



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 30, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



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October 30, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

*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

Mr. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN**

“THIS IS A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS”

(next page)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We cry out to God for the help we need.
How will we know we have been heard?

**God stands with us through life’s trials and temptations.
God sends visions of new possibility.**

Here we stand watch for God’s appearing.
Together we seek a presence and aspire after truth.

**Surely, God is in this place and will give us understanding.
God is recalling us to the values we have neglected.**

We must start by taking off our masks and being real with one another.
God’s righteousness is everlasting, and the love God has for each one of us is pure.

**We seek to grow in faith and in love for one another.
We feel God’s hands wrapped around our hearts with unconditional love.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

***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.

THIS IS A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Unison


1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

*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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

EPISTLE LESSON

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Leo Schlinkert, Deacon (8:30)

Frank Burke, Deacon (10:00)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*HYMN

"I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"

(next page)

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
3. I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
Je - sus. Clear Sun of Right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 18:1-5, 10-14

Mr. Morello

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

‘Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

SERMON

“TAKE OFF THE MASK”

Mr. Morello

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

“LET THE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME”

J. Martin

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)

Seeking God, all that we have is yours. All your children are our brothers and sisters. We are all inheritors of your grace. You have blessed us abundantly. Now bless what we have been moved to share, that our love for one another may increase. Amen.

***HYMN**

“SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US”

(next page)

***BENEDICTION**

Mr. Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us, Much we need thy ten - der care;
 2 We are thine; do thou be - friend us; Be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do thy will;

In thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use thy folds pre - pare.
 Keep thy flock; from sin de - fend us; Seek us when we go a - stray.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil - dren when they pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear thy chil - dren when they pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. A - men.

TODAY'S GREETERS are the Brennan Family: Karen, Michael, Ted (Confirmand), Ellie & Lucy.

TODAY'S USHERS are Frank Burke, Lou Converse, Gary Holmes and Leo Schlinkert (8:30).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON

Church School children will be dismissed after the children's sermon and then we will congregate in the Rainbow Room up in the Nursery School for a special visit with Pastor Dale! The lesson is from the book of Genesis 45: 14-17; Joseph Helps his Family. Please be sure that your child is registered online.

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 in stock, so do not delay! Stop by and take a look at our display table during coffee hour!!

Questions, please contact kristindesautelle@gmail.com. Thank you!

THE DAY WINGS

The Day Wings will meet on Thursday, Nov. 3rd for lunch, at noon, in the Circle Room. A special blessing will be a short piano concert by Max! Gary Morello will also offer a vignette of his world in the church. All are welcome to join us. Please contact Sally Bassler (203-655-9658; sbassler13@gmail.com) so we can prepare a place for you. (Bring your own sandwich - drinks and dessert will be provided.)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS! JOIN US!

News:

- The First Congregational Church Board of Outreach and the House Tour Committee have selected the Open Door Shelter as the “primary” beneficiary of the house tour which will occur this coming June. The Open Door Shelter is building a brand new 19,000 square foot facility to house the homeless. We are excited to be a part of this exciting project! The House Tour will fund the shelter as well as another 20 deserving nonprofit agencies which serve the disadvantaged, our youth and the homeless. For more information on the house tour or to help, please email [hraker@me.com](mailto:hmaker@me.com).

- Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children packing event this past weekend and thank you to Fiona Slater who joined us at the morning services last year to tell us all about FMSC, a Christian organization which has been feeding the poor since 1987. FMSC partners with organizations and ministries around the world to get life-saving meals to the people who need them most. Their approach is simple. Donations fund the meal ingredients. Volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved! Last year, 273 million meals were produced by 1 million volunteers feeding 756,496 children daily. Thank you all for your support of FMSC!

Upcoming events:

- **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](mailto:hmaker@me.com) to help.

- **Food First** - please bring your non-perishable food items to church on the first Sunday of each month - next date November 6th! Food will be distributed to local shelters.

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



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

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
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

Saturday night, November 5th

DON'T FORGET TO **FALL
BACK**



and change the batteries
in your smoke detectors!!

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

Holy Halloween Party, 11:15 – 12:30 in Parish Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Day Wings, 12 noon in the Circle Room
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

(END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME)

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

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*

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