

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
1 September 2013
10 o'clock in the morning



...and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes...

Luke 7

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 welcome you warmly to our worship service on this Labor Day Sunday at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As our nation pauses to catch its breath before the agenda-filled days of Autumn, we are glad you are with us to feel God's calming spirit and relax in the inspiration of worship. Please join us after worship for our Coffee Hour in the Memory Garden.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Fantasia

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has searched us and known us. God has knit us together in our mother's wombs and read the book of our lives before our days began.

People: We come to worship God, who understands us completely.

Leader: God seeks us when we flee - whether we take the wings of the morning or make our bed in the earth, God's hands hold us tenderly.

People: We come to worship God, who cares for us completely.

Leader: God's thoughts are more than the sand of the sea, yet God knows every word that falters on our tongues and every stumbling path we wander.

People: We come to worship God, who loves us until we find ourselves at home.

***‡HYMN**

Sing Praise to God

New Century (black) Hymnal 22

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, whose name is honored where the needy are served and the powerless uplifted, may we embrace our neighbor with the same tenderness that we ourselves require. May our lives be made whole again, may the wounds of our stress-filled days be healed and may our hearts open in gratitude for the wonder of living on this garden planet. Let your joy break forth from the places of love we have covered up and may your justice be fulfilled in grace. We pray in Jesus' name, 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

New Century (black) Hymnal 754

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

From *NRSV*

ANTHEM

O Taste and See

The Summer Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

SECOND LESSON

Luke 7:1-10

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

From *NRSV*

*‡HYMN

Come, Labor On

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 293

SERMON

Today - Moments of Grace

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ye Servants of God

The Summer Choir

Arr. Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

*DOXOLOGY

New Century (black) Hymnal 776

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

At the River

Donald Haviland, tenor

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

New Century (black) Hymnal 23

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Fugue

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*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

Each Sunday at this service we have Child Care for infants through 4 years old. Today we are in Room 104 which is at the bottom of both stairways leading to the preschool main entrance. Ushers are able to direct you. **Summer Church School (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) wraps up next Sunday, September 8.** Regular Church School begins on Homecoming Sunday, September 15.

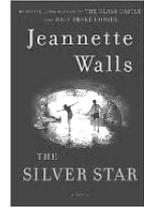
Parish Nurse

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

NEXT WEEK

Hats Off Book Group

Hats Off is starting again on *Thursday, Sept. 12* from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Lounge. Our first book selection will be *The Silver Star* by Jeannette Walls. We enjoyed a previous selection, *Half-Broke Horses* by this author. “In *The Silver Star*, Jeannette Walls has written a heartbreaking and redemptive novel about an intrepid girl who challenges the injustice of the adult world - a triumph of imagination and storytelling.” Come and join us!! Books will be available in the Church Office. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



NEWS AND NOTICES

Pillows Available

Thank you to those who heard our call and generously donated throw pillows for the congregation. For some, the pews in the Meetinghouse are less than comfortable and that fact has sometimes prevented them from attending this 10:00 am service. But now that problem has been solved! There is now a large basket filled with throw pillows located in the Meetinghouse. Feel free to borrow one during worship to help make the hour more enjoyable (and comfortable) for you.



Homecoming – Sunday, September 15

It's not too early to make your plans for September, so RSVP NOW for *Sunday, September 15* and join us for Homecoming! ALL are invited to our 10:00 worship and then picnic to follow. We will have food, bouncy houses and more! Great for all ages! The cost is the same as last year: \$5/person; max \$20/family. Parish Life will provide burgers, hot dogs and grilled chicken along with all the fixings. If your last name begins with letters A-P, please bring a salad or side to share; if your last name begins Q-Z, please bring a dessert. **RSVP by visiting our church website homepage and click the link under Homecoming.**

News from The Rummage Room

The 49th Grand Reopening of The Rummage Room took place on Monday, August 26, 2013 amid the usual excitement and shopping frenzy that accompanies this annual event!! Manager Maria, dozens of volunteers, and assistant managers spent the month of August in preparation for this big event and the effort was rewarded by the biggest reopening in the 49 year old history of The Rummage Room!!!!

The Opening Day Sales in 2013 were \$14,012.44!

If you missed the Grand Reopening, don't despair as 'new' merchandise goes out continually due to space limitations. We have bins of clothing and other items that go out from the work room as space opens up. Our steady customers have been coming back every single day to see what is 'new' to them.



Wish List for September: Good handbags, good jewelry (things that go fast and furious!); good bric-a-brac (there are still beautiful items on display but more is always needed); small furniture; bikes; and single and double strollers.

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

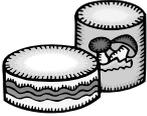
Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and Friday and Saturday 9:30 to 12:30 pm.

And remember that God accepts knee mail ... so please take a moment to thank Him for our exceptional Reopening Day! And because of you, our customers, the Allocations Committee, run by the Woman's Fellowship has been able to send millions of dollars through our mission projects to help others who are desperately in need! Thank you for shopping at The Rummage Room. (And what we don't use is **always** passed on to other volunteer organizations.)

Food Collection – Emergency Call

People seem to forget about the need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor over the summer months, but hunger doesn't take a holiday. And now the food supply is dwindling. Please, remember that a Food Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse as well as at the Beach Service and **we will have a**

special collection on Homecoming Sunday, September 15. Please



just pick up an extra few items when you go to the grocery and donate them for those in need. Items especially needed at this time include: Canned fruit, canned meat (i.e. chili, Spam), peanut butter (18 oz), jelly (18 oz), cereal and soup.

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 will be held on **Thursdays** at 9:00 am throughout the summer. (Wednesday morning classes will return in the fall). 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.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by The Summer Choir:

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake by John Hilton

O How Amiable by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Rev. Dan England, preaching

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get connected **millinc** Beach Service

Next Sunday, **September 8** is the last Beach Service at 8:00 am at Greenwich Point (weather permitting).

Communion is served. Join us for the last of this casual service for this summer season.

Find us on [Facebook](#) and LIKE the page!

We're now on [Twitter](#) @FCCCOGCT

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