

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

23 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 Auditorium.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.)

PRELUDE

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, piano

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Reverend Carla Dietz

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

(prepares us for the purpose of service and sets the tone,
orienting us toward a worship mindset)

People: Today, in this moment, in every moment, we are offered life. Now it is before us – God's call to a new world, to God's way of knowing the world, to God's world of knowing. Let us, now, once more, take our first steps together with God as our guide. Welcome to the adventure!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Peace be with you.)

*** HYMN**

Won't You Let Me
Be Your Servant?

New Century (black) Hymnal 539

INVOCATION

Reverend Patrick Collins

(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)

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Reverend Carla Dietz

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

God, hope is ever with us, love is ever present, the truth that we are all the children of God is all around us. And yet we so often live our days as if none of this is true, as if we had no hope. Forgive us and remind us today of who we are, who you are, and of where we live. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

(Assurance you are forgiven.)

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Rosemary Lamic

Reverend Patrick Collins

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.

(All sing, as children exit)

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.**

**(Refrain) Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give Light and love to all who live.
(Refrain)**

(After the Children's Message, children and teachers will head to their classrooms in the Preschool. The 6th graders will be in Rick's Room, just past the Lounge.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON— HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Reverend Carla Dietz

Proverbs 31:10-31

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.

She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.

She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.

Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

– New Revised Standard Bible

SOLO

Hear Ye, Israel

Hanna Golodinskii, soprano
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Hear ye, Israel, hear what the Lord speaketh:
‘Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments.
Who hath believed our report! To whom is the arm of the Lord
revealed!

SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL

Pat Larrabee

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

– New Revised Standard Bible

MESSAGE

What Makes a Woman

Reverend Carla Dietz

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Reverend Avery C. Manchester
(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.)

God, today we pray for the vulnerable of the earth, for children. We know that sometimes to be vulnerable is a great gift and a great opportunity for learning. But too often, in too many places, people have no choice and are made vulnerable to pain, disease, violence, and death.

Let us pray for refugees and asylum seekers (a time of silence).
For our friends in Massachusetts displaced by gas pipe explosions (a time of silence).

For children who live in families and homes that are not safe places (a time of silence). For children without access to books and to learning (a time of silence).

For children everywhere. (a time of silence).

God, we know that you know each of us by name and are with each of us in every moment of our lives. Amen.

*** HYMN**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God New Century (black) Hymnal 292

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Toccata of Praise

The Chancel Choir
Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

*** DOXOLOGY**

(Offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and for using us to bring God's mission to the world. Feel free to rise and sing a version familiar to you or this.)

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**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy

New Century (black) Hymnal 277

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

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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 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 the back of the chapel with a rug and a few quiet play things. Chairs and rocking chairs are 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

Church School

Babies, toddlers, 3 and 4 year olds begin in their classrooms in the Preschool at 10 am or before. Our older children will go to their classrooms after the Children's Message. Teachers will help all children find their classrooms in the Preschool except 6th Grade which is in Rick's Room. If you have not yet registered your child, please do so today on our website at www.fccog.org or in the preschool office area. Visitors are welcome to register their children, too! Registration helps us to know your children, identify any allergies and puts you on our mailing list.

Choir Rehearsals

The following choirs will meet today:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 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

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.

UPCOMING

All Church Retreat: September 29-30

All ages are welcome to join us for this enlightening, engaging and refreshing weekend together at the Silver Lake Retreat and Conference center. We will spend our time together in prayer, reflection, discussion, and, of course, getting to know one another through fun outdoor activities. The cost for the retreat is \$60 per adult and \$40 for children with a maximum cost for families of \$200. This fee includes all meals, lodging and program materials. If you

would like more information or would like to sign up please email or call Rev. Patrick Collins or Rosemary Lamie.

Quarterly Informational Meeting of Members Sunday, October 7

Please join the Church Council for a Quarterly Informational Meeting of Members in the Auditorium following worship. Get some refreshments and greet friends before beginning the informal meeting around 11:15. Hear the latest church news, ask questions and offer your input to church leadership.

First Intergenerational Breakfast of the Fall

Sunday, October 7, at 9 am in the Auditorium co-hosted by the Faith Formation and Education Committee and the Church School Task Force. Our traditional pancake breakfast with sausage, fruit, yogurt, juices, chocolate milk and more. Let us break bread together on this World Communion Sunday for the love of God, in remembrance of Jesus and being in community.

Interested in Learning About Joining First Church?

Our next New Member Class will be held on Sunday, October 14 at 11:20 am in the Senior Pastor's office. It will last approximately an hour and a half and will include lunch. During the class, prospective new members will have the opportunity to hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and our church. Attending does not obligate you to join but we hope that this time together will strengthen you on the journey of faith. New members will then be received on Sunday, October 28. Child care will be provided at both times. Please feel welcome to join us. If you are planning to attend, or you have questions, please contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org or 203 637-1791 x 26.

New Pastor Survey

The call of a new pastor is a critical event in the life of a congregation. To help the Search Committee better understand the views and needs of the entire congregation, we are conducting a survey, which will be available both online and in hard copy. It is important that as many as possible participate in this survey. Please find the link to the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fccog>. Paper surveys have been

mailed home this week and are available in the church office. There is a box at the back of the Meetinghouse where you can return completed surveys.

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 11:30 am in the Pastor's Office.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, September 24: Manager Leanne's 50%-off sale items for the week may be found on the church website at www.fccog.org/about-us-the-rummage-room.

The September 54th Grand Re-opening was busy and productive. If you missed the Re-opening, not to worry. The Rummage Room is full of many great items at great prices. Many thanks to our donors for your continued support by providing a continuous flow of clean and attractive treasures and to our shoppers who generate the funds to support The Rummage Room's mission by buying those treasures year after year. You are the best! And as you know, the many who are helped by the profit from the sales at the Rummage Room are able to live a little better life.

Saturday, September 22nd is the First Day of Autumn. You may be assured that Mgr. Leanne will have many good seasonal buys. If you are looking for warm clothing—hats, scarves, coats and jackets for fall—the Rummage Room is the one-stop shop for your needs.

Shopping Hours: 10 am to 5 pm daily and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm.

Donation Hours: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday, & Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 1 pm. Please do not leave donations when the Rummage Room is closed. Thank you.

Manager Leanne's Wish List: Halloween items and winter coats for all.

Prayer for the months ahead: Lord, because of Hurricane Florence, many are going through their darkest hour and they desperately need your presence.

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, September 30

Reverend Carla Dietz, preaching
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 and Mark 9:38-50
“Exclusivity”

Music by the Chancel Choir
What a Friend We Have in Jesus—Mark Hayes
Carol Woodman, soprano

Lead Me, Lord—Samuel Wesley



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

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