

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Celebrating 350 Years - 1665-2015

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

15 November 2015

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.*



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich this morning. In this hour of prayer and inspiration, we invite you to set aside the burdens of life and open your heart to God's graceful Spirit.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Aria

The Palmer Handbell Choir
G. F. Handel, Arr. Mark Schweizer (b. 1956)

Triumphal March

Mary Fike, flute
Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Prill Meyer

STEWARDSHIP – *What's My Why?*

Stu McCalley

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Olivia Pfetsch, Confirmand

Leader: Great Spirit, you have turned your face earthward and opened your heart to your children.

People: And so, O God, do we turn to you now.

Leader: We turn to you for purpose and correction.

People: For joy and peace,

Leader: For a way out of hopeless situations,

People: For justice,

Leader: For forgiveness,

People: For love.

Leader: We turn to you, O God, for all these things offered through Jesus Christ, the maker of redemption and the bringer of hope.

People: Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

New Century (black) Hymnal 12

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Gracious God, we gather this morning in this house of worship which, thanks to your love, is our home away from home. We come to add our human voices to the chorus of praise raised to you by wind and water and all of life upon the land! Speak to us, Spirit of life, in word and melody and silence, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for your service. All this we ask in Christ's name, praying as he 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.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go, My Children (to the tune All Through the Night)

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.

(During the Congregational Response, 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

Sue McCalley

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

From New Revised Standard Version

SOLO

Praise the Nations

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
L. V. Beethoven (1770-1827)

*Oh, praise Him, praise Him, all ye nations!
How blest are they who trust in God and love Him,
and all His laws obey.*

*But woe to those who hate Him,
or say "He hath forgot!", the curse of God is on them,
destruction is their lot.*

*Oh, praise Him, praise Him, all ye nations!
How blest are they who trust in God and love Him,
and all His laws obey. How blest are they.*

SECOND LESSON

Stu McCalley

II Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-17

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure.

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

New Century (black) Hymnal 516

SERMON

The Weight of Glory

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, Guest Preacher

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Meghan D. Young

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Storm is Passing Over

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Barbara Baker

*Have courage my soul and let us journey on,
though the night is dark and I am far from home;
thanks be to God, the morning light appears.
The storm is passing over, Hallelujah!*

*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 779

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

New Century (black) Hymnal 558

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Ceremonial March

Christopher Tambling (b. 1964)

* * *

*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.*

Our Guest Preacher today, Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, is the 16th President of the historic Union Theological Seminary in NYC. The first woman to head the 179-year-old interdenominational seminary, Jones occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy and has formed Union's Institute for Women, Religion and Globalization as well as the Institute for Art, Religion and Social Justice. Jones came to Union after seventeen years at Yale University, where she was the Titus Street Professor of Theology at the Divinity School, and chair of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In 2016, she will be the president of the American Academy of Religion. She holds degrees from the University of Oklahoma, Yale Divinity School and Yale University. Jones is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

The author of several books including *Calvin and the Rhetoric of Piety* and *Trauma and Grace*, Jones is a leading theologian who regularly contributes to scholarly and public discussions on matters of faith, social justice, and public life.

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 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

This is our last Sunday before the Thanksgiving break. Classes today have a choice of doing either one more lesson on the 10 Commandments or preparing for Thanksgiving. Next Sunday, Harvest Sunday, is a special Sunday, so we will all stay in church for the entire the service. Child Care will be available for our preschoolers if they cannot stay for the whole time. The following Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent and we will have a one-room schoolhouse Church School where we will make beautiful advent wreaths to take home.

Cherub, Children's & Youth Choir Rehearsal

Cherub Choir (grades K-2): Room 104 (Lower Level), 11:30 am-12:00 pm - Donald Haviland, director.

Children's Choir (grades 3-6): **Note New Location:** Green Door Classroom in the Preschool (Lower Level), 11:15 am-12:00 pm - Craig Symons, director.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Meetinghouse, 1:15 am-12:15 pm - Carolyn Paulus, director.

Bible Study Continues

Bible Study will meet in the Daniels Center (lower level) today at 11:20 am following worship and Fellowship. Led by Rev. Avery Manchester. All are welcome to join in. This session will continue through *Sunday, December 6*.

THIS WEEK

***Messiah* Tickets Go On Sale!**

Our 49th annual *Messiah* performance will be held on *Sunday, December 13*, at 4:00 pm. The sounds of the First Church 75-voice Festival Chorus and 22-member orchestra will fill our historic Meeting-house as the familiar strains of Handel's masterpiece are presented to help usher in the holiday season. Tickets are \$25 with open seating and go on sale in the Church Office tomorrow, *Monday, November 16*. Tickets can be purchased between 9:00 am

and 4:00 pm daily. Exact change is always appreciated. You may reserve your tickets and pay later at the door if you wish. Since the Holiday Soiree was such a hit last year, we are hosting a reception with finger food, wine and other nibbles in our Auditorium following the performance. Bring your friends and family to this wonderful holiday tradition and let's fill the Meetinghouse during this special 350th anniversary year!



This year's soloists, Mary Ellen Callahan, Abby Powell, Brian Giebler, Thomas Woodman

Nights Off Women's Group Gathering

The *Nights Off* Women's Group is meeting tomorrow, **Monday, November 16** at 6:30 pm at the home of Barbara Norrgard. All are welcome to join us and bring a friend! At this gathering we will be assembling community service bags to be donated to Inspirica. We



have many items for the activity, but if you would like to bring educational coloring books, stickers, pencils, erasers, little pads, deck of cards, etc., they will help to fill the bags. Also, please bring a snack to share and whatever you would like to drink.

This will be a relaxing evening with old and new friends and we'll even do some coloring ourselves! Questions, please contact Shirley Flierl at fbtworld@aol.com and put "Nights Off" in the subject line. See you there!

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale!

This **Saturday, November 21**, 9 am-4 pm and **Sunday, November 22**, 11 am-1 pm in the Auditorium, stop by and enjoy a bit of Maine hospitality and holiday 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. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), a craft co-operative working with the rural poor in Hancock County, Maine.

NEXT WEEK

Harvest Sunday, November 22

For our upcoming Harvest Sunday Offering, to celebrate our 350th anniversary, the Christian Outreach Committee is presenting a challenge to the congregation to collect 350 grocery bags filled with canned and dry goods which will be distributed to H.O.M.E.

(Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) and the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.

Today, in the Narthex, please pick up a sturdy reusable grocery bag (or two if you are so inclined) donated by Shop Rite, fill it with food and bring it back next *Sunday, November 22* for our **Harvest**

Sunday Service where they will be collected as part of our Offering during worship. For those wanting to contribute cash or check donations towards Christian Outreach, we will have green Outreach envelopes available in the pews. All contributions collected using these green envelopes will be directed towards Christian Outreach.



The Giving Tree

It's that time of year again! Starting next *Sunday, November 22*, sign up to purchase Christmas gifts for those living at H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), the non-profit organization that supports low-income and homeless families in Orland, Maine, or for those living at Pilgrim Towers, a senior residential community in Stamford. Wrapped gifts are due back to the church by *December 6*.



NEWS AND NOTICES

It's *Almost*

'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!'

- **Christmas Tree Sale:** This year's Christmas Tree Sale begins on *Saturday, November 28* and continues each Saturday (9:00 am-6:00 pm) and Sunday (11:00 am-5:00 pm) through December 13. Tell all your friends! And we need LOTS of volunteers so



please sign up on the church website at fccog.org. **100% OF PROFITS GO TO CHARITY!** Also, wreaths, garland, ornaments, accessories. Free family photos! Free delivery in Old Greenwich and Riverside!

