



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
Phone: 203-655-0491 Fax: 203-655-7620
E-mail: info@uccdarien.org
www.uccdarien.org



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 4, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.

**COUNTING
THE COST**

LUKE 14:25-33

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 4, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.

Childcare available for 2nd Graders and under in the administrative wing Meeting Room.
Doris Torres, our devoted Nursery Room caregiver and a teen will have games,
coloring and relaxing activities.

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Daniel Hague

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger, Pastor

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN

“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,



(continued)

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS” (cont’d)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (continued). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system is labeled "Refrain" and includes the lyrics: "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!". The second system includes the lyrics: "Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have". The third system includes the lyrics: "need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed— Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!".

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsively*)

God looks upon humankind to see if any are wise.
Who of us seeks the reign of God, above all else?

**We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth.
We gather here for strength to serve the Lord.**

The winds of God blow to winnow and purify.
They sweep through our midst to reveal truth.

**Have mercy on us, God, to purify our flaws;
do not let your wrath burn too hot against us.**

Remember your promises to us, Lord God.
Create in us new hearts and renewed spirits.

**We desire to know you, and grow in faithfulness.
Confront us and show us your way from the void.**

*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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JEREMIAH 18:1-11

Phil Meyer, Deacon

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

*HYMN

"HERE AT THY TABLE, LORD"



1. Here at thy ta - ble, Lord, this sa - cred hour,
 2. Sit at the feast, dear Lord, break thou the bread;
 3. Come then, O ho - ly Christ, feed us, we pray;



O let us feel thee near, in lov - ing power;
 fill thou the cup that brings life to the dead;
 touch with thy pierc - ed hand each com - mon day;



call - ing our thoughts a - way from self and sin.
 that we may find in thee, par - don and peace;
 mak - ing this earth - ly life full of thy grace,



As to thy ban - quet hall we en - ter in.
 and from all bond - age win a full re - lease.
 till in the home of heaven we find our place.



GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 14: 25-33

Rev. Rosenberger

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

SERMON

“DON’T JUST STUMBLE INTO THIS ARRANGEMENT”

OFFERTORY***DOXOLOGY**

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)*

O God, giver of all good things, you continually pour benefits upon us. Age after age the living wait on you and find no end to your generosity. We celebrate that despite evil and suffering, the mystery of life is one of endless goodness. We praise you for every gift of loveliness and usefulness, as we lay our gifts before your watchful gaze. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

CALL TO PRAYER

(Leader) The Lord be with you.
(Congregation) **And also with you.**
(Leader) Lift up your hearts.
(Congregation) **We lift them up to the Lord.**
(Leader) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
(Congregation) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*SANCTUS

 “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”
 Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
 My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(unison)

Heavenly Father, we praise and extol you, for you have again amply blessed us at the table of Jesus. You have satisfied us with the food and drink of eternal life, and you have assigned us the signs and seals of your mercy. Having been fulfilled before your altar, we now offer ourselves, our bodies and souls, as a holy offering, that all of us who have united with Jesus Christ may grow daily in faith, rejoice in hope, and enrich one another in community. May your holy name bring praise, glory, honor and blessing, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN

“I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS”

(next page)

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Unison

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
4. Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
Je - sus?— No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Daniel Hague

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Gary Holmes and Phil Meyer.

TODAY'S MUSIC: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," Text: Thomas Obediah Chisholm, Tune: William Marion Runyan. Copyright © 1951 by Hope Publishing Co. Used by Permission. OneLicense #A-711855 . "Here at Thy Table, Lord," Words: Mary P. Hoyt (19th century). Music: William F. Sherwin, 1877. Public Domain. "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," Words and Music: Anonymous. Public Domain.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIUM

A memorial service for Lorraine Fenn has been planned for Saturday, September 17th at 3:00 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Please also note:

A memorial service has been planned for church member, Gus Hedlund, to be held on Saturday, October 29, at 10:30 a.m. – at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Please keep both of these families in your thoughts and prayers.

TEACHING TEAM NEEDED FOR GRADE LEVELS PRE-K/1ST, 4TH -7TH!!

Calling parents to step up and volunteer one Sunday a month throughout September 4th - June to assist, and facilitate Sunday School classes. We wish to remind parents how important and gratifying it is to encourage and be an active participant in your child's faith journey. Please note that all lessons are prepared for you in advance. When there are teams of 6 parents per grade sections (eg. K/1, 2/3,...) the rotation of committed Sundays becomes less frequent.

COMPANION HYMNALS - DON'T MISS OUT!!!

Over the summer, the new blue companion hymnals will be arriving!! For \$25 each, why not have one or two in your favorite pew with your name or a loves ones name personalized inside?? These new hymnals will complement the Pilgrim Hymnals. Only a limited number are being ordered, so do not delay! Order forms are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Questions, please contact kristindesautelle@gmail.com. Thank you!

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics book group will be meeting on Wednesday, September 21st, at 3:00 in the library. We will be discussing James Hilton's Lost Horizon (remember "Shangra-la"?) We are a relaxed and fun group - not highbrow - and welcome newcomers (for one book, or ongoing). Contact Sally Bassler (203-655-9658 or sbassler13@gmail.com)

Welcome Back to Church

PICNIC

A series of black silhouettes depicting various picnic activities: a woman holding a drink, a child with a dog, a person sitting at a table with a picnic basket, a person standing, a person with a camera, a person with a grill, a person with a kite, and a person with a child.

Sunday, September 11, 2016
Right after our 10 a.m. "Jazz Worship" service

FOOD
LIVE MUSIC
ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS

JOIN US!
BRING A FRIEND!!

The First Congregational Church of Darien
14 Brookside Road, Darien CT
(203) 655-0491



Under the Sacred Canopy: A Racial Reconciliation Sunday

Sunday, September 18, 2016

First Congregational Church of Darien

14 Brookside Road, Darien

www.uccdarien.org

10:00 a.m. Service

The Rev. Dr. Paul Smith
will deliver the sermon entitled,
“On Going Deep”
The Rev. Nolan Williams Jr.
will lead our music program

11:15 a.m. 11th Hour Panel Discussion

A discussion on race relations and
religion in our country today
*Refreshments and Childcare
will be provided*

Special Guests and Panelists



Rev. Paul Smith is a Civil Rights veteran, minister, educator, author, and diversity role model. With Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ambassador Andrew Young as friends and mentors, Dr. Paul Smith entered the ministry in 1960. He soon became a stalwart marcher in the US Civil Rights Movement. Inspired and guided by theologian and mystic Dr. Howard Thurman, Dr. Smith has made diversity and inclusiveness hallmarks of his life's work. Dr. Smith has created unique and successful models of multi-cultural worship and interfaith collaboration at churches in Buffalo, NY, St. Louis, MO, Atlanta, GA, Brooklyn, NY, and now Darien, CT.



Rev. Dale Rosenberger is the senior pastor at The First Congregational Church of Darien. A native of Michigan, Rev. Rosenberger earned a B. Phil. in psychology from Thomas Jefferson College of Allendale, Michigan in 1975 and his M. Div. from Yale University Divinity School in 1979. Rev. Rosenberger has served local churches in Illinois, Ohio, Colorado, Cape Cod, and two here in Connecticut. He has authored three books, the first on spiritual authority, the second on how to do Christian outreach, and most recently, a practical theology of shared intimacy for couples.



Catalina Horak is the Executive Director of Neighbors Link Stamford. Neighbors Link Stamford strives to strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of immigrants through education (English language, computer and other classes), empowerment (connecting individuals and families with schools, health, legal, law enforcement and other vital services), and employment (helping individual to develop job skills and find successful employment).



Rev. Nolan Williams Jr. is a musicologist, theologian, American songwriter, and producer. Best known for his work as Chief Music Editor of the bestselling *African American Heritage Hymnal*—a critically acclaimed compendium of music, with sales now surpassing 300,000 books worldwide, Rev. Williams is a noted scholar who has lectured extensively around the country. Rev. Williams serves as Minister of Music at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

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.

**Join Us For Our Annual
Blessing of the Animals**

**Sunday, September 25
during our 10:00 a.m.
worship service (rain or shine)**

**Pony Rides-Petting Zoo
&
Car Wash-Pet Wash
(benefiting our Youth Group)
weather permitting**



Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, *Senior Minister (emergency pager)* 1-(203) 368-7789

Gary 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*

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