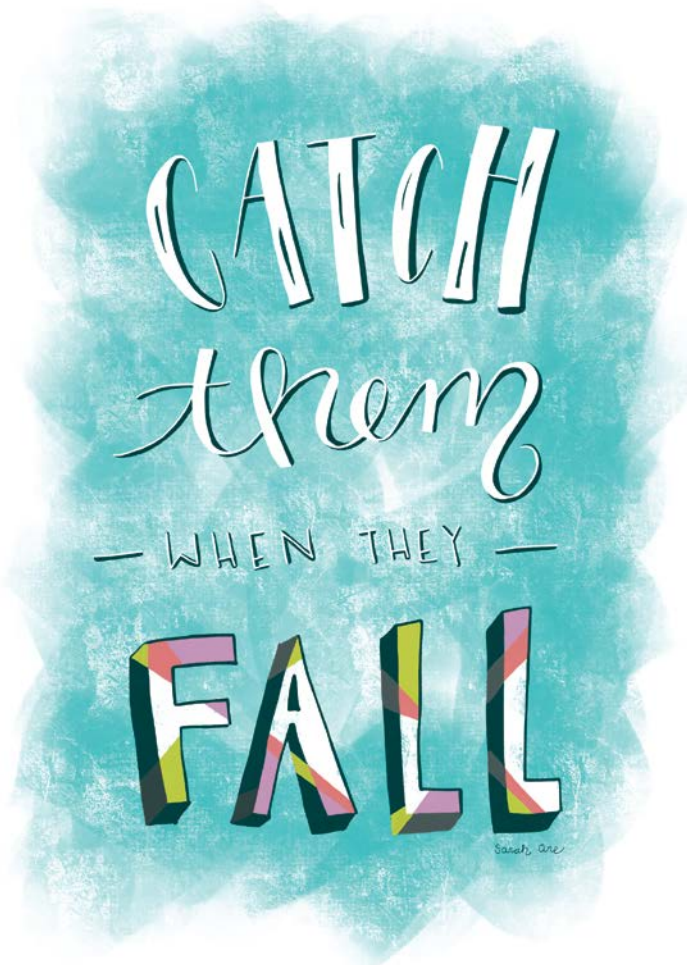


The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

2 September 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

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Patrick Collins

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

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Are you awake? Are you alert?

People: God is coming into our lives in a new way.

Leader: Are you watching the signs? Are you paying close attention?

People: God is coming into our lives in a new way.

Leader: Do you see the opportunities? Do you see the ways God is at work?

People: God is coming into our lives in a new way.

Leader: Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God's love.

All: God has extended the invitation. Let us be awake and ready to receive it.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Peace be with you.)

*** HYMN**

Awake, Awake to Love and Work New Century (black) Hymnal 89

INVOCATION

Reverend Carla Dietz

(Or Opening Prayer. We call on God for help & presence. We call on the living God who has made a covenant with us through Jesus the Christ)

You have broken into our lives, O God, creating the world anew today. You have breathed new life into our sleeping souls and have put a song in our hearts. So, we come today to offer you our thanks and praise. Pour down the blessings of your Spirit upon each one here this morning. When we grow weary and tired from the burdens of our lives may we sense the presence of your love to renew and refresh us in all of our waking moments. Amen.

PRAYER OF REFLECTION (in unison)

(When we admit that we have not always been our best. It's a chance to unburden our hearts)

We are aware God, that we often hear but do not listen. Preoccupied with our own voice inside us, we often give too little attention to what we hear from others. Forgive us when we only hear what others say but do not listen for what they do not say, perhaps what they long to say but cannot trust enough that they will be listened to. Forgive us, God, when we hear the voices of the poor and marginalized but hear only stereotypes and do not listen enough to hear the cries and concerns of real people. And forgive us, God, when we hear the chatter in our own lives but do not listen to our own deep fears and longings. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

(Assurance you are forgiven.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Olga Hartwell

Isaiah 40: 26-31

Look up at the sky and consider:

Who created these?

The one who brings out their attendants one by one,
summoning each of them by name.

Because of God's great strength
and mighty power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, Jacob,
and declare, Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord
my God ignores my predicament"?

Don't you know? Haven't you heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the creator of the ends of the earth.

He doesn't grow tired or weary.

His understanding is beyond human reach,
giving power to the tired
and reviving the exhausted.

Youths will become tired and weary,
young men will certainly stumble;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

– Common English Bible

ANTHEM

Bread of the World

The Summer Choir
Carleton Young (b. 1926)

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By Whom the words of life were spoken,
And in Whose death our sins are dead.

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;

And be Thy feast to us the token,
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 20: 7-12

On the first day of the week, as we gathered together for a meal, Paul was holding a discussion with them. Since he was leaving the next day, he continued talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we had gathered. A young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window. He was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell from the third floor and died. Paul went down, fell on him and embraced him, then said, “Don’t be alarmed. He’s alive!” Then Paul went back upstairs and ate. He talked for a long time—right up until daybreak—then he left. They took the young man away alive, and they were greatly comforted.

– Common English Bible

MESSAGE

Youth Movement

Reverend Patrick Collins

* HYMN

I Come with Joy

New Century (black) Hymnal 349

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reverend Carla Dietz

(Praise for who God is, with thanksgiving for what God does and with requests for God to heal, transform, renew us and help us work out the complications of our lives.)

- One: Every generous act, every good and perfect gift, comes from God, creator of lights.
- All: God gives us the truth.**
- One: You must understand this. Be quick to listen, be slow to speak, be slow to anger and quick to forgive. Ridding ourselves of all that is not from God.
- All: We welcome God’s word, as doers of God’s word, not just hearers of it.**
- One: If you only listen to God’s word, you will be like someone who looks in a mirror and then forgets what was seen there. Be doers of God’s word, not just hearers of it.

All: We will be blessed in what we do. Caring for those in need. This is what is faithful to God. Amen!

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.

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

(Humbly and in good measure, we offer our tithes and offerings in thanks to God.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

I Waited for the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Daniel Young, tenor

I waited for the Lord,
God inclined unto me, God heard my complaint.
O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all_ bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low.

Praise God a - bove ye_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a-tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*** DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

May these gifts we offer sing your praise, and welcome home those who yearn to dwell in peace, in hope, and in love. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We practice open Communion – all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to participate in the community of God’s people are welcome to receive Communion, including children of all ages, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation. All are welcome to the table of God.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Today’s communion will be by intinction. Congregants are invited to come forward down the center aisle to one of the communion stations by the chancel, receive the bread (gluten-free), dip in the cup and partake. Those who need to stay in the pew should indicate their need to be served there to one of the ushers or greeters.

Someone will come to serve you.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in this power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 35

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

* * *

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 about Welcoming Children

To our 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 Blue Door classroom in the preschool. Looking ahead to Church School, sign up online now at fccog.org. Church School begins on Homecoming Sunday.

UPCOMING

Homecoming Sunday: September 9, 2018

Please join us for our traditional welcome back picnic and festivities. We'll have our ever popular bouncy houses and more! Mark your calendars. Grilled items, rolls, condiments, and drinks will be provided by the Welcoming Committee and friends. Please bring a dish to serve 10-12! If your last name begins with: A-P—a salad or side dish / Q-Z—dessert to share. Reserve your spot online or during Community Hour after church.

Collins Baby Shower: September 15

Please join us for a Baby Shower honoring Kate and Patrick Collins, Saturday, September 15 at 2 pm in the First Congregational Church Auditorium. RSVP to the Church Office: 203-637-1791 Kate and Patrick are registered at www.babylist.com/baby-kate-collins. Additionally, there is a collection to purchase a Dutch “Box Bike” with electric-assist for the Collins family to help safely transport their children around OG. If you are interested in contributing a gift towards the bike, kindly make your (non-tax deductible) check out to FCCOG and send to the attention of Steve Summerton at church with “Baby Shower” in the memo line.

Free Film on the Front Lawn: Saturday, September 15

Join us for a free screening of the film **Up** on the front lawn, Saturday, September 15. BYO dinner begins at 6:30 pm; the movie will start at 7 pm.

Bible Study Class with Rev. Carla Dietz

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. Classes take place on Thursdays at 11 am in the Pastor’s Office. After Labor Day, this class will move to 11:30 am.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

The 54th Re-opening of the Rummage Room will take place on Tuesday, September 4th at 10:00 am. If you have never been to the Rummage Room on Re-opening Day, it is something you must do at

least once! It is an exciting day and all the merchandise is “new” and well-displayed. You will wonder why you have never been there before and you will make a promise to yourself to return year-after-year!

A Special thanks to our Shoppers, Donors and Volunteers ... we hope you realize how much comfort you have brought to those who have so little. It seems impossible what has been given in the past 54 years The Rummage Room has been open. Thank you one and all for your continued support.

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
Homecoming Sunday
Sunday, September 9**

Reverend Carla Dietz, preaching
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 & Mark 7:24-37
Needs & Openness

Music the Children's, Youth, & Chancel Choirs
We Are the Body of Christ—Emily Lund



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. Carla Dietz

Associate Pastor: Rev. Patrick Collins

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

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

Interim Administrative Assistant/Cemetery: Pat Larrabee

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

Cover Art: Sarah Are