



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
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***FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT***  
***March 13, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***



At Her Master's Feet by Del Parson

***FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT***  
***March 13, 2016 – 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**

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Pastor

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #147**

“ALL PRAISE TO THEE, FOR THOU, O KING DIVINE”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mr. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

God’s Spirit is moving among us, so we give thanks.  
The Lord God is about to do a new thing in our midst.

**How blessed are we by God’s revealing of himself;  
we offer thanks and praise, bigger than we realize.**

We see God do wondrous things for us, and we rejoice.  
We trust as God leads us out into distant new horizons.

**We wait upon the news of what God would have us do.  
we prepare to risk ourselves to be faithful in bold ways.**

Into our dry, empty pretending to know all, flows living water.  
Into our disenchantment with mere data, comes real insight.

**Forgetting what is behind us, we press toward the future.  
We truly worship God, responding to Christ’s upward call.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

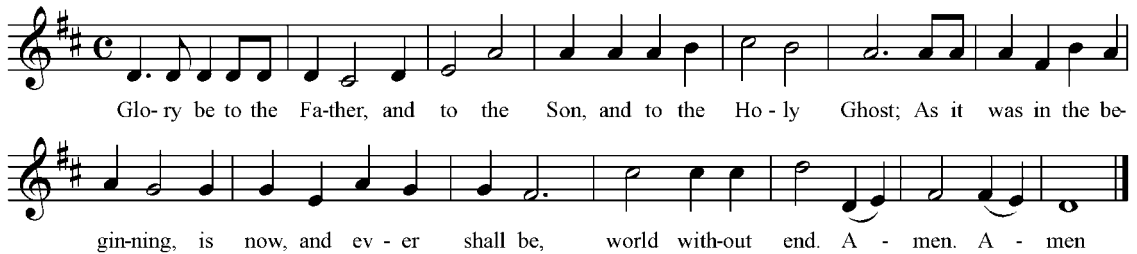
Lord Jesus, as you gladly enter our sinful, strife-filled world, give us insight and courage to measure all that your entrance among us means. As you, the Lord of life, come to stand beside us, help us not to underrate what your presence means. We confess that we have rejected you and your truth for hard facts that have left us cold. Despite our pretense, do not leave us alone, Lord Jesus. Give us faith enough to lay aside our doubts as we reach our limits of knowing. We let our defenses protect us from you, fearing heaven's vaulted canopy. Come be with us, share our space, and work your wonders. We promise you new receptivity, for you are our only hope—in life and in death—our one true way. Amen.

**\*PROMISES OF GOD**

**\*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**

**EPISTLE LESSON**

ISAIAH 43:16-21  
(page 675 NRSV)

Kristin Desautelle, Deacon - 8:30  
Theo Osgood, Deacon - 10:00

**\*HYMN #83**

“IF THOU BUT SUFFER GOD TO GUIDE THEE”

**GOSPEL LESSON**

JOHN 12:1-8  
(page 106 NSRV)

**SERMON**

“WHEN THINGS ARE MUCH MORE THAN THEY SEEM”

Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERTORY**

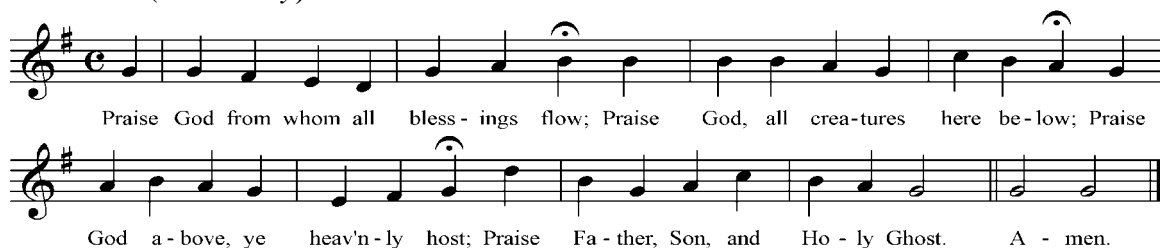
CREATE IN ME (PSALM 51)

Jean Berger

(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)**

**O Giving God, we celebrate the many things you have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing worth of Jesus Christ. Receive our best efforts to give, here dedicated for your use. May the rule of Christ be proclaimed as the poor are spared suffering, as the neglected are remembered. Fill the hearts of all of your children with joy. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

“HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”

(pages 5/6)

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

\* \* \*

**TODAY'S GREETER** is Susan Wilson.

**TODAY'S USHERS** are Kristin Desautelle (8:30), Mary Ann Freeman, Anne MacInnes and Theo Osgood.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are in memory of Jean Miller by her family.

**MUSIC NOTES:** Throughout Lent the choir will be presenting various settings of Psalm 51. It speaks of self-examination and searching for the better self. This text seems to match our Lenten theme. We hope you find them interesting.

# HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

*Unison*

1. Why should I feel dis - cour-aged, why should the  
2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten - der  
3. When - ev - er I am tempt - ed, when - ev - er

shad-ows come, why should my heart be lone - ly  
word I hear, and rest - ing on his good-ness,  
clouds a - rise, when song gives place to sigh-ing,

and long for heaven and home, when Je - sus is my  
I lose my doubts and fears; though by the path he  
when hope with - in me dies, I draw the clos - er

por-tion? My con-stant friend is he: his eye is  
lead-eth but one step I may see: his eye is  
to him, from care he sets me free: his eye is

*(continued)*

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW – cont'd

on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his  
on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his  
on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his

eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.  
eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.  
eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

*Refrain Harmony*

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, I  
I'm hap-py,

sing be-cause I'm free, for his eye is  
I'm free,

on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHURCH SCHOOL

This week's Lesson is Jesus Blesses the Children-Mark 10:13-16,  
"Jesus loves kids just like me."

Part 2, Communion Class for grade 3 in the Morehouse Room today.  
All other grades will congregate in the Little Chapel in the Nursery School.

## MIDNIGHT RUN COLLECTION HAS BEGUN:

### LOOK FOR THE MARKED DONATION BOXES IN PARISH HALL

On Good Friday, our 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 this month:

- 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 were sent 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); sweaters, sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts (large and extra-large, dark colors preferred); and T-shirts (medium to extra-large).
- We need a few of the same items for women. Typically, we'll clothe 60-65 men and about 10 women during the evening.

You are more than welcome to clean out your closet and bring items in that are in good condition. Or 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 socks and underwear). Any items of clothing not on the list above should be given to Person-to-Person.

Don't have time to shop? No problem, our youth will happily do it for you! Simply give your donation to Gary Morello and he'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 organizer, Gary Morello.

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

### **FOOD FIRST & 1,000 pound food challenge – WRAPPING UP!**

The 1,000 pound food challenge is wrapping up and we are short 127 lbs. of food. The FCC Board of Outreach had set a goal to collect 1,000 pounds of non-perishable food for our local shelters: The Open Door Shelter (Norwalk Emergency Shelter) and Person-to-Person. We are almost there and with FOOD FIRST this weekend the challenge will be a total success if we can meet this last hurdle. Please help us reach our goal – chunky soups and pasta sauce needed most! If every family in the Congregation donates five pounds of food, we will surpass our goal! Collection baskets are located on the stage in Parish Hall or you may leave donations near the pulpit in the sanctuary. THANK YOU!

### **COOK SERVE AND DISTRIBUTE HAMS AT THE OPEN DOOR SHELTER!**

We will be cooking and serving at the Open Door Shelter (Norwalk Emergency Shelter) AND distributing Easter hams this month!

**Thursday March 17th -- 8:00 am -- cook at First Congregational Church in Darien**

**Friday March 18th -- 11:45 am - 2 pm -- serve at the Open Door Shelter**

**Thursday March 24th — 8:30 am - distribute hams at the Open Door Shelter (formerly Norwalk Emergency Shelter), 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk.**

*Please keep in mind, volunteers must be 16 years of age or older.*

If you are interested in either cooking or serving, please contact Heather Raker at [HRaker@me.com](mailto:HRaker@me.com)

### **The Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart**

Planning is now underway for the second *Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart*, which will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with a celebratory after party on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Proceeds will benefit *Darien's Thriving Youth Initiative*, the Community Fund of Darien's new program that seeks to address the issues of youth mental health in our community, as well as approximately 20 other local non-profit organizations. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 30 at 9:30, at FCCD.

**NEEDED - SILENT AUCTION ITEMS** – Anyone with connections to events (sporting, theatre, television) or restaurants, Services (interior Design, Art, landscaping) please contact Anna Denoyer at [anna.denoyer@gmail.com](mailto:anna.denoyer@gmail.com).

### **The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you for your support!**

*Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Tracey Berry, Yvette Borecki, Anna Denoyer, Joanne Gabriel, Lora Grassilli, Vince Hough, Annette Madden-Kline, Wendy Mulligan, Heather Raker, Charlie Wetmore*



## **KNITTING MINISTRY**

The Knitting Ministry will meet in the Morehouse Room on Sundays March 13 and March 20 after church at 11:30 A.M. Bring your own sandwich if you wish and join in fellowship, music, prayer and new needlework ideas. All novices and other levels of experience are welcome. If you have questions call Marnie Hodil at 203.655.0888 or e-mail at [grhodil@optonline.net](mailto:grhodil@optonline.net).

## **TIRED OF WINTER?**

### **YOU ARE INVITED TO FCCD'S ANNUAL "RING IN SPRING" PARTY**

Saturday March 19th, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Home of Nancy & James Sheed

Come when you can, stay as long as you can. Bring a savory or sweet to share.

Please RSVP - March 15<sup>th</sup> - [nmsheed@yahoo.com](mailto:nmsheed@yahoo.com), 203-655-0557

## **YOUTH COLLECTIVE EXPERIMENT**

The Youth Collective is a place where youth groups can come together and connect with other kids to learn about God and learn about community. We meet monthly (*last Saturday of every month through June*) at the Stamford YMCA located at 10 Bell Street in Stamford.

### ***The Youth Collective Vision***

The youth collective has three goals:

1. **Biblical Literacy:** We want to teach kids the basics about the Bible
2. **Spirituality:** We want to encourage young people to pray and meditate daily
3. **Community:** We want to create a place where kids can come together and have shared experiences, building new friendships with others in Fairfield County

### ***How We Accomplish the Vision***

While Gary and Shawn have ministries going on at their own churches, the youth collective is an experiment that we are doing to help build interdependence between churches. Youth ministry is tough in Fairfield County and getting kids together without having other kids around can be hard. To solve this problem we thought we would try an experiment for 6 months to see if, by inviting youth groups to come together once a month, we could create an event that kids would come to. We've partnered with the YMCA in Stamford and locked in our schedule for the next 6 months to see if this experiment might work.

It's as simple as that.

And so we invite you to join us.



Please join the  
First Congregational Church of Darien for its  
**Celebration of Easter**

**Palm Sunday – March 20, 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services**

The highlight of the 10:00 a.m. service will be the parade of Church School students waving their palms.

**Maundy Thursday – March 24, 7:00 p.m.**

A quiet, contemplative, “tenebrae” service (i.e., early evening, without lights) with communion.

**Good Friday Vigil – March 25, 6:00 a.m.—Midnight**

As is tradition, FCC will be reading the entire New Testament from the pulpit on Good Friday. Sign up for 20-minute blocks between 6:00 a.m. and midnight. The signup sheet is posted in Parish Hall or you can contact Lou Converse at [lou.converse@viacom.com](mailto:lou.converse@viacom.com).

**Carrying the Cross – March 25, 10:30 a.m. in front of FCC (or join along the route)**

Come help carry the cross from our church to St. Luke’s. An all-community Good Friday Worship will follow at St. Luke’s between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday – March 27.** Easter morning will commence with a 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Mather Cemetery on Stephen Mather Road. We will then have two identical services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., complete with balloons and “The Hallelujah Chorus.” In between the two services, please join us for coffee, fruit, and sweets. The Youth Group will be running their annual Bank Sale! And at approximately 10:15 – we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for small children on the Nursery School playground. Bring your own baskets.



## Easter Flowers

**We are in the season of giving thanks.**

This is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

Flowers always add a tender touch of grace and color to the Meetinghouse at Easter time. Then, when shared with church members who are not able to join us for worship, they become an ongoing gift.

You may fill out this form or sign up in the church office.

Include your check for \$30.00 to “The First Congregational Church of Darien,” and note “Flower Donation” on the memo line.

(Due in the church office no later than **Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**).

A list of the flower dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Easter plants.

In Gratitude of/for \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of/for \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

***Graciously Donated***

***by:*** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30.00 each)

**\*\* Please note:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will be taking my flowers.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will not be taking my flowers, so please donate it in my/our name.**

# **CHURCH CALENDAR**

## **TODAY**

Knitting Ministry, 11:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Confirmation Class, 5:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

## **MONDAY, MARCH 14**

Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room  
Board of Stewards, 8:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**

Church Council, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 17**

Cook for Shelter, 8:00 a.m. in the Church Kitchen  
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 18**

Darien House Tour Planning Committee, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Serve at Shelter, 11:45 a.m.

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 20 – PALM SUNDAY**

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Knitting Ministry, 11:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
“Come As You Are” worship service, 4:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

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

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

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

Mr. Gary Morello, *Associate Minister*

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

Sally Bassler, *Lay Minister for Pastoral Care (cell) (203) 554-1724*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

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

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

Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator*

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

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