

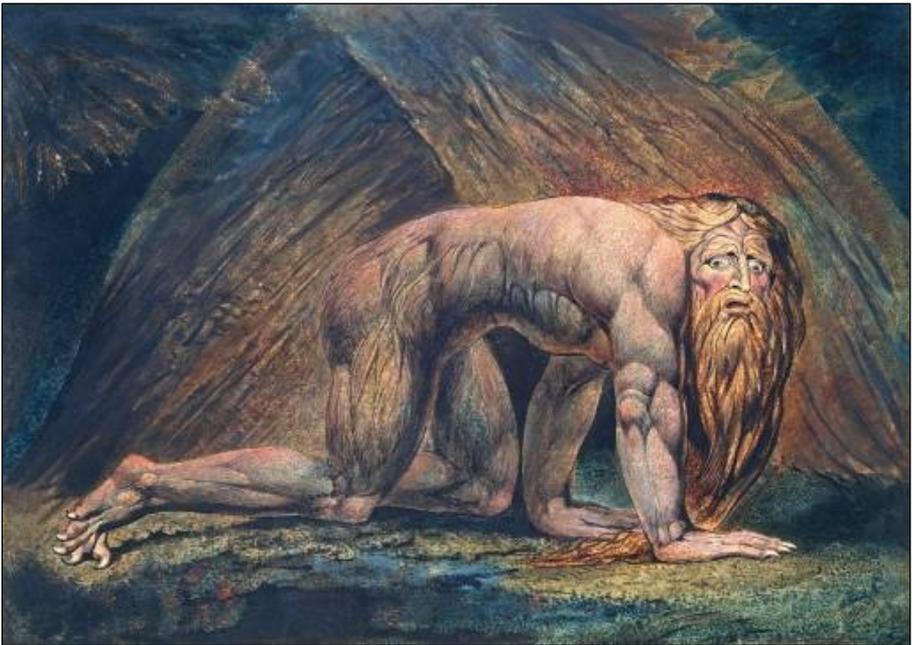
*Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church  
of Christ*

*Founded in 1665*

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**8 September 2013**  
10 o'clock in the morning



*Nebuchadnezzar by William Blake*

*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.*



**W**e sincerely welcome you to The First Congregational Church of Greenwich where people from all kinds of backgrounds and traditions have found a spiritual home. If you're a visitor this morning, you are especially welcome. Please make yourself known to one of the pastors before you leave and try the brief coffee gathering just outside the Meetinghouse or up the stairs in the Auditorium, depending on the weather. (The weather we can't control: we're in sales, not management.)

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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**

*Awake, My Heart*

*Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ*  
Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Please sign and pass the red book.*

*Rev. Daniel B. England*

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(A Psalm for Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem, the Church)*

*Leader: I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.*

*People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.*

*Leader: Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.*

*People: For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."*

*Leader: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God.*

*All: I will seek your good.*

*From Psalm 122*

#### **\*‡HYMN**

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

New Century (black) Hymnal 410

## OPENING PRAYER

*Rev. Avery C. Manchester*

Our Great God and Heavenly Father, depending on how our week unfolded before us, we have come today in joy and need, in pain and relief, in shame and rejoicing. But the fluctuations of our mood or circumstance or chance events are not why we are here. We are here because you are our certainty, a very present help in trouble. Your grace and love for us has never varied, from the days that Jesus sought out the neglected to this day when you assure us that you seek us out where we are. So grant us this morning the certainty in our hearts that matches your every impulse towards us. And help us to trust ever more in the Lord Jesus, 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

*Daniel Lepoutre*

**Daniel 4:19-20; 31-34**

Then Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar, was severely distressed for a while. His thoughts terrified him. The king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or the interpretation terrify you." Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you, and its interpretation for your enemies! The tree that you saw, which grew great and strong, so that its top reached to heaven and was visible to the end of the whole earth.

While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: The kingdom has departed from you! You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the animals of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom he will." Immediately the sentence was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven away from human society, ate grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers and his nails became like birds' claws.

When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me. I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored the one who lives forever. For his sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

From *NRSV*

#### ANTHEM

*Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

*The Summer Choir*

John Hilton (1599-1657)

#### SECOND LESSON

*Joe McBride*

#### Matthew 2:7-12

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered

him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.  
From *NRSV*

**\*‡HYMN**

*We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear* New Century (black) Hymnal 74

**SERMON**

*The Dreams That People Dream* Rev. Daniel B. England

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

*Rev. John W. Collins*

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*O How Amiable*

*The Summer Choir*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**\*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**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

New Century (black) Hymnal 300

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*March*

Christopher Tambling (b. 1964)

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

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The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Richmond Hopkins by his thankful family.

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**

Each Sunday at this service we have Child Care for infants through 4 years old. Today we are hosting an Open House for families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers in the Preschool area. Please come and acquaint yourselves with our staff and facilities for your precious children! We will be here between 9:30 and 11:30 am so come before, during or after worship. We look forward to greeting you! Ushers are able to direct you. Summer Church School (*Bible Stories at the Beach*) wrapped up today at the 8:00 am Beach Service. Our **Church School Opening Day is next Sunday, Homecoming, September 15.**

#### **Parish Nurse**

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

#### **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

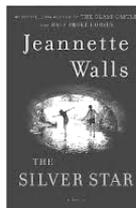
January 2014. Please refer to this month's *Meetinghouse Monthly* or the FCCOG website ([www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)) for more information about the nominating process and the opportunities for you to serve and strengthen your involvement with the Church in this very meaningful way. If you would 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.

