

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

7 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 First Church! We're glad you're here. During this brief hour may you be lifted with hope, wrapped in love and filled with peace.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
Introduction et choral and Minuet Gothique from Suite Gothique
Leon Boellman (1862-1897)*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

*Rev. Mark D. Montgomery
Please sign and pass the red book.*

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tessa Laffan

*Leader: People of God, look around and see the faces of those we know
and love – the neighbors and friends, brothers and sisters – a
communion of kindred hearts.*

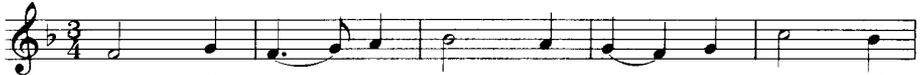
*People: People of God, look around and see the faces of those we
hardly know – strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the
ones who need an outstretched hand.*

*Leader: People of God, look around and see all the images of God
assembled here today. In me, in you, in each of us everywhere,
God's Spirit shines for all to see!*

All: Come, let us give thanks and praise to God!

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us
3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n to earth come down! Fix in us your
all your life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less, gra - cious Lord, Let us see your



hum - ble dwell - ing, All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
turn and nev - er, Nev - er more your tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly in you re - stored.



Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion, Love un -
Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve you
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed, love all pure; Vis - it us with
as your hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise you
heav'n we take our place, Till we sing be -



your sal - va - tion, Let your love in us en - dure.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
fore the al - might - y Lost in won - der, love and praise.

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we gather on this beautiful morning to add our human voices to the chorus of praise raised to you by wind and water and all life upon the land. We come as we are - young and old, rich and poor, lost and found - rejoicing in your amazing grace. Still in us now the many voices that clamor for attention, that we might center ourselves upon you. Speak to us, Spirit of Life, in word and melody and quiet, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for your service. All of this we pray as he taught us, 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Betsy Kreuter

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

From New Revised Standard Version

ANTHEM*The Unsearchable Riches**The Chancel Choir*
Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SECOND LESSON**Luke 15:1-7***Carolyn Paulus*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

*From New Revised Standard Version****HYMN***Amazing Grace*

New Century (black) Hymnal 547

(During the hymn, the children will go to Room 104 for a Multi Age event. Parents should meet their children in Room 104 – which is on the lower level of the building; please ask for directions if needed – after worship.)

SERMON*Lost and Found**Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.*

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Come, O Christ

The Chancel Choir
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

We come, O Christ, as people seeking some sign of blessing on our lives, yet scarcely pause to hear you speaking or wait until your time arrives: help us let go, help us be still, in patience may we learn your will. To taste the cross within the chalice, to hear the music born of grief, to feel the hurt concealed by malice, to sense in doubt unripe belief: give us, O God, new hearts, new eyes; wake us to love and make us wise. Renewing Spirit, come breathe through us with hope that heals, with faith that thrills; burn off the sins still clinging to us, transform our minds, convert our wills: so may your gifts of grace increase to send us forth in love and peace. Unite our hearts and shape our living to share the yoke that sets us free: great Triune God, joined by self-giving, the life of true community, our many prayers at last make one: "Your kingdom come, your will be done."

*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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*in unison*)

We thank you, O God, for these moments of communion with you and each other. By these actions, we have renewed our commitment

to bear your name and to follow you wherever you lead us. O Lord God, your great name be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

***HYMN**

My Shepherd is the Living God

New Century (black) Hymnal 247

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in Bb

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

Note: Throughout the year Richard welcomes sermon requests on topics of personal interest from the congregation. To submit your sermon request please speak to him in person, send him a note or email him at RichardD@fccog.org.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

Today was the LAST *Bible Stories at the Beach* for this summer season. This exciting program will return next year! Meanwhile, **regular Church School classes begin next Sunday!** Register online now at fccog.org. Also, we are having an “Open House” today between 9:30 and 11:30 am in our Baby Nursery, Toddler Room and 3’s-4’s classroom. Please come down to the Preschool and say hello. Every Sunday there is Child Care for infants-4 years old at this 10:00 am service. If you have questions or concerns about your child in worship, please confer with the adult in charge in the Undercroft. Ushers are able to direct you.

Blood Pressure Screening

Leslie VanDermeer, RN, a volunteer for the Wellness Committee, is available to perform blood pressure screenings in Room 203 following today's worship service.

NEXT WEEK

Homecoming – Next Sunday, September 14

Homecoming is NEXT Sunday so RSVP TODAY! "Blessings All Around" is our theme for this year's Homecoming. ALL are invited to our 10:00 worship and the picnic to follow. We will have food, bouncy houses and more! Great for all ages! The cost is \$5/person; max \$20/family. Parish Life will provide burgers, hot dogs and grilled chicken along with all the fixings. If your last name begins with letters A-P, please bring a salad or side to share; if your last name begins Q-Z, please bring a dessert. **Sign up today at Coffee Hour or RSVP by calling the Church Office or emailing barbaraw@fccog.org and let us know the number of adults and children in your party.** See you at Homecoming!

Next Church Committee Meeting Tomorrow Evening

All church members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend our Church Committee meetings which are held on the first Monday of

every month. Be sure to join us at the next meeting, *tomorrow, September 8* from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Lounge. See you there.

NEWS AND NOTICES

***Hats Off* Book Discussion Group is Back!**

Hats Off will begin on *Thursday, September 18* in the Lounge from 10:00-11:30 am. The first pick for our fall reading is *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Since there are 30 copies in the Greenwich library we will be using our fine library for our editions. Please call Jean Bruder at 203-661-1685 if you'd like to purchase a book instead.

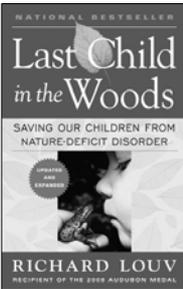
Book Discussion for Parents

This year the Family Ministries Program of First Church, together with the First Church Preschool, will be co-hosting a series of events 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. Mark your calendars now for *Thursday, October 2* at 7 pm. 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. While not an actual medical condition, Louv argues that this "nature deficit disorder" demands our attention and action, for the "health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable." All parents, educators, and environmentalists would find this an important book and discussion. **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.

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

The August 25th Grand Reopening was busy and productive, despite being the day before the new school year began. Sales for the day were \$12,266. Total sales for the week were \$26,207. If you missed



Opening Week, 'new' quality merchandise comes out daily. Due to space limitations, it is not possible to bring all merchandise out at once. In addition, the shop has received wonderful new donations since August 26th.

Maria's Wish List for September: Fall clothing; good handbags; jewelry; children's bikes; musical instruments; large pieces of bric-a-brac; paintings; lamps; volunteers. We can never have enough good merchandise or good volunteers.

Shopping Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm & Saturday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

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

Remembering September 11, 2001: *Though peace was shattered that September day; and though Darkness and Death gave birth to fears; God still remained our unshaken Foundation; strong enough to support us through those turbulent days and long months of mourning.*

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.**

Next Week at First Congregational Church

Homecoming Sunday

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

Music by:

Combined Choirs:

Lord, Speak to Me by Richard Shephard

The Chancel Choir

Awake, My Heart by Jane Marshall

Joseph Sabia, trumpet

Rev. Richard DenUyl, Jr., preaching

Homecoming 2014



10:00 am Worship

Picnic immediately following on the front lawn

- New “Chuggy Choo-Choo” and the favorite “Double Trouble” Obstacle Course!
- Games for all ages.
- See old friends. Meet new friends. Invite friends to join you here!
- Grilled items, rolls, condiments, drinks and dessert will be provided by the Parish Life Committee.

Please bring to share, if your last name begins with:

- A-P - a salad or side dish to serve 8-10
- Q-Z - dessert to serve 8-10 people.

Reserve your spot TODAY during Coffee Hour or email barbaraw@fccog.org with the # in your party.
\$5/person, \$20 max/family.

All are welcome! Please join us on Sunday, September 14!

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 C. 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