

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Ingathering Sunday
9 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.*



Welcome to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich!
There are no exceptions, no qualifications, no fine print. So relax. Familiar or strange to you, this is a place where you can fit right in. The music will make you happy, the prayers will comfort you and the people will welcome you. We're glad you're here!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Please sign and pass the red book.

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Doris Moss-Davenport

Leader: We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

People: We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

Leader: We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as our self.

People: We are the Body of Christ—living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, in the world he loved so much.

Leader: We are here to be reminded once more who we are and what our lives are about.

People: We are here to be lifted, renewed, and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working among us.

Leader: Together let us worship the living God.

People: We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.

CHORAL INTROIT

* HYMN

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

New Century (black) Hymnal 307

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roll Call of Candidates

Ginny Breismeister

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

Commitment of Candidates

Clergy: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus. Today we welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

Senior Deacon: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the joys of Christian fellowship?

Candidates: I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things we most surely believe.

The Covenant (*Congregation: All who are able please stand*): We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be a people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for the dream of a compassionate world. Trusting in God's Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith, the world might be made new. We proclaim this in the spirit of Christ who taught us to pray...

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.

Right Hand of Fellowship

SONG OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

(During the Song of Response, the children will leave to go to the Daniels Center for a "Service Sunday" program. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center after worship. Please ask an usher if you need directions.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

*Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.*

*This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heavenly table spread for me;
Here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
The hallowed hour of fellowship with Thee.*

*Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of Heaven;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.*

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is

the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

From *New Revised Standard Version*

***HYMN**

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

New Century (black) Hymnal 305

SERMON

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

SOLO

O Lord on High

Vasil Golodinskii, bass
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

ANTHEM

Jacob’s Ladder

The Chancel Choir
Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

***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**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past New Century (black) Hymnal 25

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Major

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Auditorium 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 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.

New Members Joining Today

Marty Bitner, 67 Putnam Park, Greenwich, CT 06830, 203-869-5749. Marty comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from Round Hill Community Church. Marty grew up in Greenwich and is a retired teacher and founder/director of preschool programs. In her retirement, she enjoys caring for her two young granddaughters. Marty looks forward to Sunday services here at First Church and always comes away feeling renewed and inspired. She is happy to now become an official member of this caring community.

Doris Moss-Davenport, 136 Riverside Avenue, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-637-4635. Doris comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Doris is a former Registered Nurse and has been a floral designer since 1981. She hails from British Columbia but has lived in Riverside since moving there with her husband and two sons in 1970. After losing her first husband, Bert Moss, after 48 years of marriage, she met and married Dr. Lee Davenport who brought her to First Church. Doris is interested in art, movies and books, and is a dedicated volunteer with the Homeless Shelter.

Carol Deering, 3 Perkly Lane, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-637-4228. Carol comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Carol and her husband, Allan, have lived in the Old Greenwich/Riverside area for over 50 years. They have two grown sons and four grandchildren. Carol is a retired public health nurse. She enjoys swimming, reading, walking on the beach, painting, and spending time with her husband, friends and family. Carol has found great joy in attending services here at First Church and, in addition to the warmth and friendliness of the church, she has found great comfort in its spirituality.

Helen Neafsey, 44 Adams Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851, 203-970-0224. Helen comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Helen is a retired news photographer. Music is a big part of her life and she currently sings with the First Church Chancel Choir. Helen is interested in animals, especially dogs, and photography.

Jennifer Shaw, 10 Indian Chase Drive, Greenwich, CT 06830, 203-340-9329. Jennifer comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Jennifer is married to Confirmed First Church member, Justin Shaw, and they have four children, Tyler (11), Addison (7), Jackson (5) and Grayson (3). She is currently a Private Banker with Deutsche Bank in New York. She looks forward to being a part of “this beautiful church.”

Nancy York, 32 River Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-622-5064. Nancy comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer

from All Souls Parish/Presbyterian Church in Port Chester, NY. She is a retired Marketing Representative from IBM Corp. She and her husband, Sam, enjoy swimming, sailing and kayaking. She is pleased to be joining this warm and welcoming church.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today is a *Service Sunday* when our children will be making “Thank You” cards for veterans in the area. In order to better connect with why this is an important community service, two of our own veterans, Larry Haviland and David Silliphant, will talk to the kids about why this is so meaningful. Also, we will be decorating 12 boxes for our Thanksgiving food collection for the homeless families at Inspirica. Next Sunday is a regular Church School Sunday and our lesson will be on Josiah and Huldah (who? – see 2 Kings 22).

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

Cherub Choir (grades K-2): Room 104 (basement near the Daniels Center), 11:30 am - 12:00 pm - Donald Haviland, director.

Children’s Choir (grades 3-6): Room 303 (Craig’s office, 3rd floor) 11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Craig Symons, director.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Choir Room (3rd floor), 11:15 am to 12:15 pm – Carolyn Paulus, director.

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.

THIS WEEK

Hats Off Book Discussion Group

Hats Off has selected *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri for our November read. We meet on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Lounge. Please either borrow the book from the library or call Jean Bruder (203-661-1685) for your edition in paperback. *The Lowland* features an "engrossing family saga steeped in history" and travels from India to America.



NEXT WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

Nights Off will meet *Monday, November 17* at the home of Barbara Norrgard. We will be putting together health bags for Church World Service to be sent to those around the world in need. Please contact



Shirley Flierl at 203-628-4969 or FBTworld@aol.com for more details about what to bring for the bags. Also,

please bring some food to share and whatever you would like to drink. And why not invite a friend to come along? Sometimes all you need to do is ask!

First Church Volunteer Day

We will be having a FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor on *Saturday, November 22*. We need 10 to 12 people to work in the Food Pantry and the Clothing Room. We will also have children making table decorations for their Thanksgiving baskets at the same time. Please contact Rosemary Lamie at RosemaryL@fccog.org for more info or to sign up!

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Mark your calendars for the annual H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) Craft Sale on *Saturday, November 22*, 9:00 am-4:00 pm and *Sunday, November 23*, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Don't miss this great opportunity for our congregation to support the H.O.M.E. community in Orland, Maine! 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. Stop by and enjoy a bit of Maine hospitality and shopping! For more information about H.O.M.E. visit www.homemmausa.org/.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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.

Auditions for Youth Musical

Auditions are being held for *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* on *Saturday, November 22* from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Choir Room. Open to anyone in middle school or high school. For more information, please visit fccogyouth.com.

Harvest Sunday, November 23

For our upcoming Harvest Sunday Offering, the Christian Outreach Committee is presenting a challenge to the congregation to collect **349** (in anticipation of our 350th year in 2015) grocery bags filled with canned and dry goods which will be distributed to the following agencies:

- Neighbor to Neighbor
- H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment)
- Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County

Please find in the Narthex a sturdy re-usable grocery bag obtained thru Shop Rite. Please take a bag (or two if so inclined) and fill it with canned and other dry goods. Bring your filled bags to the **Harvest Sunday Service** on *November 23* where they will be collected as part of our Offering during the worship service. For those wanting to contribute cash or check donations towards Christian Outreach, we will have yellow envelopes available in the pews. All contributions collected using the yellow envelopes will be directed towards Christian Outreach.



Advent Craft Workshop

You're invited to prepare for Christmas with family, friends and fun at the Advent Craft Workshop on *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.

Christmas Tree Sale – Volunteers Still Needed!

Outreach has been working diligently getting ready for this year's Christmas Tree Sale to raise money for specified agencies supporting those in need. In order for this sale to be a success, we need your help. Sign up to help with the Tree Sale! While many have already volunteered, we still need more. We have jobs for every age and skill level. Sign up during Fellowship Hour, contact the Church Office, or sign up online (the link is on the church homepage at www.fccog.org). Also, you can contact Clem Lepoutre at clem@lepoutre.us. The Tree Sale then begins on *November 29* and is held each Saturday (8 am-4 pm) and Sunday (11 am-4 pm) through December 21 (or as long as trees last). Tell your friends and family to join in the effort and purchase trees, kissing balls, wreaths and garlands from First Church!



News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Tuesday, November 11: Veteran's Day - 50% off all merchandise for the day.

Saturday, November 22: Volunteers needed to set-up "Christmas Shoppe" at 1:00 pm. Call Maria at 203 637-1875.

Monday, November 24: *The Rummage Room's 'Christmas Shoppe' opens its doors at 1:00 pm.*

Wednesday, November 26: *Shop open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. 50% off all merchandise, excluding Christmas items.*

Thursday, November 27: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!

Friday & Saturday, November 28 & 29: 50% off all merchandise, excluding Christmas items.

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

Maria's Wish List: Everything Thanksgiving and Christmas. Good handbags and jewelry.

Shop Hours: 10:00 am - 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 -12:30 pm on Saturday.

Thought for the Week: *Life is short so the time to give people their 'flowers' is while they are still around to enjoy them!*

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. Join us! You can even just drop in. **All are 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), jelly. **In addition to the donations of food and clothing, Neighbor to Neighbor is always in need of sheets and towels.**



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Laity Sunday

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

by Moses Hogan

Praise His Holy Name by Keith Hampton

Elaine Teeters, Senior Deacon, preaching

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

Facebook

Twitter

YouTube

Instagram



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