

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

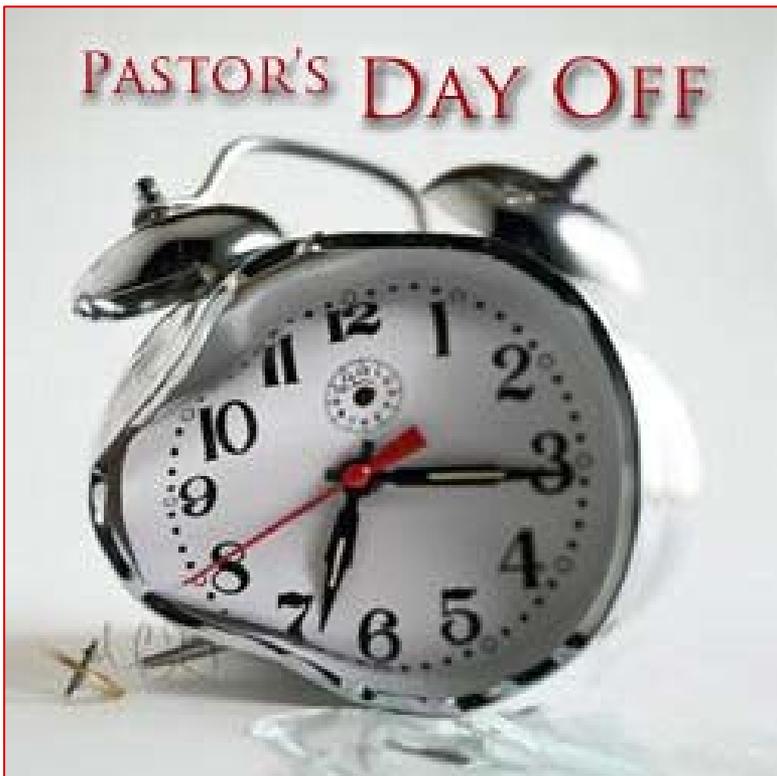
*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Laity Sunday

10 November 2013

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 this service of worship today at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. Today is Laity Sunday, a tradition here at First Church. Today we celebrate a core conviction of our church that it is the congregation that determines our path and our future in response to the leading of God's Spirit.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Arioso

Allegro

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

J. H. Fiocco (1703-1741)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Dorothy Darlington, oboe

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Norrgard

Leader: This is a new day filled with fresh possibilities.

People: We gather to participate in the new things God is doing.

Leader: Old ways and tired routines are left behind.

People: Our God comes to us in unexpected ways and refreshes all who join the adventure.

Leader: Let us together explore the wonders of God.

*All: Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew our spirits.
Amen.*

***‡HYMN**

Once to Every Man and Nation

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 441

OPENING PRAYER

Linnea Stenberg

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Robert Lee (b. 1951)

*As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good old way,
and who shall wear the starry crown,
good Lord, show me the way.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Elaine Teeters

(After the Children's Message, the children will go to the Daniels Center for a "Service Sunday" program. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center - which is on the lowest level of the building; please ask for directions if needed - after worship.)

SECOND LESSON

Dick Peebles

Mark 1:32-39

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

From New Revised Standard Version

*‡HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

New Century (black) Hymnal 28

SERMON

My Best Hour

Chris Cantwell

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Wendy Reynolds

CALL TO OFFERING

Clem LePoutre

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Peace of Christ

The Chancel Choir
John Rutter (b. 1945)

*The peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy
Ghost be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.*

*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

Chris Cantwell

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

New Century (black) Hymnal 347

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Give Me That Old Time Religion Traditional (arr. Daniel Kelley)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Dorothy Darlington, oboe

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

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. A bulletin can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

New Members Who Joined in October 2013

Kristen Bodenstein, 29 Irvine Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-344-1709. Kristen comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. She works in Business Development for Daymon Worldwide and she and her husband, Ken, have a 5 year old daughter, Sarah. Kristen and her family moved to Old Greenwich from Manhattan in 2007. She now looks forward to becoming a part of our vibrant church community.

Dawn and Charlie Ginste, 83 Sheephill Road, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-344-1492. Both Dawn and Charlie come to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. Dawn originally hails from Florida and Charlie grew up in Norwalk. Dawn and Charlie have 3 children, Hannah (9), Elsa (8) and Charlie (5) who all attend the International School at Dundee. The Ginstes enjoy swimming, skiing, running and playing games together.

Caitlin Hayes and Jalil Nebbari, 21 Melrose Avenue, #3, Greenwich, CT 06830, 917-560-2700, 917-375-3926. Caitlin and Jalil come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Caitlin is an attorney as well as a life coach at Holistic Life Coaching Services. Jalil owns MJ Building. Caitlin and Jalil have 4 children; Jasmin (4), Mikayla (3), Annalise (1 ½) and Ryan (6 months). The family enjoys exercise, yoga, music and the beach.

