

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Homecoming Sunday

Church School Commissioning

16 September 2012

10 o'clock in the morning

Like **Connect** **Celebrate**



This morning we welcome you with joy to Homecoming Sunday! Our theme this year is ***Like, Connect, Celebrate*** and today is one more great opportunity to ***Like*** and realize what is so very special about First Congregational Church, to ***Connect*** to the excitement of our church family as we begin a new year, and to ***Celebrate*** the inspiring Spirit of God's love found in this place. May this day be a genuine gift to your life.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Music for Flute and Harpsichord

*Craig Symons, harpsichord
Mary Fike, flute*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to this sacred place like the psalmist, seeking the refuge God offers to our spirits.

People: May God lead us to green pastures and still waters to restore our souls.

Leader: We come like the psalmist, seeking inspiration and guidance.

People: May God lead us to paths of righteousness.

Leader: We come like the psalmist, seeking assurance in moments of fear.

People: May God be with us in all the valleys and shadows of our lives.

Leader: We come like the psalmist, seeking fullness of life.

People: May God fill the cup of our spirits with joy overflowing.

*‡HYMN

God Reigns O'er All the Earth New Century (black) Hymnal 21

(Please remain standing for the Opening Prayer through the Gloria)

*OPENING PRAYER *(In unison)*

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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

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

Rick Woodman

John I: 35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM *The Children’s, Youth and Chancel Choirs*
For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter
Jayson Engquist, piano

SECOND LESSON *Stephanie Woodman*

Mark 12: 28-31

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*‡HYMN

I’ve Got Peace Like a River New Century (black) Hymnal 478

(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. It is not necessary for parents to accompany their children to the classroom because there are many Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.)

SERMON

“Be Who You Is”

Rev. John W. Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Old Time Religion Medley

The Chancel Choir

Arr. Mark Hayes

Jayson Engquist, piano

***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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

I Love to Tell the Story
(Verses 1 & 2)

New Century (black) Hymnal 522

COMMISSIONING CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, we give thanks for the blessing of those who inspire, who teach, who welcome children and for those who hear your call and respond. May your blessings be found by these leaders and by the children with whom they will work. May we all

understand you more fully as we learn. May we recognize your work among us as we share in this community of faith. Amen.

***HYMN**

I Love to Tell the Story
(Verses 3 & 4)

New Century (black) Hymnal 522

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

A Joyful Noise

Alan Viner

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

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 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

Like Connect Celebrate



Today is Homecoming Sunday!

Join us after worship for some great fun, delicious food and fellowship at our annual Community Homecoming Picnic. This year's theme is "*Like, Connect, Celebrate.*" Tickets can be purchased 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 email RosemaryL@fccog.org for a registration form. Yes, even visitors can register! Today our children, Kindergarten and older, will go to Church School during the second hymn and the entire Church School will return to the Meetinghouse with their classes near the end of the service for the Church School Dedication. At the end of the dedication, teachers of 3rd grade through Middle School will take their classes out to the picnic where families will meet up with their children. Babies, Toddlers, 3's and 4's will return to the classrooms. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will wait for their parents in the Chapel (front right area of the church).

Parish Nurse



Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Prepare to Retreat...to the Audubon

On *Sunday, October 14*, we'll gather from about 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the beautiful Audubon Society in back country Greenwich. The day will include lunch and activities for all ages... walking, learning, funning and worship. Sign up **today** to join us! Look for the sign-up sheets outside at the Homecoming picnic following the worship service.



Fellowship Dinners

This fall we are offering you a special opportunity to be part of the conversation about the future of our wonderful church! Throughout the month of October the Church Committee will host a series of

Fellowship Dinners in various locations. These dinners will be a relaxing and enjoyable way for us to talk about our dreams for the future of FCCOG and what kind of leadership we need to help make those dreams a reality. These dinners will provide valuable input for our Church Profile which will be used in the search for a Settled Senior Minister.

In addition to this conversation, we will offer an informational look at our Stewardship Program and the chance to answer any questions you may have about supporting our ministry together. *So please look for our sign-up sheet during Coffee Hour and plan to be a part of this special and enjoyable opportunity!*

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.

