



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



*Welcome Back Sunday
A Jazz Celebration of the Gospel
September 13, 2015*

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY
A JAZZ CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL
September 13, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

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

Katharine & Kompany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN**

“I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS”

(page 5)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Life is even better than the fresh goodness of
a new morning dawn would lead us to believe.

**How else can we respond but with praise and gladness?
This is the day when the Lord God lifts us to new places.**

Life is even better than our greatest dreams
or most unlikely hopes could possibly imagine.

**We thank God for his gifts by erupting with praise.
Today is the day the Lord God makes holy for joy.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

(all uniting)

**God before us and God behind us,
God for us one, and God for us all,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Creator of sea and sky, Governor of day and night.
We give thanks for your carefully orchestrated gift of life,
for rhythms that measure,
for harmonies that soothe,
for melodies that point the way.
We thank you for the balance and equilibrium of life,
as we treasure days to work and nights to rest,
days to strive and nights for repose,
days to plan and nights to dream.
And so be to us at once our body and our spirit,
our individuality and our community
our heaven and our earth,
and in the end our true home,
as we remember how Jesus invited us to pray, saying...**

***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**

**"Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burden down,
glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burden down."**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL

VOLUNTARY

"MAKE A WAY FOR ME/ A CHANGE IS GONNA' COME"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ECCLESIASTES 3.1-8 Anne MacInnes, Deacon

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ACTS 2.41-47 Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON “WITH GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS” Rev. Rosenberger

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

OFFERTORY JAZZ ALLELUIA Craig Curry

***HYMN** “I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME” *(page 6)*

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE Katharine and Kompany

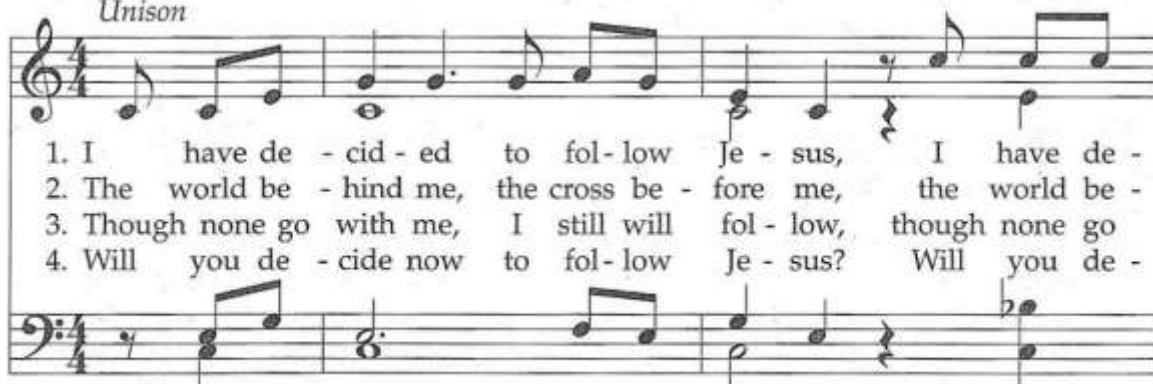
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TODAY’S SPECIAL GUEST ENSEMBLE: Katharine and Kompany
Katharine Hedlund ,Piano and Vocals Nick Trautmann, Bass Willie Bruno, Drums

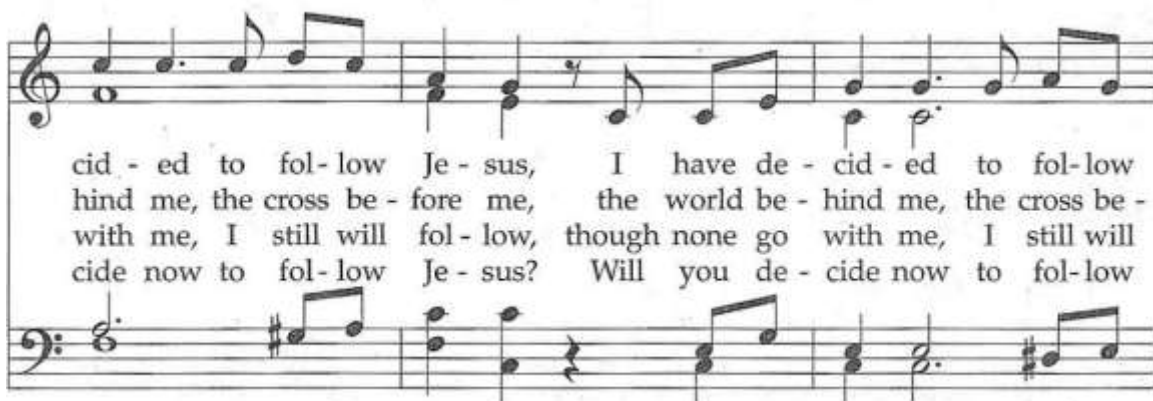
TODAY’S USHERS are Lou Converse, Anne MacInnes and Lauren Ryder.

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.

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

Capo 3: Play Am *Unison* Am E7 Am E7 Am Em

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.

Am C G7 C E7 Am

I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.

E7 Am Bmin7,5 G7 Am

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

Fdim G7 Am Dm7 Am E7 Am Dm Am

O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

OUR CONGREGATION'S MISSION STATEMENT

We are a congregation that sees the image of God in one another and follows the teachings of Jesus.

We are a congregation of progressive and open faith that seeks not to convince, but to listen and discern truth through discussion, education and prayer.

We are a congregation of justice that sees and responds to the needs of others and is willing to stand against the winds of popular opinion.

We are a congregation of people who respect and care for one another and enthusiastically participate in the life, legacy and work of our historic church.

All are welcome to share in our work of the present, and our hope for the future.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on Search for Associate Minister

Over the summer, the search committee created the job description, developed a Church Profile, and began posting our opening for an Associate Minister. A number of candidates have already submitted their Ministerial Profiles, and we are scheduling phone interviews as the next step in zeroing in on the most promising candidates. We are still looking for additional candidates and “word of mouth” can be powerful: if you know anyone who might help us spread the word (for example, the minister of your previous church), please let us know so we can contact them.

As a reminder, the job description (available through the church office) puts the heaviest emphasis on youth ministry (from church school to confirmation to youth group), while also including a role in worship, both on Sunday mornings (as liturgist, occasionally preaching) and for the “Come as You Are” Sunday afternoon services. The Associate Minister will also share in adult education and pastoral care. In considering candidates, the committee is focused on personal qualities we would like to see in an Associate Minister, reflected in terms such as engaging, energetic, “people person”, sense of humor, passionate, compassionate, collaborative, credible, confident but not cocky, taking the initiative, well organized.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the committee chair, Jon Bigelow (jonbigelow@thayerpond.com or 203-563-9331) or any of the members – Gayle Appleby, Caroline Burke, Roisin Burke, Kelsey Cochrane, Lou Converse, Mary Ann Freeman, Dale Rosenberger, Ollie Shultz, and David Young.

Registering Your Family For Christian Education Programs

Each year we ask families to complete registration forms for Church School and Youth Group. This year, we have simplified the process by having one family registration form. You can register your entire family and can indicate which programs: Church School, Youth Group, Junior Choir, Confirmation, or Teen Nursery Helper your child/ren wish to participate in. Importantly, updating your information will allow us to make sure our electronic distribution lists are up-to-date and ready to go. All families with children newborn through grade 12 should have received the form via mail. Please complete and return to the Church office. Copies are available outside the Church office and the Church School/Youth Group office. Look for the orange forms and complete yours today!

Classics Book Group

The Classics Book Group is going to read Middlemarch, by George Elliott over the summer. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 23 at 3:00pm. Speak with any of us if you may be interested: Judith Sinche, Barbara Thorne, Gary Holmes, Marny Smith, Marnie Hodil, Ann Ferris, Kathy Monro or Sally Bassler.

Red Cross Blood Drive at FCC - Please Give Blood!

The American Red Cross reminds you that in only about an hour, volunteer blood donors can help save lives and feel instant gratification.

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.

Please give blood at our church on **Wednesday September 30th** between the hours of 1:30 and 6:30 p.m.

**To schedule an appointment please call
1-800-RED CROSS ~ 1-800-733-2767
or visit us online at
Redcrossblood.org**

Women's Association News

Ladies,

It's time to get involved and help out your Women Association. Please come to an organizational meeting on Thursday, September 17 to discuss plans for this year and ideas for the Fall Fair, our only fundraiser this year.

I'll have a dinner salad and drinks to serve those wonderful gals who attend! Hope to see you there.

RSVP Michael Chiodo
machiodo1@gmail.com
203-655-4892



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
6TH ANNUAL TOWN WIDE EVENT IS AROUND THE CORNER
OCTOBER 17TH – 18TH, 2015
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

September 20, 2015 – Kids Cook for Kids Breakfast will be held Sunday, September 20, 2015 in Parish Hall. Sign up now so we can insure we have all your favorites ready either before Service or after. All proceeds go towards the FMSC Packing Event.

October 17th – 18th; 6th Annual FMSC Packing event at Middlesex Middle School. Sign up will open soon. We will keep you posted. Come help the Board of Outreach and the Churches of Darien pack 200,000 meals for hungry children around the world.

Participation VERY rewarding!

Any questions, please see Nina Miller (pokebox@aol.com) or Tracey Berry (tbcb@optonline.net)

“Blessed are those who are generous because they feed the poor.” --Proverbs 22:9

Adult Bible Study

Join us for our weekly Bible Study, based on the upcoming Sunday’s scriptural text, upon which Dale will preach. It will be a seminar style Bible Study, with all invited to contribute and participate. It is held each Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., in the Morehouse Room. Everyone is welcome! No prerequisites required!

