Neighbor to Neighbor and its many clients thank you from the "bottoms" of their hearts!

My Neighbors Faith - Greenwich

Monday, May 16th 7 pm

Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Avenue

Come and be part of the interfaith conversation in Greenwich - hear from faith leaders and fellow participants about how each tradition connects to that which is sacred. Vicki Axe (Jewish), Anne Carbone (Spiritualist), Allison Elaoui (Muslim), and Ed Horstmann (Christian) will be our panelists; the evening will also feature conversation in small groups.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, May 16: All items 50% off for the week may be found on the church website.

Gift Certificates available at the cash register for any amount. May is the month for weddings, commencements and just celebrating Spring!!!

Manager Leanne's Wish list for the week: Spring/summer shoes; Men's business shirts, ties, and other merchandise for Father's Day. Good Jewelry and handbags.

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

Donations: Monday through Thursday 9:30 - 4:30 pm & Friday and Saturday 9:30- 1:00 pm. Please do not leave items when RR is closed!!!!

Thought for the Week: Life is 10 percent what we make it and 90 percent how we take it!!! Irving Berlin (1888-1889)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

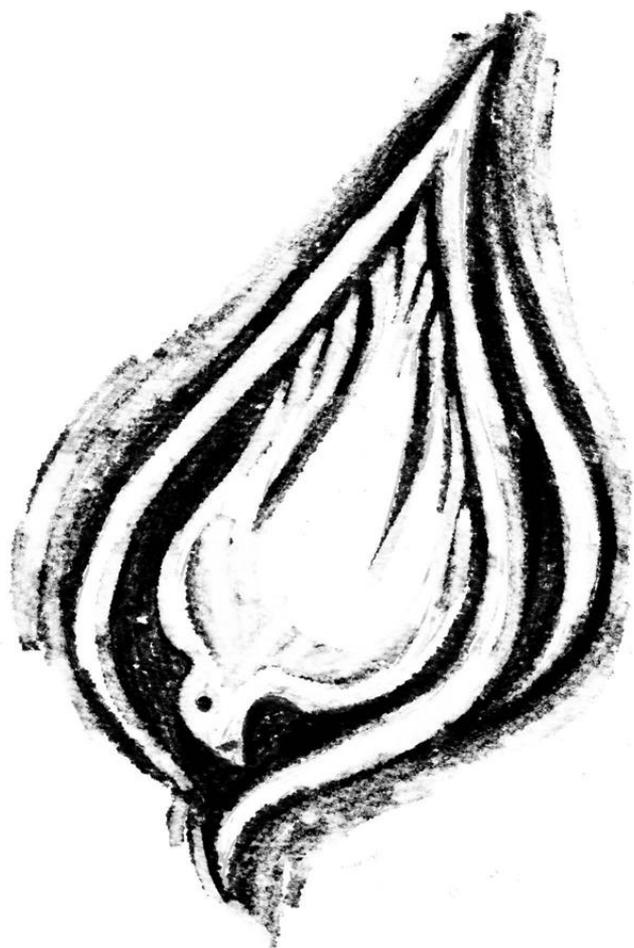
You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen





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