

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Ingathering Sunday

28 October 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



Patrick Hughes, artist
www.patrickhughes.co.uk

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 here at First Congregational Church. This is a church for all kinds of people and not just “church people.” A lot of us weren't “church people” when we started and some of us stopped being “church people” along the way. But, then again, Jesus didn't seem too keen on “church people” either and maybe he was on to something. So whoever you are and however you think about your relationship with God, you are welcome here. We are very glad you're here. Please let us know your name.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Baroque Suite

The Palmer Handbells

Arr. Douglas Wagner

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Steve Cribfield, Co-Chairman, Stewardship Committee

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, everyone who is burdened by life and responsibility and worry.

People: We are here seeking new life, a better way of living.

Leader: Drink deeply of the word of God and the love of Christ and you will be made well.

All: Thanks be to God.

***‡HYMN**

The God of Abraham Praise

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 14

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

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

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

O Lord of our lives, we gather here today conscious of our personal choices, some seemingly for good in our history, others seemingly regrettable. But you are a Lord of redemption and we trust that through all our days, your hand is upon us. So, too, as a congregation we must look to you for guidance and earnestly seek your will. But in all things, we are yours and seek your will through Jesus Christ Our Lord, 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.

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. Do you affirm your consecration in God through Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Landon James Hunter,

son of *Lucinda Seufert-Hunter and Barton Hunter*

*CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT

We promise to give these parents our support as they encourage this child in the ways of faith. We promise also, to hold this child in our love and in our prayers. Daily, we will strive to build a community rich in the spirit of God in which to nurture and bless this child.

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.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Joe McBride

Genesis 37:1-8

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I

dreamed. There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Let This Mind Be in You

The Chancel Choir

Amy H. H. Beach

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Vasil Golodinskii, bass

Jayson Engquist, organ

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

I know I distressed you greatly with my letter. Although I felt awful at the time, I don't feel at all bad now that I see how it turned out. The letter upset you, but only for a while. Now I'm glad—not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him. The result was all gain, no loss.

Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets.

From *The Message*

*‡HYMN

God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 97

(As the hymn begins, 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.)

SERMON

Regrets, I've Had a Few

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Onward Ye Peoples

The Chancel Choir

Jean Sibelius

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

Be Now My Vision

New Century (black) Hymnal 451

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

I Will Sing My Maker's Praise

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

As a coda to today's service, you might want to type in "Janey Cutler YouTube Britain's Got Talent" and watch the video. Or type in the following: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAwOZvvGsRs. You'll have fun watching a performance of *No Regrets*, which may inspire you.

** 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 Landon James Hunter by Lucinda Seufert-Hunter and Barton Hunter.

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.

New Members Joining Today

Sean Doyle, 17 Suburban Avenue, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-769-5441. Sean comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. He is in finance with Louis Dreyfus Commodities. Sean enjoys sailing, reading, running, cross-country skiing and swimming. He and his wife, Susan, welcomed their first child, Conor Allard, on September 14, 2012.

Mildreth (Millie) George, 122 Palmers Hill Road, #3121, Stamford, CT 06902, 203-569-3827. Millie comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. She grew up in Riverside, attending FCCOG into her early years where she and several others started a Young Peoples Group. Millie enjoys ballet, opera and gardening, and used to be an avid skier and tennis player.

Lucinda Seufert-Hunter and Barton Hunter, 76 Halsey Drive, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, 203-912-2194. Lucinda comes to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith and Bart by Confession of Faith. Lucinda is Director of Government Relations

at Time Warner Cable and Bart is in real estate development as a Principal with Vision Street. Lucinda and Bart enjoy sailing and spending time with their 5 ½ month old son, Landon.

Keeley and Scott Kriskey, 105 Hoyt Street, Darien, CT 06820, 203-353-1959. Keeley and Scott both come to First Congregational Church by Transfer of Letter from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Darien. Keeley is the owner of Financial Sense, LLC and Scott is a partner with Kriskey Carpentry. Keeley and Scott were married at FCCOG in 1983 and have two grown children, Benjamin and Rebecca.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Our children will be learning about the relationship between Jacob and his son, Joseph, and the impact on Joseph's brothers. Yes, this is the story of *Joseph's Technicolor Dream Coat*. Also today, the 4th, 5th and some 6th graders from the Church School are going to Pilgrim Towers at 11:30 am for our annual *Halloween & Hospitality* luncheon. We will be back by 1:00 pm.

Flu Shots

The Wellness Committee is offering influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) today immediately following the Worship service in Room 203. The cost is \$30, cash or check made out to "FCCOG." We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to provide a receipt with a provider number.



Bible Study

Bible Study this week will be on the very short book of Titus. We'll also discuss what we are going to do going forward.

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.



Join us today at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium for our linc worship service and a wonderful dinner being hosted by *Nights Off* (see below). We are going to read about, hear about, and dream about the story of Joseph and his uncanny ability to interpret dreams. This is a casual worship service for all ages. Please come as you are and bring your friends along!

Nights Off

Nights Off will be hosting a chili and macaroni and cheese dinner immediately following the Linc Service **today** at 5:00 pm in the Auditorium. All ladies of the Church are welcome to join *Nights Off* in helping to serve. For more information, please call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939.



Y! Program

SPF and JPF will meet at 6:00 pm in Room 103 for a Halloween extravaganza. Were you at the Halloween party last year? It was amazing! We will, again, do the special JPF/SPF Trick or Treat (this isn't a door-to-door thing...like a trillion times better), and then SPF and JPF will split for their own Halloween festivities.

THIS WEEK

You Are Invited

It is a blessing and a joy when one of our church's children grows up and decides to pursue ordained ministry. It is with this joy that you are invited to participate in the **Ecclesiastical Council for Jack Davidson**, a member of FCCOG. This will take place tomorrow, *Monday, October 29* at 7:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. Jack grew up in our church and was an active participant in Church School, JPF/SPF, and the Youth Choir. He graduated from Greenwich High School in 2004, from Colby College in 2008 and from Harvard Divinity School in 2011. For the past two years he has participated in an In-Discernment relationship with our church and now he is moving toward Ordination. While In-Discernment, Jack



worked as a Field Intern at Old South Church in Boston for a year. For the past year, as a licensed pastor, he has served as Associate Minister at First Church of Christ, Congregational in Redding, CT. The last steps toward Ordination include preparation of an Ordination Paper and an Ecclesiastical Council where he is asked to present a 20 minute presentation of the highlights of his paper. An open Q&A will follow the presentation, so come prepared to ask him about your most burning and difficult theological conundrums. This meeting is open to all, so please join us. Copies of Jack's Ordination Paper are available upon request.

St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble Concert

The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble, from St. Petersburg, Russia, will be sharing their vocal talents with the Greenwich community this Friday evening, **November 2** at 8:00 pm. These four singers, all of whom have advanced musical training in their native country, will



present a varied program of sacred music by Bortniansky, Stravinsky, Chesnokov, as well as folk songs from the Russian countryside. This is certainly a program you will want to attend! As always, our programs are free to everyone, with a suggested \$20 per person donation to underwrite

each program and help sustain the series in the future. If you aren't able to attend a program, we would certainly welcome your generous donation as you support the programs *First Music and Arts* offers to the tri-state area. Simply make your check out to "First Congregational Church" and mark "First Music" in the memo line and drop it off in the office. It will find its way to the proper account. Be sure to share our outstanding concerts with your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. This is an easy way to be an "evangelist" and promote the great programs and events First Congregational is able to provide to the community. Look for our full-season brochure in the pamphlet racks around the church!

NEWS AND NOTICES

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

Monday, October 29 and Tuesday, October 30: All Halloween costumes and decorations will be 75% off.

Wednesday, October 31: All shoppers who come in costume will be given 50% off ALL merchandise in the shop. Remaining costumes and decorations will be free, compliments of The Rummage Room.

Happy 
Halloween

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

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

Manager Maria's Wish List: Child's tables and chairs; children's playhouse; jogging strollers; card table; musical instruments; Thanksgiving decorations.

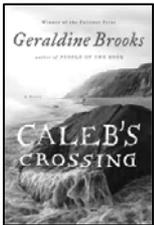
Charles Schultz - *Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use.* How about shifting into a higher gear and giving The Rummage Room the gift of volunteering, when possible, during the holiday season? Call manager Maria at 203 637-1875.

Hold the Date!

Wonderful Wednesday is back and will be held on *November 14* (a Wednesday, of course!) from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Mark your calendars and look for details in the upcoming November Meetinghouse Monthly. It's a fun time for the whole family so be sure to join us!

"Hats Off" Book Discussion Group

Our *Hats Off* reading group is finishing a delightful story of a remarkable young woman experiencing the excitement and challenge of becoming a geological explorer in Alaska. The title is *Midnight Sun Arctic Moon* by Mary Albanese. Our next book will be *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks. The setting is on Martha's Vineyard in the 1660's and the two main characters are Bethia, an English Puritan, and Caleb, a native Wampanoag. We were introduced to Geraldine Brooks' beautiful writing in *The People of the Book* a few years ago, and now we will be dazzled by her writing set here in New England. This book is inspired by a true story.



Come join us on Thursday mornings from 10:00 -11:30 am in the Lounge. Any questions please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.

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. If you’ve forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermision@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

The Chancel Choir:

O Lord, When My End is Come by J.S. Bach

The Chancel Choir Octet:

O Sacrum Convivium (O Sacred Banquet)

by Olivier Messiaen

Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching



linc Worship Service 5:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Join us as we look at the call and covenant of Abraham and Sarah. There will also be a very cool skit that will be acted out using some Dar Williams music. As always, there will be art, music, a message and everything is designed for all ages! This is a casual worship service so come as you are and bring all your friends!

*Daylight Saving Time ends next Sunday, November 4.
Please remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour
the night before!*

Calendar of Upcoming FCCCOG
Events in November

- 2nd: St. Petersburg Ensemble Concert, 8 pm
- 7th: Preschool Holiday Boutique, 11am-7 pm
 - 11th: Laity Sunday, 10 am
 - 14th: Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm
 - 15th: Giving Trees Go Up
 - 17th: Tree Stands Set Up
- 17th & 18th: H.O.M.E. Craft Sale
- 18th: Harvest Sunday, 10 am
- 22nd: Thanksgiving Day
- 22nd & 23rd: Church Office Closed
- 24th: Christmas Trees Arrive and Sale Begins!

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