

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 6 October 2013

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 worship this morning at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. What a great day to worship God as we join a multitude of churches across our planet to celebrate World Communion Sunday! We are so glad that you are here and hope that our time together will inspire, calm and refresh your spirit.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Eugene Sirotkine, guest director/organist
Introduction to *Rejoice in God's Presence* Henry Purcell

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery
Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

His Banner Over Me Is Love
The Cherub Choir
Traditional
Donald Haviland, director
Debbie Berner, pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Throughout God's world this day Christian churches are celebrating the Eucharist as one family dining together in one room under one roof.

People: Our sisters and brothers in Africa, Europe, Central America, Asia and in all lands and countries join us in lifting the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Leader: Neither powers nor principalities shall stop us nor deter our purpose, our sense of mission, or our challenge to go forth as disciples into every town, village, and crossroad proclaiming the love of Christ for all creation.

People: In Christ's love there is no East, no West, no North, no South, but only one Spirit of hope, love, and peace for all.

Leader: Let us praise Christ! May this holy meal empower each of us to be agents of hope and peace in a time of uncertainty and strife.

People: The bread and wine are not for us alone, but are symbols of a universal message that surpasses the might of missiles and the walls of oppression.

Leader: May Christ bless the worldwide communion of the church this day!

*People: Praise be to Christ our Creator, Redeemer, and Savior!
Amen.*

*‡HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West

New Century (black) Hymnal 394

OPENING PRAYER

As we gather at your table from all over the world, O God, we pray that all those who come to you in the name of Christ might be one in Spirit. Knead us together in one loaf. Free us from jealousy and selfish ambition; unite us in mission and service to those in need everywhere. May we sow righteousness and harvest peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ, in whose name 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.

(During the Gloria, the 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.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

The problem as God gave Habakkuk to see it: God, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, “Help! Murder! Police!” before you come to the rescue? Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head.

What’s God going to say to my questions? I’m braced for the worst. I’ll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I’ll wait to see what God says.

And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.”

“Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—full of himself but soul-empty. But the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, *really* alive.”

From *The Message*

ANTHEM

Love Grows Here

The Youth Choir

Don Besig (b. 1936)

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, pianist

SECOND LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles came up and said to the Master, “Give us more faith.” But the Master said, “You don’t need *more* faith. There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, ‘Go jump in the lake,’ and it would do it.

“Suppose one of you has a servant who comes in from plowing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, ‘Sit down and eat?’ Wouldn’t you be more likely to say, ‘Prepare dinner; change your clothes and wait table for me until I’ve finished my coffee; then go to the kitchen and have your supper?’ Does the servant get special thanks for doing what’s expected of him? It’s the same with you. When you’ve done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, ‘The work is done. What we were told to do, we did.’”

From *The Message*

*‡HYMN

We Are Your People

New Century (black) Hymnal 309

SERMON

How Do You See It?

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. John W. Collins

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

The Chancel Choir

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*in unison*)

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our commitment to bear your name and to follow you wherever you lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN

O for a World

New Century (black) Hymnal 575

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Gigue from Suite E Minor

George Handel

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

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

Throughout the month of October, we will hear the stories of David and his son, Solomon. Today is the story of David and Goliath. As with so many stories in the Bible, no matter how many times we hear it, we can always learn something new. Ask your children what they learned today. Our 3rd graders continue their study of the Bible concentrating on some stories in Genesis. Next Sunday, **October 13** will be a "*Service Sunday*" when 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.

New Member Orientation Today

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? Today is the first of four opportunities you have during the month of October to participate in a First Church orientation session. Join us today at 11:20 am in the Senior Pastor's Office. Then if you choose, you can join either next Sunday, October 13 or Sunday, October 27. For those who can't attend today's class, there will be Orientation Sessions each Sunday in October. If you would like to



join us today, please look for Ginny Breismeister in the Meeting-house during worship or just come on down to the Senior Pastor's Office after worship. Child care is available at all sessions. *You will be entering a fellowship of people who will support you, pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*

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." Supply is limited, and we anticipate only having them this week and possibly next week. We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to provide a receipt with a provider number.



Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm in Room 104; 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.

JPF & SPF Youth Group Events Begin *Today!*

Our Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 6-8) and our Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 9-12) begin 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. If you are interested in joining, contact Donald Haviland; donaldh@fccog.org.

THIS WEEK

"Stop! The Bible Study" (for Beginners)

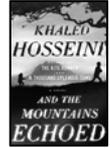
Part of the trouble with traditional Bible Studies is that, even if the text is explained carefully by teachers who know their stuff and who try to anticipate questions people might have, participants might have even more basic questions that can be glossed over. So "*Stop! The Bible Study*" is designed 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 will meet on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am, starting this *Thursday, October 10* in Room 104. If you have any questions prior to the class, call Dan England at 203-543-0363.

Hats Off Book Group

Our *Hats Off* Book Study Group just started our second read for the fall, *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. We meet on Thursdays in the Lounge from 10:00 - 11:30 am. Please call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 for more information.



NEXT WEEK

October is New Members Month!

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? All through October we have opportunities to participate in a First Church orientation session and two opportunities to join. Here's how it works: Come to any **one** of the orientation sessions (we'll have child care available), and if you decide to join, choose either **October 13** or **October 27** to do so. You can even attend the orientation and join the same day!

Orientation Sessions:

Today, Sunday, October 6 - 11:20 am in the Senior Pastor's Office

Sunday, October 13 - 9:15 am in the Lounge - Join at 10 am service

Sunday, October 20 - 11:20 am in the Senior Pastor's Office

Sunday, October 27 - 9:15 am in the Lounge - Join at 10 am service

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 fellowship of people who will support you, pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*

Regular Sunday Bible Study Begins Next Week

The regular Sunday Bible Study will begin next *Sunday, October 13* at 11:20 am in the Lounge. The topic of our six week study will be *Galatians*, which might be called the "freedom" book of the Bible. The poor Galatians, like many a Christian who substitutes the Spirit with obligations, missed the certainty of the law, the rules they could

turn to to live by. Paul is saying that since Christ has come, they are free, like prisoners let out of their jail. But like people who are long behind bars, they actually want to go back in. Paul is sure that if they will grasp the gospel he has preached to them, they will abound in faith and the future. It's a great book and we'll have a great time learning about its message together. Led by Dan England.

Flu Shots

If supplies last, the Wellness Committee will offer influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) immediately following the Worship Service next Sunday 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.



NEWS AND NOTICES

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

The 'Best Little Halloween Shop in Old Greenwich' is now open and awaiting your arrival. Don't miss the opportunity to dress your



family as the best-dressed witch, princess, goblin or whatever tickles their fancy. When you are decorating, please keep in mind that The Rummage Room needs your surplus of decorations and costumes as the Halloween Shop is restocked on a daily basis.

Come by and view the Halloween window as it is sure to put you in the mood for your Halloween parties and 'trick or treat night.'

Wish List for October: Besides Halloween costumes and decorations, there is a need for decorative boats, the bigger the better, for a Rummage Room window display.

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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

Have you ever noticed that people like to sit in the front of the bus, in the back of the church, and in their own pews?

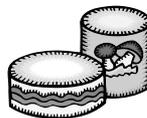
Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte

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. Items especially needed include:



- Canned fruit
- Canned meat (i.e. Chili, Spam)
- Peanut butter (18 oz)
- Jelly (18 oz)
- Cereal
- Soup.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

Joe Dermody, violin

Elegie and Pastorale by Joseph Rheinberger

The Chancel Choir

Kyrie Eleison from *Solemn Mass* by Louis Vierne

Guest Preacher:

Kent Siladi, Conference Minister

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