

Old Greenwich,  
Connecticut

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF GREENWICH

United Church  
of Christ

# MEETINGHOUSE MONTHLY



## 2012 Lenten Offering

During the month of February, you will receive a mailing about this year's Lenten offering. Our focus will be agencies that provide education services for children, youth and adults as well as employment services for those needing assistance.

A full list of agencies receiving this year's offering as well as instructions about how you can contribute will be included in the mailing. May our Lenten journey be filled with grace, giving and gratitude.

**Join us for "Wonderful Ash Wednesday"!**  
**February 22, 6:00 pm—8:00 pm**  
*See page 3 for details.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

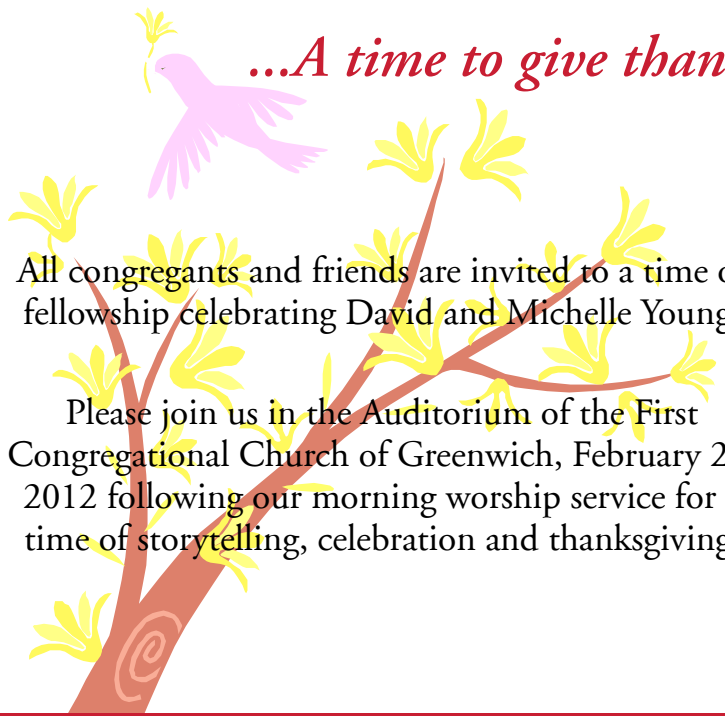


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*...A time to give thanks*

All congregants and friends are invited to a time of fellowship celebrating David and Michelle Young.

Please join us in the Auditorium of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, February 26, 2012 following our morning worship service for a time of storytelling, celebration and thanksgiving!



# Speaking Pastorally

The United Church of Christ, our denomination, uses the phrase “Covenantal Relationship” quite a bit when we talk about how we are in relationship as a conglomerate of churches. “Covenantal Relationship,” at its core is the concept that we may have differing understandings of social issues, faith, or even biblical messages, but that those differences will not separate us. We are still a “united” Church because we are created by and worship one God.

Looking back to this past Annual Meeting and the time following, we saw the congregational model and the concept of covenantal relationship challenged, tested, and I believe, working. If you recall the meeting, our conversation moved from a place of great frustration, to a place of heated conversation, to a place of emotional discourse, to a place of self-reflection and finally to a place of hopefulness for our future. It doesn't mean that each individual experienced all these emotions, or that individually we are in a hopeful place. Somehow, however, our conversation as a community ended with words of hope.

Consider those who have come before us in our faith tradition, the Israelites and the disciples for instance. God covenanted with the Israelites to start a new nation in which they would not be slaves, and as free people would become the people God called them to be. Christ entered into covenant with the disciples and called them to teach a new way of living that would bring restoration to the sick, hope to the poor, healing to the nations. For the Israelites and disciples to know that God chose them for this work, well, you would think that they would go forth rejoicing. They did! But it didn't last.

The Israelites later found themselves so doubting their covenant with God that they built a golden idol to offer a tangible alternative to their waning faith. The disciples bickered and doubted, some to the point of denial. In both stories, the covenantal relationships in which God's people found themselves were tested. When it seemed as if the situations were hopeless, something unexpected happened. In response to a golden idol, God re-covenanted with the Israelites and gave the Ten Commandments to restore order. In response to a prediction of a forth-coming denial, Christ reminded his disciples that God was preparing a place for them. Even these imperfect disciples were with God!

The challenges our congregation faces now are not unlike the challenges of other churches, other faith communities, even of our ancestors. What makes these challenges different is that they are ours. We are the ones who must go through the painful parts. We are the ones who must find ways to hope. We are the ones who must, when the time is right, re-covenant with one another. We are the ones who must remind ourselves that God has covenanted with us.

