

Old Greenwich,
Connecticut

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

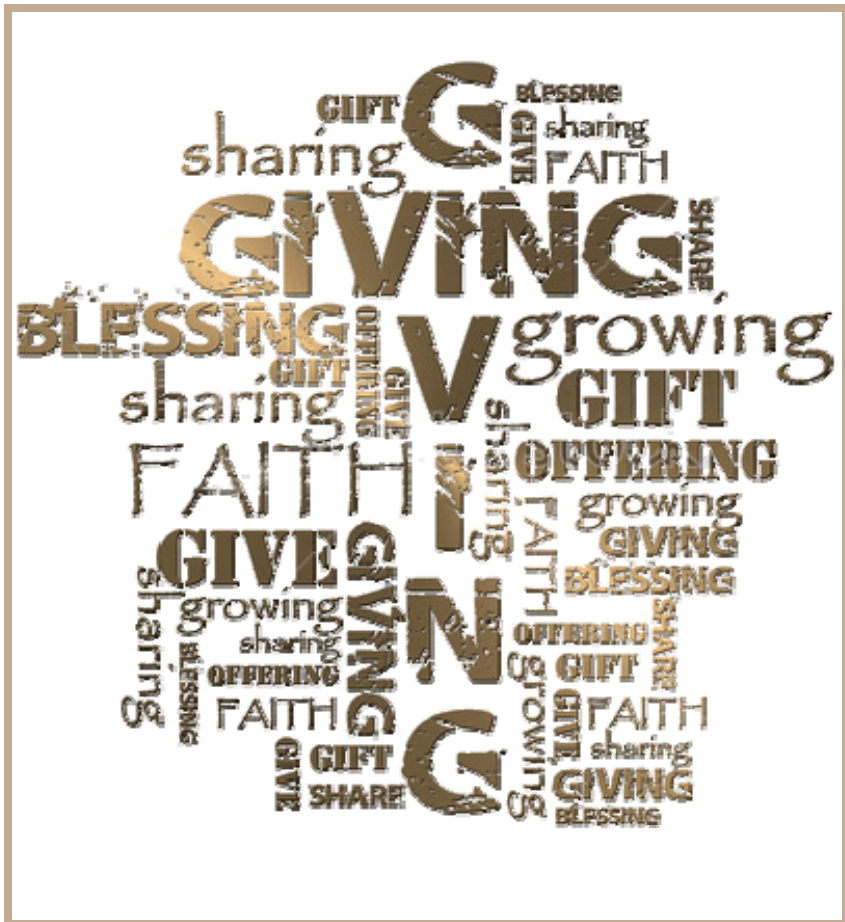
United Church
of Christ

Founded in 1665

Stewardship Sunday

21 October 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.

We warmly welcome you to worship on this Stewardship Sunday as we celebrate the wonderful gift that is First Congregational Church of Greenwich! May this time together deepen our connections to each other and our commitment to being God's people in the world.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Elegy

Jayson Engquist, organ

George Thalben Ball

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Tom White, Co-Chairman, Stewardship Committee

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With hearts filled with gratitude, we worship God this day.

People: May we stop the noise of the world to appreciate God's rich and abundant blessings.

Leader: With minds eager to grow in understanding, we worship God this day.

People: May we be open to the new ways God is speaking to us.

Leader: With lives open to love, we worship God this day.

People: May we pay affectionate attention to the opportunities to be living examples of God's compassion.

***‡HYMN**

All Praise to Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 147

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

***OPENING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

Our loving God, we begin our prayer by giving thanks for this beautiful space and this sacred time that helps us to put down the burdens of our lives. As we begin to center ourselves in your grace, take away all the stress and worry that flattens us out and distracts us from the beauty all around us. Let us see this time as an opportunity to renew our lives, that in the music, in the sacred story and in the quiet of prayer, we might be transformed. Energize our souls that we might emerge from worship with a new strength and renewed power for love. We pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to 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.

***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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

Genesis 33:1-11

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times,

until he came near his brother. But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor with my lord.” But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” Jacob said, “No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor. Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want.” So he urged him, and he took it.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Be Still and Know That I Am God

The Children's Choir

Michael Bedford

Vance Briceland, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(After the Children's Message, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group.)

