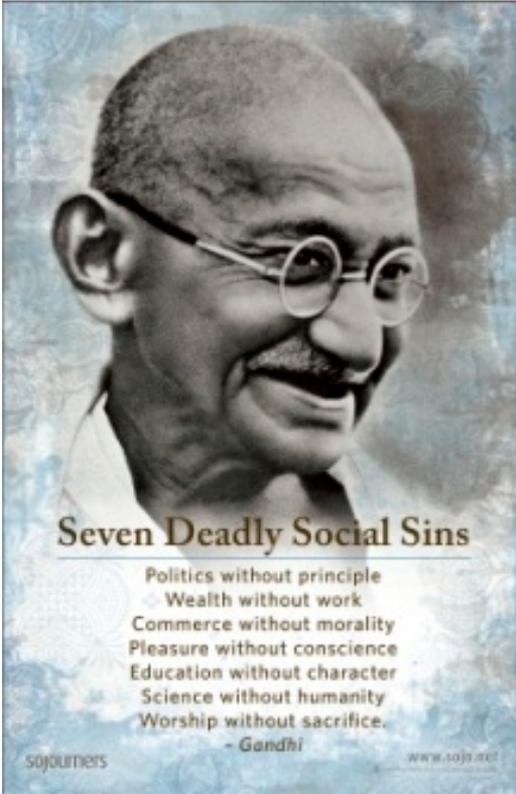


*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**30 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.

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### **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.)

### **PRAISING GOD**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

One: Blessed be our God,

**All: our help in times of trouble.**

One: Blessed be our God,

**All: our guide along the way.**

One: Blessed be our God,

**All: our help and our guide.**

One: Come, let us worship.

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Peace be with you.)

**\* HYMN**

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

New Century (black) Hymnal 55

## **INVOCATION**

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

(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)

Because of your grace, we are. Because of your love, we act. Because of your spirit, we pray. Because of your gospel, we live. Because of your presence, we worship. If it had not been for you, Creator God, we would not be. So it was, so it is, so it will be, for now and forever. Amen.

## **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)

## **WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

(Assurance you are forgiven.)

## **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.**

(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**

Pat Mendelsohn

#### **James 5: 13-20**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

– New Revised Standard Bible

### **ANTHEM** Lead Me, Lord

The Chancel Choir  
Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;  
make thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,  
that makest me dwell in safety.

### **SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL**

#### **Mark 9:38–50**

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives

you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” – New Revised Standard Bible

**MESSAGE**

Keep the Peace

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

**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.)

**\* HYMN**

Don't Be Afraid (sung three times)

Don't be a-fraid my love is strong-er, my love is strong-er than your fear.

5 Don't be a- afraid. My love is strong-er and I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near.

**RESPONDING TO GOD**

**CALL TO OFFERING**



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](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**

#### **Church School**

Babies, toddlers, 3 and 4 year olds begin in their classrooms in the Preschool at 10 am or before. After starting in worship with their families, our older children 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](http://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. Next Sunday, October 7, is World Communion Sunday and worship will have several special elements, so our children will be in worship for the experience. Church School resumes on October 14.

## **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**

### **Blessing of the Animals: October 6**

“All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, Our Dear God made them All.”

God loves all the creatures and so do we at First Church. Please join us anytime Saturday October 6 between 10 am and noon with your beloved pet for a special blessing. Tell a friend with two legs or four. All are welcome!

### **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](mailto: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, October 1:** The Rummage Room's 'Halloween Shop' is officially open for all goblins, big and small! The shop it is brimming with costumes and decorations galore! Be sure you don't miss the two bewitching Halloween windows at the entrance to the shop, which were done by Leanne Myer and Nancy Hamilton. The windows will definitely put you in a Halloween state of mind! But beware when you are walking out of the shop . . . you might be

startled by a Halloween witch on her broomstick. For every Halloween decoration you buy or donate, she will want to take you for a ride on her broom!

**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:** Handbags, gloves, and children's clothing.

**The Rummage Room Mission:** Those at the Rummage Room have had the joy of great sales since the September 4th Reopening. Please continue your strong support with your donations and your shopping. The Allocations Committee plans where the funds will go to help to support children, women and family needs locally and worldwide. Please know that each application from the Organizations requesting funds is carefully and fully reviewed.

**Thought for the Day:** Have you ever thought about how much we could learn from a box of crayons? Some are short and some are long. Some have weird names and all are different colors. Yet, they all live in the same box and create beauty when they work together. That's the way the Rummage Room has worked for over 54 years!

### **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, October 7  
World Communion Sunday**

Music by the Chancel Choir  
Hine ma tov—Allan Naplan  
Enid Press, clarinet

Music by the Cherub Choir  
Fairest Lord Jesus

Music by the Youth Choir  
Salaam—Mosh Ben Ari

Music by Enid Press, clarinet  
Allegretto—Camille Saint-Saëns



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

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