



## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ  
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# ***FAT SUNDAY***

## ***A JAZZ CELEBRATION OF RESTORATION AND REDEDICATION***

### ***FEBRUARY 26, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.***



**FAT SUNDAY**  
**A JAZZ CELEBRATION OF RESTORATION AND REDEDICATION**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2017 – 10:00 A.M.**

Children are always welcome at our worship services.

A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger, starting at 9:45 a.m.

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand.*

**PRELUDE**

The Dixie Six

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #439**

“EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT”

*(blue hymnal)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(responsively)*

Merciful and ever-loving God, you have given to your people wondrous, creative, expressive gifts to respond to your grace.

**We pray you would unlock for us, O God,  
a variety of ways to praise your Holy Name.**

You provide us with hymns and anthems,  
spirituals and blues, gospel, soul, and jazz.

**You give us lyrical, playful improvisation to evoke fresh  
inspiration, blending our voices into a chorus of praise.**

We thank you for giving us a new voice, individually and collectively.  
You clear a place for our individual gifts in the context of community.

**You speak still through melodies, harmonies, and rhythms.  
You use them all, reclaiming our lives as agents of healing.**

**VOLUNTARY**

## LITANY OF RESTORATION AND REDEDICATION

*(responsively)*

Members and friends, we pause to recall how, worshiping in unseen peril as a people, with ceiling and roof hanging heavier over our heads than we realized, God made it known. One week we were here, and then through spring, summer, fall, and winter, our Meetinghouse slowly found its restoration. Nine months later, not without pain and sacrifice, God has rebirthed a new space, fresh and vibrant:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

For a congregation refusing to panic, showing faith where many would bring fear, taking a long view of things; trusting our leaders and your power that the ministry you began here was not yet finished and that what was broken could be mended:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

For brave and faithful leaders like Andrew Barnard and Caroline Burke rising up to meet lofty challenges, giving unselfishly of their time, noticing details but ever mindful of the big picture, ever communicating with this supportive congregation:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

For donors who came forward and asked how their generosity could renew this colonial structure, none of whom refused requests and all of whom were honored to be a part of sustaining the First Congregational Church, Darien into the future:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

For GNCB engineers Jim Norden and Amy Jagaczewski, whose practiced eye saw beneath the surface of things, evaluating what was and designing what is, to show us the way forward. We trusted them, and they proved worthy of our trust:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

For Kronenberger builders Jim Sabith and Brian Addy whose skill made this old jewel shine anew as though on its first day, respecting this as a sacred space, as though this were their own. We trusted them, and they proved worthy of our trust:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

For more subcontractors than we can mention—electricians, sound engineers, organ specialists, painters, repairers, upholsterers, builders, and then cleaners—reminding us how vast this project was with the team of gifts they brought to us:

***We give you thanks and praise, O God.***

*(continued)*

For the reconstruction of our roof and ceiling, new lighting and enhanced sound, fresh paint and shiny appointments, new hymnals and comfortable pew cushions:

*We give you thanks and praise, O God.*

For preserving a sense of the past in this historic district where God has placed us while modernizing this into a workable space for our present and future needs:

*We give you thanks and praise, O God. Amen.*

GLORIA

*(sung in unison)*

**“Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burden down,  
Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burden down.”**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 KINGS 19:9-16

Mary Ann Freeman, Deacon

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’

He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

\*HYMN #436

“JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE”

*(blue hymnal)*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 17:1-9

Rev. Rosenberger

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

**SERMON**

“HOW BROKENNESS SHINES BRIGHTLY”

Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERING****OFFERTORY**

“RAIN DOWN”  
Senior Choir

Jaime Cortez

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(all uniting)

**Creator and Redeemer God,**

**this is our spiritual home, where we feel our belovedness before you.**

**We are a silvery prism of praise and service, refracting your brightness.**

**We seek to reconcile a troubled world, bringing good news of your saving.**

**We offer up your transforming grace, nurturing the growth of your children.**

**We lift your reign as our glad destiny, freeing us to comfort and console.**

**Bless all keepers of the faith during our testing, despite shadow of doubt.**

**Bless all who yet seek and unite with us to share life’s struggles and joys.**

**Bless us all that we would prove a blessing to our neighbors, near and far.**

**Look down upon us today as we celebrate this glad new beginning.**

**Today, O God, open to us new possibilities, new horizons of ministry.**

**We dedicate all that you have accomplished here through our striving.**

**We also eagerly anticipate new wonders yet to come forth to glorify you.**

**So let us meet today’s challenges and embrace tomorrow’s opportunities for the healing of persons and nations, to the praise and honor of Christ. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**“I’M SO GLAD THAT JESUS LIFTED ME”**

1. I'm so glad,  
2. Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
3. When I was in trou - ble,

I'm so glad,  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,

I'm so glad,  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me, sing - ing  
When I was in trou - ble,

glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

**“WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN”**

**TODAY’S MUSICIANS:**

Gary Ruggiero, Reeds / Mike Pontecorvo, Trumpet / Joe Letizia, Trombone / Clay Zambo, Piano / John Mobilio, Bass / Jim Royale, Drums

**TODAY’S USHERS:**

Mary Ann Freeman, Gary Holmes and Anne MacInnes.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

The First Congregational Church of Darien Helps!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Christian Outreach has a full schedule of events planned to help those in need. Please help!

- **Salam Neighbor** - On Monday, March 27th at 6 pm, the Darien Library, IICON (the International Organization of Connecticut which places and supports refugees coming to the State of Connecticut) and The First Congregational Church will co-sponsor a screening of "Salam Neighbor" at the Darien Library. Salam Neighbor is an award-winning film and campaign to connect the world to refugees. Immerse into the life of a Syrian refugee through the journey of Chris and Zach as the first filmmakers allowed to be registered and given a tent inside of a refugee camp. Panel discussion to follow film screening.
- **2nd annual 1,000 pound food challenge** - Our 1,000 pound challenge is on and we are half way there! Help us reach our goal by the end of March!! Non-perishable food items appreciated: pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, tuna fish, rice & beans. Donations will go to the Open Door Shelter and the Person-to-Person pantry, both of which suffer from lower donations during the cold winter months when people need it most.
- **Midnight Run Sunday, April 1** - Boxes are ready for donations in the church library. Please help us fill them! We could use men's t-shirts, jeans, sweatshirts, belts and new socks and underwear. We also love travel size shampoos, soaps, tissues, chapsticks and washcloths. A few items needed for women. Thank you!
- **Habitat for Humanity Build Days** in Bridgeport - FCCD is invited to join The Sound Coalition of Churches in Fairfield to help build on the following dates during 2017: 4/8, 7/8, 8/26, 10/21 and 12/9. No experience needed! Just come with willing hands and heart! Helpers (16 or older) will meet at the warehouse by 8:30 am, and be done by 4. Please email Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help.
- **The 3rd annual Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart** is scheduled for June 8, 2017! This event has raised over \$60K each year for our Outreach Beneficiaries. This year our lead beneficiary is The Open Door Shelter. We will support their Building Lives Initiative which will transform South Norwalk and impact the lives of the area's most vulnerable citizens. This \$6 million project involves the building of a brand new 19,000 square foot facility will provide housing for 16 units of supportive housing apartments for those in need, plus medical health, outpatient addiction treatment and job training services. For more information and to help, check out [darienhousetour.org](http://darienhousetour.org)!

- **Marketing opportunity through The Darien House Tour!!**

*The Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart* event program will be read by over 500 people who attend the tour. Thanks to Casey Designs, the program is beautiful and a great opportunity to promote a business! Please contact [darienhousetour@gmail.com](mailto:darienhousetour@gmail.com) if you would like to advertise in the program. We are also open to other creative ways to promote your business through the tour! And remember, all proceeds benefit over 20 local organizations which serve the disadvantaged, our youth and elderly. THANK YOU for your support of the tour!

**Mark your calendars for upcoming events held by our Outreach Beneficiaries!**

Grab some friends, have some fun and SUPPORT our fabulous friends!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Havana Nights** - Saturday, February 25, 2017, 6:30 to 11:00 pm at Fairfield Theater Company Warehouse, 70 Sanford Street, Fairfield. More info at [habitatcfc.org](http://habitatcfc.org).

**PACIFIC HOUSE Dessert and Chocolate Lovers Tasting** - Friday, March 31, 2017, 7 to 10 pm at the Hyatt in Greenwich. More info at [pacifichouse.org](http://pacifichouse.org).

**OPEN DOOR SHELTER** Gala and Auction - Thursday, April 27, 2017, 6 to 9 pm at the Woodway Country Club. More info at [opendoorshelter.org](http://opendoorshelter.org).

**INSPIRICA Spring Soiree** - Thursday April 20, 2017, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at The Palace Theater, 61 Atlantic Street, Stamford. More info at [inspircact.org](http://inspircact.org).

**LIBERATION PROGRAMS** 2017 Sprit of Hope - Thursday, June 8 at the Woodway Country Club. Stay tuned for more info!

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!

