

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Laity Sunday

16 November 2014

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.*

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Clem Lepoutre

Please sign and pass the red book.

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Larry Haviland

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte Lorthioir

Leader: Here in this place, with these people, we come to worship the living God.

People: In you, O God, we hope; in you, Creator of love, we live.

Leader: Here in this sacred space, in these very moments, we are invited to the Table of Joy.

People: In you, Christ of the Way, we rejoice; in you, grace is as near as your heart.

Leader: Here on this day of gentleness and beauty, we are filled with the peace of God.

*People: In you, O Spirit, we find our path; in you, Teacher of hope,
we learn to serve.*

* HYMN

I Come to the Garden Alone New Century (black) Hymnal 237

UNISON PRAYER

Betsy Kreuter

Lord, make us instruments of your peace
In this, our church community and faith family.
Help us be aware of the needs of our brothers and sisters.
Where there is anger, let us show love
Where there is injury, let us offer pardon
Where there is despair, let us bring hope
Where there is darkness, let us be as light
Where there is sadness, let us be consoling
Where there is loneliness, let us bring people together
Help us comfort one another
Help us understand one another
Help us to love one another
Show us how to be your people
We who are brothers and sisters in this faith family
Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us...

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Barbara Norrgard

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong.*

Refrain:

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way.
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.*

Refrain

(As we begin singing Jesus Loves Me, 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

Carolyn MacLea

Isaiah 58:10-11

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

*We shall walk through the valley in peace.
For Jesus himself will be our leader.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*We will meet our loved ones there.
For Jesus himself will be our leader.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

*There will be no more trials there.
For Jesus himself will be our leader.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.*

SECOND LESSON

Luis Angel-Lalanne

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 66

SERMON

Are You Sure You Have the Right Number?

Elaine Teeters, Senior Deacon

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Joe McBride

CALL TO OFFERING

David Alfano

ANTHEM

Praise His Holy Name

The Chancel Choir
Keith Hampton (b. 1957)

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout hallelujah, praise his holy name.
Sing till the power of the Lord come down.*

*Shout hallelujah, praise his holy name.
Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved that wretch like me;
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.
Jesus, Jesus how I love thee; shout hallelujah, praise his holy name.
Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.
Jesus, Jesus how I love thee; shout hallelujah.
Praise his holy name.*

***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**
This Is My Father's World Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 485

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
March Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

*Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the
Auditorium following the worship service.*

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

Flowers are also given this morning in memory of Clinton O. Olsen by Eleanore and 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. On Church School Sundays, we also have a class for 3 and 4 year olds during the entire 10:00 am service. Please see an usher if you need directions to child care or Church School.

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.

Additional New Members Who Joined November 9

Ivanka Andonov and Ed Perisa, 10 Limerick Place, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-769-1805. Ivanka and Ed both come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Ivanka and Ed moved to Greenwich from New York City about 3 years ago. Ivanka has a background in Industrial Engineering and Ed is a Business Manager/Engineer for Horizon Contracting in NY. Ivanka is currently "CEO of the Perisa clan" and manages the very busy lives of their three children, Edward (7), Victoria (4) and Adrianna (2). Ivanka and Ed particularly enjoy going to the theater, hiking and spending time with their children.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today's bible story is about Josiah and Huldah found in 2 Kings. Third graders will continue their look at Moses, the parting of the Red Sea and the 10 Commandments. The Middle School "678" class will begin their introduction to Islam. Next Sunday is Harvest Sunday, one of the few Sundays all year when our children worship with the rest of the congregation for the entire service. Don't forget your food offerings. Also, **today** at 11:30 am in the Daniels Center there will be an introduction to the **Workshop Rotation Model** of Church School. This is for current teachers and anyone else who is

even a little curious about what this may be. If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact Rosemary.

Parish Nurse

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

Choir Rehearsals

Cherub Choir (grades K-2): Room 104 (basement near the Daniels Center), 11:30 am - 12:00 pm - Donald Haviland, director.

Children's Choir (grades 3-6): Room 303 (Craig's office, 3rd floor) 11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Craig Symons, director.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Choir Room (3rd floor), 11:15 am to 12:15 pm – Carolyn Paulus, director.

Bible Study

Join us at 11:30 am in the Lounge today and each Sunday through *Sunday, December 7* as Rev. Avery Manchester leads our NEW Bible Study! Come and be a part of it.

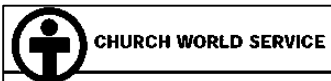
THIS WEEK

Messiah Tickets Go On Sale!

Our 48th annual *Messiah* will be performed at *one concert only* on *Saturday, December 13*, at 4:00 pm. Preferred seating (front 8 rows in Meetinghouse) are \$40 each; general seating (rows 9 to the back of Meetinghouse and Chapel seating) are \$20 each. Tickets go on sale in the Church Office tomorrow, *Monday, November 17*, and are available between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm daily. Tickets will also be available during Coffee Hour on November 30 and December 7. Correct change is always helpful!

Nights Off Women's Group

Nights Off will meet tomorrow night, *November 17*, at the home of Barbara Norrgard. We will be putting together health bags for



Church World Service to be sent to those around the world in need. Please contact Barbara at 203-637-3703 or

bnorrgard@hotmail.com for more details about what to bring for the

bags. Also, please bring some food to share and whatever you would like to drink. And why not invite a friend to come along? Sometimes all you need to do is ask! Questions, contact Shirley Flierl at 203-628-4969 or FBTworld@aol.com.

First Church Volunteer Day

We will be having a FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor this *Saturday, November 22*. We need 10 to 12 people to work in the Food Pantry and the Clothing Room. We will also have children making table decorations for their Thanksgiving baskets at the same time. Please contact Rosemary Lamie at RosemaryL@fccog.org for more info or to sign up!

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Mark your calendars for the annual H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) Craft Sale this *Saturday, November 22*, 9 am-4 pm and *Sunday, November 23*, 11 am-1 pm. Don't miss this great opportunity for our congregation to support the H.O.M.E. community in Orland, Maine! Christmas decorations and gifts, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple syrup, and much more! All proceeds from this sale go directly to H.O.M.E. Stop by and enjoy a bit of Maine hospitality and shopping! For more information about H.O.M.E. visit www.homemmausa.org/.



Auditions for Youth Musical

Auditions are being held for *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* on *Saturday, November 22* from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Choir Room. Open to anyone in middle school or high school. For more information, please visit fccogyouth.com.

NEXT WEEK

Harvest Sunday, November 23

For our upcoming Harvest Sunday Offering, the Christian Outreach Committee is presenting a challenge to the congregation to collect 349 (in anticipation of our 350th year in 2015) grocery bags filled with canned and dry goods which will be distributed to the following agencies: Neighbor to Neighbor, H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers

Organized for More Employment) and the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County. Please find in the Narthex a sturdy re-usable grocery bag obtained thru Shop Rite. Please take a bag (or two if so inclined) and fill it with canned and other dry goods. Bring your filled bags to the **Harvest Sunday Service** on *November 23* where they will be collected as part of our Offering during the worship service. For those wanting to contribute cash or check donations towards Christian Outreach, we will have yellow envelopes available in the pews. All contributions collected using the yellow envelopes will be directed towards Christian Outreach.



NEWS AND NOTICES

Medicare Part D Counseling

The Medicare Part D prescription drug insurance open enrollment period ends *December 7*. The plan you had last year may not be the most cost effective plan this year. Call your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, at ext. 21 if you would like to receive counseling, including navigating the Medicare website, to determine your options.

Advent Craft Workshop

You're invited to prepare for Christmas with family, friends and fun at the Advent Craft Workshop on *Sunday, November 30*, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Daniels Center. Make your own gifts and ornaments, hear music of the season, and make new friends! Sponsored by the Church School Task Force. Don't miss this annual family "kick off" to the Advent Season.

Christmas Tree Sale – Volunteers Still Needed!

Outreach has been working diligently getting ready for this year's Christmas Tree Sale to raise money for specified agencies supporting those in need. In order for this sale to be a success, we need your help. Sign up to help with the Tree Sale! While many have already volunteered, we still need more. We have jobs for every age and skill level. Sign up during Fellowship Hour, contact the Church Office, or sign up online (the link is on the church homepage at www.fccog.org). Also, you can contact Clem Lepoutre at clem@lepoutre.us. The



Tree Sale then begins on *November 29* and is held each Sat (8 am-4 pm) and Sun (11 am-4 pm) through December 21 (or as long as trees last). Tell your friends and family to join in the effort and purchase trees, kissing balls, wreaths and garlands from First Church!

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, November 24: *The 'Christmas Shoppe' Opens at 1:00 pm.* 50% off all Thanksgiving items.

Wednesday, November 26: Shop is open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (closing early for Thanksgiving.) 50% off, excluding Christmas items.

Thursday, November 27: *Happy Thanksgiving!!!*

Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29: 50% off everything, excluding Christmas items.

Saturday, December 6: LAST DAY TO LEAVE DONATIONS UNTIL FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2015.

Saturday, December 6: Annual First Light Celebration in Old Greenwich, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All the shops will be open for shopping and treats.

Maria's Wish List: All things bright and beautiful for Christmas; new gifts received but never used; good handbags and jewelry; also shopping bags.

Shop Hours: 10:00 am-5:00 pm Mon-Fri & 10:00 am-1:00 pm Sat.

Donations: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday; 9:30 am-12:30 pm Friday and Saturday.

Thought for the Week: *Imperfection is beauty. Madness is genius. And it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring!!!*
-Marilyn Monroe

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 welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please remember those in need and donate food items to Neighbor to Neighbor. Items especially needed at this time include: cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter (regular sized jars please), jelly. Also, sheets and towels are always needed.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Harvest Sunday

Music by:

The Cherub Choir:

For the Beauty of the Earth, Traditional Hymn

The Children's Choir:

God of Grace and God of Laughter by John Bertalot

The Youth Choir:

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord by Lyle Heck

The Chancel Choir:

Psalm 96 by Michael Bedford

Joseph Sabia, trumpet

The Palmer Handbells:

Quiet Praise by Dan Edwards

Crown Him With Many Crowns by Barbara Kinyon

Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr., preaching

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.

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: 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