

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Celebrating 350 Years - 1665-2015

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
25 October 2015
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.
Thanks for joining us this morning. We are a congregation of open minds and open arms where everyone is welcome. 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

Cantilena

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Diana Basso, flute

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

FIRST CHURCH FLASHBACK

Craig Symons

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

Lawrence Hathaway

350th ANNIVERSARY VIDEO PREMIERE

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Parker Freeman, Confirmand

Leader: We gather in worship to celebrate this community.

People: We celebrate the love that we have for one another, the support that we give to one another and the journey we are on, united by God's grace.

Leader: We come together this day to delight in offering our gifts.

People: We delight in the gifts we are giving, the pledges we are making and the future we are creating.

Leader: We join our hearts and our spirits today and delight in giving.

All: We are here! We are delighted! We are united! Let us worship God!

CHORAL INTROIT

I've Got Peace Like a River

The Cherub Choir

Traditional

Donald Haviland, director

Debbie Berner, piano

***HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 15

OPENING PRAYER (*in unison*)

All powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
All things are of your making.
All times and seasons obey you.
You chose to create us in your own image,
and set us over the whole world in all its wonder.

You made us the stewards of creation,
to praise you every day for your wisdom and power.
May we imitate your Son, Jesus in his life of service.
May we be faithful stewards of all your gifts
among the people of God.
Let us pray as Jesus taught us, 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.

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

*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.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

The Children's Choir

I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me

Gwendolyn Emery-Owings (b. 1948)

Craig Scott Symons, director

Vance Briceland, piano

*I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go to the house of the Lord.
As father and mother, sister and brother,
come to worship, all together.*

*As father and mother, sister and brother,
sing God's praises all together.
As father and mother, sister and brother,
join at the table all together.*

Acts 2:43-47

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 260

(During the hymn, 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.)

SERMON

What's My Why?

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

Dick Peebles

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Set Me as a Seal

*The Chancel Choir
Bill Heigen (b. 1980)*

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is as strong as death,
many waters cannot quench love,*

*nor can the floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is as strong as death.*

***DOXOLOGY** New Century (black) Hymnal 779
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures
here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom
we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 93

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE
Gigue from Sonata in F Major G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Diana Basso, flute

* * *

*Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the
Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.*

*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 Lillian and Edmund Hoffman by their families.

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. We also now have two rows in the back of the chapel reserved for parents with infants or little ones who are not ready for the Nursery where the parents can be comfortable *and* still be part of worship. Please see an usher if you need help finding either of these locations.

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

David and daughter, Elizabeth (Betsy) Burleson, 179 Valley Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 605-670-8394. David and Betsy come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. David is UNESCO advisor to UNICEF (emeritus). He and Betsy run the Burleson Institute, a 501c non-profit focusing on human rights and environmental issues. The whole family, including wife/mom, Nan, have been involved at First Church for many years.

Janet Caswell, 20 Verona Drive, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-990-0161. Janet comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is head of North American Risk at Mercuria Energy Trading in Greenwich. Janet is the mother of Dylan who is in 4th grade at Riverside Elementary School. She enjoys gardening, golfing, cooking, skiing and vacationing with Dylan.

Sarah (Sally) Caswell, 5 Old Wagon Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-637-7706. Sally comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. After many years living in Virginia, Sally recently moved to Old Greenwich to be near her daughter and family. She loves the area and is happy to return to New England after living in Newport years ago. Sally loves gardening.

Kenneth (Ken) Conover, 21 Lancer Road, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-637-2790. Ken comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. He is a VP at GA Fleet Associates in

Harrison, NY and is married to Susan. Ken is a 40-year resident who was searching for the right church...“I finally found it!”

Richard and Cynthia (Cindy) DiPreta, 218 Palmer Hill Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-637-1939. Richard and Cindy come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. They both grew up in Greenwich and are currently attorneys with The DiPreta Law Firm here in town. Richard and Cindy have two children, Christopher who is 6 years old and Charlotte who is 4. The family enjoys sports activities, and Richard and Cindy are active community volunteers.

Michael (Mike) Gacek and Katherine (Katie) Halloran, 66 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902, 860-798-7045 (Mike cell), 860-921-7407 (Katie cell). Mike and Katie come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Mike is a Trade and Portfolio Manager with PIMCO and Katie is a mental health counselor with the Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Prospects Program. They are both natives of northern CT and are now enjoying exploring the treasures of Fairfield County.

Scott Hansen and Nadine Greenwood, 77 Havemeyer Lane, #56, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-348-0263. Scott and Nadine come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua. Scott is a retired attorney and Nadine is an in-house attorney at Starwood Hotels and Resorts. They have two children, Sarah who works in Washington, D. C. and William who is a college student.

Stephen (Steve) and Connie Kurczewski, 37 Grove Street, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-542-5343. Steve and Connie come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Steve is Managing Partner and Connie is Director of Operations and Business Development for Elite Health Services. Connie enjoys reading, entertaining and comedy, while Steve enjoys running, cycling and swimming. Together you can find them on the golf course. They have a son, Timothy, who is 6 years old.