Jennifer Muller, 77 Havemeyer Lane, Unit 204W, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-962-4732. Jennifer comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a Stamford native and currently works for the City of Stamford. Jennifer enjoys quilting, walking and baking.

Nishani Naidoo, 13 Harding Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 917-685-3622. Nishani comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. She and her husband have two children, Kareena (3) and Devan (6 months). Nishani is currently a stay-at-home mom but hopes to one day return to the working world where she was previously an attorney. Nishani is also one of our talented Kettle Quilters.

Laura Nugent, 150 Southfield Avenue, #1341, Stamford, CT 06902, 917-494-5794. Laura comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Laura is a Greenwich native and is currently a Sales Support Rep for Renewal by Andersen. She is planning on attending law school in the future, but her real passion is writing fiction. Laura also enjoys acting and singing.

Kelly and Frank Reeves, 15 MacArthur Drive, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-990-0251. Kelly and Frank come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from Towson Presbyterian Church in Towson, MD. Frank is the COO of Agri-Dairy Products and Kelly is currently a stay-at-home mom to their son, Rexford (3). The Reeves moved to Old Greenwich 2 ½ years ago from Baltimore, MD. They enjoy traveling, boating and water sports in the summer and snow skiing in the winter.

Heather Schimenti, 38 Keofferam Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-990-0546. Heather comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, CT. She is currently a stay-at-home mom for her children, Chloe (7) and Cameron (6). She previously worked in health care and finance. Heather enjoys golf, tennis, fitness and music.

Tennille and Daryl Smith, 23 Prudence Drive, Stamford, CT 06907, 203-355-9631. Tennille comes to First Congregational

Church by Confession of Faith and Daryl by Reaffirmation of Faith. Tennille grew up in Stamford, enjoys running and, at present, is a stay-at-home mom. Daryl is Operations Project Manager with Bed Bath & Beyond and enjoys baseball, camping and scouts. They have two sons Brian, age 9 and Charlie, almost 7.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today is a *Service Sunday* where we will decorate Thanksgiving food boxes for Inspirica, formerly St. Luke's Lifeworks. Throughout November we will collect Thanksgiving specific foods to donate to families serviced by Inspirica. More details can be found in the November Meetinghouse Monthly, in an email blast which was sent out last week to Church School families or in the flyer that was sent home with your child(ren).

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in Room 203 following today's Worship Service.

Sunday Bible Study

Join us today at **11:20 am** in the Lounge for our Regular Sunday Bible Study. The topic of this six week study is *Galatians*. It's a great book and we'll have a great time learning about its message together. Led by Dan England.

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm in Room 104; Children's Choir from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm in Room 303 (Craig's office); and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale Volunteers Needed

Sign up today! One of the ways that we increase the amount we are able to share through the Outreach Budget of FCCOG is through our Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale! We will be setting up the tree stands in preparation for the sale on *Saturday, November 23*

at 8:00 am and the trees (and wreaths, garlands and kissing balls) arrive on *Saturday November 30* around 9:00 am. We will begin selling them as soon as the truck is unloaded. We need many volunteers to pull off this effort, so please sign up for a shift (or 2 or 3) at Coffee Hour **today** and throughout November, in the Church Office or by visiting our church website at www.fccog.org and clicking on the link on the homepage under “News You Can Use.”



JPF & SPF Youth Groups

There is no JPF or SPF today.

THIS WEEK

Wonderful Wednesday is back and Wonderful!

Join us **this Wednesday, November 13** from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for Wonderful Wednesday. Details on class offerings can be found in the November Meetinghouse Monthly. Bring the whole family!

Kettle Quilters are Needed

The Kettle Quilters meet each week on Mondays 9:00 am-12:00 noon and Tuesdays 7:30 pm–9:00 pm in Room 203. We need all sewers to help finish the quilt for the spring raffle so please join us!

First Church Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Join us for another First Church Day at Neighbor to Neighbor this *Saturday, November 16*. A First Church Day means that we cover the Clothing Room and the Food Pantry, usually in two shifts: 8:30 to 10:30 am and 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Since Neighbor to Neighbor has a policy of 12 year olds and older covering these operations, we have come up with an activity appropriate for our younger children who would also like to be involved in Community Service. On November 16, Neighbor to Neighbor will have a room available to us so we can make Thanksgiving crafts which will be included in the food packages that are distributed to the Neighbor to Neighbor clients for Thanksgiving. To sign up for the Clothing Room, the Food Pantry or Craftmaking, please email Peg Wentworth at thewentworths@mac.com.



“Stop! The Bible Study” (for Beginners)

“*Stop! The Bible Study*” is Bible Study designed specifically for **beginners** and all participants are encouraged to ask questions. We meet on **Thursday mornings at 10:30 am** in Room 104. If you have any questions, call Dan England at 203-543-0363.

NEXT WEEK

Wellness Second Hour – Preventing Falls at Home

Next *Sunday, November 17*, the Wellness Committee will present a special Second Hour on the topic of *Preventing Falls at Home*. Are you concerned about your parents’ safety at home? Do you or your spouse have limited mobility? Perhaps eye sight or medications are presenting new challenges. Then this Second Hour will be very helpful for you. Susan Cavanaugh and Marisha Tamakuwala, physical therapists from Greenwich Hospital, will discuss ways to prevent falls, including balance and strength-building techniques, and adjustments we can make in our home environments to make them safer. Learning how to avoid falls can make a critical difference in your health or that of a loved one. Please join us in the Lounge following the worship service (approximately, 11:20 am).



Nights Off Harvest Dinner

When: *Monday, November 18* at 6:00 pm.

What: Harvest Dinner featuring the LaCivita family “light” lasagna with homemade noodles.

Place: Debbie LaCivita’s home at 141 Riverside Avenue. Please park on Lake Drive South.

Bring either an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share, and a favorite beverage, if desired. And if life is too hectic, just bring yourself! We will have plenty of food. All women of the congregation are invited. Call a friend up and get them to join you. This is a great way to meet and get to know other women in the congregation. Please email Shirley Flierl at FBTworld@aol.com or Debbie LaCivita at dbltlc@gmail.com with any questions. All are welcome! We hope to see you on the 18th!

NEWS AND NOTICES

“Baby Huggers” Needed

Each Sunday morning the Undercroft is bustling with many new families bringing their children to Church School and Child Care. Consequently we have a new need for “Baby Huggers” in our Nursery. Children in the Nursery range in age from a few months to walking age. You do not have to sign up for every week but we do need at least two people every Sunday. If there are fewer babies than we expect, you just check in and take a beeper to church so we can beep you if you are needed. If you are able to help with this special ministry, please email RosemaryL@fcog.org.

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Our Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale returns on *Saturday, November 23* from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and *Sunday, November 24* from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Auditorium. Don't miss this great opportunity for our congregation to support H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), a craft co-operative working with the rural poor in Hancock County, Maine. Stop by and enjoy a bit of Maine hospitality and shopping! Handmade quilts, Christmas decorations and gifts, woolens, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple syrup, and much, much more! All proceeds from this sale go directly to H.O.M.E.



First Music & Arts Returns for its 3rd Season!

Please join us on *Sunday, November 24* at 7:00 pm as we gather in the Auditorium to welcome The New England Ringers. This energetic program will delight family and friends as this group leads



us on a journey through some rich and complex music, from the serious to the sublime, quirky to quintessential bells. This program will feature a variety of music that will appeal to all ages. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door. Admission is free for school-aged

children. For more information about the group, or to listen/watch them, visit their website at www.newenglandringers.org.

Harvest Sunday is Almost Here

Sunday, November 24 is Harvest Sunday this year, when we celebrate thanks and giving. More details will follow in the next few weeks, but we'd like you to start thinking about it now. What a perfect day this is to invite a friend to join you in our historic Meetinghouse to be a part of this very special celebration. In fact, even better, would be to invite a friend to join you at worship and then take them out to lunch after the service. It's a great way to say thanks!

Mark Your Calendars for the Advent Craft Workshop

Everyone is invited to prepare for Christmas with family, friends and fun ... at the Advent Craft Workshop on *Sunday, December 1*, 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Daniels Center. Make your own gifts and ornaments, listen to music of the season and even make new friends! This event is sponsored by the Church School Task Force.



Women's Fellowship is Looking for a Volunteer!

Women's Fellowship is looking for a computer-savvy volunteer to help with the 2014 Soup Sale. A volunteer is needed to work with an existing Excel spreadsheet template for record-keeping and to make label print-outs for the soups. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Sue McCalley at 203-273-6526.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, November 11: *Veterans' Day*. All merchandise 50% off.

Saturday, November 23: Volunteers needed to set-up the 'Christmas Shoppe' at 1:00 pm. Sign up or call Maria at 203-637-1873.

Monday, November 25: Remember - 'THE BEST LITTLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IN TOWN' will open its doors at 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, November 27: The Rummage Room will close today at 1:00 pm and reopen on Friday, November 29.

Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving Day

Friday and Saturday, November 29 & 30: 50% off all items, excluding Christmas items.

Saturday, December 7: First Light activities in Old Greenwich from 5:00 to 8:00 pm to begin the celebration of the Christmas holidays. Bring your family for fun and good cheer.

Hours of Operation: 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 am to 12:30 pm.

Maria's Wish List: Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations.

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all virtues! -Cicero

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 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.**

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

Eternal God by Richard Shephard

Lynette Pfund, soprano

Great and Marvelous, by Don Humphries

Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching

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Check out our [YouTube](#) page!

And now 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

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