

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Laity Sunday

14 November 2010

10 o'clock in the morning



Welcome to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church where we celebrate and receive the gifts of the ministry of our laity. This ministry is declared week after week on the masthead of our bulletin which reads “Ministers: The Members of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich.”

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Mary Fike, flute

Craig Scott Symons, organ

Adagio & Allegro from Sonata in E minor

J.S. Bach

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Dr. David D. Young

Please sign and pass the red book.

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beth Press

*‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

New Century (black) Hymnal 70

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God, we gather to celebrate
your calling and
your presence.

Your love has surrounded us
from our birth and has
sustained us throughout
our life's journey

You have touched us
through your Word
and through
the words and acts of those
who came before us

Renew a faithful
spirit within us
and help us
to walk in your path,
which is the Way of Christ
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Diane Kretschmann

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we long to see you and know you in every part of your life and ministry among people. We strain to hear You calling us, for we need to be gathered back again to your Church and your Kingdom. We try to be strong; we try not to lose heart, but so often we sigh with anxiety as we are pulled in other directions. Our faith is carried in fragile earthen vessels. So enable us Lord with courage, and in your mercy, forgive our past and redeem our futures, for Jesus' sake, who taught us to pray...

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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

‡**Congregational Response**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Susan Murtha

SONG

Jesus Loves Me (*words below*)

As the song begins, the Church School children and teachers will leave for their classrooms. Children in second grade and older will leave independently. Children in kindergarten and first grade will meet their teachers at the back of the Meetinghouse (narthex) and will go to their classrooms as a group. It is not necessary for parents to accompany their children to the classroom because there are many Hall Helpers to guide anyone who needs help.

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Stephanie Woodman

I Corinthians 12:4-12

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one

and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

Author of Justice

*The Chancel Choir
Lloyd Larson*

SECOND LESSON

Jean Watkins

James 2:14-16

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

*‡HYMN

God of Change and Glory

New Century (black) Hymnal 177

SERMON

"Variety of Gifts"

Lynn O'Gorman

*LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Chuck Wheelock

FOR THE MINISTRY OF LAITY (read responsively)

Let us thank God for those persons who have responded to Christ's call to serve him in the world.

Lord, we know that you call us to serve our neighbor in love, not only in church, but also in the world in which we live.

For those who minister to the sick as medical personnel, or through hospital chaplaincy and volunteer work:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who help with the education of our children, both salaried staff and volunteer aides:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who are actively involved in the political process of our community, state, and nation:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work for social justice, fair housing, and equal opportunity for both sexes and all races:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who visit the lonely and shut-in, and those who find time to listen to the troubled and distressed:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who offer counsel and support at walk-in centers or anonymously over the phone:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work to make our community a safe and pleasant place to live—engineers, bakers, contractors, architects, fire, and police personnel:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work with our children and youth through scouting, tutorial programs, athletic groups, and teen centers:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who seek both to glorify you and to help their neighbor through their work:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those men and women who serve as homemakers, providing care, nourishment, and a secure haven for families:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who labor and whose efforts are often unseen and unsung, but who contribute significantly to Christ's ministry in this world:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

We pray for all who labor faithfully day in and day out:
We give you thanks, O Lord.

Let us thank God for the love we have experienced in Jesus Christ, which motivates and empowers us to serve others in his name.

O Lord, we recall the words of your Son when he said,

“I came not to be served, but to serve.”

He saw our needs and he ministered to us in love.

We thank you for calling us to follow in his footsteps.

We ask you to keep our eyes open to the possibilities around us and grant us strength and courage, and willingness to continue to serve Christ and all those around us. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

***Gloria** *New Century (black) Hymnal 754*
Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND QUIET MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING *Jerry Isaacson*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Chancel Choir*
Many Gifts, One Spirit, *Charles Callahan* *Mary Fike, flute*
(text by Al Carmines, alt., see New Century Hymnal 177)

***Doxology** *New Century (black) Hymnal 776*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures
here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom
we adore. Amen. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD

*CLOSING HYMN AND PROCESSION
Forward through the Ages *New Century (black) Hymnal 377*

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

All real living is meeting.

Existence cannot be possessed, but only shared in.

What have you then if you have not life together?

There is no life that is not community and no
community not lived in praise of God

Martin Buber / T.S. Eliot

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Fugue

Felix Mendelssohn

The 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.

We have **child care for babies and toddlers** every Sunday. Your children are always welcome for the entire service or for a respite time if needed. Please see an usher if you need directions.

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 can be found there as well as a link to the live broadcast. Previous sermons may also be found there.

Calendar

TODAY

Church School

This week most classes will be learning about Josiah as found in 2Kings22. Our third graders will learn about Ruth and Naomi. But first they will hear a Children's Message from Rev. Susan Murtha in the Meetinghouse. Then Susan will visit all the Church School classes.

Parish Nurse

Sue Asselin, RN is available in Room 203, after the Worship Service. Stop in to have your blood pressure checked or discuss any health concerns.

Flu Vaccine Clinic 11:00-11:45 am in Room 203

The Wellness Committee will be offering season flu vaccines (this year's formula includes H1N1). Vaccines will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis to people 18 years of age or older who bring payment of \$30 cash or check (made out to FCCOG). We are unable to bill insurances, but will happily provide a receipt. Individuals under 18 should see their primary physician for the vaccine.

Women's Fellowship Bulb Sale

The Amaryllis and Paper Whites make wonderful gifts for indoor planting and children love to see them grow. We also have more Tulips and Daffodils for you or to be donated to beautify our church grounds. Come see us at coffee hour!

Youth Ministry

Join us tonight for our Y! programs. Fellowship for those in grades 6-8 (JPF) is from 5:00-6:00 pm and grades 9-12 (SPF) meets from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will rehearse today from 11:15 am-12:15 pm in the Choir Room.

Bible Study

This is the last week for Bible Study of Exodus (today at 11:15 and Tuesday at 7:30) with dancing in front of the golden calf, an angry Moses having to come up with more tablets because he broke the originals (what would they have fetched on eBay?) and all sorts of other adventures. Then -- no rest for the weary -- it's time to begin reading Luke for a new Bible Study offering beginning the second Sunday of January. (Sure, you can cheat a little bit with Christmas readings, but that is not going to let you off the hook).

NEXT WEEK

Nights Off

Nights Off, the Women's Fellowship evening group, will gather at the home of Barbara Norrgard tomorrow evening, Monday, November 15, to participate in the Church World Service Kit Program...a worthy project that supplies School Kits that provide kids in impoverished schools, refugee camps and other difficult settings with some of the basic tools of learning. For further information, contact Karen Young at 203-637-7877 or klyct1@aol.com.

Next Sunday is Harvest Sunday!

Believe us when we tell you that you do *not* want to miss Harvest Sunday this year. Not only will the sanctuary look very different when you walk in, but there will be magically fun stuff for kids, all the choirs are going to be singing, Mark and Dan are going to do a sermon together (but it won't be twice as long), there will be a chance for you to present your canned goods and other food you've bought to help Neighbor to Neighbor and H.O.M.E. and...Well, we don't want to give away all the surprises, but this is fair warning that if you want a good seat that day, come early. This will be Harvest Sunday like none that has come before.

Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Show November 20 & 21

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, Women's Ministries, and Christian Outreach Committee are proud to be hosting the Annual H.O.M.E. Craft Show on Saturday, November 20 from 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday, November 21 from 11 am to 1 pm in the FCCOG auditorium. Be sure to stop by to enjoy a bit of Maine hospitality and shopping to help support Homeworkers Organized for More Employment (H.O.M.E.) from rural Hancock County, Maine. All proceeds from this sale go directly to H.O.M.E. Come see the handmade quilts, Christmas decorations and gifts, woolens, pottery, wooden toys, weavings, homemade jams, maple syrup, and much, much more! Be sure to bring your friends!

Christmas Tree Sale Volunteers Needed

Tree racks will be set up on Saturday, November 20 starting at 9:00 am, and trees will arrive on Saturday, November 27 at 8:00 am. We need strong, eager people to help unload about 550+ trees. This should only take about one hour. The Christmas Tree Sale begins on Saturday, November 27 at 9:00 am and continues on November 28, December 4, 5, 11 and 12 or until the trees run out. Please look at your calendars and see when you can volunteer to help. All help is greatly appreciated. Sign up at Coffee Hour or call the Church Office at 203-637-1791.

Sharing Christmas Blessings

It's that time of year again when we share our blessings with friends at Pilgrim Towers and HOME Co-op in Orland, Maine. Next Sunday, on Harvest Sunday, November 21, pick up your gift tags for a man, woman, boy, girl or baby. There will be specific instructions given when you get a tag for wrapping and delivering your gift(s) back to the church. Deadline for gifts is Sunday, December 12.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Community Thanksgiving Service Nov. 22

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich on Monday, November 22, at 7:00 pm. Choirs from around the area will participate in a combined choir, singing Gabrieli's massive "Bucinate in neomenia tuba" (Blow the trumpet in the new moon). In addition, choirs will sing an individual anthem. FCCOG's Chancel Choir will be part of this service. This is a great opportunity to gather as Christians to celebrate the blessings we receive from God. The church is located at the corner of W. Putnam Ave. and Lafayette Place in downtown Greenwich.

