

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Reign of Christ

25 November 2012
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 today at First Congregational Church of Greenwich. We are glad that you have decided to spend this time with us in the presence of our gracious God. May your spirit be renewed, your hope be established and the grace that surrounds you here be found in the everyday of your life. Let us give thanks.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Processional

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
William Mathias (1934-1992)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins
Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Men

*Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed
But still nothing is as shining as it should be for you.
Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice
It is the season of their many children.
What shall I do?*

Women

*And under the eaves and through the walls
The squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances
But it is the season when they need shelter,
So what shall I do?*

Choir

*And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
While the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
What shall I do?*

Leader

*Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard
And the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door.
And still I believe you will come, Lord:
You will,
when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog,
The shivering sea-goose,*

All

*Know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
As I do all morning and afternoon:
Come in, Come in.*

From *Thirst* by Mary Oliver

*‡HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

New Century (black) Hymnal 300

**All who are able, please remain standing for the
Opening Prayer through the Gloria.*

*OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

All of creation has greeted us this morning,
The fall leaves, the cool air,
The warm home, the morning coffee,
A welcome at the church door,
The familiar pew...
All can be reminders of your grace, O God,
If we just open ourselves to your presence surrounding us.
May it be so.
Hear our prayer.
Hear our voices lifted together.
Hear us as we proclaim the grace that Christ has 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.

***GLORIA**

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jack Caden Schneider,

son of Sarah Gordon Schneider and Craig Edward Schneider

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.

(During the Baptismal Response, the children will go with Rosemary to the Daniels Center for a Big Event. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center after worship.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Joel 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and

that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Sing a Song of Joy

The Chancel Choir

Jane Marshall (b. 1924)

Jayson Engquist, organ

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 26

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you. I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites; I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides. Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

*‡HYMN

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

New Century (black) Hymnal 209

SERMON

The "M" in Amazing

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
King of Glory, King of Peace

The Chancel Choir
Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

*DOXOLOGY
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.

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN
We Hail You, God's Anointed

New Century (black) Hymnal 104

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE
Festival March in D

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
William Van Dyke

** Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in celebration of the baptism of Jack Caden Schneider by his grandparents, Judy and Al Gordon.

The flowers in the Chapel this morning are given in loving memory of Nadean Hollman Hirth.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. 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.

The memorial fund honoring Elizabeth and Warren Dennison has provided for the radio broadcast of this morning's service.

Calendar

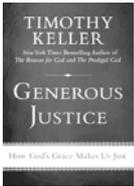
TODAY

Church School

Today is a "Big Event" Sunday in Church School. After beginning in worship, our children ages 4 -10 will go to the Daniels Center with Rosemary and her helpers (children 11 and older) for a multi-age program. Parents can meet their children in the Daniels Center. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and we will have three weeks of regular Church School. Then on December 23 there will be another Big Event.

Bible Study

The Bible Study that isn't Bible Study right now will meet today in the Lounge. We're talking about Biblical principles using Timothy Keller's book, *Generous Justice*. Even if you haven't read the book, you can benefit from the lively discussion that centers on social justice issues -- old hat stuff for some UCC types but with a Biblical twist sometimes missing from "do gooder" positions. So come see what the fuss is about: 11:20 am in the Lounge. You'll be out by 12:30. Led by Dan England.



Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and the Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104.

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. Co-op in Orland, Maine. This week

we have added the Christmas wishes from the residents of Pilgrim Towers in Stamford. Don't forget to pick up your gift tags **today!!** Deadline for wrapping and delivering your gift(s) back to the church is *Sunday, December 2* for H.O.M.E. and *Sunday, December 9* for Pilgrim Towers.

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, as well as garland and kissing balls, arrived yesterday, and we began selling them as soon as the truck was 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. If you are able to help out, please visit <http://www.fccog.org/christmas-tree-and-wreath-sale-form/> to sign up for a shift or call the Church Office.



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service. The theme this week is *Great Expectations...that don't go as planned*. If we were hearing the story of Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son for the very first time, would this part of the story make us gasp? What parts of our own lives make us gasp? What happens when things don't go as expected? Are we being tested? Another Dar Williams song this week...*When I Was a Boy*. This is a casual worship service so come as you are and bring all your friends!



There is no SPF or JPF tonight.

NEXT WEEK

Special Tribute to Rummage Room Volunteers

There will be a tribute to Thelma Colegrove and Barbara Van Buren and all Rummage Room volunteers and staff during the 10:00

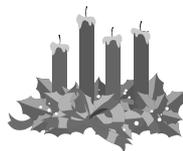
am Worship Service next *Sunday, December 2*. Thelma Colegrove, cashier on Wednesday mornings, celebrated her 94th birthday on September 29, 2012. Barbara Van Buren, merchandise pricer on Monday afternoons and Saturday mornings, celebrated her 95th birthday on October 11, 2012. In addition to Thelma and Barbara, all volunteers and staff will be celebrated for their dedication and service to The Rummage Room.

Church Hall Meeting

Join us for our third Church Hall Meeting next *Sunday, December 2* in the Auditorium following the Worship Service.

Annual Advent "Make Your Own" Craft Workshop

Mark your calendar for the Annual Advent "Make Your Own" Craft Workshop on *Sunday, December 2* from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Daniels Center sponsored by the Church School Task Force. We will make gifts and ornaments for friends, family and even pets, listen to music of the season and enjoy being together. A great time will be had by all!



NEWS AND NOTICES

Messiah is Coming!

We will be starting rehearsals for our 46th annual performance of *Messiah*, under the direction of Director of Music, Dr. Craig Scott Symons, to be held on *Saturday and Sunday, December 15 and 16* at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. Rehearsals for the Festival Chorus will be more condensed this year. We will have one rehearsal **ONLY** on *Monday, December 10* from 7:30-10:00 pm. There will also be a dress rehearsal with orchestra on *Wednesday, December 12* from 7:30-9:30 pm. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us in this exciting choral opportunity!

Women's Fellowship

The Bridgeport Rescue Mission, an agency supported by our Women's Fellowship and Rummage Room Allocations, has an urgent call out for much needed WINTER COATS. If you have a coat or two you can spare,



please phone either Prill Meyer (203-637-4214) or Judy Miller (203-637-4674) and your coat will be picked up and delivered to them.

News from The Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, Nov 26: Come visit the Christmas Shop at The Rummage Room - open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Saturday, Dec 1: Annual First Light Celebration in Old Greenwich - stop by The Rummage Room for shopping, cookies and eggnog.

Saturday, Dec 1: Last day for donations until January 2, 2013 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Sunday, Dec 2: Tribute to Thelma Colegrove, Barbara Van Buren and all volunteers at 10:00 am Worship Service.

Monday, Dec 10: 25% off all week for everything Christmas.

Monday, Dec 17: 50% off everything in the shop including Christmas items.

Friday, Dec 21: Holiday party for our shoppers from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - LAST DAY OPEN IN 2012.

Wednesday, Jan 2: The Rummage Room reopens with a week-long WINTER CLEARANCE SALE - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Handbags & big shopping bags, please! *Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that we pull out when we're in trouble. It is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout our lives.*

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 \$7 per class if paid by the month, and \$8 per class for "drop ins." Join us!

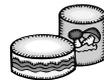


You'll love it! **All are welcome.**

Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor, between the hurricane and the upcoming holiday season. Please remember to contribute food each week.

The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will continue to make a significant difference at Neighbor to



Neighbor. In particular need at this time is canned fruit. They do not need any canned meats, such as tuna, for the moment. Other items, such as cereal, pasta sauce, dried beans, canned tomatoes, smaller size peanut butter and jelly, and 100% juice are always welcome.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by The Chancel Choir:

Advent Anthem by Douglas Brooks-Davies

Thou Shalt Know Him by Mark Sirett

Rev. Dan England, preaching



linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Next week the theme will be *We Are Welcomed Home.*

We come to a wonderful and beautiful part of the story of Abraham...Abraham seeking a final resting place for Sarah.

We will take a look today at how our families are always changing. Beautiful Dar Williams song this week...*You're Aging Well.* This is a casual worship service so come as you are and bring all your friends!

Calendar of Upcoming FCCOG

Events in December

2nd: First Sunday of Advent

2nd: "Make Your Own" Advent Craft Workshop, 2 pm

2nd (H.O.M.E.); 9th (Pilgrim Towers): Giving Tree 2012 deadlines

9th: Christmas Carol Sing & Dinner, 6 pm

15th & 16th: 46th Annual *Messiah* Performance, 4 pm

24th: Christmas Eve Celebrations

Find us on Facebook and LIKE the page!

We're now on Twitter @FCCOGCT

Check out our new YouTube page, too!

And visit our Forum and start a conversation.



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