



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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WELCOME BACK SUNDAY
A CELEBRATORY JAZZ REUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE
September 11, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.



Children should report directly to their Church School classrooms, upon arrival.

*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

Katharine & Kompany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN #418

“SING TO THE MOUNTAINS”

Refrain

Sing to the moun-tains, sing to the sea. Raise your voic - es,
lift your hearts. This is the Lord has made. Let all the
earth re - joice. Let all the earth re - joice.

to Verses Last time

Verse 1

1. I will give thanks to you, my Lord. You have
1. an - swered my plea. You have saved my
1. soul from death. You are my strength and my song.

3. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and re - joice.

3. Death has lost and all is life. Sing of the glo - ry of God.

to Refrain

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Lord our God, in holiness and splendor,
and love so strong that the stars tremble...

**...you have come to earth in Jesus the Christ
to reveal the depths of your love and save us.**

In response to how you have given us lives worth living,
we resolve new commitment to praise and serve Christ.

**Bless these, our promises: boundless celebration,
deepened prayer, renewed energy, and fresh service.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gary Morello, Associate Minister

***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.**

VOLUNTARY

Katharine & Kompany

LITANY OF CELEBRATION

Lord God, we thank you for this world's amazing variety of shape and texture, color and sound;
for the winsome charm which the bodies of all living things display, and for the creative genius
of life amid routine simplicities, or the complexity of artistic imagination.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let all the earth rejoice.

We thank you for the genius of creative expression, O God, how its inspiration always points to
you, that the depths of what lies within might be grasped by things without. May it give us
respect for your revelation as we come to understand how you govern all things.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let all the earth rejoice.

We know from the life of Jesus that you bring about your reign, O God, not by crushing or
compelling others into conforming, but by showing and convincing us what is the truth. Remind
us that, as we glimpse you, it is more owing to your grace than to our insight. Save us from
arrogance. Fill us with grace. Grant us a routine sense of the miraculous.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let all the earth rejoice.

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LITANY OF CELEBRATION (continued)

(sung in unison)

“Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea.
Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord hath made.
Let all the earth rejoice.”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 61:10-11

Mary Ann Freeman, Deacon

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations..

Unison

1. Why should I feel dis - cour-aged, why should the
 2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten - der
 3. When - ev - er I am tempt-ed, when - ev - er

shad-ows come, why should my heart be lone - ly
 word I hear, and rest - ing on his good-ness,
 clouds a - rise, when song gives place to sigh - ing,

and long for heaven and home, when Je - sus is my
 I lose my doubts and fears; though by the path he
 when hope with - in me dies, I draw the clos - er

por-tion? My con-stant friend is he: his eye is
 lead-eth but one step I may see: his eye is
 to him, from care he sets me free: his eye is

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HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW (cont'd)

on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his
on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his
on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his

eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.
eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.
eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain Harmony

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, I
I'm hap-py,

sing be-cause I'm free, for his eye is
I'm free,

on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

SERMON

“WHAT MAKES YOUR HEART SING?”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERING

Offertory

“PRAISING SONG”

Marvin Curtis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE(unison)*

Mysterious and elusive God,
 Things are not always what they seem.
 Moses spies an ordinary bush suddenly ablaze;
 three ethereal visitors appear to Abraham and Sarah;
 a strong angel wrestles with Jacob throughout the night.
 In all these moments of disguise, you encounter your people.
 They all wrestled with and entertained heaven’s angels unaware.
 They found themselves in sacred temples in the middle of nowhere.
 Even Jesus Christ, born as a humble carpenter in Nazareth,
 was veiled glowing in lustrous white light in the mountain mists.
 Your risen Son was unrecognized along the road to Emmaus.
 He was mistaken as ghost and gardener by his closest followers.
 Out of mystery, Lord our God, as you appear in the guise of stranger.
 So reveal to us the care and kindness and welcome we might extend
 to each person we encounter along life’s wondrous, twisting path.
 Most of all, grant that we may not turn you away,
 unaware of your many cloaks and covers,
 unexpectant of the holiness of the moment.
 So transform and transfigure us along with Jesus
 Until all corners of creation shows forth your glory
 and we become your witnesses to the ends of the earth.



1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv-ing.
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?



* * *

IN MEMORIUM

A memorial service has been planned for former church member, Lorraine Fenn, to be held at FCCD, on 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.

TODAY’S USHERS are April Barker, Mary Ann Freeman and Anne MacInnes.

TODAY’S SPECIAL GUEST ENSEMBLE: Katharine and Kompany
Katharine Hedlund, Piano and Vocals, Nick Trautmann, Bass Willie Bruno, Drums

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

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 during 2016-17. Please help!

Our mission: We put faith into action by addressing the needs of others. Our first priority is helping those who lack the most immediate, basic necessities, whether locally, nationally or internationally. We promote permanent and systemic improvements in people's lives by contributing both financially and physically to hands-up programs.

Our source of funds: Outreach funds include 10% of pledged income, 4% of mission endowment, and annual fundraiser - the House Tour!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of The June 2016 *Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart*. We welcomed over 500 people on the tour, 100 for the after-party, and raised over \$60,000 for our beneficiaries, in particular, The Thriving Youth Initiative of The Community Fund of Darien. Other beneficiaries include: ABC House of Darien, At Home in Darien, Center for Hope, Child Guidance Center, Church World Services, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Elderhouse, Feed My Starving Children, George Washington Carver, Habitat for Humanity, Inspirica, Laurel House, Liberation Programs, Neighbors Link, New Covenant House, Open Door Shelter, Person-to-Person, The Center for Sexual Assault, Shelter for the Homeless, and STAR.

We will be busy in 2016-17!

Please join us for the following upcoming events and stay tuned for more!

- Food First - please bring your non-perishable food items to church on the first Sunday of each month. Food will be distributed to local shelters.
- Cook/Serve for the Open Door Shelter: cook Thursday, September 29th , 8 a.m. at FCCD church kitchen, serve Friday, September 30th 11:45 a.m. at the Open Door Shelter.
- September 30, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Neighbors Link Family Night - join us for a night of fun as we eat and socialize with new immigrants in our area, helping them to acclimate to our country and culture. Bring your family! It's a fun event!!
- November 5, December 12: Habitat for Humanity Build Day in Bridgeport. 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 hraker@me.com to get involved in any of these events.

Thank you for your help and support this year!

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



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.

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



CALENDAR

Monday, September 12

Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room
Board of Stewards, 7:45 p.m. in the Admin Wing Meeting Room

Thursday, September 15

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

Saturday, September 17

Memorial Service for Lorraine Fenn, 3:00 p.m. in Parish Hall (reception to follow)

Sunday, September 18

Under the Sacred Canopy: A Racial Recognition Sunday
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (only)

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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