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## THIS WEEK

### *Hats Off Book Group*

*Hats Off* is starting again on *Thursday, Sept. 12* from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Lounge. Our first book selection is *The Silver Star* by Jeannette Walls. We enjoyed a previous selection, *Half-Broke Horses* by this author. "In *The Silver Star*, Jeannette Walls has written a heartbreaking and redemptive novel about an intrepid girl who challenges the injustice of the adult world - a triumph of imagination and storytelling." Come and join us! Books are available in the Church Office. Any questions, please call Debbie Berner at 203-629-1110.



### **Combined Children's & Youth Choir Rehearsal – All Welcome**

As we prepare for our special Homecoming worship on September 15, there will be a special rehearsal on *Saturday, September 14*, from 9:30-10:15 am in the Choir Room to learn a new anthem, *Lord,*

*Speak to Me*. The tune is very simple and it promises to be an exciting addition to our service on the next day. All those in grades 3-12 are welcome to join us that Saturday, whether you've been in either choir before or not. Even if



you can't make regular rehearsals to sing during the year, you're still welcome to gather with your friends to start the year off with a joyful noise. If you are coming, please email ([craigs@fccog.org](mailto:craigs@fccog.org)) or call me (203-637-1791 ext 22) so I will have enough music for everyone. Then, on Sunday, September 15, plan to arrive in the Meetinghouse at 9:00 am sharp to warm up and be prepared for worship that day.

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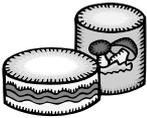
## NEXT WEEK

### Homecoming – Next Sunday, September 15

Homecoming is NEXT Sunday so RSVP TODAY and join us for 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 the same as last year: \$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 visiting our church website homepage and click the link under Homecoming.**

### Food Collection – Emergency Call

People seem to forget about the need for food at Neighbor to Neighbor over the summer months, but hunger doesn't take a holiday. And now the food supply is dwindling. **We will have a special collection on Homecoming Sunday, September 15.** Please



just pick up an extra few items when you go to the grocery and donate them for those in need. Items especially needed at this time include: Canned fruit, canned meat (i.e. chili, Spam), peanut butter (18 oz), jelly (18 oz), cereal and soup. And, please remember that a Food Collection barrel/bin remains in the back of the Meetinghouse all year long.

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### *Nights Off* Women's Group – Save the Date

The *Nights Off* Women's Group will be meeting on *Monday, September 16* at 6:30 pm for a Pot Luck dinner at the home of Kathy Riley. This will be our first planning meeting for the new program year and we will be organizing our upcoming events and activities. Come for food and fellowship, and help with this year's planning. Please bring your favorite dish to share and whatever you would like

to drink. If you are not on the email list, and would like to be, or if you have any questions, please email Shirley Flierl at [FBTWorld@aol.com](mailto:FBTWorld@aol.com) and put "Nights Off" in the subject line. All women of the church are welcome to join in. Hope to see you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

### **Kettle Quilters Back in Room 203**

You may have wondered what happen to us after Sandy! We were not swept out to sea and managed to meet in Inge's kitchen (which to this date is still a work in progress) throughout the winter and the summer. Now our latest quilt top is waiting for your nimble fingers in Room 203 to be quilted. **Note the change of times:** Every Tuesday 7:30 to 9:00 pm. There are a number of beginners in this group. So don't be shy to try us out and join us for happy companionship. See you on Tuesdays!

### **Pillows Available**

Thank you to those who heard our call and generously donated throw pillows for the congregation. For some, the pews in the Meetinghouse are less than comfortable and that fact has sometimes prevented them from attending this 10:00 am service. But now that problem has been solved! There is now a large basket filled with throw pillows located in the Meetinghouse. Feel free to borrow one during worship to help make the hour more enjoyable (and comfortable) for you.



### **News from The Rummage Room**

The 49th Grand Reopening of The Rummage Room took place August 26 and it was the biggest Reopening Day ever!!!! Sales were \$14,012.44!!! Sales for the week were \$28,222.16, up \$8,381.57 over 2012 ... also, the best ever.

If you missed Reopening Week, new merchandise goes out from the processing room every day. There were no donations received during the month of August while the shop was closed, but all donations received on Tuesday, August 27 and in the days after, are priced and put out immediately.

**Wish List for September:** Good handbags, good jewelry, small furniture, bikes for all ages and strollers.

**Shopping Hours:** 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.

God calls us all to accept both the cost and the joy of being His disciples in volunteering our services to the whole human family. Let us all do our part to fulfill this call from God! It oftentimes is not easy but when we remember how much we have, then we bow before our Lord and happily take on the responsibility to help those who are in need.

### 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 will be held on **Wednesdays** at 8:00 am starting *September 11* and **Thursdays** at 9:00 am starting *September 12*. 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.**



### *Next Week at First Congregational Church*

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse

*Homecoming Sunday*

Music by:

**Combined Children’s, Youth, Chancel Choirs:**

*Lord, Speak to Me* by Richard Shepherd

**Chancel Choir:**

*Praise His Holy Name* by Keith Hampton

**Rev. John Collins, preaching**

\* \* \*

The logo for Smilinc, featuring the word "smilinc" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the phrase "get connected" is written in a smaller, lighter font.

Today was our **last** Beach Service of the season.

Be on the lookout for the  
return of our *linc* service this fall!

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