

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

28 January 2018

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 this service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich on this Sunday morning. Please join us after worship for our Community Hour in the auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand.

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Elegy C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918)

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)

PRAISING GOD

* CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Leader: In the beauty of this moment **People:**

We worship you.

Leader: In the fellowship of your people **People:**

We worship you.

Leader: In the presence of your Spirit **People:**

We worship you.

Leader: In the company of all creation

People: We worship you. All: Praise be to you Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 7

(During the hymn's last verse, children will go to Church School. Kindergarten and 1st graders, to the Preschool Red Door; 2nd to the Gold Door (downstairs), 4th and 5th graders stay in the Lounge. 3rd graders to the Rainbow Door (downstairs). 6th graders to Patrick's Office on the 3rd floor and 7th & 8th graders go to the Woodman Youth Room past the Lounge.)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ROLL CALL OF CANDIDATES

Ginny Breismeister

(Candidates will come forward as their names are called)

COMMITMENT

OF CANDIDATES

Rev. Patrick Collins

Clergy: We are called of God to be disciples through Christ Jesus.

Today we welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

Senior Deacon: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellow disciples of Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting its responsibilities, praying and working for its usefulness, sustaining its worship, supporting its wider mission, and living with us in the joys of Christian fellowship? **Candidates:** I will.

Clergy: We believe in the freedom and responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast allegiance to the faith which our forebears confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic creeds of the Church Universal and of our Communion, and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. We hereby set forth the things we most surely believe.

*** THE COVENANT**

(All who are able, please stand)

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be a people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for the dream of a compassionate world. Trusting in God's Spirit, we promise to support each other in love, that through our faith, the world might be made new.

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

Carolyn Paulus

Genesis 17 (selected verses)

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

ANTHEM

Seek Ye the Lord

The Chancel Choir

J. Varley Roberts (1821-1920)

Drew Seigla, tenor

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye
upon him while he is near: Let the wicked
forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his
thoughts, and return unto the Lord, and he will
have mercy, and abundantly pardon.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 18 (selected verses)

A few days later the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

—New Revised Standard Edition

SERMON

The Lament & Laughter of Aging

Rev. Richard S. DenUyl, Jr.

*** HYMN**

God of Our Life, Through

All the Circling Years

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 97

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Adagio

C. F. Becker (1804-1877)

*** DOXOLOGY** Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 515

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Pilgrim (red) hymnal 63

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Choral Improvisation

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

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Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the
Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

A Note to Parents

Relax! God put the wiggle in children, do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of children is a gift to the church, which offers hope for all. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." At First Church we believe that the way we welcome children in worship directly affects the way they respond to God, the church, and to one another. To the members of our congregation, please know that a smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small, active children.

For those who are interested, we do have child care available for babies and toddlers every Sunday, for the entirety of the church service, in the preschool classrooms.

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.

NEWS AND NOTICES

TODAY

Church School

Regular Church School classes continue today after the first hymn.

Please note the special information for next Sunday:

February 4 - 2nd graders and older children will participate together in communion with their parents and the congregation

February 4 - 4th and 5th graders will cook chili for the soup kitchen.

Parents are needed to help. We will cook in the Daniels Center kitchen starting at 10 am.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN will be available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations during Community Hour, following today's worship service. During the week, she is available on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays by appointment, which can be made by calling extension 821.

Choir Rehearsals

The following choirs will meet today in their normal places/times:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (basement) 11:15-11:45
- Children's Choir: Music Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:00
- Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

New Members Joining January 28, 2018

Mary Benoit, 1 Shore Road, Unit 3, Stamford CT 06902, 475-6195606. Mary comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of

Faith. She and her husband James, recently moved to the area from Maine to be near their daughter and grandchildren. Prior to that they spent 25 years on Cape Cod where they raised their family. Mary enjoys yoga, reading, gardening and, of course, spending time with their grandchildren.

Virginia Cheney (Ginnie), 9 Mill Pond Court, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 203-629-4790. Ginnie comes to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. Ginnie originally hails from Rye, NY but spent some years in the Boston area before moving to Greenwich in 1985. She worked in the oil and agricultural commodities industry and is now retired. Ginnie is currently a Rummage Room volunteer and is on the Rummage Room Committee. She also has a goal this spring to rejuvenate the gardens behind Putnam Cottage and hopefully have a small harvest.

Ryan and Jennifer (Jenn) Particelli, 26 Mead Avenue, Cos Cob, CT 06807, 917-703-7882. Ryan and Jenn come to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. Jennifer is originally from Delaware and Ryan grew up in Greenwich. They moved here from New York City three years ago. Jenn and Ryan recently welcomed their first child, Violet, who is one month old, and also have a black lab puppy named Chevy. They enjoy golf, tennis and travel.

Jean Raben, 333 Palmer Hill Road, Unit 2A, Riverside, CT 06878, 203-637-5682. Jeanie comes to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich. She is a longtime Greenwich resident, raised her three children here and now has nine grandchildren. She tries to be very involved in their lives. Jeanie is on the board of Riverhouse (Greenwich Adult Day Care), plays bridge and golf, and loves to walk and read.

Betty Woodman, 1307 Meadow Ridge, Redding CT 06896, 203-5448637. Betty is coming to First Congregational Church as an Associate Member. She was a member here for 56 years before moving to Redding and joining First Church of Christ, Congregational, and wishes to continue to be a part of this church. Betty is the head of the wonderful, musical Woodman family. Welcome back, officially, Betty.

UPCOMING

Announcing the 2018 “Souper Bowl” Sunday Soup Sale

Calling all cooks! It’s time to show-off your soup-making skills once again by volunteering to make and donate a quart (or quarts) of soup to this year’s annual “Souper Bowl Sunday” soup sale to benefit the FCCOG Women’s Fellowship! The sale will take place in the auditorium on Sunday, February 4, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and quarts homemade of soup will be sold for \$10 each. Please sign up to donate in the church office or after church in the auditorium for the next several Sundays. Restaurant-style food containers will be available for pick-up starting this Sunday after church in the auditorium. This annual event has proven to be an easy, inexpensive and popular way to contribute to the community for both those who love to cook and those who love to eat! Please contact Jenny Gartner at jenniferhgartner@gmail.com or Sue Wilder at swilder102@gmail.com for more information.

News from the Rummage Room
191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, February 5th: February should be a satisfying month for our shoppers! Last Friday, February 2nd was Ground Hog Day: if Punxsutawney Phil came out and did not see his shadow, spring will be close at hand. If it was a sunny day and Punxsutawney came out and saw his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. But either way—spring, “it will be A-Coming,” and the Rummage Room will be prepared! Also coming, is Valentine’s Day on Wednesday, February

14. Be sure when you come to the Rummage Room, you see all things that are Valentine red—from clothing, to Valentine cards and many more things.

Shopping Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 and 10 to 1 Saturday.

Donation Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 & Saturday 10 to 12:30.

Those at The Rummage Room thank all of you who shop there. “Love is the strongest force the world possesses, and yet it is the humblest imaginable.” Since God so loved us, we feel so fortunate that we can spread that love to others as a result of shopping and donating at the Rummage Room.

Caregivers Support Group

Please join us for the Caregivers Support Group for those who currently are, recently have been, or no longer are, a caregiver for a family member or friend. The group offers a confidential place where participants can share experiences, learn new information, and receive emotional support and comfort from others in similar situations. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Binney Conference Room. Dorothy Mueller, FCCOG Stephen Minister, is the group facilitator. For more information, please call Dorothy at (203) 588-9896, or email: dorothymueller1@gmail.com.

Next Week at First Church
Sunday, February 4

Drew Mohn and Yevgeniya Golodinskii, preaching

Music by the Youth Choir
You Walk With Me—David Yazbek
Seize the Day—Alan Menken



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 S. DenUyl, Jr.

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Family Ministries: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Church Administration & Finance: Steve Summerton

Administrative Assistant - Operations: Donna White

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Publications Coordinator: Vance Briceland

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