

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Celebrating 350 Years - 1665-2015

Harvest Sunday

22 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 on this Harvest Sunday morning.

Today we give thanks for all the ways God has blessed our lives and, in our gratitude, we gather food to share with those who are in need in our community. We are glad that you chose to be with us in song, prayer and thankfulness this morning.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art

Thomas Woodman, bass

Arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Olga Hartwell

STEWARDSHIP – *What's My Why?*

The Jacks Family

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise Ye the Lord

The Cherub Choir

Traditional

Donald Haviland, director

Debbie Berner, pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lauren O'Donnell, Confirmand

Leader: O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

People: Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods, in whose hand are the depths of the earth;

People: The peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it; and his hands formed the dry land.

All: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. (Psalm 95:1-6)

***HYMN**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 461

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Generous God, we recognize that you are the source of all the good gifts in our lives. We worship you today with thankful hearts. We are grateful for the beauty and bounty of the world, and for all the joys and comforts of life. We are grateful for our homes and families, for our friends and the good will of persons near and far. We are grateful for the moments of love and joy which are given to us, and we praise you for all the ways your grace comes to us. Let us respond to your unfailing goodness with generous spirits, eager for the opportunity to serve. We ask these things in Jesus' name, 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. *From New Revised Standard Version*

ANTHEM

The Children's Choir

I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me

Gwendolyn Emery-Owings (b. 1948)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

Vance Briceland, piano

*I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord.
As father and mother, sister and brother,
come to worship, all together.*

*As father and mother, sister and brother,
sing God's praises all together.*

*As father and mother, sister and brother,
join at the table all together.*

SECOND LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

All Good Gifts

*The Youth Choir; Lauren Mickley, soloist
Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)
Carolyn Paulus, director; Vance Briceland, piano
Tod Hedrick, bass; Mary Fike, flute*

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land...
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand...
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain...
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain...
All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above
Then thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love...*

*We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food,
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts
But that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts!*

*All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above..
Then thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love..
I really wanna thank you Lord, I want to thank you Lord
Thank you for all of your love, I want to thank you Lord
Oh thank you Lord.*

SERMON

Gratitude and Grace

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

ANTHEM

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

The Chancel Choir

*T. Frederick Candlyn (1892-1964)
Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director*

*Christ, Whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise! Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return, Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy Divine; scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Rick Woodman

HARVEST OFFERING

We Gather Together

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 21

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 440

Now Thank We All Our God

New Century (black) Hymnal 419

This Is My Song

New Century (black) Hymnal 591

*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

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

* * *

*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.*

Thanks to Pam Grunow and the Chancel Committee for decorating the Harvest Table this morning.

Thank you to Stop & Shop, Acme Supermarket and Kings for donating reusable sturdy bags for our Harvest Sunday donations.

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

Today we have a special opportunity for all generations in the congregation to worship together for the entire service. Children and youth are invited to worship using our specially designed interactive bulletin. Although there are no Church School classes, Child Care includes preschoolers if they are unable to stay in worship for the whole time. Next Sunday, November 29, is the first Sunday of Advent and children of all ages will gather in the Daniels Center to make family advent wreaths, so you will be able to observe advent in your own homes.

Cherub, Children's & Youth Choir Rehearsal

There are no choir rehearsals this morning.

Parish Nurse

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

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*.

H.O.M.E. Craft Sale!

Today is the last day of the annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale being held in the Auditorium from 11 am-1 pm. Be sure to 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.

The Giving Tree

It's that time of year again! Starting today, 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*.

Youth Groups

Today, JPF is doing Custom Shirt Designs from 2:00 - 3:00 pm in the Daniels Center and SPF is doing Self-Hypnosis & Stress Relief from 4:00 - 5:30 pm in the Daniels Center. Join us!

THIS WEEK

Messiah Tickets are on Sale!

The 49th annual *Messiah* performance will take place on *Sunday, December 13*, at 4:00 pm. Tickets for the concert are \$25 and are on

sale now in the Church Office Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. If you would like to order tickets, or know someone who is out of the area, please call the Church Office during normal business hours, request that tickets be reserved for you, then send a check to the church, made payable to FCCOG. Your tickets will be



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

available at the door on the day of the performance. If you're not able to attend the concert, but would like to start your Christmas shopping early, consider making a donation so someone can attend the concert who might not be able to afford the ticket. Simply drop your check off at the Church Office, marked "Messiah Gift 2015" in the memo line. You will certainly make someone very happy during this holiday season.

