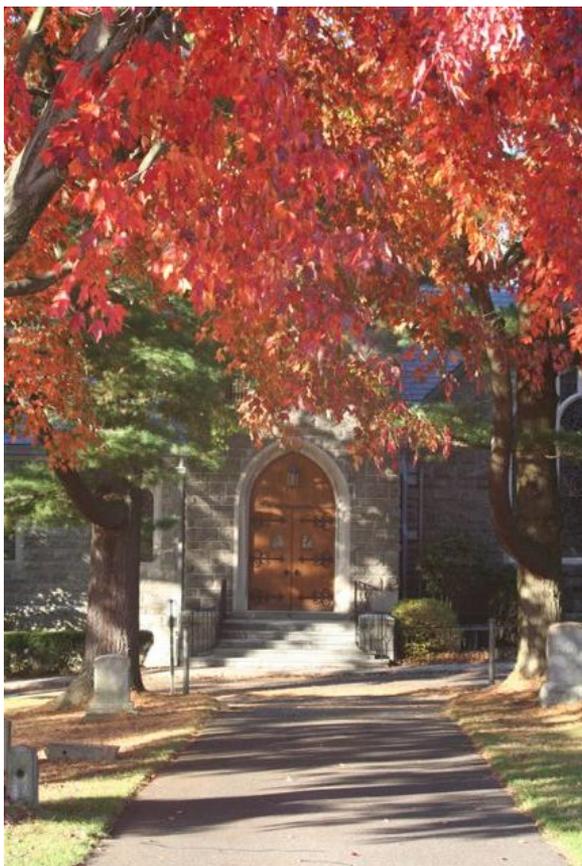


The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

21 October 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

Steven Russell, guest pianist/director

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)

One: O how manifold are the works of God.

All: The earth is full of God's glorious creation.

One: We are a part of God's magnificent design.

All: Let us bless and praise our great and good God.

*** HYMN**

Children of God

New Century (black) Hymnal 533

INVOCATION

(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 Patrick Collins

(When we admit that we have not always been our best.

It's a chance to unburden our hearts)

One: When we take counsel in pretty words that lack knowledge and wisdom,

All: forgive us.

One: When we speak with authority and condemnation about things we barely understand,

All: forgive us.

One: When we, in our ignorance, act as if we can control the morning stars or the lion's roar,

All: forgive us.

One: When we have forgotten you and have forgotten who we are,

All: forgive us.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

(Assurance you are forgiven)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

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 all go to their classrooms in the Preschool, except the 6th graders who are in Rick's Room.)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON—OLD TESTAMENT

Bill DeHaven

Job 38: 1–7, 34–41

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

so that a flood of waters may cover you?

Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go

and say to you, ‘Here we are?’

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,

or given understanding to the mind?

Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?

Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

when the dust runs into a mass

and the clods cling together?

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,

or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

when they crouch in their dens,

or lie in wait in their covert?

Who provides for the raven its prey,

when its young ones cry to God,

and wander about for lack of food?

– New Revised Standard Bible

ANTHEM

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

The Chancel Choir
Jean Berger (1909-2002)

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of ev'ry living thing, of ev'ry living thing.

SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL

Mark 10: 35–45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

– New Revised Standard Bible

MESSAGE

Who're the Top Dogs?

Reverend Carla Dietz

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(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**

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

New Century (black) Hymnal 293

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

My Lord, What a Mornin’

Linnea Conley, mezzo soprano

Arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

My Lord, what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways, joined that heavenly band.
My Lord, what a mornin’ when the stars begin to fall.

*** DOXOLOGY**

(Offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and for using us to bring
God’s mission to the world.)

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

9
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**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

New Century (black) Hymnal 282

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

* All who are able, please stand

* * *

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

The flowers in the Meetinghouse this morning are given in loving memory of Lillian and Edmund Hoffman by their families.

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

Today we will resume our regular church school lessons. Special Note: Next Sunday the 4th and 5th graders will go with their teachers and some parent chaperones to Pilgrim Towers in Stamford where we will have our annual Halloween Party. We will leave after church at 11:15 and be done at 1PM. This trip includes lunch provided by the Pilgrim Towers residents. Costumes are always fun! If others would like to come along, please talk to Rosemary for the details.

Second Hour on Planned Giving: Today after Worship

Lori E. Romano, First Church member, past Trustee and lawyer at Shipman & Goodwin, LLP in Greenwich, will give a general overview of tax implications of giving during life and at death as well as various ways to make gifts. Please join us in the Lounge for this informational talk.

Choir Rehearsals

The following choirs will meet today:

- Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45
- Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd floor) 11:15-12:15

UPCOMING

Improve Balance & Prevent Falls: October 28

A special Wellness Second Hour on the topic of preventing falls is scheduled for Sunday, October 28 at 11:30, in the Lounge. 40% of people aged 65 or older fall each year. Their risk of breaking a hip with a fall is as high as 50%. Falls can cause devastating setbacks for those who are sick or simply advanced in years. Sue Cavanaugh, a physical therapist from Greenwich Hospital, will discuss ways to improve balance & strength, prevent falls; and how to safely get up from a fall. Learning how to avoid falls can make a critical difference in your health or that of a loved one. Please join us.

November 10: First Church Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Join your fellow church members on Saturday, November 11 from 8:30 – 10:30 am OR 10:30 - 12:30 pm. We will be stocking the food pantry and sorting and displaying the clothing and linen contributions. Neighbor-To-Neighbor is located at Christ Church in Greenwich (across Putnam Avenue from the YWCA). Please contact Rosemary Lamie (RosemaryL@fccog.org) or go to Sign Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA4AB2FAAF58-neighbor2> and sign up. This is a great opportunity for a parent/child team or a teen and a friend as well as individuals. Children 12 – 15 need to be accompanied by a parent or another adult.

Stewardship 2019

Stewardship 2019 is underway! You should have received your Stewardship package in the mail this past weekend, or early this week. Please take the time to consider how you can be a part of Stewardship this year. The easiest way to pledge is on our pledging website: www.iamfirstchurch.com. Or, if you prefer, mail in your pledge form to the church office in the stamped, self-addressed envelope included in your package. If you did not receive your package in the mail, please let Paul Ghaffari know. Paul's email is paul@capitolinellc.com; or call Paul anytime at (203) 326-0327. Thank you!

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

The Rummage Room's October Halloween Shop will remain open through Wednesday, October the 31st. The Halloween Shop has many great buys for your little ghosts, goblins, pirates, princesses, or whatever your little goblins choose to be on Trick or Treat Night. And there are also great costumes for the adults in your household. Come in and create your own costumes, whether you want to be beautiful, handsome or spooky! And you will also find many great decorations for the inside and outside of your haunted house. When you bring your children to the shop, be sure they see the award-winning Halloween Windows. They are great!

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: Children's shoes; scarves; table linens for the holidays.

The Rummage Room's Mission: All proceeds from the Rummage Room go to organizations locally, nationally, and internationally in order to meet the many needs of children and families around the world.

Thought for the Week: Make us aware, Lord, that today never returns. Give us the sense of stewardship that reminds us why the Rummage Room is so important for those in need.

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.

Meetinghouse Flowers

For many, many years we have had flowers in the Meetinghouse for Sunday worship. The cost was underwritten by donors giving flowers in memory of, or in celebration of, a birthday, a baptism, an anniversary, or any special occasion. These floral gifts, shared with the entire congregation in the service, are then delivered to members and friends hospitalized or in rehab. We also utilized a number of dedicated flower funds given by a family to honor their loved ones each year. But now our flower funds are depleted. Current donations cover only approximately 35% of Sundays within a given year. There are many dates and choices available to increase our displays of fresh flowers throughout the seasons. The cost is \$100, made payable to FCCOG and tax deductible. If you would be interested in donating flowers for a Sunday service, please complete the form available in the church office, or contact Pat Geismar at 203-637-3597 or

pat.geismar@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this opportunity to bring beautiful flowers to each and every Sunday service.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Opportunity

After a brief hiatus, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is in full swing. We will be meeting the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Woodman Youth Room. The committee continues to knit over the course of the month, and members complete the shawls at home by tying on fringe and sewing on the labels. With gratitude to those who contributed shawls over the summer – we have an abundance and would welcome assistance with fringing and labeling the shawls. We are hoping to welcome new members to the Ministry. If you're not a knitter but would like to tie on the fringe or sew on labels, you're welcome to join us! If you would like to learn more about the Ministry, please email Sheila Bennett at sheilabennettms@gmail.com. Completed shawls are located in the Church Office. If you know of someone who would enjoy a shawl, please visit the Church Office.

Next Week at First Church

Sunday, October 28

Reverend Carla Dietz, preaching

Job 42: 1–6, 10–17 and Mark 10: 46–52

“Transformative Seeing”

Music by the Chancel Choir

Almighty and Everlasting God—Will James



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