



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2017

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

**Whoever
gives even
a cup of
cold water**



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
March 5, 2017
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

*Children are always welcome at our worship services.
A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger,
in the Nursery School wing starting at 9:45 a.m.*

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #81 “GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN”**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Throughout the forty days of Lent, Lord God,
you give us strength to turn our lives around.

**We hope to learn what all of that means,
to become your people, first and finally.**

As God opens our eyes to his surprising presence,
as we draw close to God’s heart, we find our heart.

**As God frees up our hands for new works,
we see the radiant splendor of God’s mercy.**

All uniting:

**And so accompany us, O God, on this journey.
for without you we will certainly not find our way.**


***OPENING PRAYER**

MR. GARY M. MORELLO, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

*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.

*GLORIA PATRI



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

EPISTLE LESSON

ROMANS 5.12-19

Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned— sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

***HYMN #207 "TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE" (SUNG TWICE)**

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 10.16-20, 26-32, 40-42

Rev. Rosenberger

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven;

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

SERMON

"Greatness Willingly Starts Small"

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

"IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"

Buryl Red (10:00 only)

Senior Choir

***DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*unison*) (*10:00 only*)

By your surprising grace, O God, eyes are opened, ears are unstopped, and hearts are attuned to the needs of others. We give today so that more people will know of your forgiving mercy and defining grace. We support the preaching, teaching, and healing outreach of this congregation. Expand our horizons as you flatten the limits of our caring. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

CALL TO PRAYER

(Leader)

The Lord be with you.

(Congregation)

And also with you.

(Leader)

Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation)

We lift them up to the Lord.

(Leader)

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(Congregation)

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

***SANCTUS**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*unison*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks for what you have given us in this bread and cup. Fed and renewed by your life in us - we go now to share that life with others. Send us forth equipped with the power of your Spirit to spread the message of your love and compassion to all whom we meet. Amen.

***HYMN #94 “IF YOU WILL TRUST GOD TO GUIDE YOU”**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Marianne Lauer (8:30am) Frank Burke, Karalesa DiFabio, Gary Holmes and Leo Schlinkert (10:00am)



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, i.e. 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 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!

- **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 if you would like to advertise in the program. We are also open to other creative ways to promote your business through the tour! 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 and GO and SUPPORT our fabulous friends!

- **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.
- **OPEN DOOR SHELTER** Gala and Auction - Thursday, April 27, 2017, 6 to 9 pm at the Woodway Country Club. More info at 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 inspiricact.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 1ST, 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 the entire congregation to help with our collection efforts. Here's how you can participate:

- Church School families are 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 are 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.

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.



Cabaret

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

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

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 (SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT)

Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.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*