

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Homecoming Sunday

Church School Commissioning

14 September 2014

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.*



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - mighty, the King of cre -
(Men) 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
reign - ing (Women) and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All who would hear now to his
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. (All) Have you not seen all that is
prais - es be - fore him! Let the A - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him!

Verse 3: *Choir only*

LITANY OF BLESSING

Elaine Teeters: Today, we mark the beginning of something new. New members, new classes, new teaching opportunities, new voices, a new program year, and new possibilities.

Chris Hartwell: We see opportunities for stronger faith and a stronger church. We see opportunities to be a healthier and more vibrant community. As such, we ask each of you to proclaim your part in this faith journey we share.

Rosemary Lamie: Will those serving as Church School teachers and Church School Task Force members please stand?

Church School Teachers and Church School Task Force Members:

We accept the challenge, responsibility and joy of teaching our youngest members the ways of Christ.

Rev. Richard DenUyl: Will our Deacons and Trustees please stand?

Deacons and Trustees: We promise to responsibly use our resources of talent and finance to further the message of God. Together, we will dream a future for our congregation that is responsible, bold and faithful.

Rev. Avery Manchester: Will the members of our Stephen Ministry, Outreach Committee, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Prayer Chain Ministry please stand?

Caring Ministry Members and Outreach Committee Members: We promise to provide light to the world through the care and support we provide to those in emotional, financial, or spiritual need.

Donald Haviland: Will members of our Youth Ministry program (SPF, JPF, 678, Confirmation), and all of our children, if you are not already, please stand?

Youth: We promise to faithfully attend the programs designed to help us on our faith journey. Scripture tells us, “Your young ones will see visions.” We will do our part in helping our congregation live into the vision God has for us.

Ginny Breismeister: Will members of our Welcoming Task Force, our Membership Committee, Ushers, Greeters and Parish Life Committee Members please stand?

Hospitality Members: We will create an environment of welcome through our words, our programs, our caring and the grace we receive and give.

Rev. Mark Montgomery: Will all of those who have shown up today please stand?

All of God's Faithful People: We promise to support this congregation and its mission with our time and resources, our faithful attendance and presence, our prayers, and by the compassion we learn here and carry into the world.

Craig Symons: Please be seated. Will members of the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir and Children's Choir join me in the Chancel area?

Choir Members: We promise to lift our voices to God, in turn lifting the spirits of this congregation so that we may all go forth recognizing we do so in the fullness of God's grace.

Rev. Mark Montgomery: As affirmation of our commitment to each other and the teachings of Jesus Christ, let us share together his prayer:

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.

ANTHEM

The Children's, Youth and Chancel Choirs
Arr. Richard Shephard (b. 1949)

Lord, Speak to Me

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of thy tone;
as thou has sought, so let me seek
thine erring children lost and lone.*

*O strengthen me, that while I stand
firm on the rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand
to wrestlers with the troubled sea.*

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious things thou dost impart;*

*and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as thou wilt, and when, and where,
until thy blessed face I see,
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.*

*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.*

(After the Anthem, 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

Stephanie Woodman

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. *From New Revised Standard Version*

SECOND LESSON

Rick Woodman

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when

Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

From *New Revised Standard Version*

***HYMN**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 478

SERMON

Blessed to be a Blessing

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Awake, My Heart

The Chancel Choir
Jane Marshall (b. 1924)

*Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.
Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day, with Thee beside me,
Beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending.
My heart shall be Thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word my nurture, giv'n to bring me on toward heaven.
Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.*

***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

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

New Century (black) Hymnal 459

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

(Sung to the Doxology Tune, *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*; this serves as our grace before our meal. Following worship, please proceed to the food line and enjoy the time together with new and familiar faces.)

Be present at our table, Lord.

Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we

May dine in fellowship with Thee. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Jean Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

*Please join us for our Homecoming Picnic
immediately following the worship service.*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this Homecoming Sunday are given in loving memory of Richmond B. Hopkins by his family.

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.

Note: Throughout the year Richard welcomes sermon requests on topics of personal interest from the congregation. To submit your sermon request please speak to him in person, send him a note or email him at RichardD@fccog.org.

Calendar

TODAY

Today is Homecoming Sunday!

Join us after worship for great fun for all ages, delicious food and fellowship at our annual Homecoming Picnic. This year's theme is "*Blessings All Around.*" Church members can still purchase tickets at the picnic. The cost is \$5 per person (max \$20 per family). Children 3 and under are free. See you there!

Church School

Welcome to your Church School! We will be getting to know each other today and looking toward the year ahead. If you have not registered your child yet, please do so today on our website at www.fccog.org. Visitors are welcome to register their children too! Registration helps us to know your children and puts you on our mailing list.

At the end of the worship service, teachers of 3rd Grade through Middle School will take their classes out to the picnic where families will meet up with their children. Teachers will wait with our visiting youngsters until they are reunited with their families. Children in 2nd Grade and younger will wait in their classrooms until a parent picks them up.

Please know that we still need 2-3 adult teachers for the 3 and 4 year olds; 1 more adult for the Kindergarten & 1st Grade; and 1 or two adult assistants for the Middle School class which will be led by Donald Haviland.

Child Care

Every Sunday there is Child Care for infants-4 years old at this 10:00 am service. If you have questions or concerns about your child in

worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Preschool area. Ushers are able to direct you.

New 2014 Church Telephone Directory

New updated Church Telephone Directories are available today at the Homecoming Picnic. Directories can also be picked up at the Church Office anytime.

THIS WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

Welcome back to Fall frenzy. We have our first *Nights Off* gathering of the new program year tomorrow, ***Monday, September 15*** at 6:30 pm at the home of Kathy Riley. We will catch up with old and new friends and plan events and activities for the coming year. You will also have the opportunity to meet the new "First Lady" of First Church as Rev. DenUyl's wife, Barbara, will be joining us. Please call a friend and invite them to come along with you. Sometimes one just needs to ask! Please bring along a refreshment to share as well as a beverage of your choice. Any questions? Call Shirley Flierl at 203-629-4939 or email FBTWorld@aol.com. Please put "Nights Off" in the subject line.

Hats Off Book Discussion Group is Back!

Hats Off will begin this ***Thursday, September 18*** in the Lounge from 10:00-11:30 am. The first pick for our fall reading is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Since there are 30 copies in the Greenwich library we will be using our fine library for our editions. Please call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 if you'd like to purchase a book instead.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Join Our Moms' Group

If you have a baby, toddler and/or 2 year old, join us for an opportunity to meet and relax with other moms and their young kids. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month (next gathering **September 26**) from 9:30–10:30 am in Room 104. For

more information, contact Kristen Jacks at kmj33z@yahoo.com or call her at 203-344-1961.

First Church is Turning 350!

Do you know that First Church will be celebrating its 350th anniversary in 2015? The planning is just beginning for this yearlong celebration. If you are interested in being a part of it, please plan to attend the organizational meeting of the 350th Anniversary Committee on *Monday, September 29*, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Lounge. The goal of this meeting will be to generate ideas and put together a working group and leadership team. If you have any questions, please contact:



Pat Mendelsohn (patmendelsohn@aol.com),
Tamara Ng-Yow (tupham123@gmail.com) or
Pat Larrabee (patlarrabee@hotmail.com).

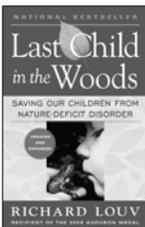
Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness Committee is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday, October 4* from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We're looking for volunteers to make refreshments or play the piano, so please sign up at Coffee Hour or contact Betsy Kreuter at 203-637-3069 or Sue Asselin at 203-637-1791, ext 21. And, as always, blood donors are very much appreciated and appointments can be booked by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE. Thank you for reaching out and being God's hands by helping others.



