

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

21 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.*



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As we officially leave summer behind and move into the cooler and busier fall season, may this hour of worship, music and praising God bring you rest, renewal and perspective in your life.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

**All who are able please stand.*

PRELUDE
Berceuse

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Harry Rowe Shelley (1858-1947)

CALL TO COMMUNITY
Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Emma Olmsted

Leader: Now is the time to awaken to the presence of God the Eternal Spirit.

People: Now is the time to come alive with our songs of praise.

Leader: Today we open ourselves to the power of the Spirit in our lives.

People: Today we extend our hands in caring toward humanity.

All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

New Century (black) Hymnal 418

OPENING PRAYER (*In Unison*)

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

O God who is love,
when you seem so far away from us,
remind us to reach within
to the fountain of feelings at the core of ourselves
and there, let us find you.

When you seem so unconcerned,
so massive, so impassive,
so insulated by your power,
so distant by your expansiveness,
remind us to reach out
to the hand of a child,
to the face of a friend,
and there let us find you.

And in times when we have nothing to feel
and there is no one to touch,
let us never close our hearts or our hands,
but always, let us be open to you,
and let us be open today; here and now. Amen.

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.

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM

Tanner MacLeod Williams, son of Lesley M. MacLeod & Andrew J. Williams

Charles Campbell Williams, son of Catherine Porter Smith & Andrew J. Williams

Kellan Caroline O'Connor, daughter of Elizabeth McLennan O'Connor & Thomas Patrick O'Connor

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 1)

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Stuart McCalley

Psalm 108:1-4

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing
and make melody. Awake, my soul!

Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing
praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your
faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

From New Revised Standard Version

DUET

*Hanna Golodinskii, soprano & Thomas Woodman, bass
Who Calls My Parting Soul? (from Esther)*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

*(After the Duet, 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.)*

SECOND LESSON

Mark 9:14-29

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around
them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole

crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him.

When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

From New Revised Standard Version

*HYMN

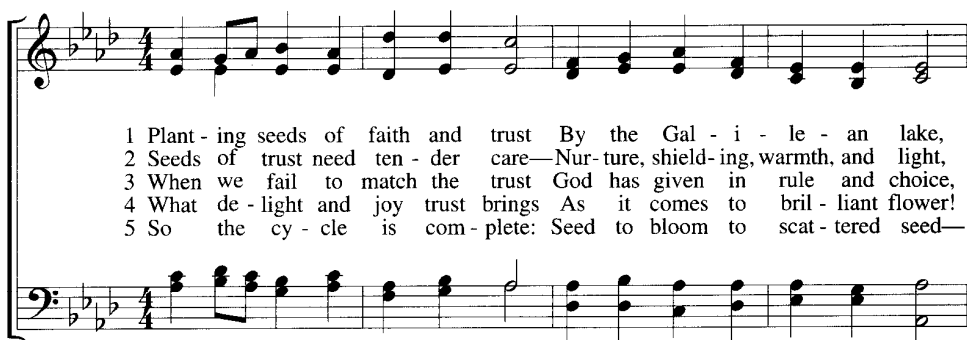
Planting Seeds of Faith and Trust (words and music on next page)

SERMON

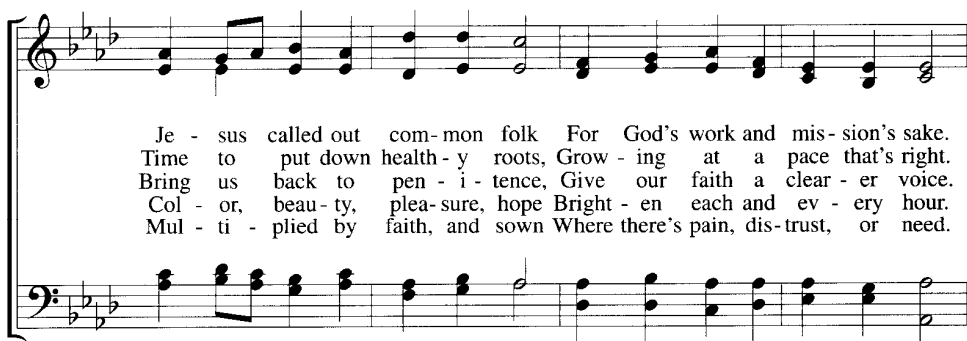
Beyond Belief

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

Planting Seeds of Faith and Trust



1 Plant - ing seeds of faith and trust By the Gal - i - le - an lake,
2 Seeds of trust need ten - der care—Nur - ture, shield - ing, warmth, and light,
3 When we fail to match the trust God has given in rule and choice,
4 What de - light and joy trust brings As it comes to bril - liant flower!
5 So the cy - cle is com - plete: Seed to bloom to scat - tered seed—



Je - sus called out com - mon folk For God's work and mis - sion's sake.
Time to put down health - y roots, Grow - ing at a pace that's right.
Bring us back to pen - i - tence, Give our faith a clear - er voice.
Col - or, beau - ty, plea - sure, hope Bright - en each and ev - ery hour.
Mul - ti - plied by faith, and sown Where there's pain, dis - trust, or need.



Christ, You call us still to - day In our work and in our play.
Christ, You nur - ture us to - day; Keep us grow - ing in Your way.
Christ, You chal - lenge us to - day Lest we fall, de - ny, or stray.
Christ, in You our trust can bloom, Flower - ing by the emp - ty tomb.
Christ, You lead us still to - day In our work and in our play.

Jane Parker Huber, 1987

Words © 1996 Jane Parker Huber

DIX 77 77 77

Adapted from a chorale by Conrad Koehler, 1838

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise

The Chancel Choir
Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

To the Master of music and loveliness:

Praise, power, dominion forever.

To the Lord of the Word of Creation

be praise, power, dominion forever.

To the Maker of movement, colour and light:

Praise, power, dominion forever.

To the Builder, Designer, Creator,

be praise, power, dominion forever.

To the Theme of all song, Inspiration of Love:

To the Artist of Life, to the Greatest and Least:

Praise, power, dominion forever.

For He is the greatest upon His high throne,

and He was the least as the child of a maiden:

Praise then to Jesus whose Mother was Mary,

and praise now to Christ who is God in the midst of us.

Praise. Lord of all beauty, adoring we come to Thee:

Give us thyself both in time and eternity.

Lord of all beauty, adoring we come to thee,

offering all that we are or can hope to be, Lord of all beauty.

Praise, power, dominion forever.

*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

This is a Day of New Beginnings

New Century (black) Hymnal 417

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on Christ is Alive

Rudolf Dost (1877-?)

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Memory Garden
(weather permitting) following the worship service.*

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in joyful celebration of the baptism of Kellan Caroline O'Connor by her family, and also in loving memory of Edith and Albert Musarra, Geraldine and Thomas Williams, and Esther and Albert Wikander by Roberta and Edward Williams.

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

Today children from 3 year old's to 3rd grade are getting an Introduction/Refresher on the Bible. Each class is doing an age appropriate presentation to help our children understand a little more about the Bible and why it is part of our lives. The 4th & 5th graders have decided to learn more about First Church, Congregationalism and the United Church of Christ. They may also do a challenging and fun Cemetery Hunt. Our Middle School class "678" will begin their look at world religions from a Christian perspective.

Child Care

Every Sunday there is Child Care for infants & toddlers, and our 3 and 4 year olds have a Church School class during the entire 10:00 am service. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with one of the adults in the Preschool area. Ushers are able to direct you.

Parish Nurse

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

Children and Youth Choir Rehearsals Resume Today

We would love to have you share your talents with the choir of your choice this season. Simply come to the room at the time listed below and be part of our outstanding music ministry:

Cherub Choir (grades K-2): Room 104 (basement near the Daniels Center), 11:30 am - 12:00 pm - Donald Haviland, director.

Children's Choir (grades 3-6): Room 303 (Craig's office, 3rd floor) 11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Craig Symons, director.

Youth Choir (grades 7-12): Choir Room (3rd floor), 11:15 am -12:15 pm - Carolyn Paulus, director.

Participation isn't required for the entire year, but it certainly benefits the group if you can be there all season. If you can't attend today, call or email Craig Symons and let him know about your intent to participate.

THIS WEEK

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 children. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month (next gathering this Friday, **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.

NEXT WEEK

First Church is Turning 350!

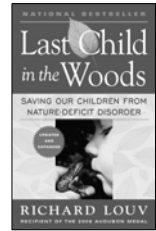
First Church will be celebrating its 350th anniversary in 2015 and the planning is just beginning for this yearlong celebration. If you are

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



Book Discussion for Parents

Join us *Thursday, October 2* at 7 pm for the first event in a new series being sponsored jointly by the Family Ministries Program of First Church and the First Church Preschool 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. 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. **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.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness Committee and Women's Fellowship are 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 look for sign-ups at Coffee Hour or contact Betsy Kreuter at 203-637-3069 or Sue Asselin at 203-637-1791, ext 21. 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.



NEWS AND NOTICES

CROP Hunger Walk – October 5

The Greenwich/Port Chester/Rye CROP Hunger Walk is on *Sunday, October 5* at 2 pm beginning at Second Congregational Church in Greenwich. After an easy walk through downtown Greenwich, the walk ends at Christ Church two miles away. We are planning to have a

FCCOG Youth team and everyone is welcome to join them. Materials are in the church office and you can also access much more information online at crophungerwalk.org/greenwichct.

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

Tuesday, September 23: Happy first day of Autumn. Need Fall and Winter clothing? Come in and check out The Rummage Room!!

The Halloween Shop will open on Wednesday, October 1.

Shop Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm & Sat 10 am to 1 pm.

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

Maria's Wish List: Halloween costumes and decorations.

Have you marked your calendar for The Rummage Room's 50th Anniversary celebrations on October 4th and 5th? (see info below).

Thought for the Week: *If forty is the old age of youth; and fifty is the youth of old age; then when does old age really begin?*

The Rummage Room 50th Anniversary Celebration

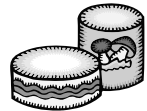
On *Sun, Oct. 5* we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of The Rummage Room during the worship service. **We are asking all fans of the Rummage Room to wear an outfit or an accessory from the Rummage Room that morning!** Meanwhile also please join us on *Sat, Oct. 4* at the shop from 1:00 to 3:00 pm for the town celebration. The shop will be open and we'll have music and food.

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.



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

The Chancel Choir:

See Ye the Lord by J. Varley Roberts

Drew Seigla, tenor

Rev. Mark Montgomery, 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