

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Harvest Sunday

23 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 bid you a hearty welcome to the celebration of Harvest Sunday here at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich! Today we continue to give thanks for all the ways God has blessed our lives, and in our gratitude, we gather food to share with those who are hungry in our community. We are glad you are with us!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Quiet Praise

Crown Him with Many Crowns

The Palmer Handbell Choir

Dan Edwards (b. 1951)

Barbara Kinyon (b. 1929)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

For the Beauty of the Earth

The Cherub Choir

Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Donald Haviland, director

Debbie Berner, pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peter Russell

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

People: 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.

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

All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

* HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 461

UNISON PRAYER

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

Daniel Lepoutre

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

God of Grace and God of Laughter

The Children's Choir

John Bertalot (b. 1931)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

Vance Briceland, pianist

God of grace and God of laughter, singing worlds from nought to be sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony: give us songs of joy and wonder, music making hearts rejoice; let our praises swell like thunder, echoing our Maker's voice.

When our lives are torn by sadness, heal our wounds with tuneful balm; when all seems discordant madness, help us find a measured calm. Steady us with music's anchor when the storms of life increase; in the midst of hurt and rancor, make us instruments of peace.

Turn our sighing into singing, music born of hope restored; set our souls and voices ringing, tune our hearts in true accord: till we form a mighty chorus joining angel choirs above, with all those who went before us, in eternal hymns of love.

SECOND LESSON

Clem Lepoutre

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and

admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

The Youth Choir

Lyle Heck

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, pianist

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you nations.
Serve the Lord with joy: come before him with a song.
Know ye that the Lord he is God:
it is he that has made us, and we are his.
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter by his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with your praise.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth travels on from age to age.*

SERMON

Doxology

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

ANTHEM

Psalm 96

The Chancel Choir

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

Joseph Sabia, trumpet

*Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations,
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and splendor of his sanctuary.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***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.*

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Joseph Sabia, trumpet

Prelude to Te Deum

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

*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.

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today we have a special opportunity for all generations in the congregation to worship together for the entire service. There are extra books and activity sheets for our children on the bookshelves in the aisle leading to the Chapel. Although there are no Church School classes, the Baby Nursery and Toddler Room are open as always. Three and four year olds are also welcome if you or they need a change of venue! Next Sunday, Thanksgiving weekend, will be another Service Sunday event for all children who are here when we will learn about the meaning of Advent and make something to help us count down the days in Advent.

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

There are no choir rehearsals today.

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.

Annual 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 to enjoy a bit of Maine hospitality and shopping to help support H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), a craft co-operative working with the rural poor in Hancock County, Maine. All proceeds from this sale go directly to H.O.M.E. Come see the Christmas decorations and gifts, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple syrup, and much, much more!



THIS WEEK

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

One of the ways that we increase the amount we are able to share through the Outreach budget of First Church is through our annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale! The trees (and wreaths, garlands and kissing balls) arrive this *Saturday, November 29* and we will begin selling them as soon as the truck is unloaded! Here's where you come in...**BUY TREES AND OTHER ITEMS FROM FIRST CHURCH!!** And pass the word, too! We also still need more volunteers to pull off this effort, so please consider signing up for a shift (or 2!) by visiting the church website at www.fccog.org and clicking on the link under "News You Can Use" or contact Clem Lepoutre at clem@lepoutre.us. The Tree Sale will continue each **Saturday (8 am-4 pm) and Sunday (11 am-4 pm)** through December 21 (or as long as trees last). This year's sale will benefit the following agencies: Shelter for the Homeless, Inspirica, Den for Grieving Kids, Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Young Mariner's Foundation and Meals on Wheels.



NEXT WEEK

Annual Advent Craft Workshop

Everyone is invited to prepare for Christmas with family, friends and fun at the Advent Craft Workshop next *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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Prayer Shawls are Needed!

Our supply of prayer shawls has dwindled. We need knitters to start knitting again to increase our supply. If you have made some before, please start up again. Nancy McConnell has directions for you and can help you get materials. Please contact Nancy at 203-637-4423 or nhm48@aol.com.

***Messiah* Tickets Are Going Fast!**

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 are on sale in the Church Office 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. Tickets will also be available during Coffee Hour on November 30 and December 7. Correct change is always helpful!

Join the *Messiah* Chorus

Rehearsals for the 48th annual performance of *Messiah*, under the direction of Director of Music, Dr. Craig Scott Symons, will take place on Monday, December 8 from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Meetinghouse. If you have choral skills, you are encouraged to join the chorus for this wonderful tradition. There will also be a dress rehearsal with orchestra on Wednesday, December 10 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! Note, this year there is only one performance and it is a ticketed event. Tickets are

going fast. Any questions, please contact Dr. Craig Scott Symons at craigs@fccog.org.

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.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, November 24: *The 'Christmas Shoppe' opens at 1:00 pm.* (Restocking 10:00 am to 1:00 pm ... Volunteers Needed! ... please call Maria.)

Wednesday, November 26: Shop open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. 50% off everything; excludes Christmas items.

Thursday, November 27: Closed for THANKSGIVING.

Friday & Saturday, November 28 & 29: 50% of everything; excludes Christmas items.

Saturday, December 6: *Last day to leave donations until Friday, January 2, 2015.*

Saturday, December 6: **Annual First Light Celebration**, Downtown Old Greenwich, 6:00 to 9:00 pm. All Old Greenwich shops will be open for shopping, treats, and music. Come join the fun and bring your family!

Manager Maria's Wish List: Christmas decorations/clothing; good handbags; shopping bags.

Shop Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday & 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

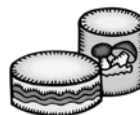
Donation Hours: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday & 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Friday & Saturday.

Thought for November 27: *Together is our favorite place to be! Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.*

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) and jelly. Also, sheets and towels are always needed.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
1st Sunday of Advent

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

Adam Lay Ybounden by John Ireland

Tom Woodman, bass

The Palmer Handbells:

Veni Emmanuel by Craig Scott Symons

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org, Facebook, Twitter,

YouTube, Instagram



November

- 23: H.O.M.E. Craft Sale, 11am-1 pm
- 27: Thanksgiving Day
- 27 & 28: Church Office Closed
- 29: Christmas Tree Sale Begins! -
Saturdays 8 am-4 pm, Sundays 11 am-4 pm
- 30: 1st Sunday of Advent, 10 am; Advent Craft
Workshop, 2 pm

Looking Toward December...

- 7: Giving Tree 2014 deadline; Christmas Carol
Dinner and Sing, 6 pm
- 13: 48th Annual *Messiah* Performance, 4 pm;
Christmas Soiree at Zody's, Stamford, 6-9 pm
- 21: Live Nativity on the front lawn by the creche
- 24: Christmas Eve Celebrations



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