



Wandering into the Wonder of Life

Sunday, February 23, 2020

10:00 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.

Please let an usher know if you would like a Bible during the service.
We are happy to provide one upon request. You may also get one
from the bookshelf across from the sound booth room.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

God Bless Families

The Children's Choir
Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)
Vance Briceland, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Rev. Patrick Collins

One: A love that never ceases,

All: A creativity that designed the universe,

One: A hope that cannot be quenched,

All: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

One: These are the things that are of God,

All: Then let us worship God.

HYMN*

Holy, Holy, Holy

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal #251

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Rev. Patrick Collins

Creator God, you are present even in our absence. It was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might see that Your arms open in welcome. Amen.

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 who are able, please rise.*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40: 3-8, 28-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

ANTHEM

Take My Voice

The Youth Choir
Steve Kupferschmid
Carolyn Paulus, director
Vance Briceland, piano

**All who are able, please rise.*

SECOND LESSON

Rev. Eric Biehl

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Biehl

Wandering into the Wonder of Life

HYMN*

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

New Century (black) Hymnal #49

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Patrick Collins

CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Woodman-Osker

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Just as I Am

The Youth and Chancel Choirs

Matt Maher

Emma Olmsted and JO Norrgard, soloists

Peter Hohmeister, drums

Tod Hedrick, bass

DOXOLOGY*

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andrea Woodman-Osker

INSTALLATION OF REVEREND PATRICK COLLINS

PATRICK COLLINS' COVENANT

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office.

CONGREGATION'S COVENANT *(in unison)*

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Greenwich of the United Church of Christ, receive Patrick Collins as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Jesus' name.

FAIRFIELD WEST ASSOCIATION'S COVENANT

We, the members of the Fairfield West Association of the United Church of Christ, gather as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Jesus, the Christ's name.

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION *(in unison)*

Almighty God, you have called us to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows. Bless your servant, Patrick, to whom the care of your people in this church is

**All who are able, please rise.*

now committed. Bless also the people of First Congregational Church of Greenwich and all the churches of the Fairfield West Association, that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Amen.

DECLARATION

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN*

Be Thou My Vision

Pilgrim (red) Hymnal #391

BENEDICTION

Rev. Patrick Collins

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Peter Hohmeister, drums
Tod Hedrick, bass

**All who are able, please rise.*

Directly following the service, one of our pastors will remain in the Chapel to be available to anyone who has a pastoral care concern.

We welcome all!

Our Playground rocks!

We've created a space where children and others can move a bit during worship. Our "Playground" is located in the back of the chapel (right side of the Meetinghouse). There's a rug, a few quiet play things, and pillows for propping. There are rocking chairs for anyone who finds the movement soothing. Additional children's books are on the bookshelves near the back of the chapel.



To our parents and caregivers

God put the wiggle in children... do not feel you have to suppress it during worship. The presence of all God's 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.

The 10:00 am service is broadcast live each week on **105.5FM** (please note the transmission is weak on the west side of Greenwich) or you can stream it **online at WGCH.com**. In addition,

the service is available through a link on the church's website at 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.

NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY



CHURCH SCHOOL

Our children will remain in church today to be witness to the installation of Rev. Patrick Collins as our Senior Pastor. This is a special day for our community and we all share in the joy and blessings of this event. A bonus is that the second scripture reading is the topic of the Church School's next series of lessons. Note to the parents of 3rd graders, remember to RSVP ASAP to Rosemary for the March 29th Bible Breakfast.



CHOIR REHEARSALS

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

Youth Choir: Choir Room (3rd Floor) 11:15 am-12:15 pm



PARISH NURSE

Sue Asselin, RN, is available for blood pressure screenings and health consultations following today's worship service, in her office (to the right of the Auditorium stage). During the week, she is available by appointment, which can be made by calling ext. 821.

UPCOMING

ASHES-TO-GO: Ash Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00 am to 9:00 am in the church parking lot
A new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition, clergy and lay people visit transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes and invite them to experience the power of God's eternal love and grace in an informal way.

LENTEN COMMUNITY DINNER #1: February 26th at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium
Topic: *For the Beauty of the Earth* with Rev. Patrick Collins and hosted by FCCOG Staff. Sign up at www.fccog.org/event/lenten-community-dinner-1



LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Thursday, February 27th – Thursday, April 2nd in the Meetinghouse

To showcase the recent renovation and upgrades completed on our 1978 Austin pipe organ, we will present a free, 30-minute recital from 12:15-12:45, followed

by a simple soup and sandwich lunch in the Auditorium. Free will donations happily accepted to defray the cost of the meals.

Scheduled recitalists are:

2/27: Dr. Craig Scott Symons, Minister of Music, FCCOG

3/5: Jonathan Vaughn, Associate Director of Music, Christ Church Greenwich

3/12: Leslie Smith, Director of Music, Round Hill Community Church, Greenwich

3/19: David Johnson, Director of Music, St. Paul's, Riverside

3/26: Dr. Liya Petrides, Director of Music, St. Catherine Church, Riverside

4/2: Dr. Craig Scott Symons

Join us for these special recitals and make your Lenten journey more reflective during the hectic pace of a busy week.



"Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope"

Monday, March 9 at 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the FCCOG Lounge
Timely documentary about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Toxic Stress. Experts and practitioners are proving what's predictable is preventable. Special presentation by Dr. Alice Forrester, Executive Director of Clifford Beers Clinic in

New Haven, CT. Co-sponsored by the First Church Preschool and First Church. RSVP at darlak@fccog.org.



CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS

Saturday, March 14 or Saturday March 21, 9:00 to 11:30 am

Greenwich EMS instructors will teach American Heart Association CPR, including the use of an AED (defibrillator). Free of charge to church

members and others who frequent our church. Class is appropriate for first-time students as well as those seeking re-certification. Participants need only attend one class. To register or ask questions, contact your parish nurse: Sue Asselin, at extension 821 or email Susana@fccog.org.

COMBINED CHOIR CONCERT AT ST. PAUL'S IN RIVERSIDE

Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 pm

The combined choirs of St. Paul, Riverside, St. Catherine, Riverside, and our First Church Chancel Choir will present a concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in March. The 60-voice choir will sing the *Solemn Vespers* by W. A. Mozart, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, and will feature the professional soloists from all three churches. The program also includes Mozart's famous *Ave verum corpus*, plus two works by Rachmaninoff and Ippolitov-Ivanov. Each of the three directors will conduct segments of the program. The concert is free and everyone is welcome! Contact craigs@fccog.org for more info.

BY REQUEST! A FUNDRAISING CONCERT FOR BAREFOOT THEATER

Saturday, March 21, 7:30 pm

The professional musicians of First Church will be performing in the Meetinghouse in a fundraiser for Barefoot Theater's special show in April. Hanna Golodinskii, Linnea Conley, Daniel Young, Thomas Woodman, and Carol Woodman, will be singing your favorite tunes in a program that will entertain everyone! A twist for this program is that you can request a particular song! For a donation of \$50, you can request the song and singer, and we will do our best to accommodate that request. You can sign up two ways: stop by the table in Community Hour after worship today, or email Craig at craigs@fccog.org. Admission for this program is \$20 per person. Youth in high school and under are always free!



SERVICE SUNDAY PROJECT: Sunday, April 19, 2020

Once again, our congregation will come together to make a difference to those in need by participating in a food-packaging event with *Rise Against Hunger* to provide 14,256 meals on Service Sunday, April 19, 2020. Mark the date and be part of this amazing operation.



FIRST CHURCH VOLUNTEER DAY AT NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Our next First Church Day at Neighbor to Neighbor is Saturday, March 21st for two shifts 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM and 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. A few of our "regulars" will be at CPR training, so we will need extra help this time. No experience necessary, on-the-job training is given joyfully. Help is needed in both the Food Pantry and the Clothing "Store". Sign up at www.fccog.org/event/volunteer-day



CALL-A-RIDE OF GREENWICH: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Independent, nonprofit volunteer organization, founded in 1975, they provide free door-to-door transportation for Greenwich's ambulatory senior citizens, over age 60, who lack other means of transportation. Three cars provide rides five days a week to anywhere in Greenwich for any purpose; doctors, drug stores, attorneys, banks, shopping, hair appointments, rides to the polls on election day, and even visiting with friends. Each shift is about 3 to 3.5 hours. Drivers are covered by Call-A-Ride insurance. Call 203-661-6633 to volunteer or request a ride!

Call well in advance for a pick up. Service to GREENWICH HOSPITAL - DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CENTER in Stamford is provided, but not to individual physicians in Stamford. Call-A-Ride does not operate on holidays or snow days if schools are cancelled. They follow the GREENWICH SENIOR CENTER'S holiday schedule.



**FIRST CHURCH
PRESCHOOL**

ENROLLMENT FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR IS OPEN!

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

For more information, please visit our website www.firstchurchpreschool.org or contact Melanie at melanieg@fccog.org.

NEWS FROM THE RUMMAGE ROOM

191 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich • 203-637-1875
www.fccog.org/about-us/the-rummage-room

Manager Leanne's Wish List:

We are looking for everything Spring...
Dresses, Skirts, Blouses, Shirts, Handbags, Shoes
Men's, Women's and Children's

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



108 Sound Beach Avenue • Old Greenwich CT 06870
203-637-1791 • www.fccog.org

Ministers: The members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Senior 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

Preschool Administrative Assistant: Melanie Garnett

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Spezzano

Communications Specialist: Dalinda Rioseco

Database Administrative Assistant: Sue Wilder

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