*The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach*

*Chair: Heather Raker, Vice Chair: Anna Denoyer, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Tracey Berry, Elmerina Brooks, Annette Madden-Kline, Bob McGee, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson, Lauren Swenson*





**Midnight Run Collection Has Begun:**  
**Look for the Marked Donation Boxes in the Library**

On Saturday, April 1, members of our congregation and Youth Group will be heading into NYC to bring food, clothing, and personal care items to the homeless living on the streets. We are asking for the entire congregation to help with our collection efforts. Here's how you can participate:

- Church School families are being asked to collect personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, soap, deodorant, shampoo, lip balm and tissue packages. Details are being sent out to all via e-mail. If you are unsure what your child is supposed to collect, please contact MJ Colman.
- We need LOTS of men's clothing, specifically in this order: durable pants like blue jeans or sweatpants (large sizes preferred); socks (tube socks, white or dark); men's briefs (jockey style, sizes 32 to 42); sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts (large and extra-large, dark colors preferred); and T-shirts (medium to extra-large).
- We need just a few of the same items for women. Typically, we'll clothe 60-65 men and about 10 women during the evening.
- NEW this year: We would like to give everyone who comes out a recyclable shopping bag to carry food and clothing home. If you have bags to spare, please consider donating. These will work better than paper grocery bags used in the past.

You are more than welcome to clean out your closet and bring items in that are in clean and good condition. Please do not use this as an opportunity to give us everything in your closet you don't want.

If you are out and about at Walmart, Kohl's, or Target, look for deals and pick up a few new items to donate (especially new socks and underwear).

Don't have time to shop? No problem, our youth will happily do it for you! Simply give your donation to Gary Morello or Karen Brennan and they'll get the youth organized and looking for deals. We can make \$25 go a long way at Walmart!

Questions? Please contact our Midnight Run organizers, Gary Morello and Karen Brennan.

## **2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and can be found on the table, outside the church office. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at [KHansen@uccdarien.org](mailto:KHansen@uccdarien.org).

## **OPENINGS AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL**

We have a few openings in the 3's and, for the first time ever, the Pre-k. If you are looking for a morning 3's class or are undecided about sending your child on to kindergarten in September, call us at 203 655-3150. Teri Manning is happy to discuss options!

## **“Music at First” NEWS:**

### **“Alt Music Sunday”: March 12**

Something a little different than the choir singing...perhaps an instrumentalist...perhaps Dan will teach us a new hymn. Always inspirational and appropriate for worship, get ready for some alternative music.

### **Cabaret Night: March 18**

Invite your family and friends for our annual Cabaret Night. You will enjoy some good songs performed by our church's own talent in a relaxed club-style setting with light food and drink. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. A free-will donation will be taken to cover costs.

**For more information on the music program, contact Mariann Bigelow ([bigelow3@optonline.net](mailto:bigelow3@optonline.net)) or John Stuart ([johnstuartmktg@optonline.net](mailto:johnstuartmktg@optonline.net))**



## **BONHOEFFER**

**PASTOR — NAZI RESISTOR — MARTYR**

# **Movie & Discussion** **Sunday, March 5th<sup>7</sup> 4-6pm**

**“SILENCE IN THE  
FACE OF EVIL IS  
ITSELF EVIL;  
GOD WILL NOT HOLD  
US GUILTLSS.**

**NOT TO SPEAK  
IS TO SPEAK.  
NOT TO ACT  
IS TO ACT.”**

### **A MUST SEE DOCUMENTARY!**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of the great theologians of the 20th century. His books are considered classics. What is even more remarkable is the story of the man behind the books - who became a pastor and theologian during the rise of the Nazis. This documentary is a must-see for anyone haunted by the question of where the German conscience was during the Holocaust.

**Presented by Board of Christian Education. Snacks and beverages will be available!**

# WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

**"Where God's extravagant love welcomes and affirms,  
where Christ's transforming truth enlivens and compels."**

We are an accepting community where faith in Christ makes a difference. We welcome you to worship with us wherever you are on your journey. As a spiritual home, our hallmarks are education, fellowship and pastoral care. Children have a special place in our church family, and are embraced with love, guidance and opportunities for spiritual growth. We are a church of conscience, unafraid of the issues of today and serving as a reconciling force among different faiths.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### TODAY

Knitting Ministry, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Mardi Gras "Supper", 11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall

### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 5 (FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT)

Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. (*Remember Food First!*)  
Board of Christian Education/Movie & Discussion, 4:00 p.m.

**Ministers:** Every member of the congregation.

#### **Clergy and Staff:**

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, *Senior Minister (emergency pager) 1- (203) 368-7789*

Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Pamela Toason, *Church Administrator (M, T)* Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator (W, Th, Fri)*

Carlos Maya, *Weekday Sexton* Ruth Salazar, *Sunday Sexton*