

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

30 September 2012

10 o'clock in the morning

Jacob Wrestling with the Angel, Gustave Doré, 1855



Welcome to this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich. As we move through the fall season, may this hour of worship 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

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Clair de Lune

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beautiful are the works of God!

People: Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

Leader: Beautiful is the mind of God!

People: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

Leader: Beautiful is the heart of God!

People: Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

Leader: God made the heavens and the earth!

People: To God be the glory for the things God has done.

Adapted, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago

***‡HYMN**

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

New Century (black) Hymnal 273

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

***OPENING PRAYER** (*In unison*)

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Holy God, we come before you with awe, for you are great in love and power. Some of us come with reluctance and some with joy; some with sadness and others full of fear, yet we know you receive us as we are. Mighty God, stay with us always, as we worship and as we share the risk and challenge of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence. Touch us, God, with your healing fire. Speak to us through your Word. Send us back into the world renewed and eager to do your will. We pray, together, in the name of Jesus the Christ...

Ronald S. Beebe

***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

Barbara Norrgard

Genesis 25:21-26

Isaac prayed hard to God for his wife because she was barren. God answered his prayer and Rebekah became pregnant. But the children tumbled and kicked inside her so much that she said, "If this is the way it's going to be, why go on living?" She went to God to find out what was going on. God told her,

Two nations are in your womb,
two peoples butting heads while still in your body.
One people will overpower the other,
and the older will serve the younger.

When her time to give birth came, sure enough, there were twins in her womb. The first came out reddish, as if snugly wrapped in a hairy blanket; they named him Esau (Hairy). His brother followed, his fist clutched tight to Esau's heel; they named him Jacob (Heel). Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

Genesis 33:1-11

Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his four hundred men. He divided the children between Leah and Rachel and the two maidservants. He put the maidservants out in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. He led the way and, as he approached his brother, bowed seven times, honoring his brother. But Esau ran up and embraced him, held him tight and kissed him. And they both wept.

Then Esau looked around and saw the women and children: "And who are these with you?"

Jacob said, "The children that God saw fit to bless me with."

Then the maidservants came up with their children and bowed; then Leah and her children, also bowing; and finally, Joseph and Rachel came up and bowed to Esau.

Esau then asked, "And what was the meaning of all those herds that I met?"

"I was hoping that they would pave the way for my master to welcome me."

Esau said, "Oh, brother. I have plenty of everything—keep what is yours for yourself."

Jacob said, "Please. If you can find it in your heart to welcome me, accept these gifts. When I saw your face, it was as the face of God smiling on me. Accept the gifts I have brought for you. God has been good to me and I have more than enough." Jacob urged the gifts on him and Esau accepted.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(After the Children's Message, 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.)

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

The Chancel Choir

Jean Berger

SECOND LESSON

I Corinthian 1:26-31

Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

*‡HYMN

All My Hope on God is Founded

New Century (black) Hymnal 408

SERMON

Where Do You See God?

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

*AN AFFIRMATION

Love people even in their sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth. Love all of God's creation,

the whole and every grain of sand of it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano
Christopher Pfund, tenor
H. Rowe Shelley

Hark, Hark, My Soul

*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 for a World

New Century (black) Hymnal 575

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Sortie

L. Lefebure-Wely

** Please join us for Coffee Hour 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

Church School

Today's Church School lesson is based on the Scripture reading from Genesis 25:19-28. The story today is about the twins, Jacob and Esau. The theme is that, although we are all individuals and often very different from one another, God loves each one of us the same. We apologize for the technical difficulty we had last Sunday making the mini-bible study available for you to access, but as of this writing (Tuesday), we expect that last week's AND today's lessons will be available on YouTube at "First Congregational Church of Greenwich." Next Sunday there will be a "Big Event" in the Daniels Center for all Church School children.

Flu Shots

The Wellness Committee is offering influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) today immediately following the worship service in the Auditorium (in case of rain, they will be offered in the Lounge or Room 203). The cost is \$30. You may pay with cash or a check made out to "FCCOG." We are unable to bill insurances, but are happy to



provide a receipt with a provider number. People with Medicare may want to get their shot covered by Medicare at their doctor's office or at the Town of Greenwich clinics beginning with the Senior Health Fair on Thursday, October 4.

Sign Up to Help with Blood Drive

If you can help with refreshments at the October 6th Blood Drive, please look for the sign-up sheet during Coffee Hour or in the Church Office on weekdays. You may also call Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse at ext. 21 or Betsy Kreuter at 203-698-3016.