Book Discussion for Parents

This year the Family Ministries Program of First Church, together with the First Church Preschool, will be co-hosting a series of events relating to the topic of the effects of stress on children. We initiate this series with a book discussion of the landmark book, *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv. Mark your calendars now for *Thursday, October 2* at 7 pm. In this book, Louv poignantly points out a growing body of evidence which links the lack of children's exposure to our natural environment to the rise in obesity, attention disorders, and



depression. While not an actual medical condition, Louv argues that this “nature deficit disorder” demands our attention and action, for the “health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable.” All parents, educators, and environmentalists would find this an important book and discussion. **Please RSVP to:**
Rosemary Lamie, at RosemaryL@fccog.org or 203-637-1791 ext. 20
OR Preschool Director, Darla Kohler Steiner at darlak@fccog.org or 203-537-5430.

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

As we come together today for "Homecoming," the staff and volunteers at The Rummage Room would like to remind you that we are also part of the First Church Family. For those of you who have been away for the summer, are new to First Church, or simply have not visited the shop recently, we welcome you as we get ready to celebrate The Rummage Room's 50th Anniversary in early October. Manager Maria has several anniversary specials at 50% off every week for your shopping pleasure. After 50 years and over \$4,000,000 given to help women's and children's groups from The Rummage Room proceeds, we hope we have become very experienced at what we do best ... pleasing you, our customers.

Shop Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

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

Maria's Wish List: Halloween items; good jewelry; good handbags.

Affirmation for the Week: *May we enrich our lives with laughter and forgiveness ... and not get so complacent that we wear our halos too tight.*

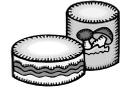
Tai Chi Classes

Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises with our new teacher, Joe Black. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class. Join us! You can even just drop in. **All are welcome.**

Neighbor to Neighbor – Food Collection

Please remember those in need and donate food items to Neighbor to Neighbor. Items especially needed at this time include: Canned

fruit, canned meat (i.e. Spam, ravioli, chili), dry beans (black, kidney) and soup. Please remember that a Food Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse all year long. So, if you have forgotten your food today, please bring it to the Church Office anytime during the week or even next Sunday.



Who is teaching your child and where can you find them after church?

Orange, Blue, Purple, Green and Red Doors are in the Preschool.

BABY NURSERY - ORANGE DOOR

Dorothy Mueller
Nishani Naidoo
Carole Lang
Christina Russell

TODDLER ROOM - BLUE DOOR

Duly Chiappetta
Jeff Waggaman
Erlinda & Larry Haviland
Trevor & Colin Ingraham - HS
Natalie Anibal - HS
Ivan Golodinskii - HS

3 YEAR OLDS AND 4 YEAR OLDS - PURPLE DOOR

Chris Schoen
Laura Miller - HS
Margot DeRiemer HS
Carly Jenkins - HS
Yevgeniya Golodinskii - HS

KINDERGARTEN AND 1st GRADERS - RED DOOR

Kristin Jacks
Jennifer Shaw
Dawn Ginste
Daniel Lepoutre - HS
Jadesola Ariyibi - HS
Drew Mohn - HS

2nd GRADERS – GREEN DOOR

Sarah Schneider
Jane Finch
Virginia Richards
Allison Frenz - HS
Matt Ambrose – HS

3rd GRADERS – ROOM 104

Peg Wentworth
Cara Olmsted
Karen Mair
Olivia Hartwell - HS
Melanie Pfetsch - HS

4th GRADERS AND 5th GRADERS – DANIELS CENTER

Greg & Kimberly Kuppenheimer
Fred Laffan
Andrew Williams
Connie & Hans VanRhyn - HS
Gillian Woodman - HS
Amy Cass - HS

“678” MIDDLE SCHOOL – YOUTH ROOM 103

Donald Haviland
Lori Romano
Pam Grunow
Stephanie Woodman - HS
Charlotte Lorthioir - HS

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

Praise by Alec Rowley

Who Calls My Parting Soul? by G. F. Handel

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Thomas Woodman, bass

Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Where to find us:

www.fccog.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#),

[YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)





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.

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: 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