



**Trust the Gift**  
Sunday, October 13, 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.

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

Please let an usher know if you would like a Bible during the service.  
We are happy to provide one upon request.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

*Choral*

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, *Organist*  
Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

*(please sign and pass the red fellowship pad found at the end of your row.)*

Reverend Patrick Collins

## INTROIT

*At the River*

Tom Woodman, bass  
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Reverend Patrick Collins

Leader: Let us gather together and give thanks to God,

**People: For the love of God will never end.**

Leader: Let we who love God be unashamed to declare it,

**People: Because God has answered our cries for help.**

Leader: The Lord our God has met our every need,

**People: Therefore, we proclaim the love of God!**

## HYMN\*

*Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing*

New Century (Black) Hymnal #303

## GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Reverend Carla Dietz

**God of Love, You are with us at all times. As we gather this morning, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rosemary Lamie

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

## 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 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.**

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*Children will now leave to go to their Church School classrooms. Parents are welcome to accompany their children to their room and return to the service when they are able. All classrooms except 6<sup>th</sup> grade are on the Preschool level. Baby Nursery & Toddler Room in Red Door; 3- & 4-year-olds in Blue Door; Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade in Rainbow Door; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in Gold Door; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Purple Door; 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades in the Green Door; 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Rick's Room around the corner from the Lounge.*

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## FIRST LESSON

Barbara Norrgard

### *Gift*

I have to trust what was given to me  
if I am to trust anything  
it led the stars over the shadowless mountain  
what does it not remember in its night and silence  
what does it not hope knowing itself no child of time  
what did it not begin what will it not end  
I have to hold it up in my hands as my ribs hold up my heart  
I have to let it open its wings and fly among the gifts of the unknown  
again in the mountain I have to turn  
to the morning  
I must be led by what was given to me  
as streams are led by it  
and braiding flights of birds  
the groupings of veins the learning of plants  
the thankful days  
breath by breath  
I call to it Nameless One O Invisible  
Untouchable Free  
I am nameless I am divided  
I am invisible I am untouchable  
and empty  
nomad live with me  
be my eyes  
my tongue and my hands  
my sleep and my rising  
out of chaos  
come and be given

– W.S. Merwin, from *Writings To An Unfinished Accompaniment* (1973) and *The Essential W.S. Merwin* (2017, Copper Canyon Press), used by permission of the publishers.  
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## ANTHEM

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

The Chancel Choir  
Mark Hayes (b. 1953)  
Carol Woodman, soprano

## SECOND LESSON

Reverend Patrick Collins

### ***Matthew 25:14-30 (Common English Bible)***

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

"After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

"His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

"People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth."

**MESSAGE**  
*Trust the Gift*

Reverend Patrick Collins

**HYMN\***  
*What Gift Can We Bring*

New Century Hymnal #370

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(praise for who God is, with thanksgiving for what God does and with requests for God to heal, transform)*

Reverend Carla Dietz

**CALL TO OFFERING**

*Using a Smartphone? Text FCCOG Donate to 73256*

Mary Fike

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*If We Ever Needed the Lord Before*

The Chancel Choir  
Arr. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

**DOXOLOGY\***

*(offering praise and thanksgiving for meeting our needs and 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.



Praise God a- bove ye\_ hea - ven'ly host; Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION\***

Mary Fike

**CLOSING HYMN\***

*Now Thank We All Our God*

New Century Hymnal #419

**BENEDICTION\***

Reverend Patrick Collins

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

*March*

Felix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

*\*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 are given today in joyful celebration of the life of Barbara Van Buren by her daughter Barrie Richmond and grandsons Alden and Tim Richmond and their families. Barbara died this past Monday, 4 days before her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.*

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## A Note about Welcoming Children

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**To our parents:** 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 at [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.



All services are now live-streamed on **YouTube.com**. Search for First Congregational Church of Greenwich and subscribe to our channel.

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## NEWS & NOTICES

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### TODAY



### Church School

**Regular Church School today:** Baby and Toddler Room continues in the Preschool Red Door Classroom. 3's and 4's are in the Blue Door and can be dropped off before the service begins. During the service, please feel free to bring your preschool-age children to the "PrayGround" in the Chapel.



## Choir Rehearsals Today

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

**Children's Choir:** Music Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) 11:15 am -12 pm

**Youth Choir:** Choir Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) 11:15-12:15 am

## *Mindful Self-Compassion Workshop with Karen Pacent*

**11:15 am – 12:15 pm in Rick's Room**

Self-compassion is a learned practice which teaches us to become a good friend to ourselves when we need it most. It allows us to become an inner ally rather than an inner enemy.

