

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Laity Sunday

11 November 2012

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 here today at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. By being here, you are opening yourself to the presence of God, which is not a bad thing. This is Laity Sunday, a tradition here that celebrates 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

Adagio in G Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Tomaso Albinoni
Joseph Dermody, violin

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Kreuter

Leader: Your love is wider than the sky, O God, and reaches beyond the stars.

People: Your justice is firmer than the mountains, deeper than the ocean depths.

Leader: You care for earth's creatures, infinitely precious in your love.

People: With you is the fountain of life; in your light we dwell in the radiance of joy.

Leader: Let us worship God.

People: Let us worship God with joy!

*‡HYMN

Praise, O Praise, Our God and King

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 463

**All who are able, please remain standing for the
Opening Prayer through the Gloria.*

***OPENING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

Gerry Isaacson

Infinite God, you have called us to this place and given us this hour of inspiration. Allow our hearts to open that we might sense the larger dimension of grace that surrounds us. Help us to let go of anxiety and stress that we might reach for your gentle hand. Let your guiding touch lead us to truth and authentic life. May we be welcomed home by your calming spirit of peace, and know the blessings of service and praise. We ask in the name of Christ, whose prayer we 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**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Tanner Jackson Forrest, son of Melissa and Scott Forrest

***CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT**

We promise to give these parents our support as they encourage this child in the ways of faith. We promise also, to hold this child in our love and in our prayers. Daily, we will strive to build a community rich in the spirit of God in which to nurture and bless this child.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)

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 Church School 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

Jean Watkins

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Brother James' Air

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Alan Bullard

Jayson Engquist, organ

SECOND LESSON

Mark 12: 38-44

As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

*‡HYMN

Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 355

SERMON

Home

Paul Olmsted

SOLO

Serenade

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

Franz Schubert

Joseph Dermody, violin

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Wendy Reynolds

CALL TO OFFERING

Lesley Schless

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
The Secret of Christ

The Chancel Choir
Richard Shephard
Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Jayson Engquist, organ

***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**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

New Century (black) Hymnal 306

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
Chorale

Jayson Engquist, organ
Joseph Jongen

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



Music Notes:

Alan Bullard (b. 1947) was a student of the great English composer Herbert Howells and arranged this lovely tune, based on the 23rd Psalm. The original tune, composed by Scottish hymn writer and minister, James L. M. Bain, was often referred to as *Brother James* by

his friends, and his most famous hymn became known as *Brother James' Air*.

Also a well known British composer, Richard Shephard (b. 1949) served as head of the Salisbury and York Minster choir schools in England. His musical contributions range from operas and operettas, musicals, instrumental and orchestral works, and numerous choral pieces. The text is taken from several sources; Isaiah, Revelation, and from *The Pilgrim Prayer*, written by the Rev'd. Canon Derrick Walters, a friend of Shephard's.

For a long time I have held my peace, but now will I speak. I will lead the blind in a way they know not, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them. And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was there a tree of life, and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations. Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer with minds awake and thankful hearts, that we may share the secret of Christ with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage, our Master and our Friend. Amen.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of C. A. and Joan Westbrook by their family.

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

Today most of the classes will hear about Joshua and the battle of Jericho. Hopefully by today, Dan England was able to do the YouTube mini bible study for teachers and parents. The 3rd Graders will learn about Daniel. Next Sunday is Harvest Sunday so we will all be in worship for the entire service. The following Sunday, November 25, is Thanksgiving weekend, so there will be a "Big Event" to introduce some Advent activities for your families instead of regular Church School. We hope to see you this Wednesday at Wonderful Wednesday when we will explore gratitude with the children and produce an art piece for Harvest Sunday.

Bible Study

Today we begin a conversation about the idea of justice as it is presented in the Bible. We're using Timothy Keller's book, *Generous Justice*. This should be fun.

Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

Flu Shots

The Wellness Committee is offering influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) today immediately following the Worship service in Room 203. The cost is \$30, cash or check made out to "FCCOG." We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to provide a receipt with a provider number.



Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale Volunteers Needed

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 next *Saturday, November 17* and the trees (and wreaths, garlands and kissing balls) arrive on *Saturday, November 24*. 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 or call the Church Office during the week.



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. We will be looking at the call and covenant of Abraham and Sarah. There will also be a very cool skit that will be acted out using some of Dar Williams' music. As always, there will be art, music, a message and everything is designed for all ages, from children to grandparents. This is a casual service so come as you are and bring all your friends!

THIS WEEK

Wonderful Wednesday is Back and Wonderful!

Join us this *Wednesday, November 14* from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for Wonderful Wednesday. Details can be found in the November Meetinghouse Monthly.

Prayer Shawl Knitters

Join us this *Thursday, November 15* from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Lounge. Come and be inspired by what others have done, find help, learn to knit. Bring any leftover yarn which may be used for new shawls in interesting combinations. In lieu of hands for knitting, a monetary contribution for yarn, needles and bags can expand our work. If you know of people who could be comforted by receiving one of our prayer shawls, please let us know that as well. Call the Church Office for more info.



Join us this *Thursday, November 15* from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Lounge. Come and be inspired by what others have done, find help, learn to knit. Bring any leftover yarn which may be used for new shawls in interesting combinations. In lieu of hands for knitting, a monetary contribution for yarn, needles and bags can expand our work. If you know of people who could be comforted by receiving one of our prayer shawls, please let us know that as well. Call the Church Office for more info.