So we, your Pastors, begin a portion of this process now. By our entered names below we re-covenant with you. Doing so, we promise to live faithfully so that you may have witness for your own faith. We promise to act compassionately so that you may feel empowered to share compassion with one another. We promise to love you as it is only by the grace of God's love that we find ourselves a part of this community. We promise to work with you to understand, again, God's covenant with us and God's greatest hope for who we may become.

As we are in the midst of this, let's also take time to celebrate. David and Michelle will be with us through the end of February. For this, and for a lot more, there is reason to give thanks. Following our worship service on February 26th, let us join in a time of community as brothers and sisters in Christ to honor the Youngs and the impact they have made on our community.

With gratitude,

Mark, Dan and Avery



## TAI CHI FITNESS with Luis Duarte

All are welcome! 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!

*Wonderful Wednesday continued from front cover...*



## Wonderful Wednesday Ash Wednesday February 22, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

*Let's begin Lent together!*

Ash Wednesday is February 22 and, like last year, we are having another Wonderful Wednesday, with a brief concluding worship to commemorate Ash Wednesday.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, and we will break into groups to focus on the traditions and rituals of the Lenten season. There will be something for everyone. A short description of the classes being offered:

- Dr. David Young will talk a bit about the meaning, traditions, and history of Ash Wednesday.
- Rev. Dan England will discuss the reasons behind why Easter is on a different day every year.
- Rosemary Lamie will talk with the children about *Harry Potter* stories and our faith.
- Craig Symons will chat about the background and history of some hymns of the Lenten season.

Each group will create and contribute a segment that will be incorporated into the closing worship experience at the end of the evening.

You'll want to attend this special evening to begin the Lenten season with your church family. We hope to see you on February 22!



From the Parish Nurse... *Matters of the Heart*



by Sue Asselin, RN

February is National Heart Month and a good time to focus on heart health. Myocardial infarction or MI, often referred to as a heart attack, results from lack of oxygenated blood flow to the heart muscle. Recognizing the symptoms and getting help fast can save someone's life. If the blood supply to the heart is cut off from a blockage in a coronary artery, an MI results, and cells in the heart muscle that don't receive enough oxygen begin to die. The more time that passes without treatment to restore blood flow, the greater the damage to the heart.

Know the Signs and Symptoms of a Heart Attack: Chest Pain or Discomfort- Most Heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back. The discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, pain, or discomfort in other areas of the upper body. This can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, in the back, neck, jaw, or stomach, shortness of breath (This often comes along with chest pain or discomfort, but can occur before the chest discomfort: cold, sweat, nausea, and/or light headedness).

The signs and symptoms of a heart attack are listed on page 12. If you think that you or someone else is having a heart attack, call 911 immediately. One's chances of surviving a heart attack are increased if emergency treatment is given as soon as possible. Our church's automatic defibrillator and our CPR training program are additional measures we've taken to ensure help is here at the church while waiting for EMS to respond. On March 24 and 31 the Wellness Committee will offer CPR training, which includes AED use, to church members interested in being certified. Please consider serving others in this way.

We are fortunate that our town is deemed a "Heart Safe Community" by the DPH and that Greenwich Hospital offers emergency angioplasty, a life saving procedure that restores blood flow to the heart and minimizes the damage of a heart attack. "Heart Safe Communities" meet certain criteria such as having AEDs (like ours) throughout the community, first responders that are trained in CPR, and emergency vehicles equipped with AEDs.

An ounce of prevention: Risk Factors of heart disease and heart attack include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, and stress. Diet and lifestyle changes can help control many of these risk factors. There are many good websites to educate and inspire one to improve their heart health. Some of my favorites are listed on page 12.

*Continued on Page 12...*

## “Musical Notes”



Our next performances in the Sunday Afternoons Live series continues on February 12 when we will have a very special performance by Mark Nadler, cabaret singer and pianist extraordinaire. Mark and Craig Symons both attended Interlochen Arts Academy together, have stayed in contact over the years and recently reconnected following Craig's move to Connecticut. Mark's publicity packet shares the following information:

*If Victor Borge had been able to sing and tap dance, he would have been Mark Nadler. "MARK NADLER IN A NUTSHELL" is a riotously fun and vastly entertaining evening of comedy, great songs and mad-cap merriment. Mark Nadler, who has appeared at Carnegie Hall, on Broadway and everywhere in between was recently heralded by The New York Times as "a comic spark plug touched with brilliance" and The Village Voice dubbed him "the most prodigiously talented entertainer working in America today!" In "MARK NADLER IN A NUTSHELL" he plays the piano with fire and virtuosity, sings songs that range from touching ballads to outrageous comedy and even tap dances while playing the piano and singing.*

This program will be a great afternoon of fun for all ages, so bring your entire family.

The final program is February 26 by the Bryant Park Quartet, an outstanding string quartet based in New York City. With excellence and passion, the Bryant Park Quartet (Anna Elashvili and Ben Russell, violins, Nathan Schram, viola, and Tomoko Fujita, cello) delivers captivating performances, delighting audiences across the country. The program is entitled "On The Verge", and will feature music by Mozart, Ligeti, and Beethoven.

Each program lasts from 60-75 minutes with coffee and tea served. Following the programs, you have a chance to greet the artists. Please share the details about each program with your friends and family. Word-of-mouth is the best way to promote the outstanding programs we have on our First Music and Arts season.



Our Thursday morning book study group "Hats Off" has enjoyed reading "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" as our first book of 2012 and will begin February with another delightful read, "Nothing Daunted" by Dorothy Wickenden. This story follows the life of 2 high society gals from the East who shucked a life of tea parties to teach a year of school in the remote wilds of northwestern Colorado. The year was 1916. Come join us! Any questions please call; Debbie Berner (203-629-1110).



## The Rummage Room News

February being the month of love, The Rummage Room invites you to come and warm yourself with Hearts and Valentines. There are red stuffed animals, cuddly dolls, Valentine's cards, red jackets, red sweaters, red pajamas, and something red for everyone young and old in your family.

Manager Maria's Wish List: Valentine's and St. Patrick's clothes and items; a sewing machine; a mountain bike for a 10 year old; a wooden doll house; a baby carrier; good jewelry; handbags.

An S.O.S. Bulletin from The Rummage Room: While we are delighted with the increased volume of donations due to the closing of several thrift shops in the Greenwich and Stamford areas, we would be even more delighted if all the items donated were clean, gently used, in good repair and ready to be put on display. Unfortunately, too much unsalable merchandise is mixed-in with the salable goods and we don't have the staff to sort it out, nor the space to store it until it can be processed. Most of all, the only means The Rummage Room has of disposing of these unusable donations is to toss them in the dumpster which, of course, costs money that should be going to our many mission organizations. So PLEASE, if each of us will sort our good donations from the bad prior to dropping them off at The Rummage Room ... it will make a world of difference! As always, thank you for your help and cooperation.

The Allocations Committee is currently hard at work planning where the funds will go in 2012 to help support our women and children's organizations locally, nationally and internationally. Last month, we provided comments from three of those organizations who benefited in 2011. Here are a few more comments:

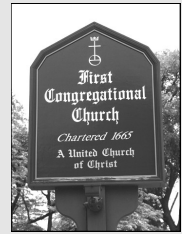
The Bridgeport Rescue Mission: *Your recent gift was such a blessing. Your support means we can provide homeless men, women and children with safe, comfortable beds. It means we can serve nutritious meals or distribute food boxes to working-poor and near-homeless families. It means we can help addicted and troubled souls fill the emptiness in their hearts with God's love. Thank you.*

From Neighbor to Neighbor: *During this past year, Neighbor to Neighbor has seen a record increase in the number of people we serve due to the current economic climate; we are up 50% over the past two years. Your donation was needed more than ever and will help us meet this growing need. We are truly grateful for your support in helping us to provide for our families to make ends meet, which means assurances for them to put food on the table and have clothes to wear.*

Sekolo Projects, Inc.: *Thank you for your support and commitment in the fight against the devastation of HIV in Namibia. With your help, Sekolo is able to provide HIV prevention education, physical care, and psycho-social support for young people living with HIV or affected by it. Sekolo works with community leaders to develop effective programs for orphaned children ... together we can pinpoint the greatest need and work with local volunteers to meet it, whether it's meals for orphaned teenagers at a secondary school or a twice-a-week support group for girls.*

Since this is the month of love, be assured that when you donate, shop and volunteer at The Rummage Room, you are helping to bring God's love to others less fortunate ... which is the most important love of all. The Women's Fellowship, The Allocations Committee and The Rummage Room are all grateful for your generosity! Peace and love to each of you.

## *A Note from the Board of Trustees:*



### **Quarter At-A-Glance**

In the past three months we have made progress on many fronts. Our Asset Management Committee reports that we are ahead of investment projections for 2011. As of December, we have a modest budget surplus for this fiscal year, which will be rolled over to fiscal year 2012. We are preparing the budget for the 2012 fiscal year and plan on continued investment in the music program and the new *linc* service from our available resources. Accountants Goldberg, Delewsky & Brenner LLC, performed an internal controls review of our financial practices and sent us their report of recommendations in December. Our Buildings and Grounds staff has completed the routine fall maintenance and improvements. All the rental properties are rented. The Church purchased a Wenger music storage system. Work is being done to install it, donate the old storage cabinets to other churches, and generally optimize the music office space and storage. (*More details below.*)

### **Board Priorities**

The challenge for all Boards is to govern wisely in the present, while thinking clearly about future incremental and strategic improvements. Please note the following status report on the ongoing work on our five Board priorities:

- **The Ad Hoc Committee on Clergy Compensation & Housing Our Staff**  
The Trustees have now turned over this effort to the Church Committee Task Force on Housing, led by Gary Riddell. It has begun working with the Clergy Compensation research findings. By the end of March, they hope to be ready to make a presentation to a combined session of the Trustees and Church Committee, and ultimately the wider congregation. This is part of a shared learning process for the entire congregation to help us come to a unified understanding of the challenges we face in trying to attract and house our clergy and music staff. Special thanks to all our ad hoc committee volunteers for their sustained effort this year and to the congregants who will now build on this important work.
- **FCCOG Annual Performance Reviews**  
All full-time lay and clergy staff will now receive an annual performance review from his/her staff supervisor in June, at the end of the program year. On November 30, using the newly approved annual performance review forms and process, the out-going lay leaders, who currently comprise the Pastor's Advisory Committee, conducted a mid-year assessment of the ministry of Rev. David Young. In the past, reviews of the clergy have not been done regularly. This corrects an important process that has been overlooked. This annual review process offers a formal way to encourage each staff member to be as productive as possible, and is an important way to acknowledge the many contributions our staff makes every day, as they serve the First Congregational Church congregation.
- **FCCOG Personnel Policies and Employment Guidelines Handbook**  
The Church Committee formally approved the handbook on January 9, 2012.
- **Stewardship for 2012**  
Fewer pledge units responded to the Church's traditional Fall Stewardship drive. Among those pledging, however, the amount per pledge was up a bit. The Stewardship Committee is reaching out to those who have not yet pledged. Our Church family is blessed for the support we have in a very difficult economic year.

*Continued on page 9...*

## 2012 Youth Mission Trip to Panama

This year our Senior High Youth will begin their journey to La Palma, Panama on Sunday, February 12 and return on February 19. As always, we want to go with your blessings, so if you could join us for our commissioning on *February 5* at the 10 am worship service in the Meetinghouse, that would be fantastic! While we are in Panama representing our church, we promise that we will hold up this congregation in prayer everyday! Could you do the same for us?!?!?!? We look forward to serving with God's people in Panama and look forward to returning to God's people in Greenwich. We are certain to come back with wonderful stories, new insights and a deeper understanding of God's work in the world.

## Historical Committee

The kickoff meeting of the Historical Committee was Saturday, January 23 at 10 am. This committee was dormant for a few years, but is again raring to go to review all old church records, books, artifacts, and photos to consolidate and catalog the collection and take photos of valuable items for posterity. We are also planning to take the next four years to write an addendum booklet of the history of the church from 1991-2015, to supplement the previous publications covering 1665-1965 and 1965-1990.

There are many tasks in all of this, so if you would like to join in and help out, please email Pat Larrabee at [patlarrabee@hotmail.com](mailto:patlarrabee@hotmail.com). Everyone is welcome!

## Stephen Ministry Update

We are very proud to be one of the churches who has participated in the Stephen Ministry Program for more than 20 years. More than 11,000 congregations around the world have joined the program since it began in 1975.

The name Stephen is from the first layperson to assist the Apostles with their caring outreach. Stephen Ministers have had 50 hours of training to be compassionate listeners and are available to provide support during difficult times and life transitions. Some examples are: bereavement, divorce, chronic illness, or life events such as new parenthood, a move, or a job loss.

We appreciate the congregation's support of this lay ministry, and look forward to hearing from you for referrals. Please contact any of the Pastors or Linnea Stenberg, Stephen Ministry Leader.



*Continued from page 7 ... A Note from the Board of Trustees*

### **Highlights from Buildings & Grounds and Assess Management**

- **Buildings and Grounds** reports that a substantial number of renovations and improvements were accomplished this year, including the refinishing of the Daniels Center floor and purchase of 124 new folding chairs for that space, new sound equipment for the Auditorium, new wrought iron handrails in two stairwells, new leaded glass panels in the Meetinghouse entrance doors and a new exterior steel door and frame in the Youth Room. Some of the many maintenance projects included re-pointing deteriorating stone walls in the columbarium, filling cracks in the parking lot, removing two dangerously large, 100-foot trees in front of 11 Forest Avenue, and annual maintenance of our exterior oak doors. Further, all routine maintenance, and installing new appliances where needed, were done at our rental houses. All our properties are in good condition and currently occupied.
- **Asset Management** reports the Church's investable securities portfolio is held at Vanguard and ended the 2011 year with an increase of 7.8% over 2010. Our investment returns were positive for 2011, outperforming those of our stated benchmark. The securities portfolio's returns were particularly helped by the overweight position in high dividend yielding equities and long-term bonds. There were no notable changes in the asset allocation during 2011. Moreover, we are very pleased that Lori Romano has graciously agreed to join Dana Low in working on the Planned Giving program, which Dana has led for so many years.

Best regards,

*Betsy Moore*, Chair, Board of Trustees

*Hans Plickert*, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

*Fred Laffan*, Chair, Asset Management Subcommittee

*Laura Erickson*, Chair, Budget Subcommittee

*Larry Haviland*, Chair, Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee

*Sandy Burke*, Chair, Personnel Subcommittee

*Peter Schay*, Treasurer

### **CROP WALK 2012 - SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, April 22!**

This year's CROP Walk will go down Greenwich Avenue starting at First Presbyterian Church, eventually ending at Second Congregational. As a joint effort of churches from Greenwich, Port Chester and Rye, the Planning Committee thought it good to change the venue from time to time. The funds we raise will continue to benefit both Neighbor to Neighbor in Greenwich and The Carver Center in Port Chester. Last year we doubled our fundraising results to just over \$20,000! This year our goal is \$25,000. Contact Mark Montgomery or Rosemary Lamie for more details.

So hold the date, form a team, and watch for more details.



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01 Janice Riddell	02/08 Peter Scopelliti	02/14 Edward Thomas	02/23 Gary Lico
02/01 Marilyn Olsson	02/09 Michaela S Fossum	02/15 Caryn Jacoby	02/23 Katherine Scrivan
02/01 Nicholas Tagliarino	02/09 William Osgood	02/15 Christian Burns	02/23 Samantha Stone
02/01 Gregory Riddell	02/09 James Dunn	02/15 Andrew Scrivan	02/23 Taylor Ingraham
02/01 Sophie Waine	02/09 Dorothy Mueller	02/15 Julia Blandori	02/24 Jean Simpson
02/02 C Webb Williams	02/09 Juliet Primo	02/15 Sarah Cioffari	02/24 Louis Paris
02/02 Hayden Witmer	02/09 Katherine Sweet	02/15 Joey Claps	02/24 Robert Small
02/02 Kyle Allen	02/09 Alex Leidy	02/15 Olivia Pfetsch	02/24 Daniel Wurst
02/03 Cynthia Cooke	02/09 Haley Norrgard	02/16 Andrew Hanson	02/25 Barbara Wilkov
02/03 Elizabeth Baker	02/09 Chloe Kimberlin	02/16 Paola Ryckman	02/25 Joan Osgood
02/03 Matthijs Hoekstra	02/10 Leon McKenzie	02/16 Jessica Burick	02/25 Michelle Young
02/04 Judson Saviskas	02/10 Dr Brenda Stiers	02/16 Courtney Griffin	02/25 Rebecca Marlowe
02/04 John Norrgard	02/10 Cheryl Osgood	02/16 Shaw Speer	02/25 Becki Burdick
02/04 Jack Sweger	02/10 David Scopelliti	02/16 Patrick Condon	02/25 Carly Jenkins
02/04 Nancy Pierson	02/10 Allison Whittemore	02/17 Matthew Hoster	02/26 Michael Lamie
02/04 Lissa Arnold	02/10 Laura Moore	02/17 Emma Nicole Kirchner	02/26 Juliette Brindak
02/04 Clark Shaw	02/10 Jordan Reiss	02/18 Mark Mohn	02/26 Arthur Berman
02/04 Anne Johnson	02/10 Chris Hallowell	02/18 Melinda May	02/26 Brandon DelCristo
02/05 Barbara Crilley	02/10 Matthew Thomas	02/18 Alexander Dadzis	02/27 Barbara Trepanier
02/05 Elizabeth Kreuter	02/11 Lynn Robertson	02/18 Tom Grunow	02/27 Megan Shattuck
02/05 Karen Taggart	02/11 Sally MacDougall	02/19 Richard Derr	02/27 Kylie Schneider
02/05 David Schrohe	02/11 Valeri Primo	02/19 Lisa Norrgard Miller	02/28 Peter Benedict
02/05 Lisa Flanagan	02/11 Matthew Pruner	02/20 Virginia Low	02/28 Brooks Hall Edwards
02/05 Kelly Anne Boles	02/12 Janet Sotzing	02/20 Janet Savage	
02/05 Alexander Simko	02/12 Rebecca Jewett	02/20 Andrew Wall	
02/06 Carolyn Colegrove	02/12 Matthew Shattuck	02/20 Spencer Goh	
02/06 Kate Bonnell	02/12 Kristen Morris	02/20 Lindsay Allen	
02/06 Nathaniel Willard	02/13 Rev Sarah-Anne Colegrove	02/21 Betty Sleath	
02/06 Kelly Dodd	02/13 Elizabeth Olson	02/21 Jefferson Watkins	
02/07 Allison Ariyibi	02/13 Thalia Anderen	02/21 Katharine Derr	
02/07 Robert Phelps	02/13 Britt Carnegie	02/21 Charles MacDougall	
02/07 Heather Sahrbeck	02/13 Dylan Rose	02/22 Frank Quinn	
02/07 William Graham	02/14 Mario Lotufo	02/23 Jane Yates	
02/07 Drew Mohn	02/14 Dawn Hewitt	02/23 William Boles	

## *Life Events:*

## *Baptisms:*

*Reed Hathaway Sedlock  
son of Diane H. and J. Greg Sedlock*

*January 8, 2012*

*Jackson Kendall & Matthew Anderson Schenck  
sons of Kimberly and Charles Schenck*

*January 29, 2012*

## *Deaths:*

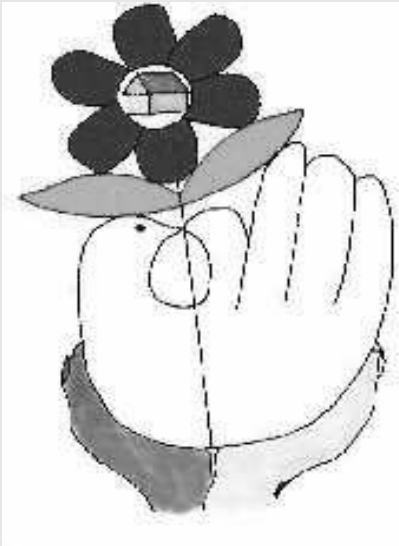
*Annette Baker Fox*

*The deadline for submitting materials for the  
March Meetinghouse Monthly is February 15.*

*Please email Barbara Wilkov at  
[barbaraw@fccog.org](mailto:barbaraw@fccog.org) or leave materials in her  
mailbox in the Church Office.*

*The Church Offices will be closed, Monday,  
February 20 for Presidents' Day.*

## With Gratitude



### **Jackie Burpee at HOME Coop in Orland, Maine wrote:**

"THANK YOU!!! The Christmas presents are so appreciated. Ellen was so surprised with the drill and could not believe someone actually bought this for her (she really needed it). Jackie L, Roxanne, Mary and I are so excited about all the painting supplies and easels. Mark L has told everyone about his new sneakers and Mark and Rob are showing off their new Carhart coats. Everyone that received a gift is just in amazement of the generosity. Today Sadie came and told me about her new telescope; she is really enjoying it. Many received gift cards and this really has helped them tremendously. We will never be able to thank you enough for all you do for the HOME community. Thank you and God Bless! "

### **And John Newton, President of the Pilgrim Towers Residents' Association wrote:**

"Your individual gifts to our residents really filled their hearts with Christmas joy...Please be assured that here there are grateful elderly people whose spirits have been lifted by receiving the generosity of your parish's "gifts from God" kindness. From now, into 2012, our elderly will have their lives enriched with renewed happiness because you cared...."

### **A Pilgrim Tower Resident wrote:**

"I don't know how you people managed all that shopping, not to mention wrapping the packages --and filling them with our requests and so many darling stocking-stuffers and the pretty ornaments....it's wonderful to be remembered so lovingly and thoughtfully."



Thank you also to Mary-Ann Assing and her team of helpers who made sure the gift tags were made, distributed and gifts returned to the church. The team included our wonderful Front Desk volunteers who logged in the gifts and made those last minute phone calls! Then there were the Santas who packed and drove their "sleighs" to Maine - Barrie Richmond and her mom, Barabara Van Buren, and Ruth and Giff Reed. We are a community of givers who express our love and faith in so many ways to help others feel God's love through us.



## ANNUAL "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY" SOUP SALE

(To Benefit Women's Fellowship)

Come Buy Soup by the Quart for Your Eating Pleasure---\$8/qt.

*Sunday, February 5 at Coffee Hour, 11:00 am—1:00 pm  
(or as long as supplies last)*

### ***Men and Women of FCCOG: WE NEED YOUR SOUP DONATIONS:***

**What:** Any kind of your favorite soup\* to serve hot or cold in our quart containers.

E-mail Pat Schay at [pat@schay.com](mailto:pat@schay.com) (ph. 203-698-1979) with name of soup, number of quarts you'll make (4 - 6 qts. would be great!) and all ingredients.

**Where:** Quart-size soup containers and printed labels are in the church office.

**When:** Return full, labeled containers to church kitchen any Sunday up to February 5 at Coffee Hour (we've got freezer space).

\*Some ideas for kinds of soup and ingredients: Vegetable, Pasta, Rice, Beef, Barley and other grains, Chicken or Turkey, Chili, Lentils and beans, etc. ***Any and all combinations welcome! (make sure to e-mail the soup name, number of quarts and list all ingredients for consumer information)***

*Continued from page 4...*

### Helpful web resources for Heart Disease prevention:

American Heart Association: [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

Center for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov/cvh](http://www.cdc.gov/cvh)

Greenwich Hospital Patient Education: [www.greenhosp.org/patient-education-fact-sheets](http://www.greenhosp.org/patient-education-fact-sheets)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart)

NHLIB Recipes: [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/downloads/pdf/factsheet-recipes.pdf](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/downloads/pdf/factsheet-recipes.pdf)

### **Blood Drive - Saturday February 11, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Help save a life, by participating in the next Red Cross Blood drive here at church. Co-sponsored by the Wellness Committee and the Women's Ministries, FCCOG-hosted blood drives are a favorite among blood drive connoisseurs. We are known for our attention to details like live piano music and homemade devilled eggs. Please consider helping by donating blood or refreshments.

One donated unit of blood can save up to three lives in our local hospitals. If you are 17 or older (no upper age limit) and in good health, you are probably eligible. To assure adequate staffing from the blood center in Farmington and to help with a smoother flow of donors, please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to make an appointment to donate. Or, sign up on line at

<https://www.givelife.org/index.cfm?group=registration&hlc=2426a>.

If you can help by bringing prepared food, devilled eggs and finger sandwiches are particularly appreciated. To donate refreshments, please call Betsy Kreuter at 203-698-3016 or sign up during coffee hour. Thank you in advance for being a blessing to our community and beyond.

### **A Look ahead to March...**

Thursday, March 22, 11:30 am-12:30 pm - *Quick Healthy Meals*- lunch and cooking demo with dietician Gavin Prichard

Saturdays, March 24 & 31 - CPR Training Courses. To get certified or re-certified here at church, speak to Sue Asselin, Parish Nurse, extension 21.

## The First Congregational Church Preschool

### *Summer - FUN - tastic Summer Program 2012*

The Summer-Fun-tastic Program at The First Congregational Church Preschool serves children between the ages of 3 and 5 (entering kindergarten in September). The program consists of three 2-week sessions:



**Session 1: June 18 – June 29: *Filipo's World of Sports*.** Children will participate in soccer, basketball, kickball, gym games and golf activities. Session activities developed and implemented by Filippo Caro.

**Session 2: July 2 – July 13: *The Arts Factory*.** Children will experience various art media such as acrylic painting, mixed media, watercolor, pastel, clay, music.



**Session 3: July 16 – July 27: *Science Sleuths*.** The children will explore the mysteries of magnets, air pressure, colors, sound, classification & patterns, plants & animals. Other activities include arts & crafts, playground, sprinkler, and snack. Children bring their lunch.

**Seahorses:** Children who are 3 years old by 12/31/2012 and are entering a 3's program in September. Children must be toilet trained. The program operates Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The cost per sessions 1 & 3 is \$325.00. The cost per session 2 is \$295.00.

All other children, Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Cost per sessions 1 & 3 is \$550.00. Cost per session 2 is \$500.00.

#### **Contact Information:**

The First Congregational Church Preschool  
108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
Phone: 203-637-5430  
Email: [darlak@fccog.org](mailto:darlak@fccog.org)

# First Church Preschool

## Connecting Program

The Connecting Program is specifically tailored to help children build the confidence, skills, independence and knowledge necessary to ensure success in kindergarten.

The First Church Connecting Program will offer:

- A curriculum designed to be challenging, developmentally appropriate and taught in an atmosphere that is both stimulating and nurturing.
- Activities such as language arts, mathematics, science, physical education and social studies.
- Everyday Math, Phonics & Friends, Alphabet Stories and Hand Writing Without Tears are foundations to the Connecting Program. These programs are conducted in the Greenwich Public Schools.
- Field trips to Bridge's Nursery in the Fall and Maple Sugaring in the Spring at the Stamford Nature Center.



For more information regarding the Connecting Program, please contact Darla Kohler, Preschool Director at 203-637-5430. Program information may also be viewed on the school's web page: [www.firstchurchpreschool.org](http://www.firstchurchpreschool.org).



# PENNIES FOR PANAMA



The Church School is supporting this year's Youth Mission Trip to Panama by bringing in pennies (we won't turn away other coins, we just like alliteration!) between now and February 5<sup>th</sup>. The Youth are leaving on Feb 12 so we need some time to trade in the coins and give the dollars to Mark Montgomery to buy necessary materials in Panama. In the past, we actually collected school supplies and other items for children but because of luggage restrictions and costs we are collecting money this year.



**Will your children be joining their friends at Silver Lake this summer?**



Last summer, several children from FCCOG discovered or rediscovered the joy, fun and new friendships at Silver Lake in Sharon, CT. Silver Lake, AKA "God's Backyard," is our church's summer camp. If you have a child or teen between the ages of 8 (going into 4<sup>th</sup> Grade) and 18, don't miss the chance for them to experience this amazing place and its amazing grace. Registrations have already begun and since many conferences fill up quickly, please visit the website soon to explore and sign up!

Go to [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org) and click on the registration button to register for an awesome summer conference, today!! It's immediate, safe, easy and available 24/7!!

Nestled in the picturesque foothills of the Berkshires of Litchfield County, Silver Lake has been welcoming church groups, youth groups, schools, non-profits and businesses, during the Fall, Winter and Spring, since 1957. The week-long "conferences" offer "once-in-a-lifetime experiences, over and over" to several generations of youth, helping to shape future leaders and spirited community-builders everywhere.

Don't hesitate to contact either Mark or Rosemary with any questions! If you would like, we can also have you talk to parents of children who have been there.



*“Love to Laugh”*

During the Month of February, we will explore humor and faith! Where do we hear about laughter in the Bible? How does laughter shape us as people? How does it shape our understanding of God? Take a look at what’s scheduled and join us at 5 PM on Sunday afternoons!

**February 5—** “Not a Laughing Matter” What happens when we find ourselves confronted with something so impossible that it is unimaginative? What did Sarah do? She laughed? Mark Montgomery leading service.

**February 12 —** “Comedy Tonight” - On the heels of our Cabaret, we will return to Broadway for our second dose of Broadway Bible! Come hear some great vocalists share comical Broadway tunes. Avery Manchester’s dry humor and theological expertise will weave together the stories and explore how these comedies represent our human nature and our connection to God.

**February 19 —** “Sarcasm is the Body’s Natural Defense Against Stupid” - Dan England will lead a service that exposes the power of sarcasm in our own lives and its use similarly in scripture.

**February 26—** “Laughter in the Trenches!” - Mark and our Senior High Youth will have returned from Panama with lots of stories to tell! Usually, humor plays a huge part in our trips. Come hear some of these stories and how they shaped our experience and faith while in Panama.

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young, [dyoung@fccog.org](mailto:dyoung@fccog.org)

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery, [mmontgomery@fccog.org](mailto:mmontgomery@fccog.org)

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England, [dengland@fccog.org](mailto:dengland@fccog.org)

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester, [amanchester@fccog.org](mailto:amanchester@fccog.org)

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons, [craigs@fccog.org](mailto:craigs@fccog.org)

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie, [rosemaryl@fccog.org](mailto:rosemaryl@fccog.org)

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister, [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org)

Director of Publications:: Barbara Wilkov, [barbaraw@fccog.org](mailto:barbaraw@fccog.org)

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN, [susana@fccog.org](mailto:susana@fccog.org)

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Rev. Sally Colegrove

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell



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