Hundreds of research studies show that self-compassion is strongly related to well-being in adults. Its benefits include less anxiety, depression, and stress; greater happiness and life satisfaction; better coping skills; and better relationships.

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## UPCOMING

### **Domestic Violence Today: A Conversation with Professor Susan Sorenson**

*Hosted by Reverend Carla Dietz*

**Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm**

**YWCA Greenwich, 295 East Putnam Ave, Greenwich**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

They will be joined by Meredith Gold, Director of Domestic Abuse Services for a conversation and Q&A about domestic violence, how views about domestic violence have evolved and its effect on communities. I hope you can attend and pass along the invitations to others in your community. Register at [ywcagr.org/dvtoday](http://ywcagr.org/dvtoday).



### **Connecticut Choral Festival at First Church**

A new event this fall with guest conductor Tom Trenney, Minister of Music at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. This concert in the Meetinghouse features singers from church choirs around the state.

**When: Saturday, October 19**

**Time: 7:30 pm**



### **Would you like to learn more about First Church?**

Folks with an interest in First Church are invited to have "Coffee with Pastors."

**When: Sunday, October 27 at 11:15 am**

**Where: The lounge**

Child care will be provided. RSVP to Ginny Breismeister at [ginnyb@fccog.org](mailto:ginnyb@fccog.org) or call the church at 203-637-1791 x826.



## **Women's Retreat**

A time for faith formation, prayer, yoga, meditation labyrinth, fellowship, catching up with friends and making new ones.

Please RSVP Rosemary (rosemaryl@fccog.org) or go to MYFIRSTCHURCH to sign up. Only a few spots left.

**When: Saturday, November 2 - Sunday, November 3**

**Where: Stony Point Center, just over the Cuomo Bridge (Tappan Zee Bridge)**

**Cost: \$175 (meals included)**

## **to Neighbor Neighbor**

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

**October 19**

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

**Location: Neighbor-To-Neighbor at Christ Church Greenwich**

Please email Rosemary (rosemaryl@fccog.org) for more information or sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094CA4AB2FAAF58-neighbor2>

## ***Mindful Self-Compassion Workshop with Karen Pacent***

**When: October 20 & 27; November 17**

**Time: 11:15 am – 12:15 pm**

**Location: Rick's Room**

In this 6-part interactive series, you will learn skills to be more self-compassionate in daily life. Each week a new topic will be introduced with practices and exercises that allow you to experience the concepts first hand. You'll be encouraged to use practices taught during the week to gradually become more comfortable embedding them into your life.

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# FIRST CHURCH PRESCHOOL

"Learning Through Caring ~ For Ourselves, Each Other & Our Earth"

*Preschool of First Congregational Church of Greenwich, CT*

**OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR NOW OPEN!**

## **PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE TOUR DATES**

**Thursday, October 17 at 9:45 am  
and Thursday, October 24 at 9:45 am and 7:00 pm**

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## **NEW PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-5 FEATURING OUR NATURE CLASSROOM**

For more information, please visit our website [www.firstchurchpreschool.org](http://www.firstchurchpreschool.org)  
or contact Melanie at [melanieg@fccog.org](mailto:melanieg@fccog.org).

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## **NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM**

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich • 203-637-1875  
[www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room](http://www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room)

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There is that slight nip in the air as we head into fall. Time to get your coat out. We are selling our coats faster than we can put them out. If you have an extra coat or two, please drop them off, we could really use them. We need coats for everyone, Men's, Women's and Children's.

### **Manager Leanne's Wish List:**

Winter Gloves, Fall Dresses, Winter Scarves, Thanksgiving Items

#### **Shop Hours:**

Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm

#### **Donations accepted:**

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Friday & Saturday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

All proceeds benefit The Barefoot Theater!

**Saturday  
October 26  
6-8 pm**

**FOOD TRUCKS ON SITE!**

# Trunk or Treat



CHEF TONY DELICIA'S

**EISHUMARU**  
JAPANESE FOOD TRUCK

WENDY'S WEEN'ES



at  
**first**  
congregational  
**church**

of greenwich

founded 1665

108 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich

**Fun for  
all ages!**

**\$10 PER FAMILY**

*(includes treat bags and activities - food extra)*

**Prizes for most creative trunks!**

*(Children's vote only)*

Call 203-637-1791 or visit [fccog.org](http://fccog.org)  
for more info and to register your trunk





## *The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870

203-637-1791 • [www.fccog.org](http://www.fccog.org)

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Ministers: The members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Interim Senior Pastor: Reverend Carla Dietz

Associate Pastor: Reverend Patrick Collins

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Reverend 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: Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Stiers and Reverend Sally Colegrove