

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

17 November 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow...

Isaiah 65

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 and are glad that you join us as a part of this wonderful community of faith. We trust you will feel our joy in sharing hymns, prayer, music and our concern for one another and the world. There are so many issues that cry out for care. We give thanks that we can share these together as instruments of God's love.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Voluntary in G Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
John Stanley (1712-1786)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

God our healer,
whose mercy is like a refining fire,
touch us with your judgment,
and confront us with your tenderness,
that, being comforted by you,
we may reach out to a troubled world,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***‡HYMN**

O Holy City, Seen of John

New Century (black) Hymnal 613

OPENING PRAYER

Creating and sustaining God,
in your presence there is life.
Living water springs up,

and deserts blossom where you pass.
Seeking the life that comes from you,
we have gathered before you.
Our hearts are ready, O God,
our hearts are ready.
Delight us with your presence,
and prepare us for your service in the world;
Through the grace of Jesus Christ,
let us pray the prayer he 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

(After the Children's Message, 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

Barbara Norrgard

Isaiah 65:17-25

“Pay close attention now: I’m creating new heavens and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I’m creating: I’ll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I’ll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people: No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish; no more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don’t enjoy a full

lifetime; one-hundredth birthdays will be considered normal—anything less will seem like a cheat. They'll build houses and move in. They'll plant fields and eat what they grow. No more building a house that some outsider takes over, no more planting fields that some enemy confiscates, for my people will be as long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work. They won't work and have nothing come of it, they won't have children snatched out from under them. For they themselves are plantings blessed by God, with their children and grandchildren likewise God-blessed. Before they call out, I'll answer. Before they've finished speaking, I'll have heard. Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow, lion and ox eat straw from the same trough, but snakes—they'll get a diet of dirt! Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill anywhere on my Holy Mountain," says God.

From *The Message*

SOLO

Great and Marvelous

Lynette Pfund, soprano

Don Humphreys

SECOND LESSON

Stu McCalley

Luke 21:5-19

One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendor of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, "All this you're admiring so much—the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble."

They asked him, "Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it's about to take place?"

He said, "Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One,' or, 'The end is near.' Don't fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end."

He went on, "Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and

over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You'll think at times that the very sky is falling.

“But before any of this happens, they'll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You'll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I'll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters.

“You'll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There's no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that's what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry; you'll be saved.

From *The Message*

*‡HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

New Century (black) Hymnal 23

SERMON

Be Alert

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Eternal God

The Chancel Choir

Richard Shephard (b. 1949)

*Eternal God, The light of the minds that know you,
Eternal God the Joy, The joy of the hearts that love you.
Eternal God, The strength of the wills that love you.
Eternal God.*

*Grant us so to know you that we may truly trust you.
Grant us so to love you that we may freely serve you.
Grant us so to know you, so to love you, so to love you
That we may freely serve you, to the glory of your holy name.
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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 366

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in D Minor

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Chuck Livingston by his family.

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today's bible story is not a pretty or easy one to read but our children will focus on the contest between the prophet Elijah and King Ahab to prove who is the one true God. Ask your children who won and what was the proof that our God is all powerful; that nothing is more powerful than God's love. Our 3rd Graders will learn about David and Daniel. Finally, the Middle School "678" class will begin to plan a Christmas surprise for the congregation! 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.

Wellness Second Hour – Preventing Falls at Home

Today 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).



Sunday Bible Study

There is **no Bible Study today** so that all may attend the special Second Hour this morning in the Lounge on *Preventing Falls at Home*. Regular Sunday Bible Study will resume next Sunday as we continue our study of the book, *Galatians*.

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** 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

JPF and SPF Youth Groups both meet tonight at 6:00 pm.

THIS WEEK

Nights Off Harvest Dinner

When: Tomorrow, *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 Fliert 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!

Wreath Decorating

We need wreaths decorated for selling at the Christmas Tree Sale so please join Mark Montgomery this *Friday, November 22* at 1:00 pm in the Auditorium and help decorate some wreaths. It will be a great way to get into the holiday spirit!

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Our Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale returns this *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.

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. Join us - bring a friend, make a friend.

“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.

NEXT WEEK

Harvest Sunday is Next Week!

