

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9 September 2012

10 o'clock in the morning



*Christ Bearing his Cross,
1978, Sadao Watanabe*

What a pleasure to welcome you to First Congregational Church this morning as summer slowly winds down and the first hints of autumn make themselves known. We hope that your experience of worship here will be a tonic for your spirit, making peaceful your stressful days and refreshing your soul with God's graceful presence.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Canzona

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organist

Clifford Demarest

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. John W. Collins

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today is a new day!

People: New Life is rising among us.

Leader: Today we are challenged to live fully in God's love.

People: So we greet and embrace one another in love.

Leader: We praise the God who fills our lives with grace.

People: We praise the God whose grace transforms the world.

***‡HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 15

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

***OPENING PRAYER (In unison)**

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Spirit of Love, what an awe inspiring thing it is to fall into your hands, to be shaped like clay, to be forged through the fire of suffering and conflict. Grant that we might rejoice in your work

within and among us, that we might find our home in the hollow of your hand. Inspire us to be instruments of your peace in a world so vulnerable to conflict, and empower us to be the change we wish to see in the world. We pray in Jesus name, whose prayer we 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

Jean Watkins

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Let the Whole Creation Cry

The Chancel Choir

Roland Martin

Jayson Engquist, organist

SECOND LESSON

Daniel Lepoutre

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for

their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

***‡HYMN**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

New Century (black) Hymnal 306

SERMON

“The Cost and Joy”

Rev. Charles L. Wildman

Interim Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference UCC

RESPONDING TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Daniel B. England

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

The Chancel Choir

Johannes Brahms

Jayson Engquist, organist

***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**

Take My Life, God, Let It Be New Century (black) Hymnal 448

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Festal Trumpets

Noel Rawsthorne

** Please join us for Coffee Hour following the worship service.*

We warmly welcome our Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Chuck Wildman to our pulpit this morning. Chuck has been a wonderful resource and support to our congregation and I hope you'll take the opportunity to greet Chuck during our fellowship hour in the Memory Garden.



Bio:

Rev. Charles L. Wildman served twenty years as Senior Pastor of Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington, Virginia, during which time the church was actively involved with the Colombia Partnership, which unites the Connecticut and Central Atlantic Conferences with peace and justice activists in that South American nation. “Chuck” also pastored Vine Congregational UCC in Lincoln, Nebraska and First Congregational Church, Kewanee, Illinois.

A 1970 graduate of Yale Divinity School, Chuck was ordained by the New Haven Association and first served as pastor of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC, in Bethany. He took youth groups to Silver Lake in the 1970s.

A member of West Parish UCC on Cape Cod, Chuck and Anne Dunn Wildman are celebrating 44 years of marriage this year. They have two children and one grandchild.

As Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Wildman will help the Conference to understand its history, examine key issues and discern God's guidance for its future.

The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ:
Since the founding of the Missionary Society of Connecticut in 1798, Congregational churches across the state have been sharing in

covenanted partnership. Today, the Connecticut Conference serves about 250 congregations and more than 90,000 people in the state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members.

The denomination was formed in 1957 by the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Our Congregationalist roots are deep in Connecticut, going back to 1630. Both the Separatist Pilgrims of Plymouth and the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay are our forbears in the faith.

Our churches in Connecticut were instrumental in the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement and led the struggle to free the captured Africans of The Amistad. (The Conference recently helped reconstruct the Amistad replica at Mystic Seaport.) We founded Yale College to train our ministers and provided the impetus for the establishment of Dartmouth. After the Civil War, we helped found traditionally African-American colleges and churches across the South through the American Missionary Association.

Our Congregationalist ancestors in the faith were the first mainline denomination to ordain an African-American, the Reverend Lemuel Haynes of West Hartford, in 1785, and the first woman, the Reverend Antoinette Brown Blackwell, in 1853.

But our history doesn't stop there. Today, the UCC continues to advance the reign of God. And your congregation is a part of the story! Our members – including you – respond to spiritual and physical needs around the neighborhood and around the globe, just as our ancestors did. Your giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), supports ministries whose reach is as near as the pew in front of you – and as far away as Iowa, India, or Indonesia.

Thanks to your generosity, your prayers, and your commitment, the Connecticut Conference of the UCC and the national ministry settings of the UCC extend your reach in building God's reign.

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



Homecoming Community Picnic – *Sunday, Sept. 16* Buy Your Tickets Today!

