



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ

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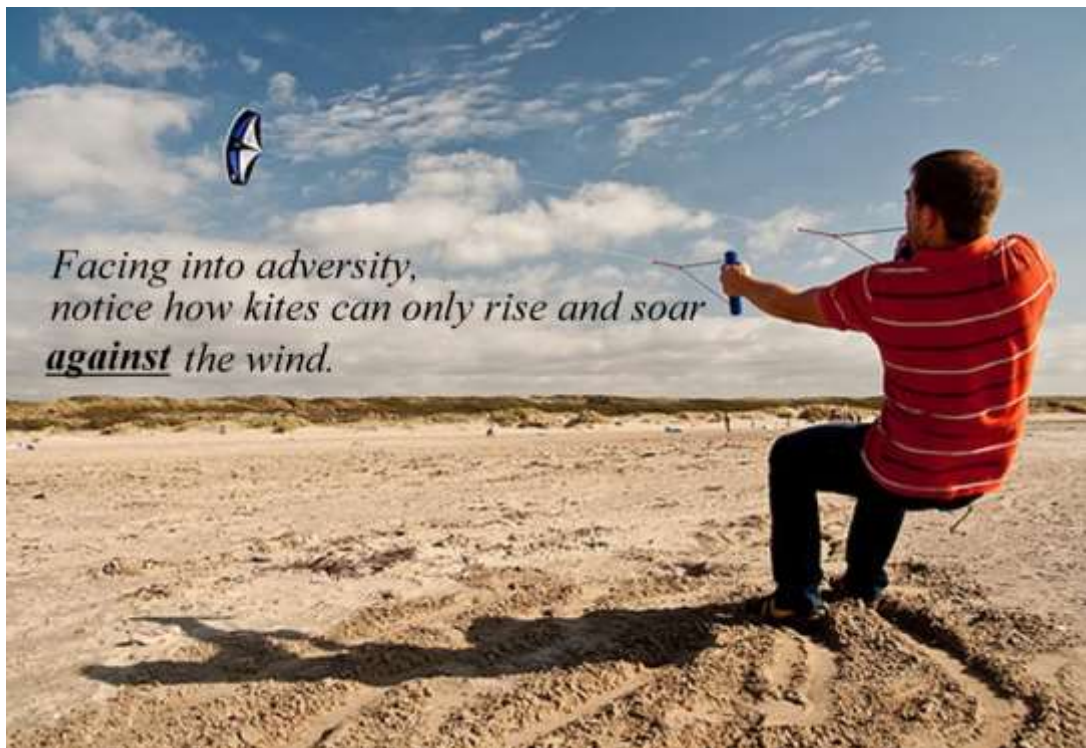
www.uccdarien.org



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2015

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



LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

“GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS”

PART FIVE

“WE RADIATE HOPE DESPITE ADVERSITY”

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 22, 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

Daniel Hague

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #204**

“REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

The rhythms of time beat within God's own heart;
he appoints life's seasons, the bleak and the bursting.

**Each season of life is beautiful within its own time,
renewing trust and insight into God's greater plan.**

We would hear God's voice in life's little moments.
In tune with bigger realities, details find their place.

**How can we live mindfully of how God marks time?
How can we live both in time and aware of eternity?**

(All uniting)

**We delight that God always invites our approach:
that our souls find their rest in God's will and way. 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**



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 TALLULAH, ANDREW AND WYATT PHELPS (10:00 only)

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

Today, the children will be learning about the Last Supper.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JEREMIAH 29:10-14

Leo Schlinkert, Deacon (8:30)

Dave Miller, Deacon (10:00)

***HYMN #83**

“IF THOU BUT SUFFER GOD TO GUIDE THEE”

GOSPEL LESSON

ROMANS 8:14-24, 31-39

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: “GREAT TEXTS, CORE TRUTHS”
PART FIVE - “WE RADIATE HOPE DESPITE ADVERSITY”

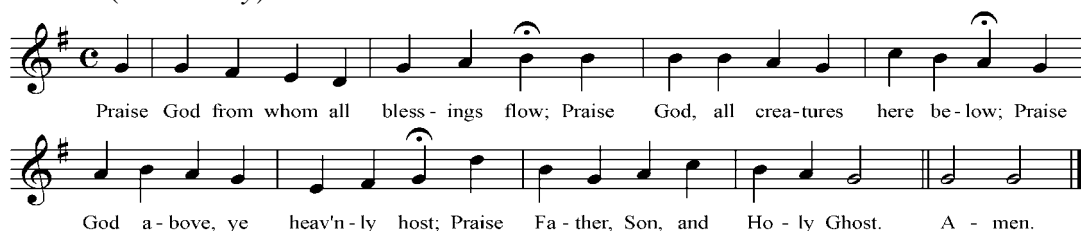
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

THE 23RD PSALM
Senior Choir

Heinrich Schalit

***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)

We dedicate these offerings for the proclamation of your word, O God, for the teaching of your ways, and to sound now and always your note of hope. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May today's offerings empower the sharing of your presence with all who do not yet know themselves as your beloved children. Amen.

***HYMN**

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

(see page 5)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Daniel Hague

* * *

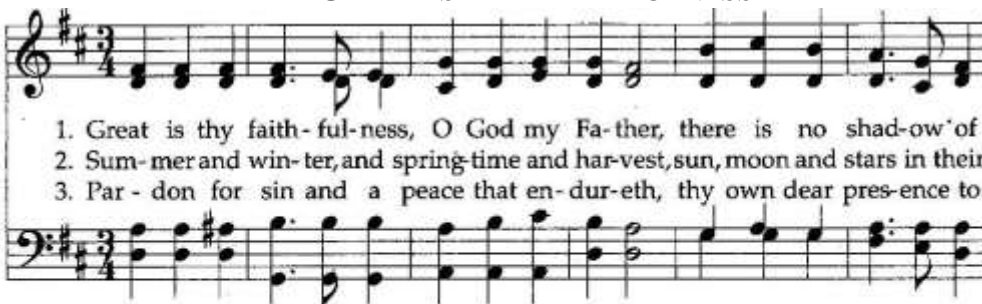
TODAY'S GREETERS are David and Janet Soskin.

TODAY'S USHERS Lou Converse, Anne MacInnes, Dave Miller and Leo Schlinkert (8:30).

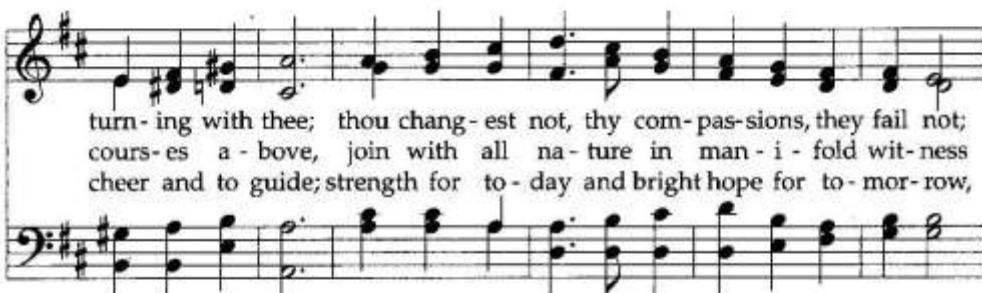
MUSIC NOTES: During Lent, the Choir will be presenting Psalm 23 Theme and Variations - Settings of the 23rd Psalm by various composers.

TODAY'S BAPTISM FAMILY - Andrew and Alexis Phelps united with F.C.C., Darien three years ago after moving from Soho to Rowayton to Darien's Goodwives River Road. Andrew works for the French bank *Natixis* and finds himself travelling much of the time. Alexis stepped away from her work in entertainment law to become a full-time mother to Tallulah, Chip, and Wyatt. Please make these five feel welcome again as their enthusiastic spiritual family at this defining event of baptism.

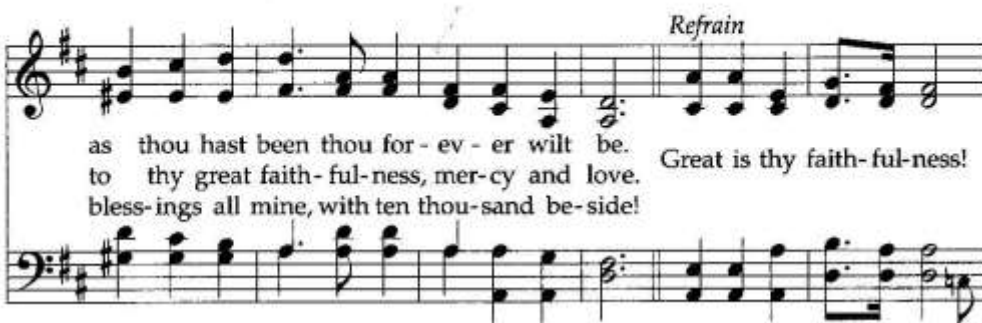
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shad-ow' of
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and stars in their
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear pres-ence to



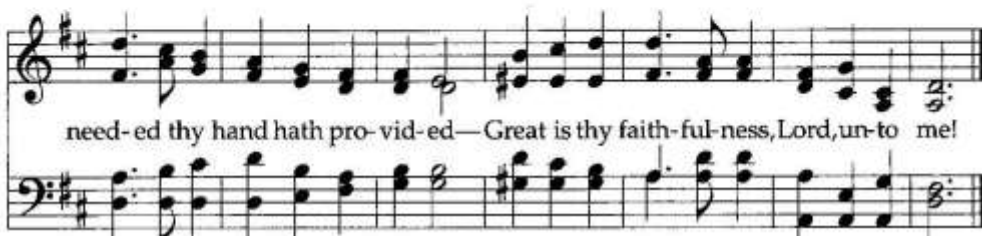
turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-pas-sions, they fail not;
cours-es a-bove, join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,



Refrain
as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.
bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have



need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

Easter Service Childcare

This year, we will be offering nursery care and Church School for children in Second Grade and below. If you prefer to keep your little ones with you, please do so. This is completely optional. We will have one room dedicated to Easter crafts and another room for the Veggie Tales movie, "An Easter Carol". The nursery room will be available starting at 8:45am and 10:45am and will be staffed with a parent volunteer along with teens. If you would like to either volunteer or have any additional questions, please contact Kate Nelson at KNelson@uccdarien.org.

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.

Lenten Book Study

Join us for our Lenten Book Study as we continue to discuss Atul Gawande's "Being Mortal" - Wednesday evening, March 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.

Give the Gift of Family Time to a Fresh Air Child This Summer

Please consider welcoming an inner city child in your homes and hearts this summer and providing them with an experience they will never forget. By having them take part in your family life and the Darien community with all that it has to offer, hosting a Fresh Air child is often just as enriching and rewarding for the families as it is for the child. The weeks for our area are flexible throughout the summer (you can take a child for five days, 10 days, or two weeks) and there are no financial requirements for hosting a child. You can request the gender and approximate age of the Fresh Air child you would like to host. **On Thursday, April 9, there will be an information night at the Darien Library from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Bring your entire family and come learn about the program. Or reach out to two of our own FCC families -- the Brennans at KBrennan15@aol.com or the Foxes at emkfox@optonline.net. Both have been hosting children for multiple summers and can tell you lots about the program!

Tennis Items Wanted

The Confirmation Class is collecting new, or gently used and washed, tennis whites and child-sized tennis rackets (21-26") for the participants in the Norwalk Grassroots Tennis program. Look for the bins on the stage in Parish Hall. Thank you for helping us bring tennis gear to inner-city children in Norwalk.

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

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and few self-centered needs, stronger compassion and weakened judgement of others.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

*In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen*



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.

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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

TODAY

Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m. in the Youth Room
“Come As You Are Service” 5:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Day Wings, 12:30 p.m. in the Circle Room
Knitting Ministry, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 (PALM SUNDAY)

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

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*

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

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