



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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E-mail: info@uccdarien.org
www.uccdarien.org



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2015

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



“TAKING A STAND”

REV. RONALD T. EVANS, PASTOR EMERITUS

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 19, 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 Two's classroom starting [at 9:45 a.m.](#)

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Daniel Hague

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ronald Evans

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #269**

“I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Healer and Savior, send your power upon all of your people,
the power of heaven, loosed by proclaiming all of your truth.

**Touch our brokenness and lift us out of our routines,
until we hear your truth from unaccustomed places.**

Walk with us in paths of fear, so that we might know faith and courage,
as did Jesus' band of followers, galvanized by glimpsing ultimate reality.

**Wipe our tears of sorrow and show us the joy of new opportunity.
You vindicate what the world calls weak. You have made it strong.**

(All uniting)

**Now together, let us sing, pray and give thanks as we
are filled with the wondrous, death-proof Spirit of God.**

***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 CLAIRE MARIE HODGSON (*10:00 a.m. only*)

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (*10:00 a.m. only*)

This morning, the children will learn about "The Road to Emmaus"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 35:1-10

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)
Lou Converse, Deacon (10:00)

***HYMN**

"I COME TO BE BAPTIZED TODAY"

(page 5)

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 11:1-6

Rev. Evans

SERMON

"TAKING A STAND"

Rev. Evans

OFFERTORY

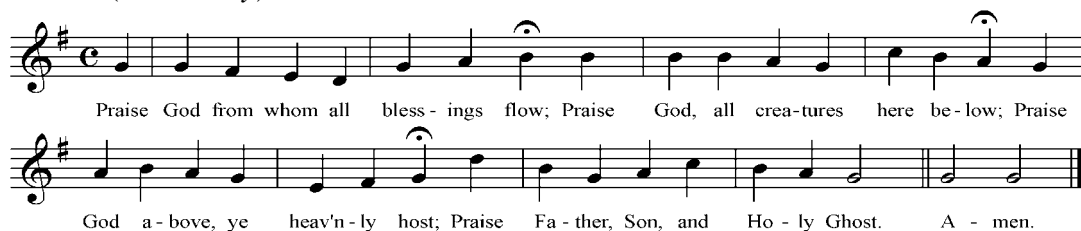
"THE EYES OF ALL WAIT UPON THEE"

Jean Berger

(*10:00 only*)

Daniel Hague and 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** (10:00 only)

(unison)

Gracious God, as we today celebrate the power of Jesus' resurrection, revealed in the baptism of a tender young life, we ask you to receive our offerings, given humbly and joyfully. May we shout out with our lives the unpopular truth that you are finally in control, and we are not. By the power of your Spirit, multiply and use these gifts for peace, justice, hope and good news. Amen.

***HYMN # 93**

“GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Evans

POSTLUDE

Daniel Hague

* * *

TODAY'S GREETERS are the Waite Family.

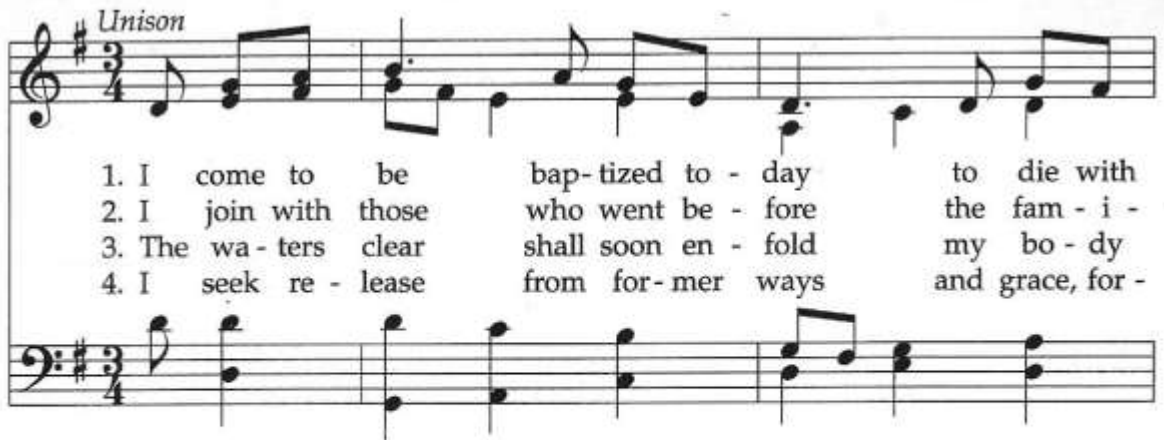
TODAY'S USHERS April Barker, Lou Converse, Bill Lattimer (8:30 a.m.) and Al Nickerson.

TODAY'S BAPTISM FAMILY

Claire Marie Hodgson was born to new church members Teddy and Jasmine Hodgson on November 8, 2014 in Stamford. Claire is the little sister to Lily. And the same grandfather who baptized Lily--the Rev. Don Hodgson--will also today baptize young Claire. The godparents are Peter and Ariel Stern. Rev. Don. Hodgson was a local church pastor in Nebraska and Maine. After those years of service, he opened a counseling service in Maine that was housed in Woodfords Congregational, UCC in Portland, ME. He describes the counseling center, founded in 1988, as "in a church and for the church." We are glad to welcome Teddy, Jasmine, their two girls, and their extended family on this day of rejoicing over these young lives and this growing family. We celebrate their part in our spiritual family. Please welcome and congratulate them at Coffee Hour. Share in the joy!

I COME TO BE BAPTIZED TODAY

Unison



1. I come to be bap-tized to - day to die with
2. I join with those who went be - fore the fam - i -
3. The wa - ters clear shall soon en - fold my bo - dy
4. I seek re - lease from for - mer ways and grace, for -



Christ and rise a - gain. I choose through Christ to
ly of God on earth. I stand be - fore the
and my old life, too. Through Spir - it's gift I
give - ness through this rite. I come to walk my



walk God's way and seek a new life with - out end.
o - pen door. Re - ceive me, God, and give new birth.
will be bold to start to live my life a - new.
fu - ture days with Christ a - long the path of light.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Third Grade Communion Sunday

It's almost that wonderful time of year again when our lucky third graders get to embark on a new religious journey. All third graders are invited to learn all about the communion process in our church. The second of two classes (first class during Church School today) will take place on **April 26th** where they will talk about the communion process, create projects and even try breads from all around the world! We will then have a special 11th hour meeting with Rev. Dale Rosenberger on **April 26th** directly following service, where the children will see first-hand how the communion table is set up and listen to Dale speak about our church's beliefs. There will also be an opportunity at the end of this meeting to ask any questions you or your children may have. Finally, on **May 3rd** the third graders will be asked to stay with the congregation for communion where they will have "front row seats" for the special occasion. If you have a 3rd Grader and you would like to participate, please contact Kate Nelson at KNelson@uccdarien.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Here at First Congregational Church of Darien

*PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING BLOOD ON Wednesday, April 29th, 2015
HERE AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – IN PARISH HALL.*

1:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 29TH, 2015

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from generous volunteers. By donating blood, you can make a difference in the lives of patients in your community and throughout the nation.

- Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood.
- The blood supply must be replenished constantly.
- Red blood cells last on the shelf for 42 days and platelets have a shelf life of only five days.

Come Join us in Fellowship and give the true gift of life.

To schedule an appointment please call

1-800-RED CROSS ~ 1-800-733-2767

Or visit us online at

Redcrossblood.org

Walk the Line – The NY Highline!

Join us on Sunday, April 26 – after the 10:00 service, as we walk from Gansevoort Street to 30th Street & back (3 miles). Late lunch-early dinner in the Meat Packing District.

Sign up in Parish Hall or email machiodo1@gmail.com



In May We Help: May 9th - Sorting Food Donations at P2P

Each year in May, The Board of Outreach provides a service project for all families in our church to come together and work in the community helping others. This year, with the House Tour close at hand in June, we chose a simple yet fulfilling service day helping at Person-to-Person, which is the main beneficiary of the House Tour.

On Saturday, May 9th, we will help sort food donations collected during the Postal Workers' Food Drive at the P2P Food Pantry in Darien (behind St. Luke's Church). Please sign up in the Parish Hall for a time slot at either location from 12 to 5 pm. This is a great opportunity to work with your children and friends to help others. The P2P team is well organized and make volunteering effortless.

The impact: "We know that there are 9000 people in Norwalk and 18,000 in Stamford who are 'food insecure,' Ceci Maher, Executive Director of P2P, reports, "meaning they don't know where their next meal will come from or they will run out of money for food by the end of the month." In 2014, about 734,000 meals were created from groceries supplied by P2Ps food pantries, helping almost 24,000 people in our area. The difference we can make is profound!

Please lend a hand!

--The Board of Christian Outreach



CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

Come As You Are Worship, 5:00 p.m. in the Circle Room
Confirmation Class, 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Board of Stewards, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Confirmation Desert, 7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 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*