

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich
Founded in 1665

What grips YOU?

✔ Last Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, March 3, 2019
10 am

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.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Steven Russell, *Guest Director/Organist*
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light John A. Behnke

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

CELEBRATION

Reverend Avery C. Manchester on the occasion of his 90th birthday and 10th year of serving faithfully First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

CALL TO WORSHIP*

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

One: Praise God who is Glory and Honor.

All: The ground beneath us quakes at the greatness of God.

One: Lovers of justice, praise God who is righteous.

All: We praise God who establishes equity and realizes fairness.

One: Holy is God.

All: Holy is God, let us worship.

CHORAL INTROIT

He's my Rock

The Cherub Choir
Carol Woodman, *Director*
Debbie Berner, *piano*; Andrea Osker, *ukulele*
Traditional

HYMN*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 283
Spirit of the Living God

OPENING PRAYER

Reverend Patrick Collins

O God of radiant truth, unveil our faces to the beauty and light in all your Creation. Bestow on us freedom to see the divine image bestowed on each of us. Help us to fall in love with the unique beauty you have created in every earthly thing. Free our hearts, free our minds to the wonder of you this and every morning. Amen.

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ROLL CALL OF CANDIDATES

Ginny Breismeister

COMMITMENT OF CANDIDATES

Reverend Carla Dietz

Clergy: We are called of God to be disciples through Jesus Christ. Today. We welcome each of you to join us in the joy of God's service through the work of First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

Senior Deacon: Friends in Christ, we bid you welcome. We greet you as fellows in Christ. Our purpose is to promote the increase of the love of God and neighbor. Will you now unite yourself with the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, accepting our shared responsibilities of faith, praying and working for our mutual use, sustaining worship, supporting wider mission and living with us in the joys of friendship and fellowship?

Candidates: We will!

Clergy: We believe in the freedom of responsibility of the individual soul and the right of private judgment. We join in fellowship with other congregations of the United Church of Christ in declaring our steadfast dedication to the faith which our forbearers confessed, which from age to age has found its expression in the historic tenets of the Church Universal and of our Communion and in affirming our loyalty to the basic principles of our representative democracy. This we believe.

THE COVENANT*

Reverend Patrick Collins

We believe in God, infinite in wisdom and love, in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit who renews, comforts and inspires us. We are united in seeking to know the will of God as taught in Scripture and to walk in the ways of Christ. As Jesus accepted, welcomed and embraced all people without exception, so do we accept all who join with us in our journey to be people of faith. We accept the mission of this church to proclaim the gospel, to worship God and to work for a more compassionate world. Trusting in the Spirit, we

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

promise to support each other in love, that through our faith the world will be made new.

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 children will be dismissed now to Church School.

FIRST LESSON

Car Westbrook

Luke 9:28-36

About eight days after saying this, he climbed the mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah—and what a glorious appearance they made! They talked over his exodus, the one Jesus was about to complete in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Peter and those with him were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two men standing with him. When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He blurted this out without thinking.

While he was babbling on like this, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them. As they found themselves buried in the cloud, they became deeply aware of God. Then there was a voice out of the cloud: "This is my Son, the Chosen! Listen to him."

When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. And they continued speechless, said not one thing to anyone during those days of what they had seen.

ANTHEM

Christ, whose Glory Fills the Skies

The Chancel Choir
Harold Darke (1888-1976)

SECOND READING

II Corinthians 3:12-42

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

MESSAGE

Reverend Avery C. Manchester

What grips YOU?

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)

HYMN*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 28

For the Beauty of the Earth

CALL TO OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Fantasy

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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*

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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Reverend Avery C. Manchester

HYMN*

New Century (Black) Hymnal 8

Praise to the Living God!

BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Send Now, O Lord, to Every Place

Ruth Mackie

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

The flowers in the Meetinghouse are given in loving memory
of their fathers, James Tyner Anderson III, and Donald Winston Tufts,
by Ty and Cindy Anderson.

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

NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY



Church School

- Regular Church School for all grades except 2nd graders will receive their "First" communion in the sanctuary.

- 10:00-11:30: 4th & 5th Graders will cook chili for the Soup Kitchen in the Upstairs Kitchen. **Parents needed today to help with the chili cooking!!**



Choir Rehearsals 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

New Members joining March 3, 2019

Dan Cheng (Pamela), and Cesar (Alfredo) Egas from Riverside.

Alfredo and Pamela come to First Congregational Church by Confession of Faith. Pamela grew up in mainland China and came to the United States for graduate school in 2005. She has lived in many cities in the world-Shenyang, Beijing, Shanghai, Amherst, MA, Boston, New York City and Singapore. Alfredo comes from Ecuador (a 20-year New Yorker and a Yankee Fan!) and travels the world with his import/export business! He and Pamela met in New York City. They moved their family to Riverside last year and settled down. Pamela and Cesar are the parents of two daughters, Chloe, 3 years in June, and Charlotte, born last Friday, March 1st. Pamela is a working mother, in the finance field, and during her spare time she loves to read, cook, explore nature and play with her daughters. Cesar is also in the finance field.

Robert David (Dave) and Suzanne (Sue) Eaton, from Stamford.

Dave and Sue come to First Congregational Church by Letter of Transfer from First Congregational Church in Essex Junction VT. They had been members of that church over forty years until their recent move to Stamford to be near family. Sue formerly owned and operated a bed and breakfast, "Eatonhouse", and Dave had a career in insurance. Sue is interested in memoir writing, quilting, reading and recycling and Dave is interested in geneology and the environment.

John and Katherine (Katie) Magovern from Old Greenwich.

John and Katie come to First Congregational Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. John is originally from Long Island and Katie grew up in New Canaan. John is a banker and Katie is a stay at home mom to Evelyn (Evie), who will be attending First Church Preschool in the fall. They enjoy hiking

and skiing and being outdoors with family and friends. Evie likes dancing, laughing, watermelon and can't wait to be a big sister in June!

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE



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

TODAY: 'Scape Trio

A favorite string trio for Sunday Afternoons Live audiences. Nicole Sharlow, *violin*, Joseph Dermody, *viola*, and Adriana Maria Pera, *cello*, are currently all on the faculty, as well as the resident trio at Concordia College, Bronxville, NY. While performing in and out of New York City individually for over a decade, they established 'Scape Trio in 2007.



Parish Nurse

Betsy Kreuter, PT, a volunteer from the Wellness Committee, is available to perform blood pressure screenings in Rm. 203 following today's worship service.

UPCOMING



Ashes to Go is a nation-wide movement that has clergy and lay people reaching out to the community to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to repent of past wrongdoings and to experience the power God's eternal love and grace in an informal way. For more information about this movement, visit www.ashestogo.org.

When: Ash Wednesday, March 6

Time: 7 – 9 am

Location: First Church Parking Lot



Community Lenten Dinners

The first of our Lenten Dinners is scheduled for this upcoming week. Our theme is "*How Hungry Am I?*" with Patrick Collins as coordinator of the event. Please look for the sign-up posters for all the FREE Lenten Dinners (hallways and church office).

Date: Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Time: 6 pm

Location: Church Auditorium

Duration: Every Wednesday, 6 pm during Lent

Please contact Patrick at patrickc@fccog.org or Carla at carlad@fccog.org or call 203 637-1791 to sign-up by phone or email!



Volunteer opportunity

Join your fellow church members on Saturday to stock the food pantry, sort and display clothing and linen contributions.

When: March 9

Time: 8:30 – 10:30 am OR 10:30 - 12:30 pm

**Location: Neighbor-To-Neighbor at Christ Church Greenwich
(across Putnam Ave from the YWCA)**

Please contact Patrick Collins to 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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS LIVE



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

Sunday, March 10: *Off Sounders* with special guests *The Grace Notes*

Two a cappella groups who are no strangers to Greenwich residents. **Off Sounders**, founded in 1956, have been entertaining both locally and throughout the Northeast. The group's repertoire includes traditional, contemporary, spiritual, classical, jazz, pop, show tunes, good old rock and roll, country western and seasonal music.

They have invited their local female counterparts, **The Grace Notes**, to join them for this concert. This all-volunteer women's a cappella singing group is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the joy of music to Greenwich and its surrounding communities. The group performs for nursing homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, civic organizations, elementary schools, senior gatherings, and special events.

NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Our famous **BAG SALES** are coming up this week! Be there, and be on time, as our doors open at 10am.....and people line up for this event. We empty out the store and re-stock for Spring. Spring breathes new life into the world around us!

Here's how the week goes:

Mon. March 4th – Wed. March 6th: 50% off everything in the store.

Thurs. March 7th: \$15 a bag

Fri. March 8th: \$8 a bag

Sat. March 9th: \$1 a bag.

We provide you with a bag.

We open on Monday March 11th at 1pm.

The store will be full of lovely Spring items for all.

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



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 and Finance: Steve Summerton

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

Director of Preschool: Darla Kohler Steiner

Administrative Assistant/Operations: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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