

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Founded in 1665

Second Sunday after Pentecost

29 May 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 warmly welcome you to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Memorial Day weekend as we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism. 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

Introduction and Prayer

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Louis Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Meghan D. Young

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marcus Lotufo

Leader: Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; When our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

People: Disturb us, Lord.

Leader: Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

People: Disturb us, Lord.

Leader: Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; And to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

People: Disturb us, Lord.

CHORAL INTROIT

* HYMN

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

New Century (black) Hymnal 417

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

*Faithful God, you draw near to us
in our joy and in our grief,
in our hope and in our despair.*

When we are bowed down, you raise us anew.

We turn to you now in search of your healing touch.

*God of compassion and love,
move among us this hour.*

*Open our eyes, dispel our fears,
and show us the real life you have to offer.*

*We pray this in the name of the Risen One,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Patrick James Kelly,

son of Devon Marie Kelly & Gregory Logel Kelly

BAPTISM PRAYER *(in unison)*

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on **Patrick** that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

(During the Baptismal Response, the children and teachers will leave to go to Church School.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Stuart McCalley

1 Kings 18:20-39

Ahab, a king described as more evil than all his predecessors, introduces the worship of Baal, the Canaanite agricultural god, into Israel. Elijah, a prophet of YHWH, the God of Israel, tells Ahab as a result of this false worship there will be a three year drought. It is in this third year of the drought, that we witness Elijah and the prophets of Baal square off in a contest, full of sharp satire, offering a scathing indictment of idolatry relevant in every generation.

ANTHEM

O love, how deep

The Summer Choir

Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
how passing thought and fantasy
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.*

*For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions thus
still seeking not himself, but us.*

*For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.*

*For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.*

*To him whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through his Son,
to God the Father, glory be
both now and through eternity.*

SECOND LESSON

Luke 7:1-10

At first glance this is a miracle story, but by the end it is clear that the centurion's faith in Jesus is at the center of the narrative. The centurion belonged to the militia of Herod Antipas, and was likely one of the God-fearers, non-Jews who were attracted to Judaism because of its monotheism and ethical teachings. This is a story of the faith of an outsider.

SERMON

"Faith in the Fire"

Rev. Meghan D. Young

HYMN

Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor

New Century (black) Hymnal 590

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Barbara Norrgard

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Give me Jesus

Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

***DOXOLOGY**

New Century (black) Hymnal 779

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

This Is My Song

New Century (black) Hymnal 591

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "O God, our help in ages past"

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

* * *

*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 join Rosemary for an all-age event in the Preschool green door classroom.

Next Sunday is our final worship service of this Church School year and we will all participate in worship. Even the 3 and 4 year olds will be in church!

Summer Church School begins on June 12 at 10 AM.

Parish Nurse

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

NEWS AND NOTICES

Memorial Day Hospitality

For several years now we have had a refreshment stand on the lawn in front of the church where we serve water, lemonade and popsicles to visitors- especially those who just completed their long march in the parade. This “outreach” effort has been very well received and fun to do. Most of the effort has been led by staff and there has been significant help from volunteers as well. Just reaching out to see who among us would like to help this year. If so, please contact either Ginny (GinnyB@fccog.org) or Rosemary (RosemaryL@fccog.org).

Memorial Day Parade

Join us on the front lawn of the Church to watch the end of the parade, and enjoy lemonade and festive popsicles. The parade kicks off at 10 AM.

Next Week is Children’s Sunday & Volunteer Sunday

Join us next Sunday, June 5, as our children lead worship and share their own Fruits of the Spirit with you! Our Outreach Committee is also hosting a volunteer fair with the organizations our church supports. Find out all about the ways you can volunteer with them!

Summer Choir – All Welcome!

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, starting at **9:00 am in the Meetinghouse** for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship, and it's also a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 22).

Refugee Task Force: Update

The Refugee Task Force has been meeting since March, to explore the possibility of FCCOG co-sponsoring a refugee family. We have attended an information session with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), begun researching resources in our area, made contact with other faith communities, and explored the feasibility of housing given the cost of living in Fairfield County. We have now decided to fill out an application for co-sponsorship through IRIS, to be submitted only with Church Council approval. Next steps are to begin researching area school systems, child care, and health care for our application. If you are interested in helping with these tasks, please consider joining us at 7 PM on Monday, June 6. *For more information, please contact Jean Bruder at gbruder1@verizon.net.*

Call to Special Meeting

June 12, 2016

A Special Meeting of the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT is hereby called for Sunday, June 12, 2016 in the Meetinghouse immediately following the 10 am worship service for the following purposes:

- To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers and Committee members and to fill certain other positions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016;
- To adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016;
- To hear certain reports of the pastors, officers and committees;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Youth Sunday – June 19

Beach Services Return

Join on us on June 19 for Youth Sunday, as our Youth lead us at both the Beach and Sanctuary worship services. Beach Services begin ***Sunday, June 19*** at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). Communion is served every Sunday. Come and join us for this casual service. Summer Church School will also take place at this time down at the beach, so bring the whole family! If the Beach Service is canceled due to inclement weather, a notice in red will be posted on our website by 7:30 am and a white piece of paper will be taped to the sermon sign on the church lawn. The 10:00 am service in the Meetinghouse will continue every Sunday throughout the summer.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, May 30: The Rummage Room will be closed in honor of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 31: The Rummage Room reopens at 10:00 am. See items 50% off for the week at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Summer handbags and shoes; Table linens.

Shop Hours: 10:00-5:00 pm Mon - Fri & 10:00 to 12:30pm on Sat.

Donations: 9:30 - 4:30 pm Mon-Thurs & 9:30- 4:30 pm on Sat.

Tribute for Memorial Day:

"They answered their country's call to arms;
Into battle they did go,
Where their final destination was, no one will ever know.
May their final resting place, under some unknown sod,
Be forever hallowed, for it's known only unto God."

We give thanks this day to the millions of men and women who have served our Country.



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

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner