



**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 30, 2014***

***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

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Kate Nelson, *Church School Director* Justin Inners, *Youth Minister*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator*

Tim Wilson, *Sexton*

Carlos Maya, *Saturday Sexton* Ulises Mendez, *Sunday Sexton*

***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***  
***November 20, 2014***  
***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,  
at the new Two's classroom starting at 9:45 a.m.

***\*Those who are able are invited to stand.***

**PRELUDE**

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Justin Inners, Youth Minister

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN**

“I AM THINE, O LORD”

*(next page)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mr. Inners

We come into God's presence in hopeful anticipation,  
We await the coming of the Son of God.  
The sun may be dimmed, the moon may lose its light,  
The stars may fall from the sky...  
Still, the Divine Spirit is with us.  
God sends angels from the four winds,  
From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.  
We hear Jesus' words, "Keep awake! Be alert!"

# I AM THINE, O LORD

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to  
2. Con - se - crate me now to thy serv - ice, Lord, by the pow'r of grace di -  
3. O the pure de - light of a sin - gle hour that be - fore thy throne I  
4. There are depths of love that I can - not know till I cross the nar - row

me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be  
vine; let my soul look up with a stead - fast hope, and my  
spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I com -  
sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I

*Refrain*  
clos - er drawn to thee.  
will be lost in thine. Draw me near - er, near - er, bless - ed Lord,  
mune as friend with friend!  
rest in peace with thee. near - er, near - er,

to the cross where thou hast died; draw me near - er, near - er,

near - er, bless - ed Lord, to thy pre - cious, bleed - ing side.

## \*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: Kathy Monro (8:30 a.m.) and The Gleason Family (10:00 a.m.)

## DEACON INTRODUCTION

Greg Karlik (8:30), Dave Miller (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!**

**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)

David Young

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

ISAIAH 64:1-12

Greg Karlik, Deacon (8:30)

Dave Miller, Deacon (10:00)

**\*HYMN #103**

“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

**GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 19:16-22

Mr. Inners

**SERMON**

"SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS"

Mr. Inners

**OFFERTORY** (10:00 only)

“EVERY VALLEY” (Isaiah 40: 4,5)  
Senior Choir

John Ness Beck

**\*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, whose faithfulness exceeds the limits of the earth,  
accept these gifts of our hearts and hands.**

**May they be multiplied and magnified  
as the living presence of Christ's peace in the world. Amen.**

\***HYMN #110**

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

\***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

\* \* \*

**TODAY'S GREETERS**

The Gleason Family (Confirmand, Sam)

**TODAY'S USHERS**

Lou Converse, Greg Karlik (8:30 a.m.), Dave Miller and Brad Westbrook.

**PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES**

Should you have a Pastoral Care Emergency, during Rev. Rosenberger's time away from the office (Nov. 25 – Dec. 1), do not hesitate to call our Church Administrator, Dennis Hanlon (cell # (914) 393-6276) and he will connect you with either a member of the Care Circle or a minister, depending on your needs.

All Pastoral Care matters are held in the strictest confidence.

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHURCH SCHOOL PAGEANT: DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>!**

The Church School Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> directly following service. Rehearsal will be during Church School on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure all children are present. The Christmas Pageant will be in Parish Hall again so we need to make sure all children know what is expected of them for a successful event!

Please email Kate Nelson at [KNelson@uccdarien.org](mailto:KNelson@uccdarien.org) if your child will be absent for the rehearsal.

## **NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Teri Manning will be giving tours of the First Congregational Church Nursery School weekdays at **10:00 am from 12/1 - 1/12**. If you are interested, or if you know someone who is interested, in applying for the school year 2015-2016, please call the school (203) 655-3150 to schedule a tour. Church members receive priority placement!

## **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**AFTERNOON TEA** - Ladies, has it been a while since you drank tea and used a real china tea cup? Join us in enjoying the charm of Afternoon Tea on **Tuesday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m.** Sign up on the Women's Association bulletin board in the Parish Hall or email your reservation to [jesinche@aol.com](mailto:jesinche@aol.com).

If you missed the **THANKSGIVING FAIR** or forgot to buy a hostess gift, grab a cup of coffee and browse the craft tables after the church service.

## **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> in Parish Hall, 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

A delectable luncheon is being prepared for all us ladies and all you men, too!

Please, join us for fine dining, caroling and cookie exchanging!

The Accabellas are coming back by popular demand.

If you aren't in the Christmas spirit yet, you will be filled with it after their dynamic performance!

Sign up in Parish Hall or email [machiodo1@gmail.com](mailto:machiodo1@gmail.com)

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST IS FOOD FIRST SUNDAY**

Please add one or more of these items to your shopping list and bring to church for Food First Sunday. Place your goods in front of the church at the Communion Table. All contributions will be delivered to the Norwalk Emergency Shelter and Person to Person. **Fresh fruit** would also be greatly appreciated.

Spaghetti, Macaroni & Cheese. (no Lasagna)

Dry Milk, Qt. Packets

Cooking Oil 24 oz or smaller

Jelly – all kinds 18 oz or smaller

Dry Cereal – Sweet

Peanut Butter

Ready Mix Pan Cake Mix 14oz

Syrup 14 oz or smaller

Oatmeal Packets

Jello and other puddings

Dry Beans - any kind 1 or 2 lb bag

White rice – 1 or 2 lb bag

Canned Fruit

Toilet Paper

Bar Soap

Shampoo

Toothpaste

Juice or Juice boxes

Note that brand does not matter. Sizes can vary. If you are looking for deals, the Dollar store in the T.J. Maxx shopping center often has some of these items for \$1. Anything you can add to our contributions is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**



### **2014 DOVE BOXES**

**Doves will be winging their way into our Parish Hall, starting in November, so please be sure to pick out a green dove (financial assistance) or a white dove (food box donation) and support local families in need during the Christmas season.**

***Doves will be available on November 30<sup>th</sup>  
and on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Parish Hall.***

### **HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?**

You can prepare and wrap a box of food with your family, as instructed on the white doves, or make a financial contribution to Person-to-Person's Scholarship or Emergency Assistance Fund (green doves). **Please return your wrapped box of food to the Parish Hall on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**, when our Confirmands and their families will help deliver the boxes.

Should you have any questions regarding DOVES: please feel free to contact Board Members: Annette Madden-Kline: [a\\_madden\\_kline@hotmail.com](mailto:a_madden_kline@hotmail.com) or Gayle Appleby: [Gayle@applebycapital.com](mailto:Gayle@applebycapital.com)

### **"GIVING TUESDAY" IS PERFECT REASON TO PLEDGE**

Tuesday, December 2nd is "Giving Tuesday" a day when we should take a break from the commercialism and materialism of "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" to think about how we can give back to our communities. What a better time to make sure your 2015 pledge to First Congregational Church has been taken care of.

We have high ambitions for our church in 2015 – including the possibility of calling a new associate minister – but we can't get back on a growth track without strong results from this year's pledge campaign. Pledging is essential to the financial health of our church because it allows us to make financial plans and commitments. But pledging is also essential to the spiritual health of pledging members.

Pledging is a way of giving back to God just a share of the gifts He has bestowed on us. It also helps us feel a sense of "ownership" in the church's future. So please return your pledge cards now or send an email with your intentions to our treasurer Karen Hansen at [khansen@uccdarien.org](mailto:khansen@uccdarien.org).

For more information about how you can participate in Giving Tuesday visit our church website: <http://uccdarien.org/dec-2nd-is-giving-tuesday-perfect-time-to-pledge/> or go to the Giving Tuesday website: <http://www.givingtuesday.org/>





The Board of Christian Education would like to invite you to an:

## Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 7

4:00-6:00 p.m.

(\$20.00 per family, or \$5.00 per person)

Come for all or part of the evening. All are Welcome!  
Invite a friend or neighbor. There will be something for everyone.

Crafts for kids begin at 4:00 p.m. and there will be plenty of  
snacks and drinks on hand for parents

Carols in the sanctuary will start at  
5:00 p.m. with Justin

Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. with ham, scalloped potatoes,  
sides, and lots of desserts

**\*\*Stay tuned for the sign- up sheets in Parish Hall\*\***

Questions: please email Liz Werner,  
[elizabethwerner1@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethwerner1@gmail.com)



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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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.

Arts and Crafts,

Carols and a Buffet Dinner

(\$20.00 per family, or \$5.00 per person)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 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.

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – “JOY”

**TUESDAY, 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!!***



## 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 the Meetinghouse at Christmas time.*

*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 **Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**).*

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

-----  
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(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.**

## **A CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING**

YOU ARE HEREBY CALLED TO A  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN,  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

This meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 7  
immediately following our 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to:  
\* vote on the renovation and repurposing of the church  
property located at 11 Brookside Road.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

*Constance Moore, Clerk*

### **WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

*The First Congregational Church of Darien is an accepting community where faith in Christ makes a difference in our lives, in our homes, and in the world. We are a close spiritual family, but always glad to make room for new friends at worship. We welcome you wherever you are on your journey. As a spiritual home, our hallmarks are education, fellowship and pastoral care. As a United Church of Christ, we are a church of social conscience, unafraid of today's issues and serving as a reconciler among different faiths.*

## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Bell Choir, 4:30 p.m.

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Ladies Tea, 2:00 p.m. in the Circle Room  
Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Library  
Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4**

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*(remember Food First!)*

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Special Congregational Meeting, following the 10:00 a.m. service  
Advent Celebration, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall