

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 13 October 2013

10 o'clock in the morning



Note the church reflected on the door...

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.



In this glorious New England autumn, we welcome you to the sanctuary of this hour of worship here at First Congregational Church and invite you to put aside the stress and burdens of your soul. The unfolding beauty around us reminds us of God's constant love and extravagant invitation to rest in Divine Peace. As we worship together, may your spirit open to that renewing and refreshing Grace-fullness.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Josef Rheinberger (1939-1901)
Joseph Dermody, violin

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gather us in, Mysterious Maker God.

People: That being close to you we will understand your intention for creation.

Leader: Weave us into one, Sweet Savior of All.

People: That living your ways we will create communities of faith and peace.

Leader: Gather us in, Powerful Spirit of Renewal.

People: That treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.

Leader: Weave us into one, Holy One in Three.

All: That women and men together may be the signs of your presence, the weavers of your communities and the witnesses to your coming. Gather us in this day so that we might gather strength from you, O Holy One. Come Holy Spirit, come! Amen.

***‡HYMN**

Ye Holy Angels Bright

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 23

OPENING PRAYER

O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation, and whose prayer we 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.

***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.

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.

Right Hand of Fellowship

SONG OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verse 1)

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

(After the Children's Message, the children will go with Rosemary to the Daniels Center for a "Service Sunday" program. Parents should meet their children in the Daniels Center – which is on the lowest level of the building; please ask for directions if needed - after worship.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

Kyrie Eleison (from Messe Solenelle)

The Chancel Choir

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

LESSON

Pat Mendelsohn

Revelation 3:14-22

“**A**nd to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation: “I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

From New Revised Standard Version

*‡HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

New Century (black) Hymnal 391

SERMON

Please Don't Let This Be Our Church

Kent Siladi, Conference Minister

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

Elegie

Joseph Dermody, violin

Josef Rheinberger

*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

Ye Servants of God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 206

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.
Weather permitting, we will meet in the Memory Garden.*

Guest Minister: Today we warmly welcome to our worship service The Rev. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister of The Connecticut Conference of The United Church of Christ. Kent brings a wonderful spirit of welcome, affirmation and innovation to our conference and we appreciate his presence with us this morning. We invite you to greet and talk to Kent during our Coffee Hour immediately following worship in the Auditorium.

Guest Violinist: We welcome violinist Joseph Dermody to worship this morning. He holds degrees from Rhode Island College and SUNY Purchase, and is a faculty member at Concordia College in Bronxville and Rye Country Day School. Joe is also an outstanding visual artist who creates paintings and constructs beautiful furniture from reclaimed items like driftwood and marble. In June, the Bendheim Gallery presented his exhibit "reclAimed peRspecTive" where 10 of his paintings were paired with Joe's live performances of music that inspired his artwork.

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 is our first "Service Sunday" of this program year. All children ages 5–10 will gather together to learn about the needs of the residents of Pilgrim Towers and make art projects and goodie bags for their Halloween party. Our younger children will be in child care and older ones are welcome to help with the activities.

Parish Nurse

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

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Children's Choir from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm in Room 303 (Craig's office); and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. There is no Cherub Choir rehearsal today.

JPF & SPF Youth Groups

Our Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 6-8) and our Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 9-12) meet tonight at 6:00 to 7:30 pm. JPF & SPF focus on creating a fun, safe environment in which our youth can gather in community while growing spiritually and making new friends. It's not too late; if you are interested in joining, contact Donald Haviland at donaldh@fccog.org.

THIS WEEK

“Stop! The Bible Study” (for Beginners)

“*Stop! The Bible Study*” is Bible Study designed specifically for people for whom the Bible is something of a mystery and to encourage participants who are new to the Bible, and to Bible Study itself, to ask questions. Think of this Bible Study as having an interactive text. We meet on **Thursday mornings at 10:30 am** in Room 104. If you have any questions, call Dan England at 203-543-0363.



NEXT WEEK

October is New Members Month!

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? Join us next week, **Sunday, October 20** at 11:20 am in the Senior Pastor's Office or **Sunday, October 27** at 9:15 am in the Lounge to participate in a First Church orientation session. Then if you choose, you can join as a new member of the church on Sunday, October 27. Child care is available at all sessions. Please RSVP to Ginny Breismeister



(ginnyb@fccog.org) or John Collins (jcollins@fccog.org) or call the Church Office at 203-637-1791. *You will be entering a fellow-ship of people who will support you, pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*

Sunday Bible Study

The regular Sunday Bible Study is held *Sundays at 11:20 am* in the Lounge. The topic of this six week study which started last week is *Galatians*. It's a great book and we'll have a great time learning about its message together. Led by Dan England.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Mark Your Calendars - Women's Fellowship *One Day Escape* *Saturday, October 26, 8:00 am-1:30 pm*

Keynote Speaker – Nancy Collamer, author and career/lifestyle coach. There will be something for everyone. This event is open to



the community so feel free to invite a friend. Participants will have a choice of two workshops in the morning, followed by lunch and the keynote address. Workshops include Yoga, Identity Theft 101, Creative Collage Workshop, Mindful Nutrition, How to Say or Do the Right Thing, Tai

Chi/Qi Gong. The cost is \$30 for pre-registered participants; \$35 for walk-ins. More information is available on the church website (www.fccog.org) under *News You Can Use*. Look for a brochure with a registration form in the mail and in next week's worship bulletin. Also, for more information, you can contact Barbara Norrgard at bnorrgard@hotmail.com or 203-637-0703 or Laura Erickson at LErick67@gmail.com or 203-698-3267.

Senior Transportation Call-A-Ride

If you are over sixty and need a ride to doctors' appointments, pharmacy, grocery stores, physical therapists, the library, the Senior Center or even to visit with friends, Call-A-Ride is ready to give you a free ride within Greenwich between the hours of 9:00 am-3:30 pm. Our volunteer drivers are most happy to accommodate you. Just call our office to make an appointment. The First



Congregational Church is one of the founding sponsors of this program and continues to participate through its Outreach program. Also Call-A-Ride is always in need of volunteer drivers. Please call the number listed below for further information about volunteering.
Call-A-Ride Phone: 203-661-6633

First Church Preschool Open Enrollment

First Church Preschool offers an active preschool experience for children ages 3-5 years, including a Pre-K Program for children eligible to start kindergarten, but who would benefit by delaying a year. Open Enrollment for the 2014-15 programming year runs through **November 8, 2013**. Families who are current, active members of the FCCOG congregation are given priority placement in their preschool class selection and may receive a discount on their program tuition provided they have submitted an application and deposit by the end of the Open Enrollment period. For more information, contact the preschool at 203-637-5430 or darlak@fccog.org.

Help Support the First Church Preschool

Purchase a ***Kid Stuff Coupon Book*** for \$25 and help support the First Church Preschool (the preschool earns 50% of the sale of each book). You will very quickly recoup the cost of the book with great coupon savings for shopping, family activities and food!



Coupon books are currently on sale and will be available through **Friday, November 1**. Books are available for purchase in the Church Office and in the Preschool. Buy one or more – they make great

gifts! Checks should be made payable to “First Church Preschool.” For more information contact Becky Paniwozik at rpaniwozik@gmail.com.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

October Reminder: The ***'Best Little Halloween Shop in Town'*** is open and has a multitude of costumes and wonderful decorations. Both the supply and the prices are great ... come in and see for yourself. Be sure and look closely at the Halloween and

Thanksgiving windows designed and decorated by Maria Drieghe and Nancy Hamilton, all from your donations.

Wish List: Decorator boats, the bigger the better, for a window display. Cashiers urgently needed for two or more hours weekly. Please call Maria Drieghe at 203-637-1875. You will love volunteering at The Rummage Room!



Shop Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and Friday and Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday!!

Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

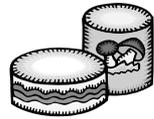
Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class, \$8 for seniors.



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

Food Collection

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor. Please remember to contribute each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Stewardship Sunday

Music by:

The Children's Choir

Jubilate Deo by Carol McClure

The Chancel Choir

What a Fellowship by Gilbert Martin

Solo: Donald Haviland, tenor

Rev. John Collins, 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!



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