



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

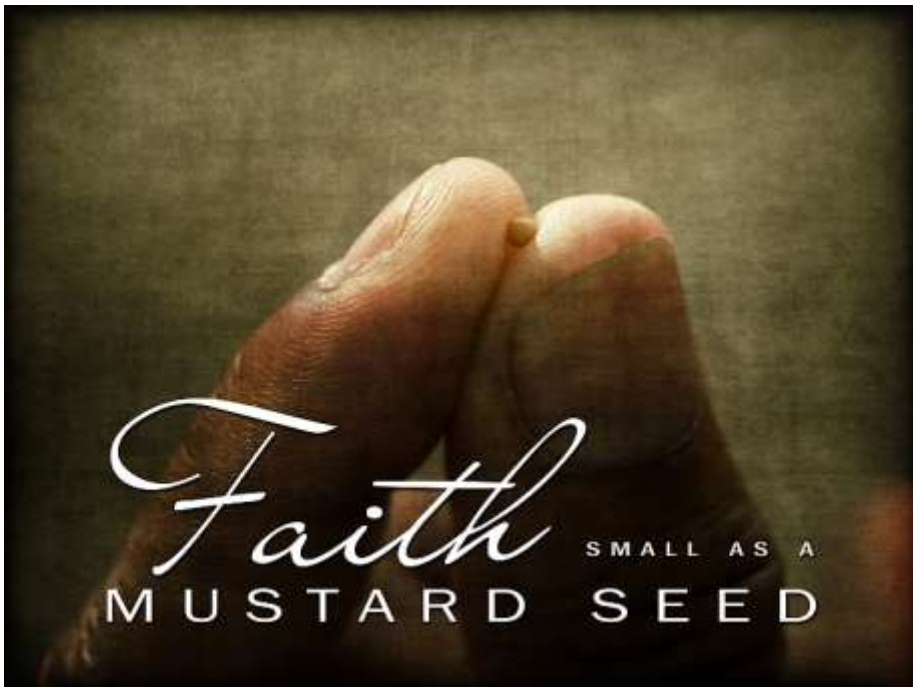
United Church of Christ
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2015

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



LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

“GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS”

PART FOUR

“HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: THINK BIG, START SMALL”

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2015

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
at the new Two's classroom starting [at 9:45 a.m.](#)

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #7**

“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Come, children of God, to listen;
and to hold in awe, God, our Maker.

**Who among us doesn't desire life's fullness,
and covet many days to enjoy its goodness?**

God remains near to the broken-hearted;
he will not refuse the broken and contrite.

**The Lord God redeems his friends and servants;
No one taking refuge in God is refused good things.**

This is why we delight in our Creator and Redeemer:
that he is not distant and remote, aloof from our pain.

**For this reason we always call on God's name.
praising the Lord with every iota of our being. Amen.**

***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**



<p>JUNIOR CHOIR <i>(10:00 only)</i></p>	<p>“SHEPHERD ME O GOD” (Psalm 23) <i>(responsive)</i></p>	<p>Marty Haugen</p>
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Refrain: Shepherd me o God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears; You guide me through life.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL (10:00 a.m. only)
Today, the children will be learning about Mary and Martha.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

<p>OLD TESTAMENT LESSON</p>	<p>I KINGS 17.8-16</p>	<p>Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30) Leo Schlinkert, Deacon (10:00)</p>
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***HYMN #242** “HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE”

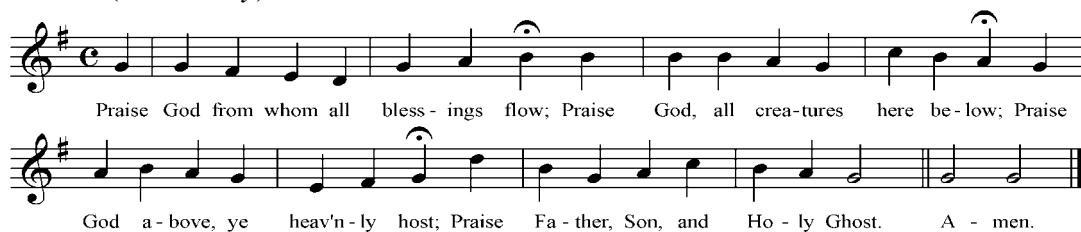
<p>GOSPEL LESSON</p>	<p>MARK 4.26-34</p>	<p>Rev. Rosenberger</p>
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SERMON LENTEN SERMON SERIES: “GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS” Rev. Rosenberger
PART FOUR - “HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: THINK BIG, START SMALL”

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

Maxim Pakhomov

***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** (10:00 only)

(unison)

For life-sustaining gifts we so often take for granted—for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from falling down; for your word that guides and heals us—we give you thanks, gracious God. As we give a part of all that you entrust to us, we show other the riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN**

“SPIRIT”

(see pages 5/6)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY’S GREETERS are the Almy Family.

TODAY’S USHERS Karalesa DiFabio, Bill Lattimer (8:30 a.m.), Leo Schlinkert and Brad Westbrook.

MUSIC NOTES: During Lent, the Choir will be presenting Psalm 23 Theme and Variations - Settings of the 23rd Psalm by various composers.

SPIRIT

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G D

Last time, end

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

(continued on next page)

SPIRIT (continued)

D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you gift - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E A D G A

val - leys of sleep, and o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land, when they were con - found - ed with
 whole world was still, and down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A D G/A D A
D.C. al Fine

bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Morning, We Receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in 138 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Come As You Are Service: Save the Dates and a NEW TIME 5:00 p.m.

The response to the Come As You Are services was overwhelmingly positive -- with attendance strong on all four Sundays. We've taken great care to ask for feedback and will be experimenting with new ideas as we move forward, including alternatives to music and location. With Justin leaving us this spring to return closer to his home town and as we embark on a search for a full time Associate Minister/Youth Pastor, we are aiming to have one Come As You Are service in March, April, and May. Our hope is to do more this fall. **For now, please mark your calendars for the following Sundays: March 22, April 19, and May 17.** We recognize the April Sunday is the second of the spring break, but with Easter and Confirmation Sunday, our choices were limited. We hope you will join us!

Darien House Tour

We happily invite you to come join us on the House Tour Committee!

Please come see what part you would like to play with our exciting new fundraiser! Next meeting – April 7, at 9:30 a.m.

Do you have a special skill or connection you would like to contribute to the House Tour? If so, we are seeking special donations for our Silent Auction! Please contact Karalesa DiFabio at Karalesa@gmail.com or call 917-847-7252

Knitting Ministry Schedule:

The Knitting Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30 P.M. in the Morehouse Room. Anyone interested in learning to crochet and/or knit is welcome to join the group. Meetings will continue at 7:30 P.M. March 24 and March 31.

If there are questions, call Marnie Hodil at (203) 655-0888 or e-mail at grhodil@optonline.net.

Kitchen Clean-Up

Join Michael Chiodo and spruce up our church kitchen in time for Easter!
Thursday, March 19 at 10:00!

Lenten Book Study

Join us for our Lenten Book Study as we continue to discuss Atul Gawande's "Being Mortal" - Wednesday evenings (March 18 & 25), at 7:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room.

SPRING BEAUTIFICATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, FROM 1:00 PM TO 3:30 PM

Please come to make the grounds look beautiful for Easter. Contact Audrey Esmond or Wyn Lydecker with questions. If you can't come, please make a donation to help buy flowers and mulch. Thank you. Note "beautification" on the check.

Tired of winter?

You are invited to:

“Ring in Spring” Drinks Party

Saturday, March 21st

6:30 – 9:30pm

Home of Nancy & James Sheed

Come when you can, stay as long as you can.

You are welcome to bring a savory or sweet to share.

Please invite and encourage a church friend to join in the fun.

RSVP - March 16th

nmsheed@yahoo.com

(invitations also being sent via email)

Share Your 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 FoodFirst Sundays. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

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

***(words of 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! Send me an email to talk about the Committee that is right for YOU!

Leila Wetmore, Nominating Chair

203-662-9397

Leila@leilawetmore.com



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

Palm Sunday – March 29, 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 – April 2, 7:00 p.m.

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

Good Friday Vigil – April 3, 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.

Carrying the Cross – April 3, 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 – April 5. 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 – at approximately 10:30 – we will have an Easter Egg hunt for small children in the Nursery School playground. Bring your own baskets.

First Congregational Church of Darien

14 Brookside Road, Darien

203-655-0491

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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 27th**).

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.**

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Memorial Service for Lisa Bonchek Adams, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Knitting Ministry, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Lenten Book Discussion, "Being Mortal", 7:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room
Church Council, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Kitchen Clean-Up, 10:00 a.m.
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
"Come As You Are Service" 5:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

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

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

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

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

Kate Nelson, *Church School Director* Justin Inners, *Youth Minister*

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

Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator*

Tim Wilson, *Sexton*

Carlos Maya, *Saturday Sexton* Ulises Mendez, *Sunday Sexton*

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on Facebook, Google+, Vimeo and "@UCCDarien" on Twitter.