**Christmas Tree Sale – Start a new family tradition!
100% of Profits Go To Charity!**

Buy your high quality Fraser or Balsam Fir Tree (and wreaths, garlands, ornaments and accessories) from First Church's Christmas Tree Sale starting this *Saturday, November 28* and continuing each Saturday (9 am-6:30 pm) and Sunday (11 am-5 pm) through *December 13*. And pass the word, too! Also, we still need MORE VOLUNTEERS, so please sign up for a shift (or 2!) by visiting the church website at www.fccog.org or contact Tamara Ng-Yow at tupham123@gmail.com. All New Hampshire award-



winning trees are fresh-cut the week of Thanksgiving. PLUS, FREE family photos and FREE delivery in Old Greenwich and Riverside. This year's sale will benefit the following agencies: *Kids in Crisis, Shelter for the Homeless Young Mariners Foundation, Call-A-Ride, UNICEF (Syrian Children in Crisis) and BackCountry Jazz (music programs for underserved students in Bridgeport)*. Your tree will keep on giving to those in need long after Christmas is over.

NEXT WEEK

Have You Signed Up for the Advent Faith Formation Series?

Join us for our new 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. Don't miss this very special series.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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 23: *'The Best Little Christmas Shoppe in Town'* opens at 1 pm (closed 10 am to 1pm for restocking). Everything will be bright and beautiful...and 'new' for your shopping pleasure!

Monday, November 23: See Manager Leanne's 50% off sales for the week at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Wednesday, November 25: The Rummage Room will close at 1:00 pm for Thanksgiving.

Thursday, November 26: *Wishing you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving holiday.*

Friday and Saturday, November 27 & 28: 50% off all merchandise other than Christmas items and jewelry.

Mgr Leanne's Wish List: Christmas items, good jewelry, handbags.

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 Coming Days and Weeks: Though recent events have given birth to tension and fears, God remains an unshaken foundation; strong in support of us through these turbulent times. We must have faith.

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.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

November 29, 2015

1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Worship Service in the Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Palmer Handbell Choir

Veni Emmanuel by Craig Scott Symons

The Chancel Choir

In the Stillness by Arlen Clarke

Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr., preaching



“I believe in the institution called ‘church.’ The church offers history lessons and spiritual guidance and shows how these two intersect in our lives today. The church is also the ultimate social worker providing much needed services in our community.”
- *Lile Gibbons*

“To me, First Church is a beacon and a symbol of this community and its compassion for, and outreach to, the world. When I pass it each day I feel I’ve come home.”
- *Carol W. Deering*

“As a creation of God who happens to be gay, it is marvelous to have a church home that intentionally embraces Doug and me. After living together for 23 years, we were married in the Meetinghouse in 2009. ‘Open and Affirming’ is the aspect of the First Church community that opens the door to the myriad blessings of the First Church community and why we support it as our church home.”
- *Dick Peebles*

“It is the right thing to do!”
- *Mrs. Fred J. Meyer*

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

Facebook

Twitter

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November

- 22: H.O.M.E. Craft Sale, 11 am-1 pm
- 26: Thanksgiving Day
- 26 & 27: Church Office Closed
- 28: Christmas Tree Sale Begins! -
Saturdays 9 am-6 pm, Sundays 11 am-5 pm
- 29: 1st Sunday of Advent, 10 am
- 30: Advent Faith Formation Series, *A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art*, 7-8 pm

Looking Toward December...

- 6: Brenda Stiers Memorial Speaker Series, 10 am worship service guest speaker, Jim Ziolkowskii, *Ignited by Faith: How Compassion Can Change the World*.
- 6: Advent Craft Workshop, 3-5 pm, Daniels Center. Christmas Carol Sing & Dinner, 5-7 pm.
- 6: Giving Tree 2015 deadline
- 7: Advent Faith Formation Series, *A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art*, 7-8 pm
- 13: 49th Annual *Messiah* Performance, 4 pm followed by special reception.
- 14: Advent Faith Formation Series, *A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art*, 7-8 pm
- 18: Sheep arrive for Live Nativity in Crèche
- 24: Christmas Eve Celebrations – 10 am, 3 pm, 6 pm and 9 pm services; 4 pm Christmas Caroling around tree in Binney Park.



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