THIS WEEK

Nights Off Women's Group

Join the *Nights Off* women's group tomorrow, *Monday, September 17* at FCCOG for a planning meeting. We will gather at 7:00 pm in the Lounge and refreshments will be served. All are welcome to join us. We will be planning the activities that we want to do in the upcoming Church year. Please contact Shirley Flierl with any questions at FBTworld@aol.com (put "Nights Off" in the subject) or 203-609-1020.



FCCOG Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Let's gather for some service time together this *Saturday, September 22* at Neighbor to Neighbor. Volunteer times are 8:30 am to 10:30 am OR 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This opportunity is for anyone 6 years old and up with their parents (high school students can come without a parent). Volunteers are needed in the Clothing Room, where the volunteers will sort and organize the donated clothing to help N-to-N clients make their selections, and in the Food Pantry where volunteers will sort and organize the donated and purchased food items, stock the shelves, check-out N-to-N clients and bag their groceries. Contact Rosemary Lamie to join our team!



NEXT WEEK



JPF starts again next *Sunday, September 23* at 6:00 pm in Room 103.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Cherub, Children's and Youth Choirs

This week is the start of another season for our Children and Youth Choirs. **Children's Choir** (grades 3-6) rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. There is a pizza dinner, provided by the parents, from 6:00-6:20. **Youth Choir** (grades 7-12) starts a week from today, on Sundays from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Choir Room. Nearly 50% of the Youth Choir graduated last year, so we really need new members! **Cherub Choir** (kindergarten-2nd grade) meets next Sunday from 11:15 - 11:45 am in Room 104. All choirs are open to church members and non-members alike. Bring a friend with you to choir and create life-long friendships through the gift of music!

Bible Study

Bible Study revs up again on *Sunday, September 30* with Rev Dan, this fall with 2 Corinthians, or II Corinthians for Roman numeral fans. II reveals more about Paul and his love for the church than

probably any other letter. It's exciting, passionate and at times tender. The level of discussion and insight increases week by week, so don't be late, 11:20 am in the Lounge.



Hats Off Book Study Group

Our *Hats Off* book study group just started our fall reading last week with *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan. Copies are still available in the Church Office. Come and join our fun and inspiring reading group Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Lounge.



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

In the midst of the celebration for Homecoming in our House of Worship today, may we remind you to come and visit The Rummage Room this week. The shop is stocked with many wonderful items for you and your family. Donations have been flowing through the back door again after the month-long closing and new merchandise is being put on display every day.

The 48th annual Reopening after the summer break for cleaning, painting and repairing took place on Monday, August 27 and it was a busy and productive day. Sales for the day were \$11,333.11, and sales for the reopening week were \$22,292.54 ... up \$2,451.95 from 2011 ... which got The Rummage Room off to a great start. Many will recall that The Rummage Room's Allocation Committee was able to donate \$172,000 last year to the women, children and families in the mission projects supported locally, nationally and internationally, so opening week is an important part of the year's activity. It would have been impossible without donors, volunteers and shoppers like YOU. The Women's Fellowship is grateful.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Halloween items and costumes; small furniture.

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

Email Updates

Emails change faster than the latest political negative ads these days and it's hard for the church to keep up with everybody.

But you can help and it's easy. Go to the website (www.fccog.org) and on the home page either: a) click the link to sign up to receive the Monthly newsletter or b) click the link to update your email, which sends a note to Barb Wilkov with the correct information. We'll do the rest. And don't worry, we are very parsimonious with our email notifications, probably no more than five or six a month, if that. So keep us in the loop of your life so we can keep you informed.



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. Currently, the items most in need are:

- Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter (small size)
- Cereal
- Canned Meat/Tuna
- Jelly (small size)



If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

The Chancel Choir singing:

Praise, Oh Praise Our God and King by S. Drummond Wolff

Psalm 150 by Cesar Franck

Rev. Mark Montgomery, preaching



linc Returns!

Our linc Worship Service Returns next *Sunday, September 23*
5:00 pm in the Auditorium. Join us for art, music, drama and
dance to tell the scripture story. This is a casual worship service
for all ages. Come as you are and bring all your friends!

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

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

Visit our new [Forum](#) and start a conversation



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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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