

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**17 June 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 Memory Garden.

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### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

\*All who are able please stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ

Improvisation on "Ar hyd y nos"

#### **CALL TO COMMUNITY**

Rev. Patrick Collins

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

#### **CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

Car Westbrook

### **PRAISING GOD**

#### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: What mysteries there are in God's world!

**People: We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.**

Leader: We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will happen.

**People: From that small seed will grow a large shrub.**

Leader: Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

**People: God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.**

**All: Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power.  
Amen.**

#### **\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\* HYMN**

For the Fruit of All Creation

New Century (black) Hymnal 425

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**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.

(Children are invited to join Rosemary in the Daniels Center for a one-room schoolhouse program.)

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST LESSON**

Barbara Norrgard

**Leviticus 25: 1-7**

The Lord said to Moses on Mount Sinai, Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Once you enter the land that I am giving you, the land must celebrate a sabbath rest to the Lord. You will plant your fields for six years, and prune your vineyards and gather their crops for six years. But in the seventh year the land will have a special sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the Lord: You must not plant your fields or prune your vineyards. You must not harvest the secondary growth of your

produce or gather the grapes of your freely growing vines. It will be a year of special rest for the land. Whatever the land produces during its sabbath will be your food—for you, for your male and female servants, and for your hired laborers and foreign guests who live with you, as well as for your livestock and for the wild animals in your land. All of the land’s produce can be eaten.

—Common English Bible

**ANTHEM**

The Lord Is a Mighty God

The Summer Choir

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**SECOND LESSON**

**Mark 4: 26-29**

Then Jesus said, “This is what God’s kingdom is like. It’s as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn’t know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it’s harvest time.”

—Common English Bible

**SERMON**

Planting Seeds

Rev. Patrick Collins

**\* HYMN**

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast New Century (black) Hymnal 318

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Avery C. Manchester

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Author of Justice

The Summer Choir

Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

Author of justice, on time’s endless page,  
Your theme is justice in race, creed and age;  
Justice for women, for children, for men.

Stewards of justice, we pledge our “Amen.”

Where there is someone unfairly accused,  
Where there is strength and its power is abused,  
Where prejudice lives, and dignity dies,  
Lead us to action courageous and wise.

Let it be written we sang freedom’s song,  
Challenging rights that are morally wrong.  
From rage and chaos, to hope and control,  
Author of justice, heal our wounds, make us whole.

Friends of the helpless, of victims in need;  
Foes of intolerance, hatred and greed;  
May we move mountains, as faith lights our way.  
Brighter tomorrows are born of today.

Author of justice, your message impart,  
Till loving kindness redeems every heart;  
And earth embraces her new destiny,  
Justice for everyone with true equity. Amen.

(text by Trilby Carter Johnson)

**\* 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**

O God in Whom All Life Begins    New Century (black) Hymnal 401

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL RESPONSE**

## **POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in F major

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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Flowers in the Meetinghouse today are given by the Woodman family in memory of Harry A. Woodman, who would be celebrating his 90th birthday.

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

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### **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. For toddlers and preschoolers who stay in church, there is a PrayGround in front of the chapel with a rug and a few quiet play things. The first pew of the chapel is reserved for parents to supervise their children if you do not need to be on the rug with them. There are also additional children's books on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.

### **Radio Ministry**

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.

## NEWS AND NOTICES

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### TODAY

#### **Notice of the 347th Annual Meeting**

The 347th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, Old Greenwich, CT, is hereby called for today, Sunday, June 17, 2018, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse:

- To hear the Annual Reports of the Pastors, Officers, Committees, Organizations and Departments;
- To elect Officers for the ensuing year;
- To adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018
- To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Note: Child Care and snacks will be available in the Undercroft for children during the meeting. —Car Westbrook, Church Clerk

#### **Church School**

Today we have a one-room schoolhouse class. There is child care in the Preschool Blue Door during church **and** the Annual Meeting. Reminder to Church School Teachers: Please complete the survey on Survey Monkey **and** let Rosemary know if you will be teaching next year or not. Happy Father's Day!

#### **Father's Day Food Drive**

Did you know that hundreds of Greenwich students receive free or reduced price meals daily during the school year? Unfortunately, when school is out during the summer, those lunches are not available. Neighbor to Neighbor bridges the gap. We can help by donating most needed items: peanut butter, jelly, tuna, and for dessert, water-packed canned fruit! If you did not bring your food donations today, please drop them off in the Church Office during the week.

## UPCOMING

### **Summer Choir – All Welcome!**

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, starting next Sunday, June 17, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Head to the 3rd floor, outside the choir room, to pick up the hymns, anthem, and bulletin, and a folder, then meet downstairs in the choir loft. Come any Sunday that you are available to help lead the congregation in worship, and it also gives you a chance to experience worship from the choir loft. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Symons (ext. 822).

### **June 24 Is Our All-Church Greenwich Point Service**

June 24 is our All-Church Greenwich Point Service at 10 a.m., and we will gather at the Seaside Garden at Greenwich Point. This location is near the Old Greenwich Yacht Club, about half-way around the point. **Please note: there will be no Meetinghouse worship service on June 24.** Everyone is welcome at Greenwich Point for this special day, regardless if you're a Greenwich resident or not; simply state at the entrance that you're coming for the First Congregational Church service.

Please bring a picnic lunch and beach/lawn chairs with you to enjoy with your church family after worship. Should weather be bad that morning, we will revert to the Meetinghouse at 10 am. Check the church website that morning for a notice if the location is changed. Following worship, we will enjoy a time of fellowship and community with a picnic. Bring your own food, which is easier to manage individually/family than it would be if the church were to provide a meal.

### **Calling All Bakers!**

For the June 24 All-Church Worship & Picnic, we're asking you to bake some goodies to share in a Bake Sale. Everything is \$5 and all funds raised from the sale will be used to assist our youth who are leaving that morning for their annual Mission Trip to the Houston area, helping folks rebuild homes and lives following the hurricane disasters last summer. Home-baked and store-bought are all great

choices to help our youth and to ensure there are some great desserts for the picnic. Don't wait until it's too late—plan your baking now!

### **Summer Sings – 7 Years Strong**

Our 7th season of Summer Sings opens this year with some new features: we're moving to Thursday nights, and only having two sings, June 28 and August 30, and gathering in the glorious acoustic of the Auditorium, which is now air conditioned, making summer events more enjoyable. First Church's Director of Music, Craig Symons, will lead singers on Thursday, June 28 with the Bach Magnificat. Non-singers are welcome to observe, free of charge. Donation is \$10 per singer. New this year: college students and younger are free!

### **Sign Up Today for the First Church Beach BYO Picnic: Thursday July 12 5 to 8 pm**

The Welcoming Committee is pleased to invite everyone to the First Church Beach Bring-Your-Own Picnic! Pack a picnic dinner and beverages, dessert is on us! We will gather at the clambake area from 5 pm until 8 pm on Thursday, July 12. This is an opportunity for those who do not live in Greenwich to enjoy our beautiful Greenwich Point. Tell the gatekeeper that you are here for the First Church picnic. **Singles, couples, families are welcome, bring a friend!** We will start taking reservations today in community hour, and on-line at My First Church beginning next week.

### **Flower Donations**

Flowers in the Meetinghouse on Sunday mornings are something we have all come to enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our sanctuary but are given to honor very special people and occasions in our lives. The reasons for donating flowers are many. In addition to remembering a loved one, you can give flowers in celebration of marriages, anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, congratulations, and thank-yous. Donors can be an individual or a group. After the morning worship has concluded, the blooms are often delivered to shut-ins, hospitals or other facilities bringing beauty to those who cannot be physically present in church. If, however, you prefer to keep the flowers you have donated, please let us know and we will make arrangements to save them. Please consider a Sunday when you would like to thank God and honor a special person or a special

moment with a gift of flowers. Contact the church office at 637-1791 for more information.

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

**Sunday, June 17th:** Happy Father's Day to all dads in the Congregation! Have you hugged your father today?

**Monday, June 18th:** The Rummage Room opens for business at 10:00 am. Donations accepted at 9:30 am.

**Thursday, June 21:** Come in and Celebrate the first day of summer! You will find some great buys.

**Mgr. Leanne's Wish List:** Handbags; jewelry, and children's clothes.

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

**Donation Hours:** Monday through Thursday 9:30 to 4:30 & Saturday 10 to 12:30. Please do not leave donations outside when the Rummage Room is closed.

**Summer Closing:** Last day for donations will be July 27th. The Rummage Room will close on August 4 and reopen on September 4. Please do not leave donations when the shop is closed!

**A Tribute to Fathers:** This is the day to celebrate. We treasure their gentle touch and love, For those whose fathers have passed, we continue to feel their love.

**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](mailto:dorothymueller1@gmail.com).

**Next Week at First Church**  
**Sunday, June 24**  
**10 am All-Church Worship & Picnic at Greenwich Point**

Note: There will be **no service** in the Meetinghouse,  
unless weather cancels our activities at Greenwich Point.

Music by the Summer Choir  
For the Beauty of the Earth—John Rutter

Music by Paul Ghaffari, violin



## **The First Congregational Church of Greenwich**

108 Sound Beach Avenue,  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870  
203-637-1791  
*[www.fcog.org](http://www.fcog.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

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