



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
Phone: 203-655-0491 Fax: 203-655-7620
E-mail: info@uccdarien.org
www.uccdarien.org



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 12, 2017

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 12, 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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN**

“EL SHADDAI”

SEE INSERT

CARD/THOMPSON

Call to Worship

People of God, where do we put our trust?
Where do we find wholeness and meaning?

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

**We lift up our eyes to the hills.
Our help comes from the Lord.**

We are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah.
We trust in God, who can change our lives forever.

**We are followers of Jesus, who proclaimed God’s realm.
We are born of the Spirit, born from above.**

Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us.
By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.

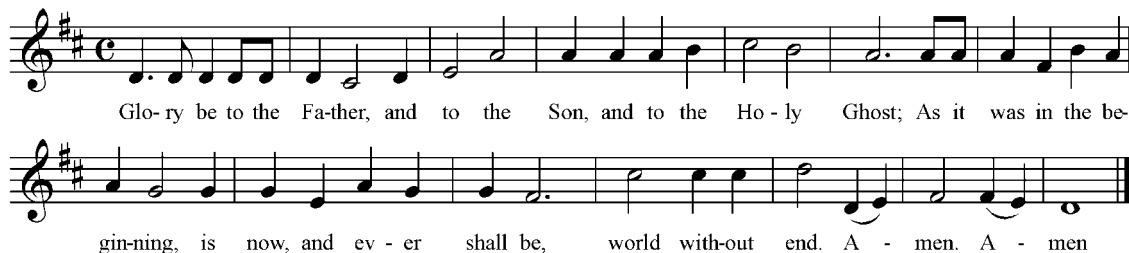
**God loved the world in the gift of Jesus Christ.
Through faith in Christ, we receive eternal life.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

***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 MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 121

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)

Phil Meyer, Deacon (10:00)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

***HYMN**

“HIS STRENGTH IS PERFECT”

S.C. CHAPMAN

(SEE INSERT)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON

“MANIFESTING THE DIVINE”

Mr. Gary M. Morello

OFFERTORY

“JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST”

Hillsong

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

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise
 God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

Thank you, God, for the gift of life. We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We rejoice in the teaching and care you have provided to us. Bless now the gifts we return to you for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to share our faith with the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that inspires us to give our best. Amen.

***HYMN**

“CARRY THE LIGHT”
(*SEE INSERT*)

TWILA PARIS

***BENEDICTION**

Mr. Gary M. Morello

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Bill Lattimer (8:30a.m.), Mandy Teare, and Phil Meyer (10:00a.m.).



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. This is a very special event.
- **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 FOOD FIRST ON APRIL 2nd, 2017! 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. If you don't have time to shop, send the Youth Group a donation - \$25.00 goes a long way towards this event. 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! We know there are folks out there that just ache to pick up a hammer or paintbrush! 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. Great Community Service. If anyone would like to spearhead a build date and bring friend and family - 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.

KIDS COOKIE BAKE FOR THE MIDNIGHT RUN

- Seeking aspiring young bakers!* Help us bake and package cookies for the Midnight Run on Friday, March 31st from 4:00-5:30 in the Church Kitchen. Contact Andy Huntington (andreatkinson101@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

*For kids ages 5+. First come first serve (15 kids max).



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!

DAY WINGS

- If you qualify for AARP membership, please join us. We bring a sandwich and will meet in the **Circle Room at noon on March 15 at noon**. Dale will be with us, for a discussion about the meaning of Lent. Sally Bassler (203) 655-9658, e-mail: sbassler13@gmail.com. if you are coming

THE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

- Meeting on Wednesday, March 22nd at 3:30 in the library. We are reading Mere Christianity by C.S Lewis. If interested, contact Sally Bassler for information. (203) 655-9658; sbassler13@gmail.com

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 or John Stuart (johnstuartmktg@optonline.net)

- The Outreach committee had voted to have The International Institute of Connecticut, IICONN, as our beneficiary for the Cabaret night. IICONN is “a statewide nonprofit organization that assists refugee and immigrants to resolve legal, economic, linguistic and social barriers so that they become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community”. IICONN helps to find and set up apartments and homes for newly arriving clients, guides them with medical care, provides community transport companions and supports donation efforts for clothing, bedding and household items. IICONN also provides economic empowerment through workforce readiness and job placement programs for new immigrants. FCC Outreach efforts to support this organization will not only be as a co-sponsor of a movie night at Darien Public Library later this month to increase awareness of this great need especially in these trying times but through the donations from the Cabaret night as well. Thanks so much.
<https://iiconn.org/>

BEREAVEMENT

- We are sad to learn that Donna Rajczewski lost her brother Dan this week. Dan Doolittle, passed away on Monday, March 6. He was a lifelong member of our church and retired to Maine in 2001. Besides Donna, his wife, Cynthia, daughters, Alyss, Robin and numerous grandchildren, survives him.
- Please continue to keep our long-time Administrative Assistant, Dennis Hanlon and his daughters Shanley, Sydney, Sawyer and Stella in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of his wife and their mom, Gloria Hanlon. We have started a fund to receive gifts for the support of the Hanlons and if you would like to contribute, please send your check payable to FCC Darien with memo marked "Gloria Hanlon Fund" to Karen Hansen in the church office.

SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SKILLS!

Add your unique talents to the leadership of our church by joining one of our four Boards. We invite you to feel the reward of deeper involvement at FCCD.

Board of Deacons: Responsible for our worship services, including the order of worship, the music, the scripture readings, communion, ushers, greeters, and feedback to the clergy, as well as our church's membership. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Stewards: Handles our church's finances, including the budget, investments, restricted funds, as well as maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Education: In charge of the Church School, adult education programs, special events (the Sunday Sundae ice cream social, the Blessing of the Animals, the Advent Workshop, etc.) and youth programs. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Outreach: Researches local nonprofits, allocates church charitable funds to these groups, organizes hands-on mission projects and our ongoing relationship serving the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. Oversees the In May We Help campaign, Christmas Dove Box program, and monthly Food First Sundays. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

*"MEET NEW PEOPLE", "FEEL REWARD", ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OUTSIDE YOUR CURRENT SPHERE",
"HAVE FUN!" ***

*** (quotations from current board members)*

Your participation in the volunteer leadership of our church is an important and rewarding part of being a member of this congregation. **Ideally, each family is represented on at least one board.**

We look forward to helping you find the committee that best suits your current interests and talents!! Be in touch with Molly for more information at mollyo60@aol.com.

Thank you!

2017 Nominating Committee,

*Anna Denoyer, Audrey Esmond, Tom Hager, Andy Huntington, Harry McLachlin,
Dave Miller, Leo Schlinkert, Molly Watkins*

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, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"Alt Music Sunday"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Day Wings "Meaning of Lent" Discussion

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Cabaret Night

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

The Classics Book Group Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Kids Cookie Bake for Midnight Run

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*