

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

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer, set against a vibrant sunset sky with scattered clouds. The person is centered in the lower half of the frame, with their arms extending upwards towards the top corners. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright yellow and orange near the horizon.

*What You Are*

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 17, 2019  
10am

**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. Please join us in the auditorium after worship for our Community Hour.

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*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.*

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# - ORDER OF WORSHIP -

**PRELUDE** Steven Russell, *Guest Director/Organist*  
*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* Lynn L. Petersen

**CALL TO COMMUNITY** Reverend Carla Dietz  
*(Please sign and pass the red Fellowship Pad found at the end of your pew.)*

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT** Paul Ghaffari

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

One: Blessed are those who trust in God.

**All: Plant us like a tree by the water. Send our roots toward the stream. Bear fruit in all we do, and make our leaves evergreen.**

One: Delight in God, meditate on God's law day and night.

**All: We praise God's holy name now and always.**

**HYMN\*** New Century (Black) Hymnal 292  
*Breathe On Me Breath of God*

**INVOCATION** Reverend Patrick Collins  
*(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.)*

**Fount of Blessings, Blessed One, and Giving Spirit, fill our hearts and this space with the awareness of the gifts of your manifold grace. Help us to see in each person around us the gifts that will heal the world. Create in us a space for sharing our gifts. Connect us to each other and to you, the source of eternal blessing, so that we may bless this world without end. Amen.**

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

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*There is **No Church School** due to vacations. All children will remain in church except babies and toddlers. Child Care is always available in the Red Door.*

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## **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.)*

**God, you know our innermost being – the good and the bad, the joyful and the sad. Our hearts can be devious. Only you can understand us fully. Only you will love us still. Help us to search our hearts, and to do the things that we love, so that we may be the love we wish to see in this world. May we, doing as love will dictate, be a blessing to ourselves and to others. Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION**

*(Assurance you are forgiven)*

## **THE 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.**

## **HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

Barbara Norrgard

### ***Jeremiah 17:5-10***

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.  
They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.  
The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?  
I the Lord test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

## **ANTHEM**

*Immortal, Invisible*

The Chancel Choir  
Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

## **GOSPEL**

***Luke 6:17-26***

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

**MESSAGE**  
***What You Are***

Reverend Carla Dietz

**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.)*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Reverend Patrick Collins

One: Christ has been raised.

**All: Therefore, we do not fear being stuck.**

One: We are raised with Christ.

**All: Therefore, we do not fear death.**

One: Let us not destroy what we love nor do what we hate.

Let us not perish in the futility of our sins and doubts.

**All: Let us live like a people resurrected.**

One: For Christ has been raised from the dead.

**All: Love's power conquers death's power over us all.**

**HYMN\***  
***Guide My Feet***

New Century (Black) Hymnal 497

**CALL TO OFFERING**

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

**OFFERTORY SOLO**  
*Ave Maria*

Hanna Golodinskii, *soprano*  
Michel Lorenc (b. 1955)

**DOXOLOGY\***

Pilgrim (Red) Hymnal 515  
*(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 blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING\***

**HYMN\***

New Century (Black) Hymnal 82  
*Go My Children With My Blessing*

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE\***

**POSTLUDE**

*Voluntary*

John Stanley (1712-1786)

*\*All who care to, please rise in body or spirit.*

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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.*

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*The flowers in the Meetinghouse last Sunday February 10 were given in loving memory of Catherine G. Weigner and Arthur C. Weigner by their sons Stephen A. and Donald C. Weigner.*



## 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](http://www.fccog.org). A bulletin is there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermon recordings are also available.

## NEWS & NOTICES

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### TODAY



#### Church School

There is **No Church School** due to vacations. Children remain in church except babies and toddlers who can be in Child Care in the Red Door. A look ahead:

- Sunday, Feb. 24:** 9 am Intergenerational Breakfast  
10 am Regular Church School & Communion Class
- Sunday, Mar. 3:** Regular Church School  
Church School Communion Sunday



4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders cook chili

Saturday, Mar. 9: FCCOG Volunteer Day at Neighbor to Neighbor

Sunday, Mar. 10: Regular Church School



### Choir Rehearsals Today

Cherub Choir: Rainbow Room (Lower Level) 11:15-11:45

### SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE



Refreshments and light sweets are included in your \$25 admission. Free for school-age children!

**TODAY:** Rimantas Vingras, *piano*

Lithuanian born, London-based pianist Rimantas Vingras presents a solo piano recital on the Victor Borge Steinway.



### Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office to the right of the Auditorium stage. During the week, she is available by appointment by calling 203-637-1791 ext. 821.

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## UPCOMING

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### SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE



Refreshments and light sweets are included in your \$25 admission. Free for school-age children!

**Sunday, February 24:** Tod Hedrick, *viol da gamba*

Tod, a resident of Old Greenwich, and a small ensemble will perform mixed repertoire for voice and period instruments, with a narrative that guides the audience from the sounds of the Middle Ages to the time of J.S. Bach. A resident of Old Greenwich, Tod grew up at First Congregational Church.



### Church School Task Force

We are hosting our Intergenerational Faith Formation Breakfast, a bi-annual pancake fest! Bring your appetites!

**Date: Sunday, February 24**

**Time: 9 am**

**Location: Auditorium**

**HELLO**

*New Member*

## Interested in Learning About Joining First Church?

Join us at the **New Member Information Gathering!**

**Date: Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 11:20 am**

**Location: Senior Pastor's office**

**Duration: 1 ½ hours, lunch included**

Come hear about the history and faith of our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and our church. There's no obligation to join! Child care will be provided if needed. For more information, please contact Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791 x 826.



**We welcome all women to the Women's Fellowship, especially mothers of young children!**

**Date: Monday, February 25**

**Time: 7:30 pm**

**Location: 33 Meadowbank Rd, Old Greenwich**

RSVP to Barbara Norrgard by email at [bnorrgard@hotmail.com](mailto:bnorrgard@hotmail.com).



### **Community Lenten Dinners**

During Lent, individuals and families try to give something up for the season, or to replace an unwelcome habit with a welcome one. The staff and leadership at First Church will be "giving up" all official church meetings during the six weeks of Lent and replacing them with weekly Community Lenten Dinners to which everyone is invited. Please join us by signing up for these dinners, hosted and organized by the committees and staff of the church.

**Beginning: Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 6 pm**

**Location: Church auditorium**

**Duration: Every Wednesday, 6 pm during Lent.**

Please contact Patrick Collins at [patrickc@fccog.org](mailto:patrickc@fccog.org) or 203 637-1791 x 825 to sign-up!



### **Available plots in the Columbarium**

There are now main cemetery graves available, as some were hidden in the manual records and newly discovered by Pat Larrabee. Many were donated or sold back by families who no longer need them. If you are interested in purchasing graves or locations in the columbarium, please contact Wendy Spezzano at [wendys@fccog.org](mailto:wendys@fccog.org) or 203-637-1791 x814.

# A letter from the United Church of Christ

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January 23, 2019

Dear Partners in Christ:

The vision of a body united - in purpose, in mission, in vision - is one that inspired the birth of our denomination. All of our spiritual impulses reverberate in an effort to call us into a more perfect union. Throughout our shared history as a people of faith and as a part of the Body of Christ, we have challenged ourselves to widen the circle of inclusion. Widening the circle has always come with growth pains as we shed old skins and welcome those whom we had previously thought unwelcome. And, with each new articulation of a more fully expressed Body of Christ we have realized new joy. Through it all we remain focused on the call to be one and committed to meeting the challenges inherent in that call.

We are now living in and through a season when the threats to unity are legion. Talk of walls that mark refugees as threats, labels like 'terrorist' that attach too easily to Muslims, overt racial bias that normalizes fear and hatred, a pandemic of abuse to women with the trigger reflex to forgive the men who author that abuse have turned America into a land many of us no longer recognize and that too many of us are finding harder and harder to reconcile with our faith.

Now more than ever, the Holy Spirit of the Living God and the Risen Christ is seeking to partner with anyone committed to unifying the human community. The gospel mandate to love our neighbor as we love ourselves resonates deep within us. It calls for the better angels among and within us to always resist impulses to hate, to condemn, to vilify, or to castigate. In such a time as this, the United Church of Christ's call to fulfill the prayer of Jesus, that they may all be one, stands as an urgent mandate to disciples who envision a just world for all.

United with you in God's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dorhauer".

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

*Officers of the Church*

**Rev. John C. Dorhauer**  
General Minister and President

**Rev. Traci D. Blackmon**  
Associate General Minister  
Justice and Local Church Ministries

**Rev. James A. Moos**  
Associate General Minister  
Global Engagement and Operations  
Co-executive for Global Ministries

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# NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

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## Shopping Hours:

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

## Donation Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday & Saturday 9:3 am – 12:30 pm

**Wish List: Spring blouses, Handbags, Children's clothing.**

**It's still cold outside... Stop by our store to stock up on cozy sweaters! We are grateful for all donations!**

*Gratitude: the quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation and return kindness.*



## *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 and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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