

Summer 2019

MEETINGHOUSE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GREENWICH *monthly*

**Photo Gallery of Celebration Sunday
on pg. 5**

**Full Summer Calendar with
Beach Service Schedule
on pg. 10-11**





- Ministers:**
The Members of FCCOG
- Interim Senior Pastor:**
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- Pastors Emeriti:**
Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers
Reverend Sally Colegrove

FCCOG 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.



Congratulations Nargis!



Qasim and Zahra Hussaini with their daughter Nargis who won the Poet Laureate Award at Dolan Middle School in Stamford, CT at her 8th Grade Graduation. She will start in the fall in 9th grade at Greenwich Country Day's new Upper School.

WORSHIP WITH US

Every Sunday at 10am
Beach Services at 8am

(see pg. 10 for summer schedule)

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From the Interim Senior Pastor

It's hard to believe but August marks a year since I have been with you as the Interim Senior Pastor and it has been an extraordinary experience, for which I am grateful. To you!

Summer months bring a relaxed time to be at the beach, take your shoes off in the sand and spend time with family and friends. As a child we went to "Pea Island" which was a 15 minute launch ride from the coast of the very modest and rugged Huguenot Yacht Club in New Rochelle. I know, Yacht Club doesn't have a rugged sound to it but it was. We went to all day day-camp on the island Monday through Friday and then when teens went to Sailing Class all day, every week, Memorial Day to Labor Day, where we spent hours and hours learning about the ways of the tides, currents, wind, how to make knots and make a boat move forward. It's always better when your boat moves forward. It was a competitive sailing program so we were able to tow our Blue Jays, Lightnings and Lasers to other ports (including Indian Harbor) for competitions. Talk about fun. But while we were having fun we were learning about the ecology of the Long Island Sound, which is much better now, and how to work together as a crew in order to win, in more ways than one. I remember how great it was to dress down every day in a bathing suit, torn jean shorts, and dock siders. It didn't matter if your hair was in a ponytail or cut short or in a bandana, we were just having fun and learning a rigorous sport.

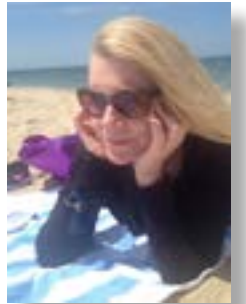
The kids in Old Greenwich and neighboring towns have such opportunities to enjoy the summer and be a part of God's wider mission to keep our planet healthy and clean. I hope you will encourage them to pay attention to the quality of the air, the water, the sand on our shores and to respect the trees, grass and animal habitats all around our privileged area. It is a blessing to be a part of this beautiful community.

This Summer, may God continue to bless First Church and may your Search Committee know we are all behind them as they move toward the completion of their discernment. It is not an easy job to find just the right Settled Pastor and you are lucky to have these dedicated people working diligently to do so. I'll be around all summer except July 28-August 5 when John and I take our annual summer vacation in honor of our Anniversary. Please feel free to call or come by the office to talk, I am here for you, to pray with you and to welcome your thoughts.

With love,

Carla

Reverend Carla Dietz
Interim Senior Pastor



Church Life

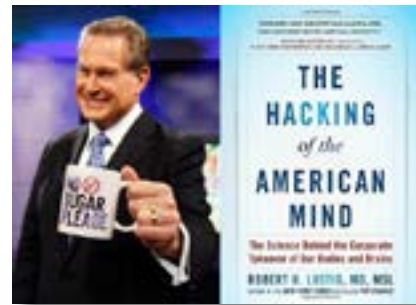


Avery's Book Corner

My recommendations for this summer are:

The Hacking of the Human Mind

by Dr. Robert H. Lustig



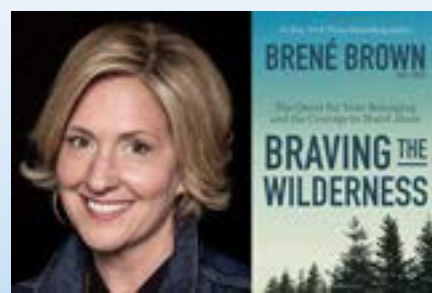
Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson



Braving the Wilderness

by Brené Brown



and **Just This**

by Richard Rohr



WE DID IT!

Between the Church School and the generosity of the FCCOG community, **we raised \$5000 for HEIFER!** This amount has enabled us to donate a **Gift Ark**, which includes two water buffaloes, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more. Donating a Gift Ark will help:

- Care for entire communities with milk, eggs, honey and wool
- Provide income by supplying an abundance of goods to sell
- Sustain farming by providing livestock to work the land
- Improve the lives of families for generations by multiplying and Passing on the Gift

Our Gift Ark donation goes around the world, from Africa to Asia, Europe and the Americas. Wherever Heifer finds hunger, poverty and hopelessness, they answer with the animals, training and encouragement provided by these generous animal gifts.

A BIG thank you to all, especially the children and their teachers!



Celebration Sunday 2019



The flower cross always leads the procession.



Fun with our Friends from Runabout Farm.



Patrick serves communion to 2nd graders.



Kindergarten and 1st graders lead the Lord's Prayer.

Child Care every summer Sunday during 10am Worship! Find us in the Preschool RED Door Classroom with our Baby Nursery and Toddler Room Supervisor, Velma Simon, and her assistants.



Some of our Child Care Team: Sarah Cleworth, Velma Simon and Emma Olmsted all volunteered on Service Sunday at Pilgrim Towers.

Child Care is always available during the 10 am service throughout the summer but no Church School. Rosemary will be at the 8 am Beach services and will be happy to meet with any children who come and would like to gather as a group. We will have our parachute, special books to read and special activities we can't always do during the school year.

Don't miss a special Sunday morning on July 21 at the 8am Beach Service with Susie Baker who will help us learn about the creatures who live in the Sound and how to care for God's creation there, too. Hope to see you!

Interested or have questions about any of these opportunities? There is a sign-up board at Community Hour. You may also email [Rosemary Lamie](mailto:Rosemary.Lamie) or call 203-637-1791 x820.

Join a Team! Church School Teams are Forming Now.

Sign up for a season: Fall, Winter, Spring, Advent (December), Lent (6 weeks before Easter), or other time periods - to make it easier to fit into family travel schedules and sports.

Sign up as a Teaching Team: spouses, friends, parent and grandparent or parent and high school student.

Here are some good reasons to join the team...

Work with other Church School Parents and some wonderful high school students.

•
Learn while teaching your child and their friends.

•
Easily schedule around your other weekend commitments.

•
Use a curriculum that our teachers have really liked.

•
Get to know other parents.

•
Spend Sunday mornings with your child.

•
Teach one or two Sundays a month.

•
Traditionally, parents teach/volunteer two years for each of their children.

•
Almost everyone in the congregation has taught our children at some time.

Thank you to those who have already signed up!

Baby Nursery & Toddler Room: Velma Simon, Sarah Cleworth, Larry & Erlinda Haviland, Sarah Mickley and Jennie Olmsted.

3 and 4 year olds: Kristin Knowles, Lauren Mickley, Kristen Bodenstein, Pamela Chang.

Kindergarten and 1st grade: Maggie Lange, Heather Sahrbeck, Mariel Laffan.

2nd Grade: Abby Wentworth and Sarah Schneider.

3rd Grade: Kristin Sterling, Emma Olmsted.

4th-5th Grades: Steve Kurczewski, Nikki Anderson.

6th Grade: Kristen Jacks.

Ministry of Transportation: Can we do more at FCCOG?

Mark 2:3-4

"They brought a paraplegic to Jesus, carried by four men. When they weren't able to get in because of the crowd, they removed part of the roof and lowered the paraplegic on his stretcher."

Early in his ministry, Jesus earned a reputation for healing. There were many people in search of physical healing, and so Jesus was starting to draw big crowds wherever he went. According to this story from Mark, the sickest and weakest folks would have a difficult time getting close to Jesus. Perhaps they would not make it at all, without some help.

But one man had friends who were determined to get him to Jesus. They were so determined that they climbed up on the roof and lowered him into the courtyard, so that he would not be left out. In a modern day UCC devotional, the Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel called this the "ministry of transportation".

Dr. Daniels shares "In church, when people lose their ability to drive, or find themselves unable to be as mobile as they once were, it's hard for them to get to worship. Sometimes they feel forgotten when no one notices that they have been missing. Sometimes they are reluctant to ask for a ride or for help. They need good friends like the ones in this story. They need people who will call to see where they have been, offer them a ride to church, or bring them word from the community. They need people who are determined to get them to Jesus."



These sentiments prompt me to ask if we could do more to keep our church family connected here at FCCOG. I ask you to ponder this same question. Who is missing from our gathering that might be lifted up by a phone call? Perhaps delivering a bulletin (usually available in the church office by Thursday afternoons) to a homebound person would help them feel more present as they listen to the worship service on the radio. If you know someone who has difficulty getting to church, or you yourself are in need of a ride, please let one of the pastors know or call me at extension 821.

Can you help with rides to or from church (see below)? Please call Sue Asselin at extension 821 or email Sue.

Rides needed

Sunday mornings:

Downtown Greenwich
(very close to exit 3 of I-95)

Western Stamford
(near Long Ridge & Roxbury Rd.)

Wednesday afternoons:

Riverside Lane, Riverside to church
(for volunteer duty)

Together, we could have our own ministry of transportation.



Cub Scouts receiving their Religion Emblems on Sunday June 16.

A Bit More First Church History

by Pat Larrabee

The Old Deacon Pew Cushions

You've probably noticed by now the old pews in the Auditorium, which were saved but hidden behind the choir. The cushions on those old deacon pews were needle-pointed by Rev. Marion Faye Stickney. She was hired in 1954 as Director of Religious Education. Even though she was ordained, she was not allowed to give sermons because she was a woman.

In those days, the choir sat in pews facing each other. In front of the choir pews were the deacon pews with the cushions, each representing one of the twelve disciples. Here are the symbols of the Apostles.

Thanks to Ruth Reed bringing back this information from Sally Colegrove!



Come join us every Monday 9am-12pm!



The Kettle Quilters continue stitching throughout the summer months in the air-conditioned comfort of the Binney Room.

Work has been progressing on the 2020 Women's Fellowship Raffle Quilt. With quilters away for the summer or taking some vacation time, there are spaces at the quilting frame.

You just need to do a running stitch and follow a few simple rules.

Email us for more info.

Do you like to sing?

Summer is the best time to ponder how you can share your talents and gifts as part of the Music Ministry at FCCOG. There is an opportunity to join the Summer Choir whenever you're in town during July and August to share your voice and be a leader in worship on Sunday mornings.

Rehearsals begin at 9am in the Auditorium and last for 30 minutes, and the choir is "summer casual", without choir robes. Then we have a short break for coffee, treats, and fellowship before heading back into worship at 10am. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to take part in this choir experience. Contact [Craig Symons](#) or call him at 203-637-1791 x822 for more information.



Flowers

Please contact **Persis Alden** at 203-637-3539 if you would like to provide flowers for the Sunday morning worship services in July, August or September.

SAVE THESE DATES!



FIRST CHURCH BEACH BYO PICNIC THURSDAY JULY 18, 5-8PM

The Welcoming Committee is pleased to invite everyone to the First Church Bring-Your-Own Picnic at Greenwich Point! Pack a picnic dinner and beverages... **Dessert is on us!**

We will gather at the **Clambake area** from **5-8PM** on **Thursday, July 18**. Bring a friend and enjoy some fun and games! This is an opportunity for those who do not live in Greenwich to enjoy our beautiful Greenwich Point. Tell the gatekeeper that you are there for the First Church Picnic.

Singles, couples, families, all are welcome.

Sign up at Community Hour, in the Church office or click [here](#) to access MYFIRSTCHURCH.

Homecoming Sunday: September 15

Please join us for our traditional welcome back picnic and festivities. We'll have our ever-popular bouncy houses and more! Mark your calendars. Sign-ups will begin in August. We look forward to seeing everyone!

After a several year "hiatus," we will have a Women's Retreat this Fall!

When?

Saturday, Nov. 2 – Sunday, Nov.3

Where?

The Wilbur Sloane House at Stony Point Center

What?

Time for faith formation, prayer, labyrinth, fellowship, catching up with friends and making new ones.

RSVP?

Email [Rosemary](#) for more information as it becomes available.

This gorgeous mansion is perfect for us! It's a quick drive to Rockland County, New York. Visit [stonypointcenter.org](#) for details about this lovely, comfortable venue. **Capacity 22.**



More Information coming in the Fall!



July 2019 Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Quilters 9am-12pm	2 Building Meeting 10-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	3 Deacons Meeting 7:30-8:30pm	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Building Closed	5	6 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am
7 Beach Worship Service (weather permitting) 8am Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	8 Quilters 9am-12pm	9 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	10	11 Monster Wheels Bounce House (First Church Camp) 8am-1pm Personnel Committee Meeting 7:30-9pm	12	13 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am SOS Group for Busy Women with Kate Collins 3:15-5pm
14 Beach Worship Service (weather permitting) 8am Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	15 Quilters 9am-12pm	16 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	17 Preschool Board Meeting 9:30-11:30am Church Council Meeting 7-9pm	18 Blue Crush Slip & Slide (First Church Camp) 8am-1pm All-Church Beach BYO Picnic 5-8pm	19 Ice Cream Truck 11:30am-1pm	20 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am
21 Beach Worship Service (weather permitting) 8am Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	22 Quilters 9am-12pm	23 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	24 Caring Ministries Meeting 7:30-9pm	25 Blue Crush Slip & Slide (First Church Camp) 8am-1pm	26 Ice Cream Truck 11:30am-1pm	27 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am SOS Group for Busy Women with Kate Collins 3:15-5pm
28 NO BEACH SERVICE Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	29 Quilters 9am-12pm	30 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	31			

August 2019 Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Super Splash Down Water Slide (First Church Camp) 8am-1pm	2 Preschool Summer Picnic 8am-1pm	3 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am
4 Beach Worship Service (weather permitting) 8am Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	5 Quilters 9am-12pm	6 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	7 Deacons Meeting 7:30-8:30pm	8 Personnel Committee Meeting 7:30-9pm	9	10 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am
11 Beach Worship Service (weather permitting) 8am Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	12 Quilters 9am-12pm	13 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	14	15	16	17 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am
18 Beach Worship Service (weather permitting) 8am Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	19 Quilters 9am-12pm	20 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm	21 Church Council Meeting 7-9pm	22	23	24 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am
25 NO BEACH SERVICE Child Care 10-11am Worship Service 10-11am Community Hour 11am-12:30pm	26 Quilters 9am-12pm	27 Building Meeting 10am-11:30am FCCOG Staff Meeting 12:30-1:30pm Prayer Shawl Committee Meeting 6:30-8pm	28	29	30	31 AL-ANON Newcomers 9:30-10am AL-ANON Meeting 10-11:30am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Summer Service Schedule at Greenwich Point

ALL BEACH WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8am

July 14 and 21

August 4, 11 and 18

September 1

A note from Mary Ferry, our Treasurer: *Summertime Reminder*

Please remember to pay your pledge during the summer months.

That will help the church's cash flow and its ability to pay for ongoing expenses. Payment may be made by check or credit card (via **MYFIRSTCHURCH**), with stock or as a donation from an IRA.

Thank you for supporting First Church!



Nonprofit Organization
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FIRST CHURCH PRESCHOOL

"Learning Through Caring - For Ourselves, Each Other & Our Earth"
Preschool of First Congregational Church of Greenwich, CT

Are you looking for a great preschool program for your 2-4 year-old?

Come see us! Spaces still available for the next school year.

Call **203-637-5430** for more information or a tour or visit [our website](#)

We are hiring teachers for 2019-2020!

The ideal candidate resonates with our core values of learning through caring: for ourselves, each other, and our Earth; practicing kindness in relationship to self, others, and our environment; helping children connect with nature; providing opportunities for play and playfulness.

Some benefits for working with us include:

- Health insurance for full time positions
- 403B investment
- Paid professional development opportunities
- Paid time off
- A chance to make a real difference in a child's life

Please send a resume to
Director **[Darla Steiner](#)**.

NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich

Thinking of clearing out your closet? The Rummage Room takes all seasons of clothing. Those Winter coats (the ones you don't wear anymore) taking up too much spacewe would love them. We are stocking up for our re-opening in September.

We close on Saturday August 3rd for one month giving the volunteers a much needed summer vacation. We re-open on Tuesday September 3rd at 10 am (after Labor Day).

Manager Leanne's Wish List:

Ladies Fall Handbags, Jewelry, Men's Suits.

Shop Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 10 am - 5 pm
Sat. 10 am - 1 pm

Donation Hours:

Mon. - Thur. 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Fri. and Sat. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Thought for All:

"Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

-Henry James.