



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
November 22, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 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

Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #21**

“WE GATHER TOGETHER”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the earth, all you who have breath.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is our Creator.
Our God has made us, and we are his.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with heartfelt praise.**

Give thanks to God and bless his name,
for God has fashioned us from the dust.

**God has destined us for his presence,
high and exalted, in the highest heaven.**

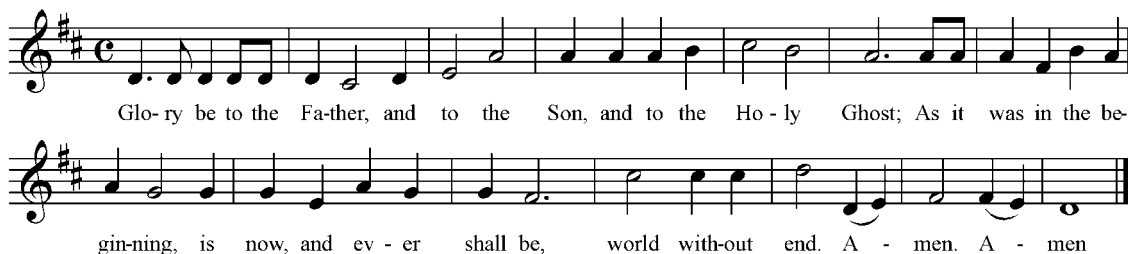
***OPENING PRAYER**

Gary Morello, Interim Youth 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

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:00 only)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Leila Wetmore (8:30 a.m.)
John Lydecker (10:00 a.m.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

DEUTERONOMY 8.7-18 Lou Converse, Deacon (8:30 a.m.)
Karalesa DiFabio, Deacon (10:00 a.m.)

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 12.43-45 Gary Morello (8:30 a.m.)
Rev. Rosenberger (10:00 a.m.)

SERMON

"THE THREAT OF UNFILLED VOIDS" Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY "THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID" (2 SAMUEL 23:3, 4) Randall Thompson
(10:00 only) Senior Choir

OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF 2016 PLEDGES

After we receive the morning offering in the usual manner, the music will continue and we will have the opportunity to come forward, as the spirit moves us, to offer our pledges for 2016.

If you have already submitted your pledge, you are also invited to come forward, to confirm your 2016 pledge.

If you would like to increase your pledge, your generosity is always welcome.

***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 have bread, so we will share. We have homes, so we will build them for others. We have faith, O God, so we will tell all, as we do good, it is all because you are good to us. In this prayerful pause, we acknowledge your ownership of all that we have and are. We seek to answer your call to generosity and faithfulness, as your apostles and heralds. Amen.

***HYMN #29** "NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD"

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE Maxim Pakhomov

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TODAY'S GREETERS Roland and Cynthia Clough.

TODAY'S USHERS Lou Converse (8:30 a.m.), Karalesa DiFabio, Al Nickerson and Theo Osgood.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School News

Save the Date: Church School Pageant, December 20th!!

The Church School Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 20th directly following service. **Rehearsal** will be during Church School on **December 13th**. We will be practicing the songs in Church School every Sunday from now until Dec 13th!

Get Involved = FCCD Helps!

Donate grocery items ... Food First

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect non-perishable food items for our local shelters, the Open Door Shelter and Shelter for the Homeless. However, we now have bins on the stage in parish hall so that you can donate any time. Fill 'em up!

Turkey Distribution

We will be distributing Thanksgiving turkeys at the Open Door Shelter. Lots of helping hands needed! Sign up to assist with the distribution to all participants at Open Door Shelter will be in Parish Hall or contact Heather Raker directly at the email below.

- **Tuesday November 24th**, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., the Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk.

Buy a Dove and give the gift of love and nourishment to a neighbor

This year marks the 47th anniversary of the Person to Person Dove Program. Christmas Doves would never have been possible without the enthusiastic support of area churches. Basically, Dove boxes provide holiday food to families in need. But they also give individuals and families the opportunity to share their blessings with their neighbors at Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity to help your children understand the joy of giving during the Christmas season. Participation is open to anyone and may involve preparing a wrapped carton of food or can be as simple as making a direct donation to families/adults through Person to Person.

Each year, the First Congregational Church of Darien joins with other churches to participate in Person-to-Person's Christmas Dove Program. Through this program, participants respond to the needs of families and seniors in our community who might otherwise go without this Holiday Season. Parishioners wishing to participate need only select a White or Green Dove on any **Sunday after Service** follow directions printed on it and bring joy into another home this Season.

