

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

5 May 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Wedding at Cana by He Qi
<http://www.heqigallery.com/>

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.



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As the old *Cheers* song has it, "Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got. Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot... You wanna go where people know, people are all the same, You wanna go where everybody knows your name." So tell us yours. And welcome.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Prelude in A Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Kumbaya

The Cherub Choir
Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From our complex and stressful lives, we come seeking peace.

People: From the bounty we enjoy, we come seeking to give to others.

Leader: From the earthboundness of our prayers, we come seeking heaven.

People: And from the aloneness of our souls, we come seeking friends and love.

All: O God, hear our plea and help us to hear your voice.

***‡HYMN**

Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 362

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

O God of all goodness and grace, we often feel inadequate for the demands of living. Relationships are difficult, families chafe, friends disappoint. But you, O God, are steadfast and faithful in sticking by us and thinking with us about how to make things better. We frequently get things wrong, but long to have things improve. So this day, in this Meetinghouse where so many souls have wrestled with the very same issues we face, we pray that, like them, we might find faith for days ahead. This we pray in the name of Jesus 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.

*GLORIA

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

(As the Gloria begins, the 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

Joe McBride

Genesis 16:1-6

Abram's wife Sarai had borne him no children. Now she had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and she said to Abram, 'You see that the Lord has not allowed me to bear a child. Take my slave-girl; perhaps I shall found a family through her.'

Abram agreed to what his wife said; so Sarai, Abram's wife, brought her slave-girl, Hagar the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. When this happened Abram had been in Canaan for ten years. He lay with Hagar and she conceived; and when she knew that she was with child, she despised her mistress. Sarai said to Abram, 'I have been wronged and you must answer for it. It was I who gave my slave-girl into your arms, but since she has known that she is with child, she has despised me. May the Lord see justice done between you and me.' Abram replied to Sarai, 'Your slave-girl is in your hands; deal with her as you will.' So Sarai ill-treated her and she ran away.

From *The New English Bible (NEB)*

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Sweet Is Thy Mercy

The Chancel Choir

Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

SECOND LESSON

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana-in-Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples were guests also. The wine gave out, so Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no wine left.' He answer, 'Your concern, mother, is not mine. My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water-jars standing near, of the kind used for Jewish rites of purification; each held from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Now draw some off', he ordered, 'and take it to the steward of the feast'; and they did so. The steward tasted the water now turned into wine, not knowing its source; though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He hailed the bridegroom and said, 'Everyone serves the best wine first, and waits until the guests have drunk freely before serving the poorer sort; but you have kept the best wine till now.' This deed at Cana-in-Galilee is the first of the signs by which Jesus revealed his glory and led his disciples to believe in him.

From *The New English Bible (NEB)*

***‡HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29

SERMON

All in the Family

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. John W. Collins

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God Is Gone Up

The Chancel Choir

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

***DOXOLOGY** To the tune of *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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

Within the Maddening Maze of Things

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 360

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. 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. 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

Church School classes meet today and will have one more lesson about Paul. This week the children will hear the story of Paul and Lydia who converted to Christianity. Ask your child(ren) what was so special about Lydia. Next Sunday is Music and Friendship Sunday so there are no Church School classes BUT it is a perfect Sunday to bring friends for a wonderful celebration of faith, hope and love!

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, 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 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.

Annual Quilt Raffle Tickets on Sale Today!

Tickets for the 43rd Annual Quilt Raffle are now available for purchase during Coffee Hour starting today at \$5 each. The drawing will take place at the *Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 15* at noon. You do not need to be present to win.

The Kettle Quilters have created a beautiful queen size quilt in a "White on White" pattern this year. Tickets are also being sold in the Church Office and an order form can be found in the April (or upcoming May) Meetinghouse Monthly. All proceeds are donated to support charitable organizations that benefit women, children and families.



Bible Study

Bible Study returns today at 11:20 am in the Lounge.



Come back today for the 5:00 pm linc service in the Auditorium. This is a casual service good for all ages, so come as you are and bring the whole family!

