

*Old Greenwich,
Connecticut*

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**

*United Church
of Christ*

Founded in 1665

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

14 August 2011

10 o'clock in the morning



WE welcome you to this service of worship this morning at First Congregational Church and hope you will find renewed hope and courage here. The summer is fleeting, but it still holds some days that can be renewing for the tasks ahead. We trust that this will be one of them for you. If you are visiting with us, we extend to you a special welcome. We hope that you will join us after the service for some light refreshment and where we might meet you personally. Again, a warm welcome to you.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

*All who are able please stand

‡Seating of latecomers

PRELUDE

Voluntary in D major

Dr. Craig Scott Symons, organ
William Boyce

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Please sign and pass the red book.

Rev. Daniel B. England

HYMN SING

PRAISING GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

***‡OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION**

We Gather Together

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 21

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, the summer season that brings relief from winter's snow and cold is for many a time of renewal and rest.
But for others it is not so, and the turmoil of anxiety continues without relief.

As we gather here today, we pray that you might help us find the peace that comes only from your own hand by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus has called us to bring our care to you because you care for us
This day, help us to believe that in our hearts.
And accept the praise we bring for your grace in our lives. Amen.

CONFESSING TO GOD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Who can account for our desire to flee from God
And yet to want his presence.

What shall we say when we think we stand for that which is good
and yet find ourselves saying and doing things that are evil.

Oh Lord, we are flawed creatures, bent to sinning and bent to
self. But knowing these things we still come here, to this
community of faith to find relief, to find solace, to find you.

Grant us the grace to encounter you and each other without fear
and with love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to
pray saying...

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Pat Larrabee

Jonah 4

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

SCRIPTURE ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

The Summer Choir

John Stainer

SECOND LESSON

Mark 15:32-39

Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

*‡HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 160

SERMON: *“The Shadow Effect”*

Rev. Daniel B. England

RESPONDING TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Susan J. Murtha

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

***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.
Amen.*

CALL TO PASTORAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Christ is the World's True Light

The Summer Choir

W.K. Stanton

***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**

Praise the Lord, His Glories Show

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal 19

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: We live in a weary world, a weary land.

People: Guide us therefore to places of shadow and peace.

Leader: We create shadows from our own lives too.

People: May they be influences of goodness and courage.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Arr. Alice Parker

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

Child Care

Child care is in the *Blue Door*. Please see an usher if you need directions.

NEXT WEEK

Special Organ Recital

Our Director of Music Emeritus, John Stansell, will be offering an organ recital next *Sunday, August 21* at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse. This recital is a practice run for his performance of the identical program the following Friday at Hauptkirche St. Petri, one of the five principal churches of Hamburg, Germany. He will play one more recital on his mini-tour in the little North-German town of Langenhorn.

- The program will begin and end with repertory standards, *Bach's Prelude and Fugue in A Minor* and Mendelssohn's *Sonata #4*, respectively.
- In keeping with the theme of the series in Hamburg, there will be a 20-minute segment of jazz-inspired organ works: *Gospel Fancy* by Henry Sexton, *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* by George Shearing, *Gospel Prelude: What a Friend We Have in Jesus* by William Bolcom, and *Bossa Nova-God Is in His Temple* by Johannes Matthias Michel.
- Rounding out the program will be *Saints' Days* by Daniel Pinkham, the piece commissioned in honor of John and Michael's 25th anniversary together.

We encourage you to attend this wonderfully diverse program and share the recital date with your friends and neighbors.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Bible Study in the Fall

Bible Study will begin on September 25.

FCCOG Meets Social Media!

Tell all your friends...FCCOG is now on Facebook! Please check out our page either by going through fccog.org or search for "First Congregational Church of Greenwich" on Facebook. Be sure to "like" us to stay up to date with all the exciting happenings here at FCCOG!

What is a Blog and What is it used for?

According to Merriam-Webster, a "blog" (originating from the term, "Web log") is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections and comments..." Basically, it's a place where the writer can post some thoughts and/or opinions and others can participate in a dialogue with the writer. Hence, our Visioning Blog...it's an opportunity for members of our church to make comments, further the conversation or ask questions concerning our Visioning process. Whether you were able to attend the first two sessions or not, this is a place for you to share your thoughts and opinions about this reflective process. Please visit the blog at <http://fccog.wordpress.com>, click on "Comment" and join the conversation!

Beach Services

Beach services continue at 8:00 am each Sunday down at Greenwich Point (weather permitting). If the beach service is cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice in red will be posted on our website by 7:30 am and a white piece of paper will be taped to the sermon sign on the church lawn.

Tai Chi

For the month of August Tai Chi classes will be held on Wednesday mornings only at 8:00 am in the Memory Garden, weather permitting. Come join us to enjoy the beauty of nature while you spend a relaxing, healthful hour with our wonderful instructor, Luis

Duarte. You'll feel calm and energized and you'll be glad you did!
The cost is \$10 per session for drop-ins.

Summer Choir

Each Sunday morning from now until Labor Day, everyone is welcome to join The Summer Choir! Gathering at 9:00 am in the choir loft of the Meetinghouse, we will lift our voices in song as we learn new music that helps lead and inspire worship. No previous experience is necessary, but reading music certainly helps. And if you have college-age or other family members who are in town that have instrumental talents, we can certainly put them to work as well. Don't let your talents sit idle...use them to praise God on Sunday morning!

News from The Rummage Room

The Rummage Room is closed for the next 2 weeks - *Reopening Day is Monday, August 29 at 10 am.*

- **Please do not** leave donations either in front or in the back during the month The Rummage Room is closed. There is no one there to receive them and The Rummage Room must pay to have them carted away and that expense comes out of our mission funds! Donations may once again be dropped off on Tuesday, August 30 at 9:30 am.
- The Rummage Room Committee and Manager, Maria, thank all of you shoppers, donors, and volunteers for the support you give the eleven months of the year that we are open. Our mission is to provide funds for Women's and Children's organizations and we are proud to have given \$200,000.00 in the past 15 years. We could not have done so without your help!
- The Rummage Room will have an exciting and extensive assortment of clothing, shoes, handbags, bric-a-brac, and many other goods for sale during the Reopening Week. Come and shop and see for yourself! Stay safe and enjoy the summer! God bless.

Food Collection

A reminder that the Food Collection Barrel remains in the back of the Meetinghouse, so please contribute food each week. Adding a

few items to your weekly grocery store visit will make a significant difference at Neighbor to Neighbor. Items currently in need are:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Beans
- 100% Juice
- Canned Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter (no larger than 28 oz., please)
- Jelly

If you've forgotten your food items this morning, feel free to email fccoghungermision@gmail.com with your contact information and someone will pick up the food from your home and deliver to the Church for Neighbor to Neighbor.

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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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. David D. Young

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

Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. 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