Harvest Sunday is next *Sunday, November 24*, here at First Church, when we couple our gratitude for the blessings around us with our support to our community. During our 10:00 am service, we will collect food for Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment). Please bring any non-perishable items in a bag with you that morning. During our offering, we will

each come forward to share our food in collection at our Communion Table. During this time, we will also receive other gifts to the church and community. To do this, you may place your offering to FCCOG in the offering plate. If your gift is specifically for your pledge or just a special gift to FCCOG, please make sure that it is marked as such. Any unmarked or undesignated gifts will be given to The Lower Fairfield County Food Bank. And, remember, Harvest Sunday is a great time to invite a friend to join you in our historic Meetinghouse to be a part of this very special celebration. In fact, why not 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! *May God's blessings flow to all of God's people this Thanksgiving season.*

First Music & Arts Returns for its 3rd Season!

Please join us next *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.



NEWS AND NOTICES

How to Help the People of the Philippines

The devastation from Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines is just heartbreaking. You may be wondering what you can do to help. First, please pray for the people and communities who have been impacted by this catastrophic weather event and all those who serve as first responder emergency personnel. Second, you can make a donation to

help. The UCC has issued a special appeal for \$250,000 for response to Typhoon Haiyan which left a tragic trail of death and destruction when it passed over the Philippines. “While *One Great Hour of Sharing* funds have already started to flow to our partners in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the ACT Alliance, we know from our all-too-recent experience that recovery will take both a long time and a lot of resources. In the UCC, we provide support as we can for those who respond early, and we remain for the long haul.” **You can help by sending monetary gifts, payable to the United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion “Typhoon Haiyan,” to United Church of Christ, Financial Services, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115. You can also make a secure donation online to the International Disaster Fund at: http://www.ucc.org/disaster/philippines_typhoon_appeal.html**

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.



Messiah is Coming!

We will be starting rehearsals for our 47th annual performance of *Messiah*, under the direction of Director of Music, Dr. Craig Scott Symons. If you have choral skills, you are encouraged to join the chorus for this wonderful tradition. This year there is only one choir rehearsal on *Monday, December 9* from 7:30 – 10:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. There will also be a dress rehearsal with orchestra on *Wednesday, December 11* from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. There is a refundable score deposit of \$20. There are no auditions; everyone is welcome. The singers always have a great time. Just ask one! And then invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us in this exciting choral opportunity as well! Contact Dr. Craig Scott Symons, craigs@fccog.org, for more information.

“Baby Huggers” Still 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.

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

Saturday, November 23: Volunteers needed to set-up the '*Christmas Shoppe*' at 1:00 pm. Sign up or call Maria at 203-637-1875.

Monday, November 25: Remember - 'THE BEST LITTLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IN TOWN' will open its doors at 1:00 pm. (Closed 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for final restocking.)

Wednesday, November 27: THE RUMMAGE WILL CLOSE AT 1:00 PM FOR THANKSGIVING.

Thursday, November 28: Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30: 50% OFF ALL ITEMS EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS ITEMS.

Saturday, December 7: *First Light* in Old Greenwich from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, which marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Bring your family for fun and good cheer and be sure and stop at The Rummage Room for Christmas shopping and goodies.

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 Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Maria's Wish List: Everything Christmas; any new gifts you will never use.

Four things we can never recover: The Stone after it's thrown; The Word after it's said; The Occasion after it's missed; The Time after it's gone.

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
Harvest Sunday

Music by:

The Palmer Handbells

How Can I Keep from Singing? by Sondra Tucker

Triumphal March by Michael Bedford

The Cherub Choir

The Children's Choir

There Is Much in This World by Carson Cooman

The Youth Choir

Praise and Thanksgiving by Michael Barrett

The Chancel Choir

Te Deum by Benjamin Britten

Combined Choirs

This is My Father's World by Joel Raney

Rev. John Collins, preaching

November

24th: Harvest Sunday

24th: First Music & Arts Concert, 7 pm

28th: Thanksgiving Day

28th and 30th: Church Office Closed

30th: Christmas Tree Sale Begins!



Looking Toward December...

1st: First Sunday of Advent & Advent Craft Workshop, 2 pm

8th: Giving Tree 2013 deadline

8th: Christmas Carol Dinner and Sing, 6 pm

14th & 15th: 47th Annual Messiah Performance, 4 pm

24th: Christmas Eve Celebrations



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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