THIS WEEK

Mid-Week Bible Study

Join our Mid-Week Bible Study this *Thursday, May 9*, in Room 104.

As a reminder, this is a basic Bible Study class for people who may know nothing or next to nothing about the Bible but figure, "Hey, I'm a pretty educated person and



faith is important to me. Why shouldn't I know at least something about the Bible so I can at least understand what questions to ask?"
Led by Dan England.

For Mothers of Very Young Children

Our new Mothers Group is off to a great start. We had 10 moms and their little ones at our April gatherings and have room for more. If you have a baby, toddler and/or 2 year old, join us this *Friday, May 10* from 9:00 to 10:15 am in Room 104 for an opportunity to meet and relax with other moms and their young children. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. For more information, contact Kristen Jacks at kmj33z@yahoo.com or call her at 203-344-1961.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Notice of the Women's Fellowship Annual Meeting/Luncheon *Wednesday, May 15*, 11:30 am in the Auditorium. Quilt Raffle will take place at Noon followed by a catered luncheon. The entertainment this year will feature Mark Montgomery and John Collins. Reservations by check for \$10.00/person are a MUST. Please make checks payable to Women's Fellowship, Att: Irene Savage, and send or leave at the Church Office by **Sunday, May 12**. We regret that we cannot accommodate reservations by phone, walk-ins, or reservations without payment.

Silver Lake Summer Programs

Don't forget, information about Silver Lake's wonderful camp experience in Sharon, CT, sponsored by the CT UCC churches, is on the bulletin board outside the Lounge. The programs are for children going into the 4th grade right through high school. For more info, talk to Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie or any of the 12 or so children from our church who have gone and keep going back! Also, check out our video of some of these kids talking about their camp experiences by going to www.fccog.org and clicking on the link on the homepage.

News from The Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Sunday, May 5th: Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

An Appeal to Donors: Please consider cleaning out your closets and cabinets this coming week. Then come donate to and shop at "*The Best Little Shop in Town!*"

History and Mission Statement: The Rummage Room will celebrate its 50th year at its present location in 2014. Literally millions of dollars have been raised from The Rummage Room's proceeds and have gone to women, children and family projects over the years both at home and abroad. We need your help to keep the momentum going forward!

Needs: Spring and summer clothing; items for Mother's Day; women's hats; boys' sport coats for confirmation and communion; strollers; a baby walker; a pair of size 10 roller blades; small furniture; prom dresses; bridal dresses, mother-of-the-bride dresses; a baby walker.



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

Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 to 12:30 pm.

Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch that I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

-George Bernard Shaw

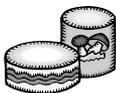
Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us! **Good for all levels.**

Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor.

Please remember to contribute food each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery



store visit will continue to make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

**10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Music and Friendship Sunday:**

***A Celebration of the Music Ministry of
First Congregational Church***

All choirs will be sharing their talents in music.

The main work featured will be the

Gospel Mass by Robert Ray,

sung by The Chancel Choir,

with bass, drums and piano accompaniment.



The wonderful worship opportunities here at FCCOG continue at 5:00 pm with our casual *linc* service. This worship is appropriate for all ages, so come as you are and bring the whole family!



First Music and Arts 2012-2013 Series

Continues

Sunday, May 19, 7:00 pm – Jubilate Ringers

The Meetinghouse will be filled with the sounds of bells as we welcome the Jubilate Ringers from Wilton. This group is conducted by Ellen Dickinson, Director of Music at Norfield Church in Weston. Jubilate Ringers is comprised of ringers from the Norfield Church and the Unitarian Church in Westport as well as the surrounding community.

Friday, June 7, 7:30 pm – The Faith Singers

The Faith Singers is a 16-voice youth choir from Countryside UCC in Omaha, Nebraska. They will be on tour in the New England area and we are their 2nd stop across the region. Jim Larrabee is their director, who serves as Director of Music at Countryside Church, and is also the national president of the UCC Musician's Association, an organization of church musicians within the denomination, which was "birthed" here at First Church in 1994.

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Check out our [YouTube](#) page, too!

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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

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