Bible Study

Today, Bible Study will commence again -- this time the fascinating multi-book we call 2 Corinthians. In it we find the real story of the early church and perhaps the church in our own day: buffeted, wrong-headed, suspicious, arrogant, in need of a steady hand. And Paul, vulnerable, intuitive, rejected but certain that the truth of the gospel that God had given him was the way forward. We shall begin with an introduction to the place of the Corinthian letters in history and the swirling circumstances and forces that led to their being written. Then, if there is time, we will begin reading at Chapter 10, actually the third letter to the Corinthians. This is one of the most compelling portions of scripture so join Dan England and the growing numbers of those who are having their faith strengthened by this series. In the Lounge, 11:20 am-12:30 pm.



Youth and Cherub Choir Rehearsals

The Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the Choir Room and the Cherub Choir will rehearse from 11:15 to 11:45 am in Room 104. Both choirs are open to church members and non-members so bring a friend with you to choir and create life-long friendships through the gift of music!

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!*



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 during Coffee Hour following the worship service or call the Church Office.



VI Program

SPF and JPF will be held today at 6:00 pm in Room 103.

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee is continuing 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 September'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 indicate your interest, or offer someone else's name, via a link on the website at www.fccog.org.

THIS WEEK

Red Cross Blood Drive

The FCCOG Wellness and Women's Fellowship Committees are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on *Saturday October 6*, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We're looking for volunteers to make refreshments, so look for a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour. 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.



NEXT WEEK

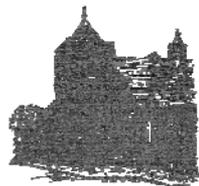
Flu Shots

The Wellness Committee will offer influenza vaccines to adults (18 and over) immediately following the worship service. 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. People with Medicare may want to get their shot covered by Medicare at their doctor's office or at the Town of Greenwich clinics beginning with the Senior Health Fair on Thursday, October 4. Please contact your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, with any questions (ext. 21).

NEWS AND NOTICES

New Member Class

Our next New Member Class will be held on *Sunday, October 21* at 11:15 am in the Senior Pastor's Office. It will last approximately two hours and will include lunch. (Child care will be provided.) During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and to learn more about our church and meet the clergy as well as staff. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. Please feel welcome to join us. We will receive new members on Sunday, October 28 during the 10:00 am Worship Service. For questions or to



indicate your interest in attending, please contact John Collins at jcollins@fccog.org or Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org.

Needed: Drivers for Pilgrim Towers Van

Are you between the ages of 26 and 75 and have three hours to drive the Pilgrim Towers van for low-income senior citizens? (It's a soccer-mom's van, not commercial.) Residents need rides to appointments and local errands around Stamford. First Congregational Church has supported Pilgrim Towers for more than forty years in numerous ways and the residents are truly grateful for our generosity. You'll make new friends and you will be truly appreciated. If you would like to give three hours now and then to Pilgrim Towers, located at 25 Washington Street in Stamford, please contact Dr. Gilda Orwasher, LCSW, ABD, the Social Services Coordinator, at gilda0@aol.com or 203-324-2327. You'll be glad you did!

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, October 1: The Halloween Shop is officially open for all our big and little goblins to buy costumes. The Shop is filled with costumes and decorations galore and the sooner you come, the better the selection. Manager Maria Drieghe and Assistant Manager Nancy Hamilton have conjured up another of their usual magical, mystical and bewitching window displays to put you in the Halloween mood. So "BEWARE" when you are walking in front of the windows ...



you just might be startled by a witch taking to her broomstick!

Wish List for October: Halloween decorations and costumes. Donate your old ones and, in the process, find new ones. Also, musical instruments.

The Rummage Room Mission: The shop has had the joy of great sales since the August 27 reopening. Please continue your strong support with your donations, your shopping and your volunteerism. The Allocations Committee will soon begin work planning where funds will be going to help support women, children and family needs from the 2011-2012 net proceeds. Please know that each application from the organizations requesting funds is carefully and fully reviewed.

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Donations accepted Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, and on Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Maria at 203 637-1875.

We could learn a lot from a box of crayons. Some are sharp, some are dull. Some are short, some are long. Some have weird names and all are different colors. Yet they ALL live in the same box and create beauty when they work together.

Friendship Quilt for Michelle and David Young

As your children are back in school or off to college you have no more excuses. Come and join us and help us with the quilting. Prerequisite: You must be able to thread a needle. We will teach you the rest. (The name of the "workers" will be listed on the back of the quilt).



Join us in Room 203 (next to the kitchen) Mondays from 9:00 am to 12 noon or Tuesdays 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

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 fccoghungermision@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
World Communion Sunday**

The Chancel Choir:

Locus Iste by Anton Bruckner

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light by Paul Manz

Rev. John Collins, preaching



Smilinc Worship Service 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

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 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