- **Advent Faith Formation Series - *A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art, Mondays, November 30, December 7 and December 14, 7-8 pm.*** Sign up online at www.fccog.org/sign-up/, in the Church Office or on the easel in the Auditorium.
- **Advent Craft Workshop: *Sunday, December 6, 2-4 pm*** in the Daniels Center. Join us to prepare for Christmas with family, friends and fun!
- **49th Annual *Messiah* Concert: *Sunday, December 13, 4 pm*** followed by special reception. Tix \$25 and available in Church Office.
- **Sheep Arrive for Live Nativity in the Crèche on the church lawn: *Friday, December 18.***
- **Live Nativity & Christmas Carol Luncheon: *Sunday, December 20*** following worship.
- **Christmas Eve: *Thursday, December 24, 10 am, 3 pm, 6 pm and 9 pm services; 4 pm Christmas Caroling in Binney Park.***

Last Brenda Stiers Speaker Event of 2015!

Join us on *Sunday, December 6* at our 10 am worship service as we welcome the last of our Brenda Stiers Memorial Speaker Series speakers as our Guest Preacher. Jim Ziolkowski, Founder of buildOn and author of *Walk in Their Shoes* will be speaking about faith and mission in a sermon entitled *Ignited by Faith*. A special reception will follow the service. Be sure to join us.

News from The Rummage Room 191 Sound Beach Avenue

Monday, November 16: See Manager Leanne's 50% off sales for the week at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Monday, November 23: The 'Christmas Shoppe' opens at 1:00 pm! Volunteers will be restocking from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, November 25: The Rummage Room will close at 1:00 pm for Thanksgiving. 50% off everything (excludes Christmas items)

and jewelry).

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Christmas items...includes clothing, decorations, and tableware. Also, jewelry and winter clothing. And how about those gifts you've received in the past and never used?

Now is the chance to donate them and make someone happy!!

Shopping Hours: 10 am-5 pm Mon-Fri, and 10 am-1 pm on Sat.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday and 9:30 am-12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

Thought for the Week: The most wasted of all days is the one in which we have not laughed!!

Tai Chi Classes

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. Drop-ins are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please don't forget those in need. **Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.)** Tuna is **not** needed at this time. Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

November 22, 2015

Harvest Sunday

10:00 am Worship Service in the Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Chancel Choir

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies by T. H. Candlyn

The Youth Choir

All Good Gifts by Stephen Schwartz

The Children's Choir

I Was Glad by Gwendolyn Emory-Owings

The Cherub Choir

Praise Ye the Lord, Traditional

Thomas Woodman, bass

How Great Thou Art, Arr. Dan Forrest

Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Christmas Tree Sale!



Our Annual Christmas Tree Sale begins Saturday, November 28!

Gather your family and friends
and sign up to help sell Christmas trees!
It's a First Church Tradition!!!
All proceeds go to charity!



The key to the success of this church tradition is **VOLUNTEERS!** Last year \$21,000 was donated from this tree sale to local charities. We want to raise even more this year! Teens can receive community service hours, so bring the kids! Each shift is 2 or 2.5 hours.

Here's how to sign up to volunteer:

1. Contact **Tamara Ng-Yow**, head of Outreach, at 203-253-9698 or tupham123@gmail.com.
2. Use the **Sign-up link** on the church website at www.fccog.org.
3. Sign up on the **poster at Fellowship Hour** or in the hallway during the week.

And don't forget to buy your tree at the sale and ask your friends to buy theirs from us as well. They are fresh cut, New Hampshire Balsam and Fraser Fir trees. And, most importantly, **All Profits Go to Charity!** Your tree purchase will bring comfort and joy to others beyond the holidays.

So, remember, the Tree Sale starts **Saturday, November 28** and continues each Saturday and Sunday while supplies last. There will also be wreaths, garland, etc. We also need volunteers to help with setting up tree stands and unloading trees, so sign up to help today!!

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

Facebook

Twitter

YouTube

Instagram



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

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner