



**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: [info@uccdarien.org](mailto:info@uccdarien.org)  
[www.uccdarien.org](http://www.uccdarien.org)



***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***  
***November 29, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***

***Hope*** THE WEEKS OF ADVENT

# ***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***November 29, 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**

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Gary Morello, Interim Youth Minister

**MISSION MOMENT**

James Schaffer, Director of Development, Carver Center Norwalk  
Sophia Lubin, Carver alumna, Carver Center in Norwalk

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #110**

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mr. Morello

At God’s table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

**Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kingdom of God is revealed.**

At God’s table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

**Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kingdom of God is revealed.**

At God’s table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

**Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kingdom of God is revealed.**

## \*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.**

## \*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

## THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT – “HOPE”

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Steve Weeden (8:30 a.m.) and The MacLane Family (10:00 a.m.)

## DEACON INTRODUCTION

Steve Weeden (8:30), Lou Converse (10:00)

## ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: This is a season for planning. We make lists of tasks, friends and family to visit, and holiday food to cook. Great hopes lie at the root of all our planning. Our fertile minds are opening, bringing forth visions of our deepest longings.

Congregation: **Yet, planning makes us vulnerable to hurt and to our own deepest fears. Sometimes, our hopes begin to form but do not take shape. Sometimes, they lie dormant in our dreams.**

Family Member: Even so, in the mixture of hope and despair, God is always with us, gathering us in, comforting our broken hearts, gently leading us to new possibilities, and rejoicing with us.

Congregation: **As we come to worship God, we light the first Advent candle. We are aware that our planning reflects our deepest hopes and our trust. These bear witness to God's promise of new life. We are not afraid to speak out now, to tell the world that a God-sent baby is coming!** (*Worship Ways, Eden Theological Seminary Students, 2005, Worship & Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, UCC*)

**All:** O God, you have caused this world to shine with the illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that we, being regenerated and made your children by adoption and grace; be renewed daily by your Holy Spirit. Grant us, we pray, that as we have known the mystery of that light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL**  
(10:00 only)

Mary Jo Colman, Church School Director

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

ISAIAH 61:1-4

Steve Weeden, Deacon (8:30)  
Lou Converse, Deacon (10:00)

**\*HYMN #107**

“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

**GOSPEL LESSON**

LUKE 4:14-21

Mr. Morello

**SERMON**

"PATHWAY TO PURPOSE"

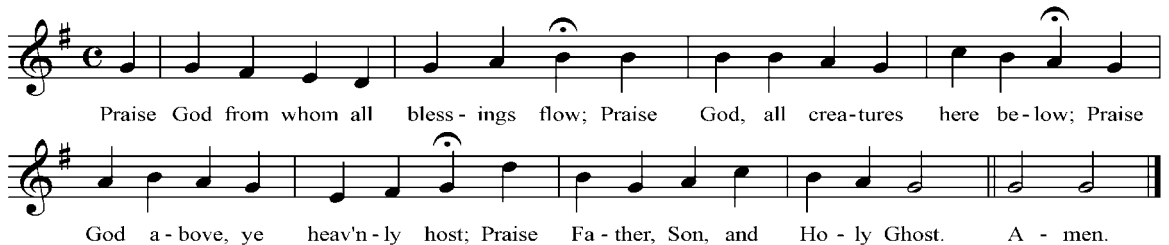
Mr. Morello

**OFFERTORY**  
(10:00 only)

“I SHALL KNOW HIM WHEN HE COMES”  
Senior Choir

Douglas Wagner

**\*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)

**Gracious Giver of all gifts, in this holy moment make us aware, not so much of what we have given as of all we have received and so have yet to share. Let your generosity so flow through us, that our lives will be gifts given freely and abundantly in joy and thanksgiving. Amen.**

\***HYMN #103** "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

\***BENEDICTION** Mr. Morello

**POSTLUDE** Maxim Pakhomov

\* \* \*

Today we welcome from the Carver Foundation of Norwalk staff member Jim Schaffer and Carver alumna Sophia Lubin. Carver is the largest provider of after-school programs for middle and high school students in Norwalk, CT, operating in the Carver Community Center, in Norwalk's four middle and two high schools, and in Norwalk's Side By Side Charter School. Carver also conducts an after-school program for K-5 students at the Carver Community Center and each summer Carver conducts five separate educational summer camps serving more than 600 young people. Carver Center is one of the beneficiaries of our outreach budget.

