



## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ  
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## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

APRIL 30, 2017

8:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M.



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Children are always welcome at our worship services.

For parents that wish to remain with their children,  
the church Library has a live audio feed of the worship service.

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand.*

PRELUDE

Mr. Clay Zambo

WELCOME

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*HYMN #224

“SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

God has called us together for this time of worship

God is listening to our thoughts and to our speaking.

**God inclines an ear to us and hears us.**

**God knows us better than we know ourselves.**

Let us open our hearts to the One who gives us life.

Let us set our faith and hope in God.

**In one another’s presence, we renew our vows.**

**Together we offer our thanksgiving sacrifice.**

God’s promises to us are ancient and ever new.

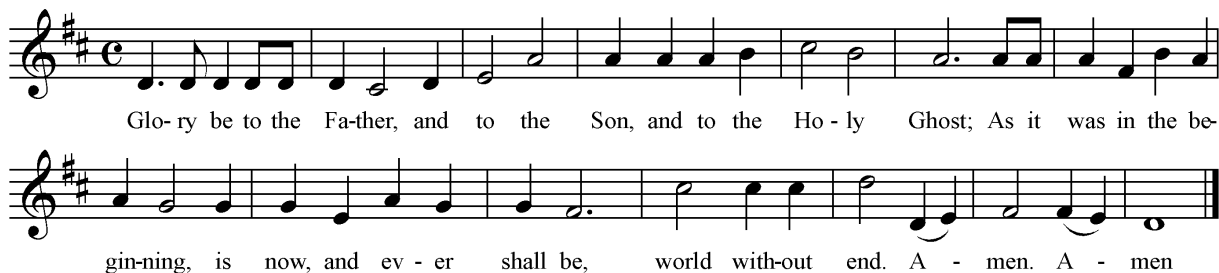
God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

**Together we encourage the next generation of Christian boys and girls.**

**Together we recognize how vital their spiritual life truly is.**

OPENING PRAYER

## \*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

## JOYS AND CONCERNS (8:30 only)

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

## LITANY OF OUR JOURNEY IN CHRIST (10:00 only) (responsively)

**Leader:** We gather today to worship God and celebrate our many and various journeys of faith, and yet that we are also community, part of something bigger than ourselves.

**Confirmands:** We have gathered in community for the past year to study and learn, to observe and notice, to deepen our souls in service, to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Mentors:** Our confirmands asked us to walk alongside them and we agreed to do so, uncertain whether we would be equal to this honor. We too have grown immeasurably.

**Parents:** How can we pass on our faith to our young? We have turned to the church to help us lead our children to live in the image of Christ, our fullest human stature.

**People:** How can we know the way? We want to lead a Christian life—all of us—yet we are still learning and growing ourselves, no matter what age we are along life's way.

**Leader:** Our youth learn more from us than we will ever know; by what we say, yes, but most especially by what we do. We are witnesses, in this sense, to God's age-old story.

**People:** Teach us, Christ, to live your laws of loving God and neighbor with real compassion.

**Confirmands:** The faith we are learning is so great. It is big. We thank our parents, our mentors, and this, our home church for walking with us and guiding us along our way.

**Mentors:** Through our relationship with you, our own discovery has unfolded. Your young lives and faith enrich us. By knowing you, we have received more than we gave.

**People:** Of course, the journey is not over. Your whole life opens up before you. Wherever you go, we hope you will seek out a community of faith for support along your way.

**Confirmands:** Thanks be to God, for all of God's gifts. We have so much to celebrate today. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)**

*Children will proceed to Church School - Grades 6/7 are welcome to stay in service.*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

JOB 27:1-6

Lou Converse, Deacon (8:30)

Mandy Teare, Deacon (10:00)

Job again took up his discourse and said:

‘As God lives, who has taken away my right,  
and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter,  
as long as my breath is in me

and the spirit of God is in my nostrils,  
my lips will not speak falsehood,  
and my tongue will not utter deceit.

Far be it from me to say that you are right;  
until I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

I hold fast my righteousness, and will not let it go;  
my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

**\*HYMN #386**

“WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT”

**EPISTLE LESSON**

1 TIMOTHY 4:6-16

Mr. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

**SERMON**

“FAITH FORMATION”

Gary Morello

**FAITH STATEMENTS**

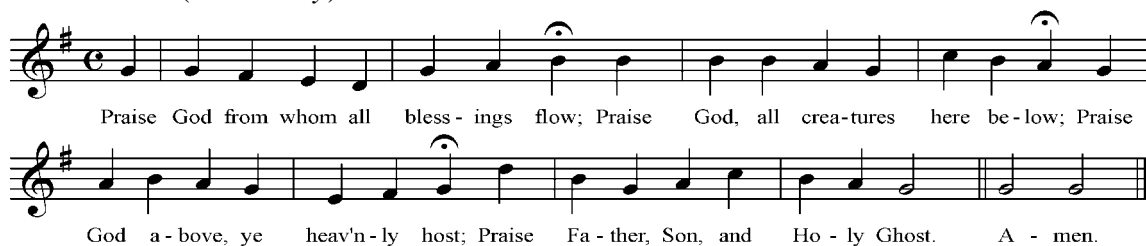
Ted Brennan, Jamie Mullin and Charlotte Sulger

**OFFERTORY**  
(10:00 only)

**“WE ARE CALLED”**  
Senior Choir

David Haas

**\*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.



**RITE OF CONFIRMATION** (10:00 only)

**ADDRESS**

*We invite our Confirmands to rise and face the congregation as they affirm the faith of their baptism according to this order from the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.*

**QUESTIONS OF THE CONFIRMANDS**

**ACT OF CONFIRMATION**

**CONFIRMAND**

TED BRENNAN  
RYAN CLOUGH  
GRIFFIN CRAMER  
ELSE ESMOND  
IAIN FREEMAN  
ADDISON KLINE  
MARLEY MCCARTHY  
JAMIE MULLIN  
JAMES SEALY  
CHARLOTTE SULGER  
TOM TRAGER  
CHARLOTTE VAN INGEN  
CHRISTOPHER VAN INGEN

**MENTOR**

ANDY HUNTINGTON  
JOHN WYGAL  
DAVID MILLER  
SALLY BASSLER  
JARED MACLANE  
DAVID YOUNG  
APRIL BARKER  
JIM GLEASON  
BRAD WESTBROOK  
GAYLE APPELBY  
JOE PANKOWSKI  
LEILA WETMORE  
RICH ALMY

## PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### \*COVENANT

(unison)

**We covenant with God and with one another, as fellow Members of this Church, and bind ourselves in God’s presence to serve His kingdom in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. We pledge our loyalty to this Church and to the whole body of Christ’s Church declaring our intention to walk together in God’s holy ways, made known to us and to be made known to us. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

### \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(unison)

**Living Lord, we praise you for the faith and love of all disciples here. Blessed by the ministry of our spiritual home, we grow strong and true. Today we all reconfirm and receive the grace revealed in our baptism. Today all join in lifelong promise to praise and serve you, first and last. Fortify us to fulfill vows—spoken and heard--in our future decisions. Help us discover our calling through the gifts you have given us. Show us the wonders of your Holy Spirit at work in the world, so that our faith will keep getting richer, stronger, and deeper, until we find ourselves, whatever generation, old and gray.**

### \*LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

**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.**

### \*HYMN

*“CARRY THE LIGHT” (Congregation on Refrain)*  
*Carry the Light, carry the Light.*  
*Go and tell the children they are precious in His sight.*  
*Carry the Light, carry the Light.*  
*Go and preach the gospel ‘til there is no more night.*  
*(In the name of Jesus Christ, carry the Light.)*  
*(last time 4x)*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Zambo

\* \* \*

TODAY'S USHERS are Lou Converse (8:30) , Marianne Lauer, Al Nickerson and Mandy Teare.

***A Confirmation Prayer***

May the FAITH you confirm today  
Be your key  
To open the doors to....  
HOPE, when all seems lost,  
JOY, when despair consumes you,  
LOVE, when hatred afflicts you, and  
PEACE, when turmoil surrounds you.

