



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
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www.uccdarien.org



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***November 26, 2017
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***



**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD OF LORDS
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER**

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***November 26, 2017
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

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Gary Morello

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #477**

“GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Mrs. Christine Geeding

Come God is seeking to gather us together.
Like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, God calls us.

**Something or someone has summoned us here.
Dare we believe that God knows and welcomes us?**

God reaches out to rescue the brokenhearted.
Scattered, weak and injured ones are drawn to God.

**We come, in need of healing, seeking a blessing.
Our faith draws us here, in spite of our doubts.**

Come, above all else, to worship and give thanks.
Make a joyful noise to the Creator of all worlds.

**God’s steadfast love becomes real to us here.
We are reminded of God’s immeasurable greatness.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

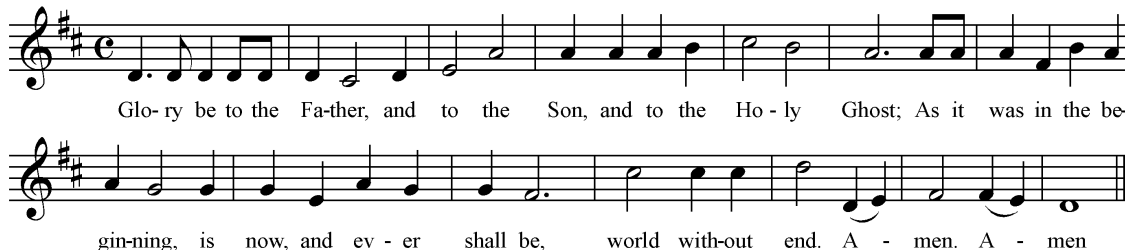
Mrs. Christine Geeding

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(unison)

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 MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

Mrs. Christine Geeding

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 107:1-9

Liz Werner (8:30)

Mandy Teare, Deacon (10:00)

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
he led them by a straight way,

(until they reached an inhabited town.
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

***HYMN #424**

“WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT”

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 5:1-18

Rev. Gary Morello

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.”¹ But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

SERMON

“LIVE BY FAITH”

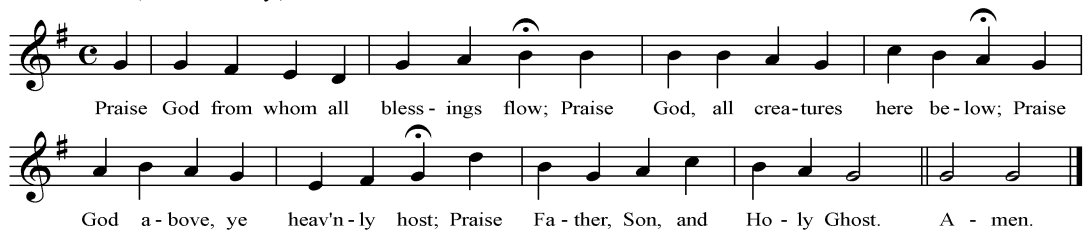
Rev. Gary Morello

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)

“SING TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST”
Senior Choir

H. William

***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)

God of steadfast love, receive these expressions of our thanks for the glorious inheritance entrusted to us. We hereby enlist ourselves and our resources toward the realization of your eternal purpose for all humanity. May this congregation become more and more a source of hope for each of us and for all we meet. Amen.

***HYMN #55**

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Gary Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

*It is our custom at First Church to share quietly in our Postlude, as our final act of praise.
We invite you to remain seated with us.*

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Liz Werner,(8:30), Mandy Teare, Steve Weeden (10:00).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL "ACCESS"

ACCESS meets November 30th from 7:00-8:30PM. Guys and girls welcome! Dinner will be provided. We will keep answering big questions and will also dive in to Exodus...the beginnings of the family of God! Get ready for some amazing conversation and great fellowship.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Church School students have begun to rehearse for the 2017 Christmas Pageant to be performed on December 17th at 11:00AM in Parish Hall. If you would like to help out, contact cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

YOUTH BAND

Our first Youth Band meeting was an amazing time of sharing music and conversation. Special thanks to John Stuart for lending his musical expertise! We look forward to sharing our music with everyone! Our next rehearsal will be announced soon. Can't wait to see you there.

BELL CHOIR

The Bell choir would welcome anyone who would like to learn to play a beautiful set of bells. We practice on Monday afternoons, 4:30-5:30 in the Morehouse room. If you are interested, please call Theo Osgood: [203-655-2538](tel:203-655-2538).

NURSERY SCHOOL

The First Congregational Church Nursery School is registering children for 2018-19. Teri Manning is offering tours weekdays at 10:00 and there will be an Open House on January 7th, 2 - 3:30. Please call the school at 203 655-3150 for more information. Church members receive priority placement!

KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry will meet after church in the Morehouse Room on Sunday, December 3rd. We make items for baptisms and for our members who are suffering from illness or personal loss. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and help is available to novices. If you prefer to crochet, that talent is also welcome.

Prayers, readings and fellowship serve as nourishment for our time together.

For further information: Marnie Hodil at grhodil@optonline.net

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

Dove Boxes are BACK! The holiday season is upon us and therefore so is Dove Boxes! This year marks the 49th anniversary of the Person-to-Person Dove Box Program, which is enthusiastically supported by area churches. Dove boxes provide holiday food to families and seniors in need in our community, while also giving 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.

Parishioners wishing to participate need only select a Dove and follow directions printed on it and bring joy into another home this Season.

If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact Gayle Appleby at gayleappleby@applebycapital.com.

Thank you for your help for those in need!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach

Chair: Lauren Swenson, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Elmerina Brooks, Gary Holmes, Bob McGee, Doug McPheters, Heather Raker, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson



The Genesis Stories:

Please join us for a 10-week examination of some of the best-known stories from the book of Genesis and a discussion about what they tell us about our lives today, including how we deal with disobedience to God, jealousy, sibling rivalry, faith and treachery.

Each one-hour meeting will include a review of the story, a short video presentation from a Bill Moyers special, and group discussion about the story's meaning as facilitated by our pastors.

All are welcome regardless of their background in the Bible.

If you can only attend a few of our sessions, that is perfectly fine! Please come anyway. This is a great way to understand how the Bible has relevance to everyone today.

The meetings will be on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room, finishing on January 3, 2018.



All Are Invited!
Advent Workshop and Family Dinner
Sunday, December 3rd, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

The Board of Christian Education invites you, your family and friends to join us on Sunday, December 3rd for our annual Advent Workshop & Family Dinner.

From 4:00-5:00pm, we'll socialize and make homemade Christmas tree ornaments.

From 5:00-5:30pm, we'll gather together for Christmas carols & cheer. Then we'll have a family potluck dinner from 5:30-6:30pm.

Please use the link below to RSVP 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 music, and event materials. Also, feel free to bring a libation of choice to share!

<http://tinyurl.com/2017AdventWorkshop>

Questions: Please e-mail Andy Huntington at:
andreaatkinson101@hotmail.com



Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Remember Food First!)

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

Lighting of the First Advent Candle – “HOPE”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – “PEACE”

Advent Celebration, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Christmas Candlelight Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – “LOVE”

Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m.

“Come As You” Are worship service, 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY(morning), DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Service of Prayers, Poems and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – “JOY”

SUNDAY(evening), DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service, 3:00 p.m.

Family Service, 5:00 p.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 p.m.

Bring a Friend!

All are welcome!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are in the season of giving thanks.

This is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

Memorial poinsettias and evergreens always add a tender touch of grace and color to our holiday worship.

Then, when shared with church members who aren't able to join us for worship, they become an ongoing gift.

You may fill out this form or sign up in the church office.

Include your check for \$25.00 to "The First Congregational Church of Darien, and note "Flower Donation" on the memo line.

*(Due in the church office by **Friday, December 15th**).*

A list of the dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

I would like _____ dedication(s).

In Gratitude of/for _____

In Celebration of/for _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Graciously Donated by: _____

Enclosed is my check for: _____ (\$25.00 each)

**** Please note:**

_____ **I will be taking my poinsettia.**

_____ **I will not be taking my poinsettia, so please donate it in my/our name**



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

***“Where God’s lavish love embraces us,
Christ’s bold truth transforms us,
the Spirit’s healing power sends us.”***

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

4:30PM – 5:30PM

Bell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:30am – 10:30am

Bible Study

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:00PM – 8:00PM

Access Mtg.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

FOOD FIRST

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

Knitting Ministry Mtg.

(After Church)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

11:00AM

Christmas Pageant

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

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

The Rev. Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Christine Geeding, *Director of Christian Education*

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*