



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2017

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



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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 #87**

“THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

God summons us to wake up and to see.
Revelation leads us toward all things good.

**God’s goodness is truly eye-opening.
So how can we live as children of light?**

God sees beneath the surface of things,
God reads and knows the intent of hearts.

**So we gather to ask what is pleasing to God.
For these days are for the works of the Lord.**

All uniting:

**God looks for genuine hearts, authentic faith.
God listens to all who will worship sincerely.**

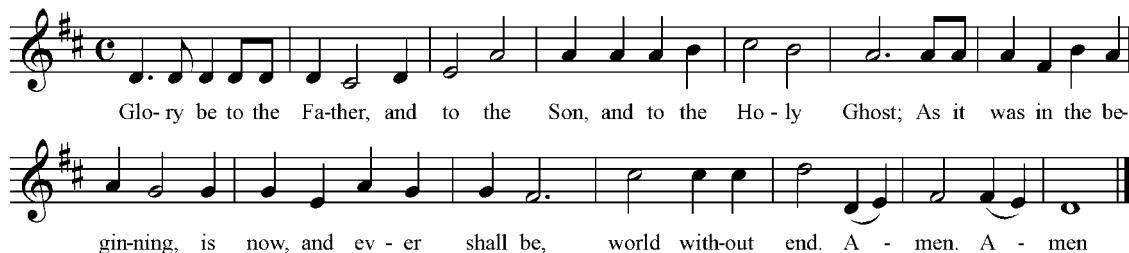
***OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. Gary 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 23

Steve Weeden, Deacon (8:30)
Dave Miller, Deacon (10:00)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

(continued on next page)

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

***HYMN #472**

“I WOULD BE TRUE”

EPISTLE LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-8

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

SERMON

“FAITH’S PERFECT ACCESSORY”

REV. DALE ROSENBERGER

OFFERTORY

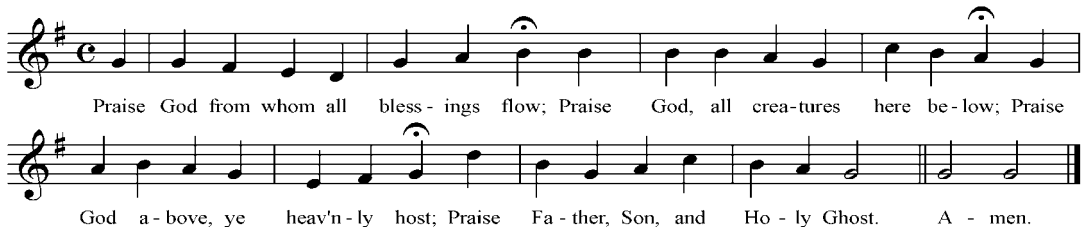
(10:00 only)

“PSALM 23”

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** (*unison*) (10:00 only)

Loving God, as you illumine our paths with insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our tithes and offerings as well as our investment of time and energy. All this we now offer for your blessing. For apart from you, the light goes out of our lives, and we slip into darkness. Let us dwell with you and serve you wherever we go. Amen.

***HYMN, #29**

“REJOICE, O PURE IN HEART”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY’S USHERS are Steve Weeden (8:30 am), Lou Converse, Karalesa DiFabio, and Dave Miller (10:00 am)



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!

- **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 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!

- **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



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 & pack cookies for the Midnight Run on Friday, March 31st from 4-5:30 in the Church Kitchen.

Contact Andy Huntington (andreaatkinson101@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

CONFIRMANDS

- There are only two classes remaining! We will meet 11:15 am, right after church on the following dates:
 - March 26, 2017
 - April 2, 2017
- Please mark your calendars for **Easter, Sunday April 16th** we are meeting at the church at 7:30am to help fill Easter balloons.



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!

BEREAVEMENT

- 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.

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

4th Sunday in Lent
Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Kids Cookie Bake for Midnight Run

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Midnight Run

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

5th Sunday in Lent
Worship Services at 8:30 am and 10:00am

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*

Find "First Congregational Church of Darien"
on Facebook, Google+, Vimeo and "@UCCDarien" on Twitter.