Guard it well  
And keep it close,  
This precious key,  
For when it is lost  
All is lost.  
But when it is found,  
It will set you free  
And always guide you HOME.

*Annabel Cruz*

## **A CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**

YOU ARE HEREBY CALLED TO THE  
“ANNUAL MEETING: PART II–PROGRAMS”  
OF  
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

This meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **May 7, 2017**  
immediately following our 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to:

- \* receive the 2017 nominating reports,
- \* receive committee program reports,
- \* address any other business or concern relating to the life of our parish,  
which may properly be brought before the assembled congregation.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

**Copies of the Nominations Committee proposed slate  
are available outside the church office and on the church website.**



## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DEDICATE A HYMNAL TO SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A BOOKPLATE**

Please see inside back cover. Return your completed form to the church office.

### **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](mailto: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!

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

*The First Congregational Church of Darien Helps!*

**Undie Sunday!** On Sunday, May 7th, instead of food first, we will have Undies Sunday! The Undies Project is working with local churches to gather new men's women's and children's underwear for those in need to help improve their lives. Underwear are the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing and no one should be deprived of the simple, daily necessity of clean underwear that many of us take for granted. All donations received from Undie Sunday will be distributed through local organizations such as Person-to-Person, Pacific House, Clothes to Kids of Fairfield County and Project Return, to name a few. Visit [www.theundiesproject.org](http://www.theundiesproject.org) for more information and bring those new undies to church May 7th!!

**Person-to-Person Postal Drive May 13th** - Mark your calendars to help Person-to-Person through the annual Postal Drive. Person-to-Person needs volunteers all day to help collect and sort food. Stay tuned for a sign up link

**Liberation Programs June 8th** - Come one come all to the 2017 Sprit of Hope benefit on Thursday, June 8 at the Woodway Country Club. Liberation Programs is an important outreach partner whose mission is to empower people and their families to be free of the disease of addiction by providing targeted solutions that restore lives and strengthen our community. We are organizing tables for FCC members. Come as a guest or make a contribution if you can — just come! Please contact John Bassler for more information at [johnbassler@gmail.com](mailto:johnbassler@gmail.com).

**Pacific House Gala Date has been changed!!** Due to a recent fire at The Italian Center, Pacific House has rescheduled its 16th annual Gala from May 6th to Friday, **October 6, 2017**. The Church will be presented with the 2017 David Mond Award for its 25 years of volunteer and financial support. Please mark your calendars!! **For years Pacific House has relied on funds generated from the gala to help sustain services through the summer months. With the gala date change, they have lost this essential source of revenue. If you are able to help Pacific House sustain itself through the summer, they would appreciate your support now. Please visit [pacifichouse.org](http://pacifichouse.org) for more information and to make a donation.**

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!

**Tickets are now on sale for The June 8th Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart!** We hope that you will join in the fun by attending the tour and/or volunteering for a shift.

Discounted tickets available to those who staff a shift at a house! Visit [darienhousetour.org](http://darienhousetour.org) for more information!

*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



## Hymns of Truth & Light

**Dedicate a hymnal to someone special with a bookplate!**

The cost of adding a personalized bookplate is \$25 per hymnal. Please fill out the following form, printing clearly so that your name and that of a loved one are readable and reproducible on a bookplate:

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**>>To honor the memory of a loved one:**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

**>To celebrate someone special:**

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

**>>To dedicate a meetinghouse hymnal(s) in your family name:**

Your family name: \_\_\_\_\_

>>Otherwording: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Total number of hymnals ordered above: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due with this order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Price: \$25ea)

(Please make check out to First Congregational Church of Darien, with "hymnal" in the memo section, and leave it and the form in the church office.)

**Thank you! Through your purchase, you are helping subsidize the cost of these hymnals to the church.**

**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**

**MONDAY, MAY 1**

Bell Choir, 4:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Wing Meeting Room

**TUESDAY, MAY 2**

Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**

*(remember "Undies Sunday!")*

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Annual Meeting Part II (Programs), 11:00 a.m.

**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*