SECOND LESSON

Stu McCalley

John 1:35-41

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

***‡HYMN**

He Leadeth Me

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 370

SERMON

Like, Connect, Celebrate

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Believe

The Chancel Choir

Mark Miller

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Jayson Engquist, organ

Vance Briceland, piano

***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**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 8

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God Benedetto Marcello

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



Music Notes:

The Chancel Choir anthem is a very new work, written in memory of the composer's sister who died in 2010. The text was found scrawled on a cellar wall in Cologne, Germany, and is thought to have been written by a Jewish person hiding from Nazi persecution. The music underscores the sense of helplessness, yet rays of light emanate from sections as it alternates from minor to major tonality.

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.

I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God, even when there is silence.

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.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today we learn about the reunion of the brothers Jacob and Esau. What a turn of events - Jacob fearful of Esau and humbled in his sight and Esau's unconditional love of the brother who wronged him. Many good lessons here for our children. Don't forget to look at Church School Bible Lesson #5 on the church's YouTube channel to give you more background to help your children understand the lesson, too. Next week our 4th and 5th graders will make a "Halloween and Hospitality" visit to our friends at Pilgrim Towers.

Flu Shots

The Wellness Committee is offering influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) today and each Sunday in October immediately following the worship service in the Auditorium as long as supplies last (in case of rain, they will be offered in the Lounge or Room 203). The cost is \$30. You may pay with cash or a check made out to "FCCOG." We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to provide a receipt with a provider number. People with Medicare may want to get their shot covered by Medicare at their doctor's office or at the Town of Greenwich clinics.



Bible Study

Today, we come upon the most intriguing part of 2 Corinthians, an enigma, wrapped in a conundrum, covered by a mystery. But, of course, you'll just be trundling along thinking 2 Corinthians is 2 Corinthians if you don't stop by and discover the questions. So right after church, don't get in your car. Come find a seat in the Lounge and find out whodunit.



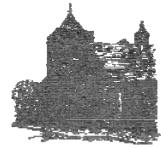
Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

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.

New Member Class

Our next New Member Class is **today at 11:15 am** in the Senior Pastor's Office. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. (Child care will be provided.) During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about

the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Please feel welcome to join us. We will receive new members next Sunday, October 28 during the 10:00 am Worship Service.



First Music and Arts

The 2nd season of *First Music and Arts* opens **today at 5:00 pm** with a hymn festival entitled, *How Can I Keep From Singing?* The Chancel Choir, along with a brass quartet, organist Mark Swicegood, under the direction of Dr. Craig Scott Symons, will take us on a journey through the church year with some of the great hymns from throughout church history. Where else can you sing *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* within the same hour? The Chancel Choir will also be featured in several anthems based on hymn tunes, including Gilbert Martin's *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, and the Paul Manz arrangement of *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*. Join us for an uplifting and energy-filled hour in the spectacular setting of our Meetinghouse. All are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$20 per person to help support the continuation of these outstanding programs. Share the details of this program with your family and friends. Singing hymns is more fun with 379 other folks all lifting their voices in song!



Join us in the Meetinghouse at **5:00 pm** today as linc participates in *How Can I Keep From Singing? A Hymn Festival*, featuring familiar hymn arrangements from throughout the church year. It will be an uplifting and enjoyable afternoon.



There is no SPF tonight. JPF will be held at 6:00 pm in Room 103.

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off

Nights Off will be hosting a chili and macaroni and cheese dinner immediately following the Linc Service next *Sunday, October 28* in the Auditorium. All ladies of the Church are welcome to join *Nights Off* in helping to serve. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email her at FBTworld@aol.com (with "Nights Off" in the subject).



NEWS AND NOTICES

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, October 22 through Saturday, October 27: All



Halloween costumes and decorations will be 75% off. The selection is still good ... it's not too late to be spooky, kooky, beautiful or handsome for Trick or Treat night.

This will be the last week for the scary

Halloween window: Bring your family by for viewing. The other window full of pumpkins and gourds will continue to be a delight during the month of November.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Good jewelry, handbags, and decorations for Thanksgiving.

Volunteers: Substitutes are needed in November and December. Please call Maria at 203-637-1875.

Shopping Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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

Let us always remember to keep our words soft and sweet, just in case we have to eat them. Because if we put both feet in our mouth at the same time, we won't have a leg to stand on!

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

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Currently, the items most in need are: Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter (small size), Cereal, Canned Meat/Tuna and Jelly (small size). If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Ingathering Sunday

Choral by The Chancel Choir:

Onward Ye People by Jean Sibelius

Let This Mind Be in You by Amy Beach

The Palmer Handbells:

Baroque Suite by Douglas Wagner

Rev. Dan England, preaching



linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Join us for art, music, drama and dance to tell the scripture story. This is a casual worship service for all ages.

Come as you are and bring all your friends!

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 Publications: 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