

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

18 November 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; refreshments will be served in the Lounge.

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.)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ANTHEM

God Is Our Refuge and Strength

The Youth Choir

Allen Pote

Carolyn Paulus, director

Vance Briceland, piano

PRAISING GOD

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

Leader: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

People: Thank you!

Leader: The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,

People: Thank you!

Leader: The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

People: Thank you!

Leader: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

People: Thank you!

Leader: Our lives are filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

People: Thank you!

Leader: We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

People: Thank you, God, for all You have given to us!

*** HYMN**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 461

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)

What mighty praise belongs to You, O God, for Your acts of love and faithfulness toward us! In Your mercy You hear our prayers, You forgive our sins, You provide for our needs. From one end of the earth to the other, You inspire worship and praise! Even nature celebrates Your goodness. We offer our praise and thanksgiving for Your mercy and Your faithful love toward us. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit make Your presence known among us that we may hear Your Word and know Your will. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray together 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.

ANTHEM

Siyahamba

The Cherub Choir

Traditional Zulu Song

Carol Woodman, director

Debbie Berner, piano

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON—HEBREW BIBLE

Pat Mendelsohn

Psalm 65: Selected Verses

Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

– New Revised Standard Bible

ANTHEM

Everywhere I Go

The Children's Choir

Natalie Sleeth

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, director

SECOND LESSON—GOSPEL

Luke 13 & 14: Selected Verses

Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

When one of the dinner guests heard Jesus’ remarks, he said to Jesus, “Happy are those who will feast in God’s kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, ‘Come! The dinner is now ready.’ One by one, they all began to make excuses. The master of the house became

angry and said to his servant, ‘Go quickly to the city’s streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.’ The servant said, ‘Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.’ The master said to the servant, ‘Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’”

All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

– Common English Bible

MESSAGE

Every Table Is an Altar

Reverend Patrick Collins

ANTHEM

Flight Song

The Chancel Choir

Kim Andre Arnesen

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.)

RESPONDING TO GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

(At this time, you are invited to come forward with your offerings as well as your donations of food.)

HARVEST OFFERING

We Gather Together

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 21

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 440

Now Thank We All Our God

New Century (black) Hymnal 419

This Is My Song

New Century (black) Hymnal 591

*** DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*** 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 Chancel Committee thanks Pam Grunow for decorating the Harvest Table.

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 is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.

NEWS AND NOTICES

TODAY

Church School

Today our children are in worship with the congregation for this special Thanksgiving worship. Patrick has developed another BINGO game card so the kids can hone their listening skills. Child Care is available for children 4 and younger in the Red Door. Next Sunday, we will have a one room schoolhouse program when we will focus on putting activities that will put gratitude into our Advent season. Regular Church School resumes on December 2.

Giving Trees 2018

Our Giving Trees are outside the auditorium, decorated with tags for you to choose a Christmas gift for our friends at H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment), the non-profit organization that supports low-income and homeless families in Orland Maine, and for Pilgrim Towers, a senior residential community in Stamford. Please come by and fulfill a wish! Wrapped gifts are needed back by Sunday, December 2. Thank you!

H.O.M.E. Craft Sale

Our annual visit from the folks at H.O.M.E. Coop in Orland, ME will bring many long time favorites – jams, jellies, honey, maple candy, woven goods and beautiful pottery – as well as new items to our Auditorium. Shopping hours today are from 11 am – 1 pm.

Blood Pressure Screening

Ros Brady, RN, a volunteer from the Wellness Committee, will be available for blood pressure screenings during community hour. She will be in the Parish Nurse's office, to the right of the Auditorium stage.

UPCOMING

Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale—November 24-December 8, While Supplies Last!

Be part of our more than fifty-year tradition! Volunteers are key to the success of the sale, which raised \$32,000 for local charities last year. Join the fun and volunteer! Sign up is easy using Sign-Up Genius on the fccog.org website. You can also sign up today on the posters in the Auditorium or contact Pat Mendelsohn (203-637-5773). The Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale begins on Saturday, November 24 with the delivery of 450 fresh cut Fraser and Balsam Fir trees from New Hampshire and over 200 balsam wreaths. Come find your perfect tree—wreaths make wonderful gifts! Most importantly, all proceeds of the sale go to charity.

Tree Sale Fundraising Concert Featuring Ornament: Friday, November 30

Ornament is a National Tribute Band Award winning 11-piece Rock Orchestra specializing as a Tribute to the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. On Friday, November 30 at 8 pm in the Meetinghouse, the band will perform traditional holiday carols and songs set to rock, blues, and gospel music in the historic Meetinghouse. The concert will raise funds in support of the annual Christmas Tree Sale at First Congregational Church and all proceeds from the concert and sale will support local charity partners. Tickets may be purchased on the church website or in the church office.

Advent Craft Workshop and Dinner

On Sunday, December 2, from 4 to 6:30, come to the Daniels Center for one of the best Christmas time traditions of the Church School. There will be special handmade crafts for gift giving and decorating including the ever popular photo ornaments, evergreen centerpieces, pet gifts and much more. Dinner will include soup, mac & cheese, chicken nuggets, salad and more. Sign up at fccog.org.

Sign Up Now for the First Church Christmas Party

Come celebrate the holidays with your First Church family! Please join us for fun and generous hors d'oeuvres on Saturday, December 15th from 5 to 7:30PM in the church auditorium. There will be a full

bar. Please RSVP by Monday, December 10 . For reservations contact Ginny Breismeister at ginnyb@fccog.org, register on line at fccog.org or call the church office 203 637-1791. Babysitter recommendations available. Join us for this festive complementary Christmas celebration!

First Church Cookie Walk

The third annual First Church Cookie Walk is fast approaching! On Sunday, December 16 we will all have the opportunity to participate in a festive sale of delectable Christmas cookies and treats provided by all you wonderful bakers. Bakers will receive “priority” stickers to fill your box first and then non bakers may go through the line. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Boxes will be \$5 each. Proceeds will go to the Pastor’s discretionary fund for emergency relief. Fire up your ovens, get out the flour and sugar, and bake for a fun time and help those in need! Please sign up in coffee hour indicating that you will bring cookies.

Stewardship 2019

Stewardship 2019 is underway! 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!

Laptops Needed

Our refugee family has one computer and four children who need to use it for schoolwork, which is obviously a problem. If you have a used, but functional, laptop that you would be willing to donate, please contact Mary Ferry at ferry600@gmail.com.

Medicare Part D Counseling

The Medicare Part D prescription drug insurance open enrollment period ends December 7th. The plan you had last year may not be the most cost effective plan this year. Call your Parish Nurse, Sue Asselin, at extension 821 if you would like to receive counseling including navigating the Medicare website to determine your options.

News from the Rummage Room

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Monday, November 19: Christmas is at the Rummage Room this week! Come in and shop for a Christmas decoration from our many Christmas items, or for a unique gift.

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: Ladies' blouses; handbags; winter gloves.

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 Youth 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.



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