Messiah is coming!

We will be starting rehearsals for our annual performance of Messiah under the direction of Director of Music, Dr. Craig Scott Symons,

held on Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19 at 4 pm. Singers should be prepared to attend all rehearsals and performances. Choir rehearsals will be in the Meetinghouse from 8:00-10:00 pm on: Tuesday, December 7; Wednesday, December 8; Tuesday, December 14; and Wednesday, December 15. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us in this exciting choral opportunity!

Annual Advent "Make Your Own" Craft Workshop Nov. 28

Mark your calendar for the Annual Advent "Make Your Own" Craft Workshop! - Sunday, November 28th from 2 to 4 pm in the Daniels Center hosted by the Church School Task Force. There will be several new crafts as well as the long time favorites - photo ornament and pet gifts. A great time will be had by all!

Environmental Mission Team Catalog Project

The Environmental Mission Team would like to help you stop delivery of all of those unwanted catalogs which use so much paper and clog your mailbox. Just tear off the back page of those unwanted catalogs and leave them in the Church office in the envelope marked "Environmental Mission Team Catalog Project." A member of the team will either call the catalog publisher or fax them a request to stop delivery of the unwanted catalog. If you prefer, you may request the cancellation yourself. It usually takes a month or two for the publishers to remove a name from their mailing list, but it's a good move toward saving natural resources. Thanks for being a part of this endeavor!

Senior Transportation – Call-A-Ride

If you are over sixty and need a ride to doctors' appointments, the pharmacy, grocery stores, physical therapists, the library, the Senior Center or even to visit with friends, Call-A-Ride is ready to give you a free ride within Greenwich between the hours of 9:00am and 3:30pm. Our volunteer drivers are most happy to accommodate you. Just call our office to make an appointment. The First Congregational Church is one of the founding sponsors of this program and continues to participate through its Outreach program. Call-A-Ride: 203-661-6633

Literacy Mission Team

“Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43-19

Are you interested in making a difference in someone’s life? The Friends of the Byram Shubert Library need volunteers to meet one-on-one with an English as a Second Language member of our community. You will meet once a week for 45 minutes and spend time talking, reading, and dealing with language problems together. The time and day is up to you! If interested, please contact Mary-Ann Assing at 203-532-0082 or mazalman@aol.com.

Tai Chi Classes with Luis Duarte

All are welcome! Improve your balance, health and well-being. Come and experience the many wonderful benefits of Tai Chi and Qi Gong exercises. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 8 am and Thursdays at 9 am. Only \$7 per class if paid by the month and \$8 per class for “drop ins.” Join us! You’ll love it!

Book Discussion Group

Hats Off!, the popular women’s book discussion group, meets every Thursday from 9:45 to 11:30 am in the church lounge. All are welcome. For details, call Marcia Livingston at 203-625-0772.

Rummage Room News

On Monday, November 22nd, the Christmas Shop will open at the Rummage Room for the 2010 Christmas season, beginning at 1:00 pm. Come in and shop for your holiday decorations, new gifts for Christmas giving, and adult and children's clothing for your Christmas and New Year's wardrobe. There will be wonderful items at reasonable prices for your holiday pleasure.

Wish list for November: Christmas decorations, clothing for the holidays, new items for Christmas giving, bric-a-brac, shoes, jewelry, handbags, small furniture, children and adult clothing in clean, usable condition, including winter coats and jackets.

Rummage Room Mission Statement: The Rummage Room proceeds go to Women and Children’s Organizations who need your

help during the holidays. As you are getting ready for this season in your own family, think of the families who will be doing with far less and try to make the Rummage Room your destination of choice for shopping and donating. It is the perfect time for us to remember that the task the Lord asks of us is to unwrap the gifts of human kindness and know that we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers!

Harvest Sunday A Celebration of Thanks and Giving

A reminder that next Sunday, November 21, is Harvest Sunday. Please plan to bring food items with you to share. As in the past, your donations on this day will go to Neighbor to Neighbor in Greenwich and H.O.M.E. Co-op in Orland, Maine to help their growing list of clients. Any and all donations of food are welcome including:

Canned fruit
Cereal
Dry beans
Vegetables
Canned meat or fish
Pasta or rice



The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

www.fccog.org

Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry: Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Avery C. Manchester

Director of Music: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Director of Church School: Rosemary Lamie

Director of Membership: Ginny Breismeister

Director of Publications: Barbara Wilkov

Parish Nurse: Susan Asselin, RN

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

Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell