



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
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***SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***  
***September 20, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***

**BECOMING** **THE**  
~~**GREATEST!**~~  
**Least!**

Mark 9:30-37

***SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***  
***September 20, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 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**

Maxim Pakhomov

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #366**

“GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

*(omit v.2)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(responsively)*

We gather confidently in the name of Jesus Christ,  
hoping to hear and live out the word he brings for us.

**We gather before the One who is heir to all things.  
Jesus is the core of God’s ongoing work of creation.**

Who are we that God is so mindful of us,  
even crowning us with glory and honor?

**Long ago, the Lord spoke to our faith ancestors.  
God is still speaking. May we have ears to hear!**

Jesus names us as his brothers and sisters.  
In his eyes, all persons are children of God.

**God’s realm of favor is for everyone.  
God’s dominion rules for all creation.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Rosenberger

**\*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

**BAPTISM OF VICTORIA ALEXANDRA DUNN** (10:00 only)

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

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**EPISTLE LESSON**

JAMES 3:13-4:3, 7-8

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30 a.m.)

Stephen Weeden, Deacon (10:00 a.m.)

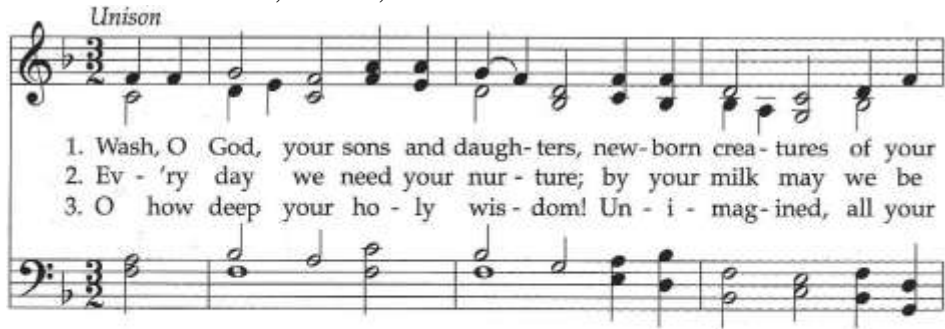
**\*HYMN**

“WASH, O GOD, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS”

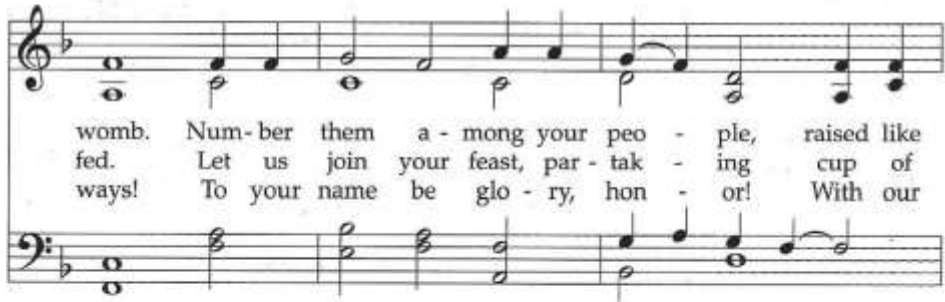
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“WASH, O GOD, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS”

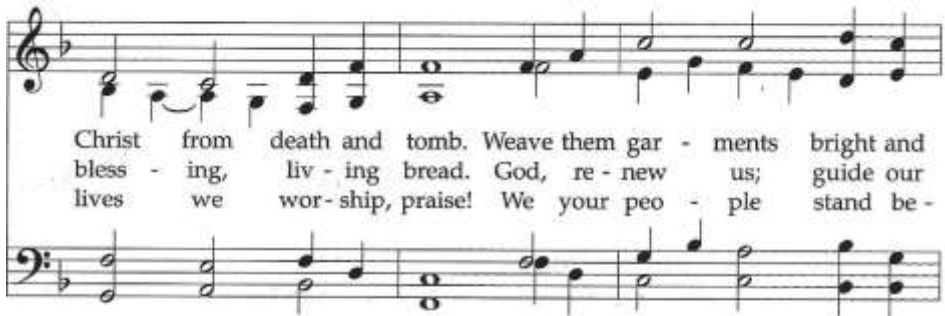
*Unison*



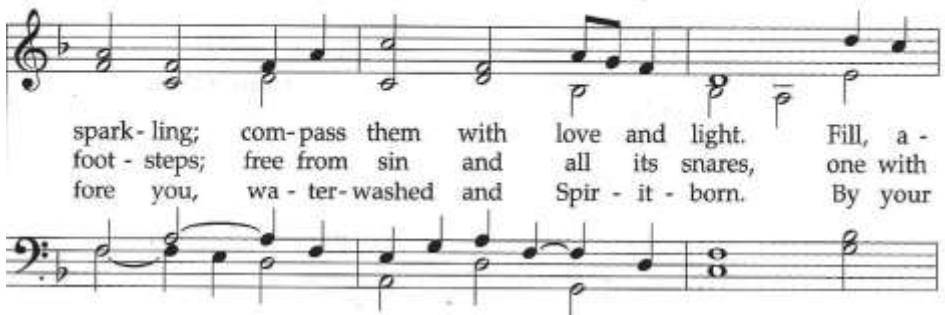
1. Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, new-born creatures of your  
2. Ev - 'ry day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may we be  
3. O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined, all your



womb. Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like  
fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of  
ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and  
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our  
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -



spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a -  
foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares, one with  
fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born. By your

(continued)

“WASH, O GOD, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS”

(continued)

noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.  
Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.  
grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 9:30-37

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

“BEGIN WITH THE LEAST AND THE LAST”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

“OFFERTORY” (Micah 6:6-8)

John Ness Bec

(10:00 only)

Senior Choir

\*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.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (10:00 only)

(unison)

**We who spend much on our own pleasures get to share for the basic necessities of others. Thank you, God, for this chance to support ministries here that support manifold efforts of outreach, making a difference. We look toward a harvest of righteousness, bringing fruits of peace, love, and mutual encouragement. Amen.**

\*HYMN #404

“TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE”

\***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

Maxim Pakhomov

\* \* \*

**TODAY'S USHERS** are Mary Ann Freeman, Bill Lattimer (8:30), Mandy Teare and Steve Weeden.

**TODAY'S BAPTISM FAMILY** - Congratulations are in order to Jonathan and Melissa Dunn at Victoria's baptism today. Jonathon has deep roots in our church--baptized, raised, confirmed, and married here. He also played many different roles in our Christmas pageant, including Joseph and the donkey. He is currently in hedge fund marketing in New York City. Melissa's church background is at St. Thomas More here in Darien. She works in advertising just outside of Darien in Norwalk. Please greet, congratulate, and make welcome this couple today.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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 30<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://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 24** 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](mailto:machiodo1@gmail.com)  
203-655-4892

### **MEN WALKING AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE FIRST ANNUAL WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES® 06820 WALK-A-THON**



On Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.2015 at 9:00am, Teams of First Responders in Darien will walking a mile in RED high heels to show support and raise money for victims of domestic abuse. The event will kick off at Hindley School with an opening ceremony and the Teams will then don their RED high heels and “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” down Boston Post Road towards the Police Station and back. Their trek will end at CORNER FIELD for their First Responder Breakfast, sponsored by Abello’s Deli.

The First Congregational Church of Darien is proud to be a Sponsor of this special event and invites the entire congregation, friends & family to come out and support our First Responders here in Darien.

You can even donate \$20.00 and sponsor a First Responder for this special event!

Come One, Come All – this is sure to be a sight to see!

Board of Christian Outreach



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

***October 4, 2015(New Date) – Kids Cook for Kids Breakfast*** will be held Sunday, October 4, 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 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>; 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pokebox@aol.com)) or Tracey Berry ([tbc@optonline.net](mailto:tbc@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.

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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# ***BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS***

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Bring your favorite pet: walking, crawling, flying, dare we say, *slithering*, or even a child's toy stuffed animal for a special blessing.**

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



**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.**



## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **TODAY**

Confirmation Class, 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room  
“Come As You Are” Worship Service, 5:00 p.m. in the Circle Room  
Youth Group Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

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

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Communications Committee, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.  
Blessing of the Animals Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. on the Church lawn  
Car/Pet Wash, 11:00 a.m. in the lower lot

*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*