

*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

## **The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**29 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.*



After the heat of summer, the coming of autumn brings cool nights and refreshing air. Today we welcome you to our first worship service in the fall season here at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich and we invite you to let God's refreshing Spirit cool the anxieties of your life, that you may be strengthened and renewed for the gift of your life's journey. We are glad you are here!

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

‡Seating of latecomers.

#### **PRELUDE**

*Christ, Aller Welt Trost  
(Christ, Comforter of the World)*

*Rick Tripodi, guest director/organist  
J.S. Bach*

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. John W. Collins*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: We enter worship today remembering that through Christ, we are God's brilliance and bliss.*

*People: Through Christ we are the healing of the world, the herald of God's kingdom, the coming of heaven's peace.*

*Leader: Let this time of sacredness offer us welcome without qualification and stillness without interruption.*

*People: Let us know joy without anxiety and freedom without limitation.*

*Leader: Let us reach for God with open minds and grateful hearts.*

*People: Let us reach out to each other with compassion and grace.*

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*Let Us with a Joyful Mind*

New Century (black) Hymnal 16

## OPENING PRAYER

Our loving God, through our worship today we offer thanks that you are steadfast when we are unsteady, that you are loving when we are undeserving, that you are active even when we are unaware. Help us to share with others the support we gain from you. Teach us to extend your love in a manner that bears witness to its power. Enable us to sense your presence in every moment and in all circumstances. In this sacred hour, inspire us to deeper faith and bolder practice. Help us to affirm that your love abounds and that your Spirit is in motion. Lead us O God, and give us courage to follow. 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

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.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(After the Children's Message, 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

*Donald Haviland*

**First Corinthians 13:8-13**

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

## ANTHEM

*With a Voice of Singing*

*The Chancel Choir*

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

## SECOND LESSON

**Luke 6:37-42**

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” He also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

*From New Revised Standard Version*

## \*‡HYMN

*O My Soul, Bless Your Creator* New Century (black) Hymnal 13

## SERMON

*Cancelling the Finger*

*Rev. John W. Collins*

## RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

*Prelude #2*

Felix Mendelssohn

\*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

*O Grant Us Light*

New Century (black) Hymnal 469

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Prelude #1*

Felix Mendelssohn

*Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.  
Weather permitting, we will meet in the Memory Garden.*

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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](http://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*

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### TODAY

#### Church School

Today most of our children will learn more about Samuel. Last week we learned about him as a young boy. This week we hear about him as an older man who had to appoint a human king for the Israelites because they had lost faith in God as their leader on earth. Saul was chosen to be king. Throughout the month of October, we will hear the stories of David and his son, Solomon. Our 3rd graders continue their study of the Bible concentrating on some stories in Genesis. *October 13* will be a “*Service Sunday*” when we will learn about the needs of residents of Pilgrim Towers and make art projects and goodie bags for their Halloween party.

#### Church Hall Meeting Today

We will have a Church Hall Meeting **today** at 11:20 am here in the Meetinghouse. Get your coffee at Coffee Hour and then meet us back here for the meeting. All members are urged to attend to hear about the progress of the Senior Pastor Search Committee, current and future budget issues, and the *First Church Alive* revitalization project.

#### Flu Shots

The Wellness Committee is offering influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) today immediately following the Worship Service in Room 203. The cost is \$30, cash or check made out to “FCCOG.” Supply is limited, and we anticipate only having them this week and possibly next week. We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to provide a receipt with a provider number.



#### Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals today are: Cherub Choir from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm in Room 104; Children’s Choir from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm in

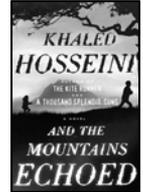
Room 303 (Craig's office); and Youth Choir from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

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## THIS WEEK

### Hats Off Book Group

Our *Hats Off* Book Study Group has chosen our second read for the fall, *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. The characters travel around the globe “from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos - Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor and sacrifice for one another.” We meet on Thursdays in the Lounge from 10-11:30 am. Please call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 for a book - they are going fast in the Church Office!



### Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness Committee is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday, October 5*, 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.

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## NEXT WEEK

### October is New Members Month!

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Church? During October we have four opportunities to participate in a First Church orientation session and two opportunities to join. Here's how it works: Come to any **one** of the orientation sessions (we'll have child care available), and if you decide to join, choose either **October 13** or **October 27** to do so. You can even attend the orientation and join the same day!

## Orientation Sessions:

**Sunday, October 6** - 11:30 am in the Senior Pastor's Office

**Sunday, October 13** - 9:15 am in the Lounge - Join at 10 am service

**Sunday, October 20** - 11:30 am in the Senior Pastor's Office

**Sunday, October 27** - 9:15 am in the Lounge - Join at 10 am service

Please RSVP to Ginny Breismeister ([ginnymb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnymb@fccog.org)) or John

Collins ([jcollins@fccog.org](mailto:jcollins@fccog.org)) or call the Church Office at 203-637-

1791. *You will be entering a fellowship of people who will support you,*

*pray for you and care for you. We hope you will join us.*

## Flu Shots

If supplies last, the Wellness Committee will offer influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) immediately following the Worship Service next Sunday in Room 203. The cost is \$30, cash or check made out to "FCCOG." We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to provide a receipt with a provider number.

## JPF & SPF Youth Group Events Begin *Next Sunday!*

Our Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 6-8) and our Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 9-12) begin next Sunday, **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, contact Donald Haviland; [donaldh@fccog.org](mailto:donaldh@fccog.org).

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### News from The Rummage Room

#### 191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Fall is upon us so our thoughts are turning to the falling leaves, shorter days, and HALLOWEEN! The Halloween Shop will be opening **Tuesday, October 1**. *'Scary to beautiful is our name; costumes are our game.'* The Rummage Room ALWAYS has an amazing array of clothing, masks, wigs, hats, etc. for all ages. Come in and become what you've always dreamed of being. Be sure you take a look at the Halloween window designed by Maria Drieghe and Nancy Hamilton. It will be another award winner!

**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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

**Wish List:** Halloween merchandise and decorations; bikes; strollers; musical instruments; good jewelry.

October is one of God's greatest creations. The sunshine, shadows, oranges, yellows, browns and greens combine to make a gloriously colorful season. So, too, do the donors, volunteers, shoppers and staff of The Rummage Room combine to produce another of God's great creations ... a place dedicated to helping those who have the least among us. Rejoice, donate, volunteer and shop, for it is these mundane acts that combine to make The Rummage Room so bright and beautiful.

### **Tai Chi Fitness with Luis Duarte**

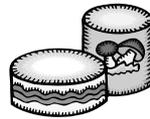
Improve your balance, health and well being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am. Only \$10 per class, \$8 for seniors. Join us! You'll love it! **All are welcome.**



### **Food Collection**

There continues to be great need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor. Please remember to contribute each week. The Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse. Items especially needed include:

- Canned fruit
- Canned meat (i.e. Chili, Spam)
- Peanut butter (18 oz)
- Jelly (18 oz)
- Cereal
- Soup



*Next Week at First Congregational Church*

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

**The Cherub Choir**

*His Banner Over Me is Love*

**The Youth Choir**

*Love Grows Here* by Dan Besig

**The Chancel Choir**

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* by Harold Friedell

*Eugene Sirotkine, guest director/organist*

Rev. Avery Manchester, preaching



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

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

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](http://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