



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: office@uccdarien.org
www.uccdarien.org



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SEPTEMBER 25, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.



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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

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN**

“ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING”

(v.3 omitted)

1. All creatures of our God and King, Lift up our voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam, O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia! Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice, O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
4. And all ye men of tender heart, Forgiving others take your part,
O sing ye, Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care. O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
5. Let all things their creator bless, And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One. O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

We thank God for so many gifts freely bestowed upon us;
for the beauty and wonder of creation, earth, sky, and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains, the plains, the river valleys;
for all that is gracious and good in the lives of men and women.

We thank you, Lord.

For all creatures that breathe, move, and enjoy life—just as we do.
for all of the trust you have shown in giving these pets into our care.

We thank you, Lord.

May we honor and love the many works of your making;
may each pet here may be treasured with respect and care.

**To the honor and glory of your name,
Now and forever, we pray to you, God.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. 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.

***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

PSALM 127

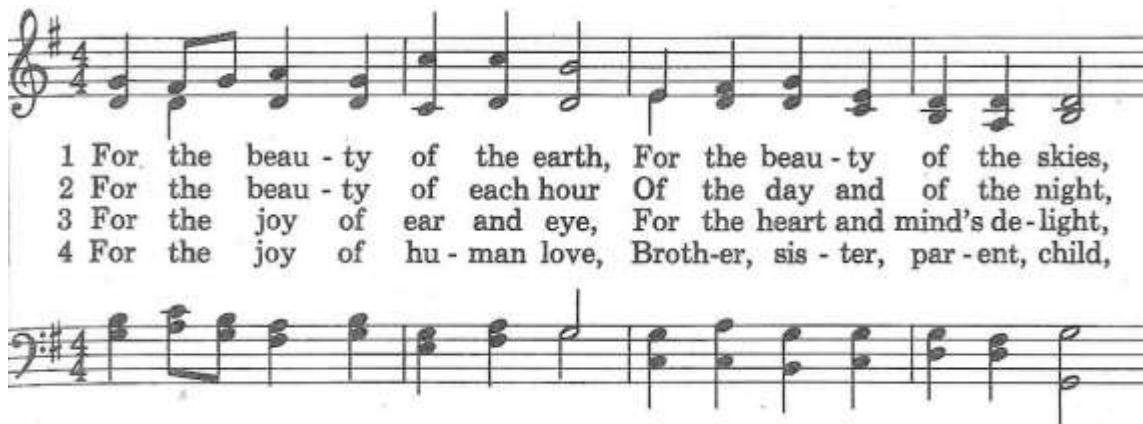
Al Nickerson, Deacon

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives sleep to his beloved.*

*Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the sons of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has
his quiver full of them.
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

*HYMN

"FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different voice part or instrumental line.

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

(continued on next page)

“FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH” (continued)



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,



Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men



GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 14:1-7

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

SERMON

“UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE...”

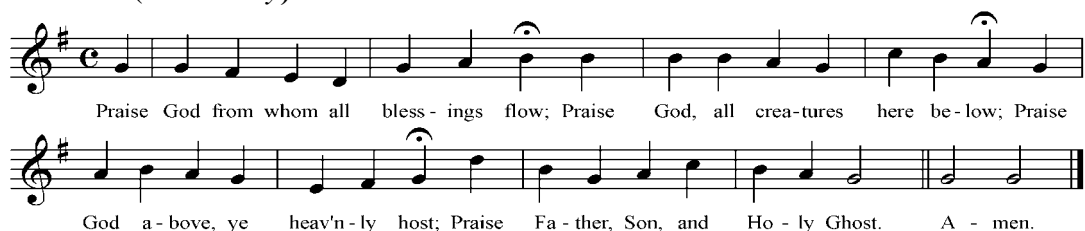
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

“ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL”
Senior Choir

(Words: C.F. Alexander)
John Rutter

***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.

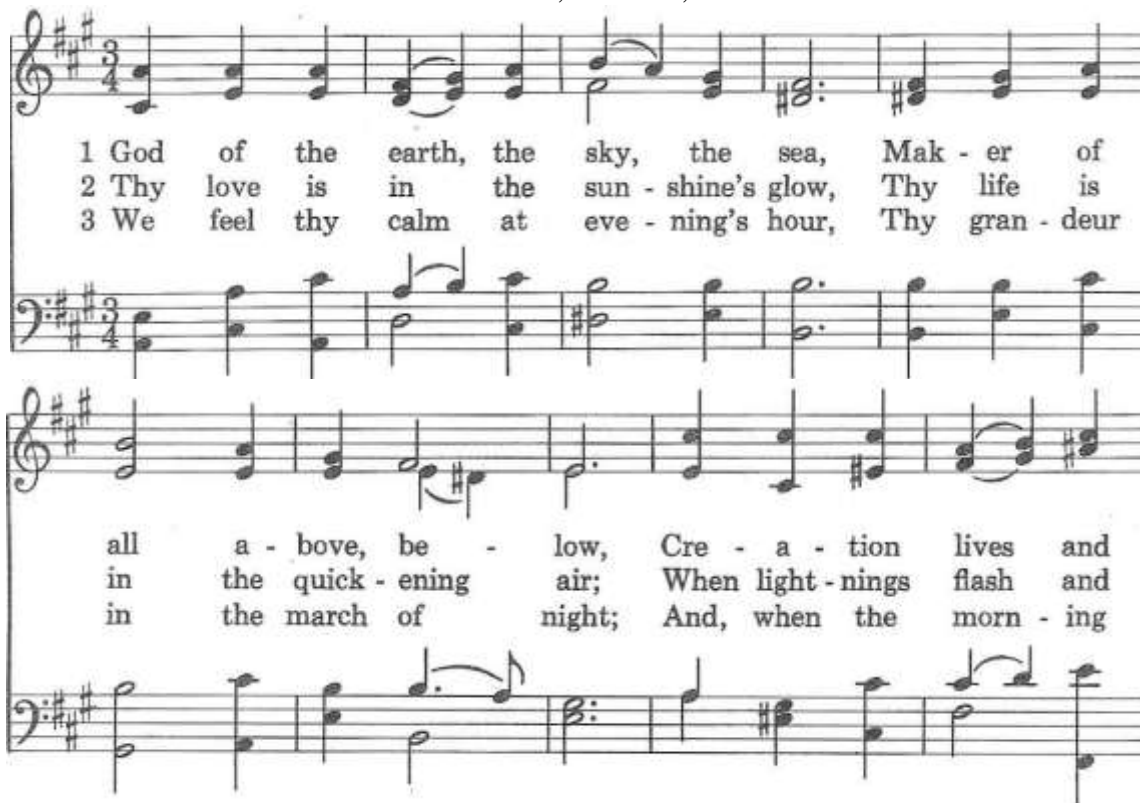
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(unison)

Creator God, we all gather before you as creatures who only exist because of your generosity. Every living thing upon this earth lives, moves, and has its being to provide caring, affection, and friendship to others, like and unlike itself. Please use our heartfelt offerings, that wherever suffering happens, those beings would be suffused with healing light, by every loving sacrifice. Amen.

***HYMN**

“GOD OF THE EARTH, THE SKY, THE SEA”



1 God of the earth, the sky, the sea, Mak - er of
2 Thy love is in the sun - shine's glow, Thy life is
3 We feel thy calm at eve - ning's hour, Thy gran - deur

all a - bove, be - low, Cre - a - tion lives and
in the quick - ening air; When light - nings flash and
in the march of night; And, when the morn - ing

(continued on next page)

“GOD OF THE EARTH, THE SKY, THE SEA” (cont’d)

moves in thee, Thy pres-ent life through all doth flow.
storm-winds blow, There is thy power; thy law is there.
breaks in power, We hear thy word, “Let there be light!” A - men.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Lou Converse, Al Nickerson and Steve Weeden.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 loved one's 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!

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.

Next Sunday (Oct. 2) we will receive the Neighbors in Need Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

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!



**Youth Group Car & Pet
Wash**



Today!

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 2016-17 Youth Group
and our upcoming activities and service projects.**

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS! JOIN US!

- Cook/Serve for the Open Door Shelter - Thursday, September 29, 8 am - cook in the church kitchen. Friday, September 30, 11:45 am - serve at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk. Please email Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to help.
- Neighbors Link Family Night - September 30, 6 - 8 p.m. 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. Music by John Stuart and friends! Dancing! Kids activities! Bring your family for a fun night for all! Email Anna Denoyer at anna.denoyer@gmail.com to join the fun, and click here if you would like to help volunteer with the event- <http://tinyurl.com/NeighborsLink>
- 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!
- Feed My Starving Children packing event - October 21 -23 — Help hungry children worldwide by packing meals. This event is fun and very rewarding! Sign up opens on September 26 at www.fmssc.org. Questions? Email Nina Miller (pokebox@aol.com) or Tracey Berry (tcbcb@optonline.net). “Blessed are those who are generous because they feed the poor.”
- Proverbs 22:9
- 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 10. 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 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



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) or Nancy Sheed (nmsheed@yahoo.com) for more information.

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.



First Congregational Church Fall Pot Luck Dinners - Come One, Come All
Saturday October 8, 6:30pm
Saturday October 22, 6:30 pm
Saturday November 5, 6:30pm

Here's how it works:

Small informal pot luck dinners will be held on three separate dates. Church members are encouraged to sign up to host a dinner and/or to bring part of the meal. The number of hosts will determine how many dinners will be held on each date.

Sign up sheets are on the Women's Association Bulletin Board in Parish Hall or contact Debbie Parnon or Susan Wilson (contact info below).

1. Sign up to host a dinner by checking the "Host" box on the sign up sheet in Parish Hall for the date you are available
2. Up to 6 people will be assigned to each host - for a total of 8 people including the host(s)
3. OR Sign up to bring part of the dinner by checking the appropriate box on the sign up sheet
4. BYOB and bring some to share
5. Please include your email address and a phone # you use/check regularly
6. We are hoping there will be enough sign-ups to hold several dinners on each of the three nights
7. Dinner groups will be a blend of new and veteran church members with a variety of interests and backgrounds
8. Everyone will receive confirmation for their respective fall dinner information
9. Once people are notified of their dinner group you can communicate with your host to confirm what you are bringing

Questions? Contact:

Debbie Parnon - dcsp1@aol.com, 203-505-1726

Susan Wilson - swilson@optonline.net, 203-655-0106



Feed My Starving Children
Annual Town Wide Event is Around the Corner
October 21 – 23^d, 2016
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

- *SIGN UP OPENS: September 26, 2016*
(Online at: www.fmssc.org)
- *October 21 – 23^d, 2016*
Annual FMSC Packing event at Middlesex Middle School.

Participation VERY rewarding

Any questions, please feel free to contact either 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

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, 11th Congregational Meeting Sunday October 9th – 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:

Sunday September 25th at 9:15, 11:00 and 5:15pm

Please feel free to drop in as you are able.

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, Pet/Car Wash, 11:00 a.m.

Women's Association Meeting, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

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

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

Thursday, September 29

Cooking for Open Door Shelter, 8:00 a.m. in the Church Kitchen

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

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 2

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

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.



Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

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

Gary M. 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*

Find "First Congregational Church of Darien"
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