**TODAY'S GREETERS** Brooke Nichols and Jim Cusick.

**TODAY'S USHERS** Lou Converse, Anne MacInnes, Mandy Teare and Steve Weeden (8:30 a.m.)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Church School News**

**Save the Date: Church School Pageant, December 20<sup>th</sup>!!**

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!

## **REFUGEES IN CONNECTICUT – ELEVENTH HOUSE ON DECEMBER 6**

The recent controversy over resettling Syrian refugees in the United States has highlighted a global crisis affecting millions of people worldwide. The U.S. has resettled nearly 800,000 refugees since the September 11 attacks, including thousands here in Connecticut.

On December 6, 2015, we will host an 11<sup>th</sup> Hour to discuss the refugee situation in Connecticut. Claudia Cohen the President and CEO of the International Institute of Connecticut, the largest agency in the state resettling immigrants and refugees, will discuss what goes into settling refugees in the U.S., how they adapt to life in Connecticut and what we can do to help ease their transition. Please join us for this informative discussion in the Circle Room.

## **FCCD Helps!**

### **The Board of Christian Outreach allocates over \$100,000!**

This month the FCCD Board of Christian Outreach will allocate over \$100,000 to charitable organizations that serve our youth, the elderly and the disadvantaged. Funding sources include 10% of pledge income, house tour proceeds, income from various endowments and special church offerings. Supported organizations include the following: ABC House of Darien, Carver Foundation of Norwalk, Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Family Centers, Feed My Starving Children, Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County, INSPIRICA, Liberation Programs, Neighbors Link, New Covenant House, Open Door Shelter, Our Church's Wider Mission, The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis and Education, Shelter for the Homeless and STAR. Thank you for your support of these worthwhile organizations!!

### **Blood Drive – December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 in Parish Hall**

The Red Cross will be collecting blood in Parish Hall on Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30 to 6:30 pm. Please help us to donate record levels of blood this holiday season!

### **Turkey Distribution**

We will be distributing Christmas turkeys at the Open Door Shelter. Lots of helping hands needed!

- **Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., the Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk.

*continued*

## **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!

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

This year marks the 47<sup>h</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 after the worship service.**

**RETURN** your filled, closed, wrapped box to the Morehouse Room in Parish Hall on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:madden-kline@yahoo.com) or [cwetmore@optonline.net](mailto:cwetmore@optonline.net)

**The 2016 Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart**

Planning is now underway for the second *Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart* which will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with a celebratory after party on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our primary beneficiary will be *Darien's Thriving Youth Initiative*, The Community Fund of Darien's new program that seeks to address the issues of youth mental health in our community. We need auction items and help!! Please contact us to donate or to help! And check out [darienhousetour.org](http://darienhousetour.org) for more information.

Next meeting: Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m., Morehouse Room

**Contact Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help with any of the above.  
The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you for your support!**

***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, please return your card in the mail.

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**



*Join Us For Our Annual  
Christmas Candlelight Concert  
Sunday, December 13 - 7:00 p.m.*

*featuring:*

*The Tudor Singers*

*Maxim Pakomov*

*and Special Guest Soloists*

*A "free will offering" will be received to benefit the International Institute of Connecticut, which is the largest state agency resettling refugees and immigrants in the USA*



## ***Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!***

### **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 Workshop & Family Dinner, 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.

Come As You Are Worship Service, 4:30 p.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!!***

# **CHURCH CALENDAR**

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 4:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Night Owls, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Kitchen

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3**

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.  
Confirmation Class, 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room  
Advent Workshop and Family Dinner, 4:00 p.m. in Parish Hall  
Youth Group Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room

**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*