



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
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**Under the Sacred Canopy:  
A Racial Reconciliation Sunday  
September 18, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.**



# **Under the Sacred Canopy: A Racial Reconciliation Sunday**

**September 18, 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**

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

**SONG OF PURPOSE**

“SAY SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING”

led by Nolan Williams Jr.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

Like generations of faithful who have gone before us,  
we keep our eyes focused upon God’s redeeming love.

**We keep our gaze set upon a love from above.**

God uses our many hands to embrace and bind up  
countless hurts of God’s creation and of all peoples.

**We keep our feet ready to travel an extra mile.**

Let our eyes see light even within darkness and  
spy new potential where most only see dead ends.

**We keep our hearts ready for joy, mouths ready for praise.**

**\*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.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**TO THE CREATOR OF ALL PEOPLES**

To the Creator of all peoples, who loves us all, for the best use of all your gifts, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

That each woman, man, and child may be respected and valued as your child, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

That the Church may be a witness and a beacon of unity among all peoples, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

That we might become instruments overcoming histories we can no longer own, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

For a reconciling spirit among peoples who share a common humanity in you, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

That the hearts of the diminished and those who have reduced them would turn, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

That we strive until our common life corresponds to the true human dignity of all, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

For all prophet leaders who refused to accept the world as it seemed it must be, we pray,

**Lord of all, hear our prayer.**

For ongoing conversion until lives turn and open toward your glorious destiny, we pray,

**Lord of all--may thy kingdom come, thy will be done among us. 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

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

PSALM 139:1-12, 21-22

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

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O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night',  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?  
I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.

**ANTHEM**

“HOLY GROUND”

Geron Davis  
setting by Nolan Williams Jr.

**SERMON**

“ON GOING DEEP”

Dr. Paul Smith

**OFFERTORY**

“BIRMINGHAM LETTER”

led by Nolan Williams Jr.  
and Voices of Inspiration

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(unison)*

**Lord, open unto me.  
Open unto me — light for my darkness.  
Open unto me — courage for my fear.  
Open unto me — hope for my despair.  
Open unto me — peace for my turmoil.  
Open unto me — joy for my sorrow.  
Open unto me — strength for my weakness.  
Open unto me — wisdom for my confession.  
Open unto me — forgiveness for my sins.  
Open unto me — love for my hates.  
Open unto me — thy Self for my self.  
Lord, Lord, open unto me!  
Amen.**

**-Howard Thurman**

**INTERLUDE/INTRODUCTION OF THE PANELISTS**

John Wygal

**POSTLUDE**

\* \* \*

**TODAY’S USHERS** are Karalesa DiFabio, Mary Ann Freeman and Dave Miller.

## **TODAY'S GUESTS:**

**Rev. Dr. 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.

**Catalina Horak (Panelist)** 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).

**Dr. Steven Jones (Moderator)** is nationally known as one of "America's Top Experts on Diversity" (Diversity, Inc., 2005) and is an author, national speaker, diversity thought leader, and transformational facilitator. He holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, a master's in Multicultural Counseling, and a Ph.D. in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology. He is the author of *Journey to Excellence*, a transformational book helping people define and achieve excellence in their lives and is the founder and CEO of JONES & Associates, a firm committed to making a widespread positive impact in the world in the area of diversity, inclusion, and organizational excellence.

**Rev. Nolan Williams Jr. (Special Musical Guest)** 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.

***I Dream a World*** by Langston Hughes

*I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!*

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **DO I KNOW YOU? ARE YOU NEW HERE? I KNOW WE'VE MET BUT...**

Ever feel at a loss when you don't know or forget someone's name at church? **Never fear, NAMETAGS are here!** Given the growth of our church and so many new faces, we thought it would be helpful for church members to wear nametags when attending church services.

Beginning **October 2**, you will find "nametag ambassadors" at the entrance of Parish Hall with boards of magnetic nametags, already labeled and ready to go with your very own nametag. Grab yours, put it on (magnets mean no holes in your clothes) and wear it throughout the service and especially after service when you are visiting with other church members. Before you head home, please put your nametag back on the board and it will be there when you return next Sunday!

If you have any questions, or would like to be a "nametag ambassador", please contact David Young ([davidy@hmnads.com](mailto:davidy@hmnads.com)) or Nancy Sheed ([nmsheed@yahoo.com](mailto:nmsheed@yahoo.com)) for more information.

## **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!!!**

The new blue companion hymnals have arrived!! 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](mailto: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. Please help!

- Cook/Serve for the Open Door Shelter - Thursday, September 29, 8 am - join us to cook in the church kitchen. Friday, September 30, 11:45 am - join us to serve at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk. Please email Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help.

- September 30, 2016, 6 - 8 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!! Please email Anna Denoyer at [anna.denoyer@gmail.com](mailto:anna.denoyer@gmail.com) to join in the fun!

- Walk a Mile in Her Shoes - October 1st 9 am — Come out to cheer on our first responders as they walk a mile in red high heels! This walk is sponsored by the Darien Domestic Abuse Council who will be raising funds to support the victims of domestic violence. Please join other FCCD members on the corner of Nearwater Lane and the Post Road at 9 am. Feel free to make a sign showing our first responders the love!

- Food First - please bring your non-perishable food items to church on the first Sunday of each month - coming up October 2nd! Food will be distributed to local shelters.

- Habitat for Humanity Build Day in Bridgeport - November 5, December 12. 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 Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help.

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

*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

## INFORMAL INFORMATION SESSIONS: MEETINGHOUSE RENOVATION

This project has moved forward according to plan during the summer. The emergency shoring is in place, the roof structure is stable, attic insulation is removed, and the organ is professionally protected in anticipation of construction work. A full survey and evaluation of failing trusses and ceiling has been completed. Scaffolding is to be erected in the next couple of days to facilitate the removal of the current failing “gypsum” ceiling.

We anticipate full construction drawings next week, final estimate for renovation/remediation early October with work (pending congregational approval) starting mid-October. (Save the date, 11<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> – official call next week).

Many of you may be curious to learn more about these plans, Andrew Barnard and Caroline Burke will be in the Morehouse Room at the following times over the next couple of Sundays:

Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15

Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:15, 11:00 and 5:15pm

Please feel free to drop in as you are able.

## **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***



## First Congregational Church of Darien Presents:



2016-2017

Join us for our Sunday afternoon Worship Services on  
**September 25, October 16, November 13, December 18 (2016)**  
**January 22, February 12, March 19, April 23, May 21 (2017)**

We know that traditional Sunday morning worship doesn't work for everyone so we will be offering a Come As You Are worship service in Parish Hall at 4:30pm!

### *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. Led by our Associate Minister Gary M. Morello, with a short message and a combination of contemporary music, familiar hymns, upbeat choruses and prayerful songs. The First Congregational Church of Darien: 14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820 (203) 655-0491 [www.uccdarien.org](http://www.uccdarien.org).



## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, September 21**

Classics Book Group, 3:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

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

### **Thursday, September 22**

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

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, September 25**

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.

Informal Information Sessions: Meetinghouse Roof/Ceiling Project,  
Morehouse Room at 9:15, 11:00 and 5:15

Blessing of the Animals Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Car Wash/Pet Wash to benefit the Youth Group, 11 a.m. in the lower lot

“Come As You Are” Worship Service at 4:30 p.m.

**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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