



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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www.uccdarien.org



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2017

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

YOU
DROWNED
MY FEARS IN
perfect
Love

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 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 #S8**

“ LIFT HIGH THE CROSS ”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

As a community of faith,
we are formed by God's love.

We are set free within God's world of forgiveness.

This changes our view of others, especially aliens.

We are not here to exalt our goodness,
but to proclaim God's transforming way.

**We already grasp that God's ways are not our ways,
and we expect God's challenge and encouragement.**

Of all the choices God gives us, some lead to life, others to death.
Whether we obey or reject God, we cannot alter the terms of life.

We seek to know and enter into the ways that lead to life.

We enter the dialogue between God's promises and ours.

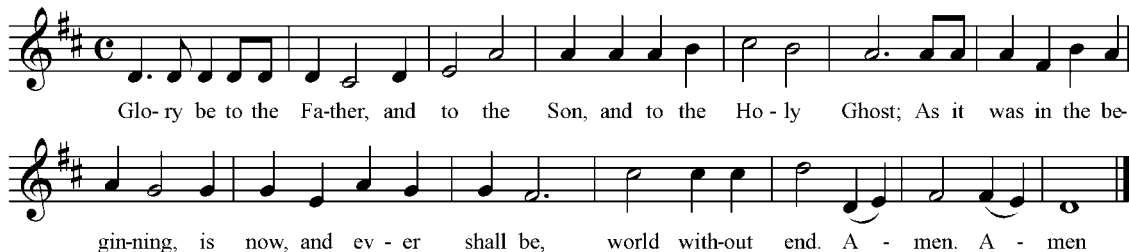
***OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. Gary M. Morello

*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

BAPTISM OF ARCHIE WILLIAM SAAGER (10:00 only)

CHILDRENS' DISMISSAL

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

EPISTLE LESSON

1 JOHN 4:7-12, 18-21

Phil Meyer (8:30)

Frank Burke (10:00)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a

brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*HYMN #465

“O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH THEE”

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 5:43-48

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

SERMON

“Why Does the Other Approach Us?”

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love

Sermon Series, #1

OFFERTORY

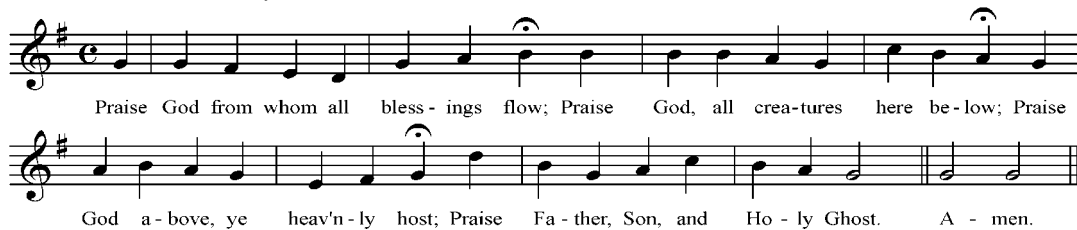
“WHEN JESUS WEPT “ (A ROUND)

W. Billings

(10:00 only)

The Show Up and Sing 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)

Faithful God, we gratefully give in response to your abundant gifts of grace. You never forsook us when we were unfaithful. You never abandoned us to the misery of our own making. Your love never ceases as we worship other gods. As we today offer these tokens of thanks, go with us from church as we seek to make a difference in the world. Amen.

*HYMN #462

“WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS OF LIFE”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Phil Meyer (8:30), Kristin Desautelle, and Frank Burke (10:00).



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

We celebrate today the baptism of John and Torey Saager's second son, Archie William, born June 26, 2016. The Saager's firstborn was John Jr. (Jack), who is the apple of little Archie's eye. Of course, this family is deeply embedded in the life of our church, with Bouliers as siblings and cousins, and Anne MacInnes as the grandmother to the whole wonderful brood. Archie's baptismal gown has been passed down in the family from a great grandfather. Be sure to extend to them warm greetings and congratulations for the first baptism as we have moved back into our Meetinghouse.

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!

- **Help distribute Easter hams at the Open Door Shelter!** Thursday, April 13th from 8:30am to 10:30 am. Contact Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to help!
- **Salam Neighbor** - On Monday, March 27th at 6:30 pm (new time!), 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 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!
- **SUPPORT OUR BENEFICIARIES BY ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE TOUR EVENT PROGRAM!** The event program will be distributed to more than 500 people and offers a great opportunity to promote a business! Discounted rates for church members!! Visit darienhousetour.org for more information or contact darienhousetour@gmail.com.

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.
- **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 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



MISSION RUN -- WHAT WE NEED TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE

Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated to our collection boxes in the library. You can help us now by bringing in items on our MUCH NEEDED list below. Before you do, please email Karen Brennan, kbrennan1567@gmail.com, as we'd like to make sure we complete the list and not duplicate if possible. Here is what we need (as always, the youth are happy to accept a small donation and shop this weekend -- we can make a few dollars go a long way at Walmart or Target!):

Toiletries (in this order):

- Travel size toothpastes: 54
- Small travel size deodorants: 59
- Tissue packets: 81
- Chapsticks: 85

Men's Clothing (in this order):

- 3 packages of Men's boxer briefs, size L (36-38) (15 needed)
- 5 packages of Men's boxer briefs, size XL (40-42) (25 needed)
- Belts (size 38-42) -- from home or Kohl's, Walmart, Target are places for inexpensive belts
- 10 pairs of **jeans** in varying sizes from 38-48 (note, we have plenty of other pants)

Food for the Actual Run on April 1:

We are now turning our attention to food, and could use everyone's help. The Boards of Outreach and Christian Education will be handling some of the legwork and cost closer to April 1, but if anyone is interested in picking up a few of the non-perishable items on our shopping list while out at Stop and Shop or Costco, here is our wish list. Use the link to sign up, then drop off in the kitchen. You can also sign up with any of your family members to help make sandwiches and stuff bags with us from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon as we prep to head out that evening. All ages are welcome.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4AAAAF2EA4F58-food

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).



BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

- The Bell Choir is starting rehearsals on Monday, 4:30 pm, March 27th in the Moorehouse Room. New members are always welcome. It is fun fellowship and a chance to learn to play a new instrument. You do not need to know how to read music. You can learn the Dan Hague method!!!

Please contact Theo Osgood if you would like to give this activity a try.

[203-655-2538](tel:203-655-2538) or tosgood123@optimum.net

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.

“COME AS YOU ARE WORSHIP SERVICE”

- Today 4:30 pm in the Parish Hall, Pastor Dale will be preaching from the Gospel of Mark.

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!

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

BEREAVEMENT

- We are saddened to learn that Donna Rajczewski lost her brother Dan Doolittle on Monday, March 6th. 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!" ***

***(quotes 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!! 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, MARCH 19, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

“Come As You Are” Worship Service, 4:30 pm, Parish Hall.
Pastor Dale will be preaching from the Gospel of Mark.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

The Classics Book Group Meeting 3:30 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship Services at 8:30 am and 10:00 am

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*