Jennifer (Jenny) Wilson Schwartz, 23 Tomac Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-990-0328. Jenny comes to First

Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Jenny is an editor in the Home Design field. She and her family moved to Old Greenwich three years ago from California and they feel very lucky to have 'landed' in such a great community. They love the outdoors, spending time at Tod's Point and exploring the Northeast. Jenny and husband, Doug, have three children, Thayer (11), Will (9), and Maggie (6).

G. Michael (Mike) and Maria Weiksner, 12 Ledge Road, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-698-7788. Mike and Maria come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Mike is a General Partner at Rostrum Capital and Maria is the family CEO. The Weiksners moved to Old Greenwich six years ago and love being a part of the community through sports, school, and now church. Mike loves soccer, Crossfit and teaching their kids to code. Maria enjoys spending her days with their kids and being involved in the school community...with some breaks for tennis, exercise and cultural fun. The family enjoys skiing, boating, biking and reading together. Their children include Anna (11), George (9), and Luke and Kaki (7 year old twins).

Michael (Mike) and Jennifer (J.J.) Worden, 2 Kernan Place, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-344-1804. Mike and J.J. come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Mike is CFO of Penton Learning Systems and J.J. formerly worked in Financial PR and is currently a stay-at-home mom to daughters, Kensington (10) and Kiara (4), and son, Joseph (1). The family arrived in Old Greenwich 3 years ago, via 6 years in London and many in NYC. They love hanging out as a family, boating, skiing and traveling. J.J. teaches swimming in the community and is on the school PTA board and is a scout leader. Mike volunteers at the kids' school.

Calendar

TODAY

World Premiere of the First Church 350th Video!

Today, at the start of our service, we will premiere this very special



video in honor of First Church's 350th anniversary...

honoring the past, celebrating the present, leaning into the

future. Original production by Gary Lico and company.

This is a wonderful and celebratory retrospective of the first 350 years of First Church. There are many wonderful images and voices of the congregation, past and present, representing all aspects of our church life. Enjoy!

Church School

Today after a little longer stay in worship, our children finish their rotation workshops on Stewardship of God's Creation. The next series of workshops will be based on the 10 Commandments. Also, today after Church School, 4th and 5th graders, their teachers and parents will go to Pilgrim Towers for our Annual Halloween party. We leave church around 11:15 and leave Pilgrim Towers at 12:45. Pilgrim Towers is at 25 Washington Court, Stamford a few blocks from UCONN Stamford.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations in the Auditorium immediately following Worship.

Cherub, Children's & Youth Choir Rehearsal

*There is no Cherub or Children's Choir rehearsal today.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Meetinghouse, 11:15 am-12:15 pm - Carolyn Paulus, director.

THIS WEEK

Hats Off Book Discussion Group

Hats Off just began its second read of the fall, *The Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China*. This book study group now meets up in the Binney Conference Room on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 am. All are welcome to join in. Please call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 for more info or questions.

NEWS AND NOTICES

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue

Monday, October 26: See 50% off sales for the week on the website at www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room.

Monday, October 26-Saturday, October 31: 75% ALL Halloween clothing and accessories all week. Good choices still available.

Starting Thursday, October 29 THROUGH Saturday, October 31 (Halloween Day): Come into The Rummage Room IN COSTUME and get 50% off EVERYTHING in the shop PLUS any and all Halloween items absolutely free of charge! Spooky good deal!

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Thanksgiving decorations and winter coats and jackets for adults and children. And please consider volunteering at The Rummage Room for two or more hours during the Thanksgiving and Christmas shopping seasons. Call Manager Leanne at 203-637-1875.

Shopping Hours: 10 am-5 pm Mon-Fri, and 10 am-1 pm on Sat.

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

The Rummage Room Mission Statement: All proceeds go to organizations that help to support the needs of women and families locally and around the world especially during the holidays. You help every time you shop and donate at The Rummage Room. *"A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues!"* Those who serve at The Rummage Room have a grateful heart.

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. Drop-ins are welcome.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please don't forget those in need. **Items especially needed are dry beans (kidney, garbanzo, etc.)** Tuna is **not** needed at this time. Also, cereal, canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, sheets & towels.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

*November 1, 2015
All Saints' Day Service
Special Service*

10:00 am Worship Service in the Meetinghouse

*Music by:
The Chancel Choir
Bright Canaan, Arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw
Flight Song by Kim Andre Arnesen*

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org

Facebook

Twitter

YouTube

Instagram



Do We Have Your Correct Email Address?



In this age of technology, it's very important to be able to stay in touch with as many people in our congregation as possible via email. Our weekly Friday email tells you all about what's coming up on Sunday and keeps you up to date with goings-on at the church and with our congregation. You don't want to miss out on these important communications.

PLEASE make sure that we have the most **current** email address for you and your family. Email Barb Wilkov at barbaraw@fccog.org to keep your communications up to date.

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.

Bridge Associate Pastor: Rev. Meghan D. Young

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Youth Coordinator: Donald Haviland

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Office Manager/Sr. Administrative Assistant: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Communications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell