

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Harvest Sunday
24 November 2013
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. May our worship today calm and inspire your soul.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

*How Can I Keep from Singing?
Triumphal March*

The Palmer Handbells
Sondra Tucker (b. 1957)
Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Deep and Wide

The Cherub Choir
Traditional Hymn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this Harvest Sunday, we celebrate the beauty and bounty of our world.

People: May we feel the extravagant gift of creation!

Leader: On this special day, we recognize all the ways God has provided blessing upon blessing to our lives.

People: May our hearts swell with gratitude for all we have been given.

Leader: Great are the works of God, greater still are God's mercy and love.

People: May we learn to be the channel of God's love to our tired and stressful world.

Leader: Now, let us worship God.

People: Let us worship God with praise and joy!

***‡HYMN**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 461

OPENING 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. John W. Collins

Sabine Brooks Cagnoni,

daughter of Lesley Brooks Hathaway and Pablo J. Cagnoni

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

Child of blessing, child of promise,

baptized with the Spirit's sign;

With this water God has sealed you

unto love and grace divine.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

This is My Father's World

Combined Choirs

Joel Raney (b. 1956)

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

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 (NRSV)*

ANTHEM

There is Much in This World

The Children's Choir

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

SECOND LESSON

Joe McBride

Matthew 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the

temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

From *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

ANTHEM

Praise and Thanksgiving

The Youth Choir

Michael Barrett

SERMON

The Blessing Environment

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

ANTHEM

Te Deum

(text can be found at #559 in The Pilgrim (red) Hymnal)

The Chancel Choir

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

HARVEST OFFERING

We Gather Together

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Now Thank We All Our God

This Is My Song

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 21

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 440

New Century (black) Hymnal 419

New Century (black) Hymnal 591

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given by the Hathaway family in celebration of the baptism of baby Sabine, and to honor the life of her great grandmother, Mildred Ramsdell.

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 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 we have a special opportunity 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 can join us 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. We will learn about the meaning of Advent and also make Christmas cards for our troops.

Sunday Bible Study

Bible Study will conclude this week with the end of Galatians and the prelude to the book of Daniel that we're going to study in January. This is a fascinating book of six stories (some of which you know, such as Daniel in the Lion's Den - but it's no children's story!) and four visions. Daniel is a special kind of literature known as an

apocalypse and is important because Jesus refers to it all the time and it is used a lot by the writer of Revelation (Note: *not* Revelations!). Should be very exciting and informative. Join us at 11:20 in the Lounge. Led by Dan England.

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Today is the last day of the Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale. It is being held in the Auditorium from 11:00 am to 1:00 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 handmade quilts, Christmas decorations and gifts, woolens, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple syrup, and much, much more!



Sharing Christmas Blessings – Giving Tree

It's that time of year again when we share our blessings with friends at Pilgrim Towers and H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) Co-op in Orland, Maine. This is the eighth year we



have been able to bring some holiday cheer to these two communities. Don't forget to pick up your gift tags **TODAY** for a man, woman, boy or girl.

Deadline for wrapping and delivering your gift(s) back to the church is *Sunday, December 8 (2 weeks from today)*. The Outreach Committee is coordinating the Giving Tree this year. Also, if anyone is planning a trip to Maine, even if only as far as Windham, we would love to hear from you and have you help us get the gifts at least that far. Call the Church Office.

Choir Rehearsals

There are no choir rehearsals today.

First Music & Arts Returns for its 3rd Season!

Please join us **tonight** 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.



JPF & SPF Youth Groups

JPF or SPF Youth Groups will not be meeting tonight.

THIS WEEK

Correction: Wreath Decorating, *Friday, November 29*

We need wreaths decorated for selling at the Christmas Tree Sale so please join Mark Montgomery this *Friday, November 29* from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Auditorium and help decorate some wreaths. It will be a great way to get into the holiday spirit!

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

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! The trees (and wreaths, garlands and kissing balls) arrive this *Saturday November 30* 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 US!!** And pass the word, too! We also still need more volunteers to pull off this effort, so please sign up for a shift (or 2 or 3) by visiting our church website at www.fccog.org and clicking on the link on the homepage under "News You Can Use" or call the Church Office.



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. We will teach those who are able to thread a needle, so don't let inexperience stop you. Join us!

"Stop! The Bible Study" (for Beginners)

Mid-week Bible Study designed specifically for **beginners**, has ended for this calendar year. Look for its return in the New Year.

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, 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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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.



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**

“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.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Sunday, November 24: Celebrate Harvest Sunday by bringing food to share with others less fortunate.

Monday, November 25: THE BEST LITTLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE IN TOWN will open its doors at 1:00 pm! (The Rummage Room will be closed 10:00 am to 1:00 pm)

Wednesday, November 26: The Rummage Room will close at 1:00 pm for Thanksgiving.

Thursday, November 27: Enjoy your Thanksgiving Day with family and friends!!!

Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29: All items are 50% off ... *excluding Christmas items.*

Saturday, December 7: *LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014.*

Saturday, December 7: *First Light* in all Old Greenwich shops marks the beginning of the Christmas season. Bring your family to The

Rummage Room for shopping and good cheer. Festivities from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

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

Santa Maria's Wish List: All things Christmas; and all new gifts you will never use.

It is the perfect time for us to remember that the task the Lord asks of us is to unwrap the gifts of human kindness. He wants us to know that we are our sisters' and our brothers' keepers and He loves us all.

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
1st Sunday of Advent

Music by:

The Palmer Handbells

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence by Cathy Mocklebust

The Chancel Choir

Thou Shalt Know Him by Mark Sirett

Tom Woodman, bass

But Who May Abide (from *Messiah*) by G. F. Handel

Rev. Dan England, preaching

Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!
We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCOGCT
Check out our [YouTube](#) page!
And now we're on [Instagram](#) too!



November

24th: H.O.M.E. Craft Sale, 11 am-1 pm

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

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