GLOBAL MISSION

Habitat for Humanity Global Village Work Trip January 9-17, 2016

Ever since returning from our fruitful 2014 work trip to the Dominican Republic, members have eagerly inquired into our next Habitat for Humanity work trip. We now have a date and a destination. All we need is up to 15 hearty work trippers.

As of now our travel dates are **Sat., Jan 9 to Sun., Jan. 17, 2016**. This might shift a day or so, depending on the availability of inexpensive flights. (We are always cost conscious.) Our week of work is what happens in between.

(continued)

Habitat for Humanity Global Village Work Trip January 9-17, 2016 – cont'd

Our group will number up to 15 with FCC members having first priority at securing a spot on the Costa Rica trip. An \$800 deposit holds your place. You need not be a body builder, a skilled laborer, or a construction worker to go, just be in good health. We all work at our own pace and support one another. The work is important because it bonds us with our hosts. But productivity is not the only or even top priority. The top priority is spiritually sharing our varied gifts as God's beloved children among different people. We fly into and out of San Jose, C.R., pausing to orient ourselves with Habitat as we arrive, and to catch our breath and pause before we depart.

We'll work at the Habitat affiliate in Guanacaste, next to Nicaragua on the Pacific Ocean side. The views are gorgeous, but the poverty is crushing. In this region, the poor live in huts of wood, palm trees or discarded stuff, which are roofed with rusty corrugated tin sheets. In many cases, two families live in one small house. It's not uncommon to find grandparents, parents and children living in the same room and sharing beds. Dirt floors and unvented cooking spaces make health hazards for families.

We will stay in a modest local hotel with clean rooms and hot showers. Simple, tasty (and safe!) meals are served to us as a group. Of course we'll learn about the history, politics and economy of the people, as we go.

We begin each day with short devotions at the work site. We usually work in subgroups of 3 to 4. Box lunches arrive from the hotel. We pick up the work in the afternoon and return "home" for dinner. After cleaning up and dinner, we go for walks and end with group evening devotions. This is our chance to process our day and live the experience as a spiritual pilgrimage.

I anticipate a trip cost in the \$1,700 range. Most of that is airfare. Each participant pays his/her own way (including me). All donations —to the last penny!—go toward building simple homes for the working poor who will pay for these sturdy homes. The homes resist hurricanes using a modular construction we flirted with in the Dominican Republic.

I've led 11 such trips resulting in 79 new homes now occupied by families. As owners pay for their new homes the funds build more homes through Habitat. With this winning formula Habitat has built over a million homes.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

ALL PETS AND ANIMAL LOVERS WELCOME!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015
10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Come and join us for a service of Blessing to give thanks for the animals and to celebrate their lives and how they enrich our lives.

We hope you will come along with your pet or a photo of an animal you love or even one of an endangered species in the wild. Treasured stuffed animal toys are also welcome!

All animals must be on a leash or in a secure pen for the safety of other animals.

The service will be held on the lawn outside the church or inside if it rains. There will be refreshments (for humans and animals!)

If you would like more information, kindly contact the church office:

e-mail: dhanlon@uccdarien.org

Telephone: (203) 655-0491

<http://www.uccdarien.org>

Pony Rides



Petting Zoo



First Congregational Church of Darien
14 Brookside Road, Darien



Youth Group Car & Pet Wash



Sunday, September 27
11:00-1:00 p.m.

\$10 per car; \$10 per pet

After the Blessing of the Animals service,
you can get your car and/or pet washed!
Look for us in the lower parking lot.

All proceeds will benefit the
2015-16 Youth Group
and our upcoming activities and service projects.

The First Congregational Church of Darien
invites you to a series of Sunday afternoon

Come As You Are Services

September 20, October 18, November 15, and
December 20 at 5:00 p.m. in the Circle Room of
Parish Hall

Given the success of last year's "Come As You Are" services, we will be offering them again this fall at 5:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, with the possibility of offering them more frequently in the new year. The services will be led by our interim Youth Minister Gary Morello. Key elements of the service include:

- A casual and more contemporary worship service, lasting about 45 minutes.
- Designed for people of all ages, from teens and young adults, to families with young children and empty-nesters.
- The service consists of a short message and a combination of contemporary music, familiar hymns, upbeat choruses and prayerful songs.

Join us wearing jeans and sneakers, t-shirts and winter boots, or whatever else you have on; whether you're coming from the slopes, the city, a game or just hanging out at home, come just as you are to this welcoming and friendly worship service.



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CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

“Welcome Back” picnic, following the 10:00 a.m. service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room
Board of Stewards, 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Associate Minister Search Committee, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

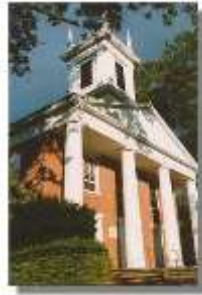
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Feed My Starving Children Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

LOOKING FOR A NEW CHURCH? ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

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.



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



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*

Gary Morello, *Interim Youth Minister* Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator*

Carlos Maya, *Weekday Sexton* Ulises Mendez, *Sunday Sexton*