Join Children's Choir for Harvest Sunday

For all children in grades 3-6 whose schedule won't permit attendance at weekly rehearsals, here's another chance to join your voices with your peers. This *Saturday, November 17* from 10:00 - 11:00 am, all those who are available to sing with the Children's Choir will be gathering in the Meetinghouse for a one-hour rehearsal for the anthem being sung the next morning at



the 10:00 am worship service for Harvest Sunday. Then, on Sunday morning, we will come together to warm-up the voice at 9:15 am and run through the anthem for the final time. The anthem is very simple and all youth are welcome to just show up to the rehearsal on Saturday morning to work on the piece.

NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday is Harvest Sunday!

Next Sunday, November 18, is Harvest Sunday, a celebration of thanks and giving. It is one of the most memorable moments in the tradition of FCCOG. As winter approaches, economic conditions continue to be difficult for so many, and many are still trying to recover from the devastation from Hurricane Sandy, more and more families need support to put food on their tables. Harvest Sunday gives us an excellent opportunity to really make a difference, both locally and at a distance. Please plan to bring food items with you to share next Sunday. As in the past, your donations on this day will go to Neighbor to Neighbor in Greenwich and H.O.M.E. Co-op in Orland, Maine to help their growing list of clients. Any and all donations of food are welcome, including: Canned fruit, cereal, dry beans, canned vegetables, pasta or rice. The need is very real. We are a caring congregation. Let's make sure our generosity fills the church with food for the hungry on this day.



Nights Off

Nights Off will be meeting on *Monday, November 19* at the home of Ginny Breismeister at 7:00 pm. We will be assembling school kit bags for the Church World Service Kit Program which will then be distributed to children in those areas most severely affected by Hurricane Sandy. Please bring an appetizer or snack to share and whatever you would like to drink. If you have any questions, please call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email her at FBTword@aol.com. This is a nice way to get to know other women in the church so please join us. All are welcome.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Women's Fellowship

The Bridgeport Rescue Mission, an agency supported by our Women's Fellowship and Rummage Room Allocations has an urgent call out for much needed WINTER COATS. Last year they gave out 12,000 coats and their goal for this year's need is 16,000. If you have a coat or two you can spare, please phone either Prill Meyer (203-637-4214) or Judy Miller (203-637-4674) and your coat will be picked up and delivered to them.



News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Saturday, November 17: Volunteers will be setting up the Christmas Shoppe from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Monday, November 19: The Christmas Shoppe opens at 1:00 pm. 50% off Thanksgiving items.

Thursday, November 22: *Thanksgiving Day*

Friday and Saturday, November 23 & 24: 50% off all items, excluding Christmas items.

Saturday, December 1: Last day in 2012 to leave donations until January 2, 2013.

Saturday, December 1: First Light Celebration 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Cookies, Egg Nog and shopping will be available!

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

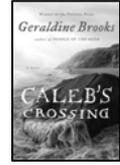
Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Children's table and chairs; baby strollers; jewelry; handbags; Thanksgiving decorations.

“Hats Off” Book Discussion Group

Our next book is *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks. The setting is on Martha's Vineyard in the 1660's and the two main characters are Bethia, an English Puritan, and Caleb, a native Wampanoag. We were introduced to Geraldine

Brooks' beautiful writing in *The People of the Book* a few years ago, and now we will be dazzled by her writing set here in New England. This book is inspired by a true story. Come join us on Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 am in the Lounge. Any questions please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte



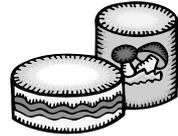
Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for “drop ins.” Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor.

- Canned fruit is especially needed.
- No more canned tuna fish is needed at this time.
- Other items you may donate include peanut butter (small size), jelly (small size) and cereal.

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
Harvest Sunday

Music by:

The Cherub Choir:

Jacob's Ladder

The Children's Choir:

It is Good to Give Thanks by Michael Bedford

The Youth Choir:

Let Us Give Thanks Together by Russell Nagy

The Palmer Handbells & Organ:

A Mighty Fortress by Richard Stromberg

The Chancel Choir:

Christian People, Sing Together, Arr. David Schwoebel

Rev. John Collins, preaching



linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Next week the theme will be *Great Expectations*:

What do you expect? Do we have low expectations?

For what do we wait? So many questions!

Let's explore them together.

We'll use the Dar Williams' song, *The Babysitter's Here*.

This is a casual worship service so come as you are
and bring all your friends!

Calendar of Upcoming FCCCOG
Events in November

- 14th: Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm
- 15th: Giving Trees Go Up
- 17th: Tree Stands Set Up
- 17th & 18th: H.O.M.E. Craft Sale
- 18th: Harvest Sunday, 10 am
- 22nd: Thanksgiving Day
- 22nd & 23rd: Church Office Closed
- 24th: Christmas Trees Arrive and Sale Begins!

Looking Toward December...

- 2nd: “Make Your Own” Advent Craft Workshop, 2 pm
- 9th: Giving Tree 2012 deadline
- 9th: Christmas Carol Sing & Dinner, 6 pm
- 15th & 16th: 46th Annual *Messiah* Performance, 4 pm
- 24th: Christmas Eve Celebrations

Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!

We're now on Twitter @FCCOGCT

Check out our new YouTube page, too!

And visit our Forum and start a conversation.



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