

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Homecoming Sunday

Church School Commissioning

15 September 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.



With great joy we welcome you to our Homecoming Celebration at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich as a new program year begins. Our theme this year is *First Church Alive!* which captures the building excitement of the ways God's Spirit is leading us into a bright future. We are glad you are part of this exciting journey and we invite you to stay with us after worship for our delightful church picnic. May our time together soothe your spirit and touch your heart.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Prelude on All Creatures of Our God and King

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark Montgomery

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love.

People: We see neighbors and friends here, sisters and brothers and a community of kindred hearts.

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know.

People: We see strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends and ones who need an outstretched hand.

Leader: People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here.

People: In me, in you, in each of us, God's Spirit shines for all to see.

Leader: People of God, come!

People: Let us worship together.

*‡HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1, 3, 5)

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 64

OPENING PRAYER

God of life, in our better moments we are aware that you bless us daily, and that you call each of us to be a blessing to others. May this hour be a time of thanksgiving and renewal. Let us remember that we stand in a long line of inspiring people whose energy and faith have served your kingdom through this church. Let us, like them, live creative and loving lives. Teach us to be grateful for the gifts you offer to us, and may we walk together in the spirit of Christ. We ask 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

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jean Watkins

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM

Lord, Speak to Me

Children's, Youth and Chancel Choirs

Arr. Richard Shephard

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 9: 9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

From New Revised Standard Version

CHURCH SCHOOL COMMISSIONING

Introduction

Rev. Mark Montgomery

To Teachers

Rosemary Lamie

Recognizing the great task before you, do you promise to teach to the best of your ability....Encouraging our youth and children in their journeys, seeking to understand them and have them understand the

ways of our faith...and in those times where you yourself may question or need guidance, seek the help of other teachers, church leaders and pastors? If so, please respond, "We do."

Will the children of our church school program please stand?

To Children

Rev. Dan England

You have a wonderful year of learning and growing ahead of you. Do you promise to listen to your teachers, to try to understand the lessons that are taught, and to remember, most importantly, that God loves you very much. If so, please respond, "We do."

Will the members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich please stand?

To Congregation

Rev. John Collins

It certainly does take a village to raise a child. So, if you are a parent, bring your child to Church School regularly. If you are a grandparent, do the same! If you know of families in your community, invite them to the foundation-building experience of Church and Church School. As a community, we indeed have a responsibility to one another and especially our children. And so I ask you, do you promise to encourage and love our children, sharing with them your own story of faith? Do you promise to support those who have answered the call to teach by giving them a hand when needed and praying for them often? If so, please respond, "We do."

And, so, we commission those of you teaching to teach with integrity, those of you learning to listen with intent and those of you supporting to pray without ceasing. May God bless each of us as we continue our journey of faith together reminding us that God's name is love, God's presence is joy, God's will is peace, God's nature is compassion, God's word is truth and God's gift to all is eternal life. Amen.

*‡HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 317

SERMON

Re-membering

Rev. John W. Collins

SOLO

Bless This House

Thomas Woodman, bass
May Brahe (1884-1956)

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dan England

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise His Holy Name

The Chancel Choir
Keith Hampton

*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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

New Century (black) Hymnal 4

*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

Make a Joyful Noise

Alan Viner (b. 1951)

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

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

Today is Homecoming Sunday!

Join us after worship for some great fun, delicious food and fellowship at our annual Homecoming Picnic. This year's theme is "**First Church Alive!**" Church members can still purchase tickets at the picnic. Suggested donation 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 or on our website at www.fccog.org. Visitors are welcome to register their children too! 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 family. Children in 2nd grade and younger will wait in their classrooms until a parent picks them up.

Parish Nurse

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

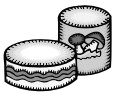
Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work of putting together a slate of proposed candidates to become officers and members of the standing committees of the Church beginning in January 2014. Please refer to this month's *Meetinghouse Monthly* or the FCCOG website (www.fccog.org) for more information about the nominating process and the opportunities for you to serve and strengthen your involvement with the Church in this very meaningful way. If you would like to be considered for nomination, or you know of someone whom you think would be a good candidate, please complete the sheet enclosed in the bulletin and drop it in the offering or in the Church Office. You may also indicate your interest, or offer someone else's name, via a link on the website.



Food Collection

We are having a special collection of food for Neighbor to Neighbor today at our Homecoming Picnic. 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. Please also 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.



THIS WEEK

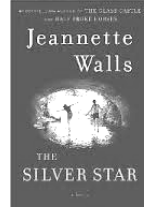
Nights Off Women's Group

Welcome back to Fall frenzy. We have our first *Nights Off* pot luck supper tomorrow, *Monday, September 16* at 6:30 pm being held at the home of Kathy Riley. We will catch up with old and new friends and plan events and activities for the coming year. Please call a friend to invite them to come along with you. Sometimes one just needs to ask! Bring a favorite dish, salad or dessert to share with your friends,

along with 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 Group

Hats Off started this past *Thursday* morning. Our first book selection is *The Silver Star* by Jeannette Walls. “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.” There is still time to come and join us on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Lounge. Books are available in the Church Office. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



NEXT WEEK

Cherub Choir Starts Next Week!

We're getting ready for another exciting year of our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders joining together in music and worship!



Rehearsals are on **Sundays from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm in Room 104**. If you are interested in your child joining Cherub Choir, find Donald Haviland—the man running around with the balloons—during the Homecoming Picnic to sign up! Doing so will grant your child a free balloon! (You might get one too if you ask nicely.) Donald Haviland can also be reached via email at donaldh@fccog.org

NEWS AND NOTICES

JPF & SPF Youth Group Events Begin *October 6!*

Our Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 6-8) and our Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 9-12) begin on October 6. JPF & SPF focus on creating a fun, safe environment in which our youth can gather in community while growing spiritually and making new friends. We meet on **Sundays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm**. If you are interested in joining, find Donald Haviland—the guy with the balloons at the Homecoming Picnic—and take an information sheet. Returning the

information sheet at the first meeting will net you a certificate for free ice cream at Gopher Ice Cream! Donald can also be reached via email at donaldh@fccog.org.

Update on Our 5:00 pm *linc* Service

Our 5:00 pm worship service, *linc*, is due for a makeover! At our last Church Committee meeting, members approved a motion from the *linc* subcommittee. The motion suggested that we suspend our *linc* service with a relaunch in 2014. We have learned a lot over the past two seasons of *linc* and we are excited to take those learnings and create a worship experience that works well with our church schedule, that meets the needs of our community, and that is appropriately staffed (with professional staff and volunteers) to ensure its best opportunity for success. The *linc* subcommittee will meet monthly (beginning in October) and provide consistent updates via our website, the *Meetinghouse Monthly*, and our Church Committee meetings. Keep up with all of the latest *linc* information and explore ways that you may be a part of this exciting opportunity for our congregation and community.

Kettle Quilters Back in Room 203

You may have wondered what happen to us after Sandy! We were not swept out to sea and managed to meet in Inge's kitchen (which to this date is still a work in progress) throughout the winter and the summer. Now our latest quilt top is waiting for your nimble fingers in Room 203 to be quilted. **Note the change of times:** Every Tuesday 7:30 to 9:00 pm. There are a number of beginners in this group. So don't be shy to try us out and join us for happy companionship. See you on Tuesdays!



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.

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

As we come together today for Homecoming Sunday, The Rummage Room would like to remind you that '*We are Family*' too and encourage those who have been away for the summer or have not visited the shop lately to come in and browse, buy or donate. 'New' donations are received and displayed daily so a wide variety of fresh merchandise is always available.

The Halloween Shop will be up and running in a few weeks with the best selection of costumes in town. There will be something for everyone so everyone can find something beautiful, scary or whatever they wish to be this year.

Wish List: Halloween items; small furniture; musical instruments; strollers; bikes.

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

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

Family is like every other blessing, whether it's our own family or our extended church family or those families who need our help. When we stand together, we bring strength to one another and relief to those in need.

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.**



**Who is teaching your child
and where can you find them after church?**
Orange, Blue, Purple and Red Doors are in the Preschool.

**BABY NURSERY -
ORANGE DOOR**

Janet Hoekstra
Sarah Morris - HS
Debbie LaCivita/Chris Collins - subs
We would welcome 1 or 2 more helpers.
Who wouldn't want to rock an infant?

**TODDLER ROOM -
BLUE DOOR**

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

**3 YEAR OLDS AND 4 YEAR OLDS
- PURPLE DOOR**

Jennifer Benoit
Chris Schoen
Margot DeRiemer - HS
Carly Jenkins - HS
Luke Taylor - HS

**KINDERGARTEN AND
1st GRADERS - RED DOOR**

Sarah Schneider
Lori Romano
Daniel Lepoutre - HS
Allison Frenz - HS
Matt Ambrose - HS

2nd GRADERS – ROOM 203

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

**3rd GRADERS –
DANIELS CENTER**

Greg & Kimberly Kuppenheimer
Fred Laffan
Connie & Hans (HS) Van Rhyn
Gillian Woodman - HS
Amy Cass - HS

**4th GRADERS AND
5th GRADERS – ROOM 104**

Kristen Jacks
Kristin Taylor
Daniel Schlorff
Stephanie Woodman - HS
Shaw Speer - HS

**“678” MIDDLE SCHOOL –
YOUTH ROOM 103**

Fred Lorthioir
Anne Pfetsch
Peter Thalheim
Charlotte Lorthioir - HS
Jack Taylor - HS
Rev. Mark Montgomery

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

O Vos Omnes (O Ye People) by Henrique Correa

Solo:

The Lord is My Rock by Camille Saint-Saëns

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano

Mary Fike, flute

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching

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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