- White Dove: Fill a box with food and love for Christmas Day. All necessary food items and directions are on the reverse side of the Dove. A \$15.00 contribution is required so Person-to-Person can purchase a supermarket gift card for each family to buy their own choice of meat. Fill in the back of the dove with your name, address & telephone number and return it (along with the \$15.00) to either Annette Madden-Kline or Charlie Wetmore of the Board of Outreach (details below).
- Green Dove: A financial contribution to Person-to-Person's Scholarship or Emergency Assistance Fund. Scholarship will enable eager students to continue their education. Emergency Assistance Fund will help someone with a fuel bill, rent or a medical bill not covered by Medicaid. Please mail your financial contribution directly to Person-to-Person.

The Doves will be displayed in Parish Hall beginning on Sunday, November 15th, 2015 after the worship service.

RETURN your filled, closed, wrapped box to the Morehouse Room in Parish Hall on Saturday, December 12th, 2015. If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact **Annette Madden-Kline or Charlie Wetmore, Board of Outreach at a_madden-kline@yahoo.com or cwetmore@optonline.net**

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.

Please give blood at our church on **Wednesday, December 2nd** - 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

Contact Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to help with any of the above.

The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you for your support!

Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Tracey Berry, Yvette Borecki, Anna Denoyer, Joanne Gabriel, Lora Grassilli, Vince Hough, Annette Madden-Kline, Wendy Mulligan, Heather Raker, Charlie Wetmore

Be Counted in Pledge 2016!

Thank you for taking part in the 2016 Pledge Campaign. Every Pledge Counts! Please support this church in a meaningful way – only you know how much that means. Every dollar is significant and gratefully received. Return your card in the mail, or offer your commitment today during the service. Pledge cards are available in each pew.

A pledge from each and every member of our congregation is a commitment to each other, to our family of faith, and to the momentum that we have developed together over the past several years.

Your financial support makes you an important part of the wonder of 2016 as we open the Evans Center / 11 Brookside, welcome an Associate Minister, worship in new ways at our “Come As You Are Service”, continue to enjoy our spectacular music, make significant impact on our surrounding community and provide welcome community and ministry to each other in both good and difficult times. Be counted!

2016 Pledge Committee

Caroline Burke, Gary Holmes, Doug Kline, Jared MacLane, Leila Wetmore, Susan Wilson



All Are Invited!
Advent Workshop and Family Dinner
Sunday, December 6, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

The Board of Christian Education invites you, your family and friends to join us on Sunday, December 6 for our annual Advent Workshop and Family Dinner. From 4:00-5:00 p.m., we'll socialize and make homemade Christmas tree ornaments -- some for small table top trees to be shared with members of our church and some for our trees at home. From 5:00-5:30 p.m., we'll gather together in the Meetinghouse for carols and Christmas cheer. Then we'll have a family potluck dinner in Parish Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to help with our planning, and please sign up to bring something to share. We are asking for a donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family to cover the cost of the main dishes (ham and chicken nuggets), the drinks, the music, and event materials.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084caba62eabfd0-advent>

An e-vite with RSVP and food signups will be out soon.
Questions: Please e-mail Karen Brennan,
kbrennan1567@gmail.com

*The Women's Association of the
First Congregational Church of Darien
invites friends of all ages to its*

Fall Fair

**Sunday, November 22nd
from 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m.**

Get a Jump on Your Holiday Gifts:

Baked Goods, Vermont Cheese,
Holiday Crafts, Vintage Jewelry,

Local Vendors

Tag Sale Items

Free Fun for All:

Arts and Crafts for Kids in Youth Room

Raffle



Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the First Advent Candle – “HOPE”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Remember Food First!)

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – “PEACE”
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:00 a.m.
Advent Celebration, 4:00-6:30 p.m. (see page 8)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – “LOVE”
Christmas Candlelight Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – “JOY”
Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service, 4:00 p.m.
Family Service, 5:30 p.m.
Candlelight Service, 10:00 p.m.

Bring a Friend!
All are welcome!!

A Thanksgiving Prayer

by Samuel F. Pugh

*"O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;*

*When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;*

*When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;*

*When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,*

*And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;*

*By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen."*



CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

WA Fall Fair, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse balcony.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Turkey Distribution at the Open Door Shelter, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Church Offices Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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, *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*