

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

12 August 2018

10 o'clock in the morning



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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

PRELUDE
Tambourin

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano
François-Joseph Gossec
Dorothy Darlington, oboe

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Patrick Collins

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

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Patrick Collins

Leader: What does the Lord require of you?

People: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: What does God command of us?

People: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Leader: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

People: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

Leader: Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*** HYMN**

Now Thank We All our God

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 29

GATHERING PRAYER

Holy God, joy of the universe, it is your awesome love that brings us here. You awaken within us a loving response, which hungers and thirsts for your truth and beauty. As we worship you, please do not give us the blessings we want but the ones we most need. Satisfy us with the truth that we may need, though such truth might be most uncomfortable, and confront us with your holy beauty that will often cause us pain before it brings healing.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jackson Curtis Spuhler, son of
Sara Stewart Spuhler and Nicholas Steven Spuhler

BAPTISM PRAYER (in unison)

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Jackson, that you will watch over him and guide him as he grows in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of your Holy Spirit. All of this we pray as Jesus taught us 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.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

Child of Blessing,
Child of Promise

New Century (black) Hymnal 325

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.

– New Revised Standard Bible

ANTHEM

The Summer Choir
Roland Martin (b. 1955)

Consider

Consider

The lilies of the field whose bloom is brief:—

We are as they;
Like them we fade away,

As doth a leaf.

Consider

The sparrows of the air of small account:

Our God doth view

Whether they fall or mount,—

He guards us too.

Consider

The lilies that do neither spin nor toil,

Yet are most fair:—

What profits all this care

And all this coil?

Consider

The birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks;

God gives them food:—

Much more our Father seeks

To do us good.

--Text by Christina Rossetti

SECOND LESSON

John 19: 38-42

After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices,

in linen cloths. There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

– Common English Bible

SERMON

Too Little, Too Late

Rev. Patrick Collins

*** HYMN**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

New Century (black) Hymnal 493

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Reverie

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

*** 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**

Great Is Your Faithfulness

New Century (black) Hymnal 423

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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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. 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

Child Care

Child Care will be provided in the Rainbow Door classroom in the preschool.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service. If our Community Hour is held outside, Sue will be in the Memory Garden. If held inside, due to weather, Sue will be available in her office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

UPCOMING

Guest Preacher Next Sunday

Chaya Bender is the Assistant Rabbi at Temple Sholom. She has over ten years of teaching experience in various Jewish settings for learners of all ages and is passionate about helping others explore Judaism through the lens of art. Chaya works within the Temple Sholom Learning Center, serves as a Chapter Advisor for Greenwich BBYO and develops youth and family programming at Temple Sholom. Chaya was born and raised in Southern New Jersey. She earned a BA in Anthropology with two minors in Near Eastern, Judaic Studies and Gender Studies from Brandeis University. After Brandeis she spent two years studying Rabbinic Literature at Drisha as a Music Fellow in the Artist Beit Midrash program. In addition to Rabbinic Ordination from JTS, she is pursuing an MA Degree at the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education.

Beach Services Schedule

Our future beach services by the Innis Arden Cottage are August 19 and September 2, at 8 am. Remember, you don't have to be a Greenwich resident to attend these services; simply tell the attendant at the entry point you're there for the church service. Don't forget to bring your beach chairs!

Bible Study Class with Rev. Carla Dietz Begins August 16

Come join in on a rousing weekly conversation on the Bible readings of the week. This is a 'no holds barred' kind of group where everyone's voice matters. The class will begin on Thursday August 16, 11 am, in the Pastor's Office.

Photos for New Online Directory

In these busy times, taking your own selfie is the best way to get your family together for this photo. Please upload your own selfie photo into the MyFirstChurch directory. You can find the instructions on the upper right-hand side of the FCCOG home page. The quicker pictures are taken and uploaded, the quicker the directory will be more useful to folks, especially as we transition to an interim senior pastor. These pictures are invaluable to new staff and church members as they learn names and faces, and are able to greet everyone at church events. If such technology is not your thing, you can contact Pat Larrabee at patlarrabee@hotmail.com to arrange for an appointment to have your photo taken. Please contact Sue Wilder at swilder102@gmail.com with any questions.

Summer Choir – All Are Welcome!

Please join us on Sunday mornings throughout the summer, at 9 am in the Meetinghouse for a warm-up and rehearsal of the music being sung that morning. Head to the third 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).

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

The Rummage Room is closed for repairs and restocking during the month of August, while our volunteers take time for vacation. Please do not leave donations while the Rummage Room is closed. There will be no one to process them.

Tuesday, September 4: The Rummage Room's 54th Grand Reopening will take place at 10 am.

Thank you from the Rummage Room and the Women's Fellowship for your patronage through the past fifty-three years. Because of your purchases and donations, the Rummage Room has helped people in other countries, on American Indian reservations, to enable children to attend school in other countries (especially under-educated girls), assist the elderly world-wide, dig wells in small villages where

otherwise it would take a day's walk to collect water and to help those who need a place to live. The list is endless. We are deeply grateful.

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, August 19**

Chaya Bender, preaching

Music by the Summer Choir
God Is a Spirit—W. S. Bennett

At the River—Aaron Copland
Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue,
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www.fccog.org

Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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

Minister 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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