Plan to be here next *Sunday, September 16* for worship at 10:00 am and then join us for some great fun, delicious food and fellowship at our annual Community Homecoming Picnic. This year's theme is "*Like, Connect, Celebrate.*" Parish Life Committee members will be selling tickets at Coffee Hour today. You may also call the Church Office to RSVP. Tickets are \$5 per person (max \$20 per family). Children 3 and under are free.

Church School

There are no Church School classes until next *Sunday, September 16*, which is Homecoming. However, there is Child Care today in the Preschool Blue Door Classroom. Please ask an Usher or Greeter for directions.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203 after the Worship Service.

Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.



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) 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.

THIS WEEK

Calling All 9th Graders!

Kick Off Meeting for confirmands and parents this *Tuesday, September 11* at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium. Confirmation classes begin on *October 8* at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie.

Hats Off Book Study Group

Our *Hats Off* book study group is starting our fall reading on



Thursday September 13 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Our first selection is *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan. Copies are available in the Church Office. Come and join our fun and inspiring reading group!!

Calling All Children and Youth!

On *Saturday, September 15*, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, all children and youth in grades 3-12 are invited to the Meetinghouse to rehearse the anthem, *For the Beauty of the Earth* by John Rutter. That will be the combined anthem we will sing on the next day for our

Homecoming worship service, along with the Chancel Choir, and will add to the wonderful spirit we will experience that day as we begin a new program year. No previous singing experience is necessary, and EVERYONE is invited to join us that day, as well as the rest of the year, in sharing our talents in worship and concert. Contact our Director of Music, Craig Symons, to reserve your spot, or for more information.



NEXT WEEK

FCCOG Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Let's gather for some service time together on *Saturday, September 22* at Neighbor to Neighbor. Volunteer times are 8:30 am to 10:30

am OR 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This opportunity is for anyone 6 years old and up with their parents (high school students can come without a parent). Volunteers are needed in the Clothing Room, where the volunteers will sort and organize the donated clothing to help N-to-N clients make their selections, and in the Food Pantry where volunteers will sort and organize the donated and purchased food items, stock the shelves, check-out N-to-N clients and bag their groceries. Contact Rosemary Lamie to join our team!



NEWS AND NOTICES

Email Updates

Emails change faster than the latest political negative ads these days and it's hard for the church to keep up with everybody. But you can help and it's easy. Go to the website (www.fccog.org) and on the home page either: a) click the link to sign up to receive the Monthly newsletter or b) click the link to update your email, which sends a note to Barb Wilkov with the correct information. We'll do the rest.

And don't worry, we are very parsimonious with our email notifications, probably no more than five or six a month, if that. So keep us in the loop of your life so we can keep you informed.

Bible Study

Bible Study revs up again on *Sunday, September 30* with Rev Dan, this fall with 2 Corinthians, or II Corinthians for Roman numeral fans. II reveals more about Paul and his love for the church than probably any other letter.



It's exciting, passionate and at times tender. The level of discussion and insight increases week by week, so don't be late, 11:20 am in the Lounge.

Y! Program

JPF starts again on *Sunday, September 23* at 6:00 pm in Room 103.

News from The Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, September 10 through Saturday, September 15: The 48th Grand Reopening of The Rummage Room took place on August 27 and was successful as always. The opening was a bit interrupted with the start of school on Tuesday, followed by the Labor Day weekend, so perhaps some of our customers were not able to participate. If you were one of those customers, you and all of our customers are invited to come in and view the abundance of Fall clothing for everyone in the family, plus the handbags, shoes, linens, bric-a-brac, art work, glassware and other items waiting to be found within the shop. Every day has been like Christmas as good donations continue to pour in after the month long closing during the month of August. Thanks for your abiding loyalty!

Shopping Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily except for Saturday hours which are 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. **Donations hours** are 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 am to 1:00 pm Friday and Saturday.

Manager Maria's Wish List: A small bookcase and other small furniture; linens which include bedding and table linens.

Ann Frank - *Whoever is happy will make others happy too.* You are invited to come volunteer a couple of hours a week as The Rummage Room is a very happy place. Call 203-637-1875.

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)

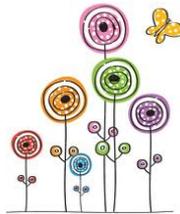


If you’ve forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermission@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

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

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

Visit our new [Forum](#) and start a conversation



Next Week at First Congregational Church

10:00 am Worship Service – Meetinghouse
Combined Anthem by Children's, Youth and Chancel Choirs:

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter

The Chancel Choir:

Old Time Religion Medley by Mark Hayes

Rev. John Collins, preaching

get connected **anillinc**

linc Returns!

Our linc Worship Service Returns *Sunday, September 23*
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!

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