



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 6, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Peace THE WEEKS OF ADVENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 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

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #110** “ALL PRAISE TO THEE, FOR THOU, O KING DIVINE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The sacred story tells of a messenger from God,
as a new way is prepared for God being with us.

**We gather yearning to hear this saga unfold;
asking, what’s our part in living out the story?**

We know God works apart from the glare of popularity,
and that his hand can be traced in unglamorous places.

**Sometimes God speaks in that still, small voice.
Other times he addresses us boldly and directly.**

We gather in this second Sunday of our advent trek,
knowing that we are imperfect, that we are all sinners.

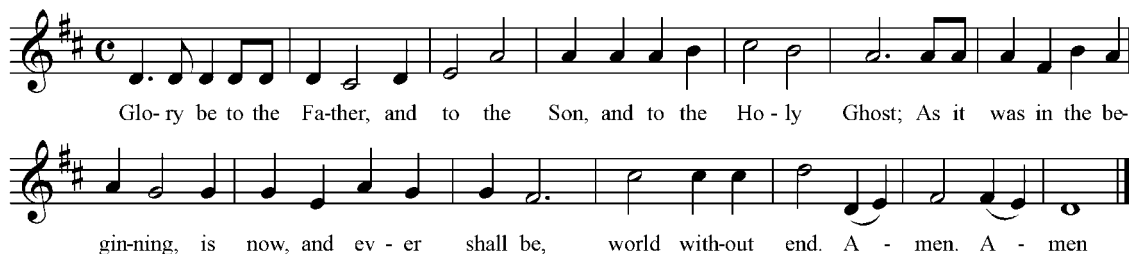
**Only Jesus obeyed God fully. And only Jesus
gives the peace of living as God meant us to live.**

***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 SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT – “PEACE”

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Bill Lattimer (8:30 a.m.) and The Tauber Family (10:00 a.m.)

DEACON INTRODUCTION

Bill Lattimer (8:30), Mary Ann Freeman (10:00)

ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: Advent celebrates the season of peace.

Congregation: In the midst of all the struggles of our daily lives, God comes to us to provide tranquility and quietness.

Family Member: But peace is not the absence of conflict in our lives.

Congregation: Peace is the assurance that justice has been accomplished.

Family Member: The scripture reminds us about the Prince of Peace who will come from God.

Congregation: The Messiah, declared the granter of peace by the song of the angels, will come again to remind us to whom the reality of peace belongs.

Family Member: And the lion and the sheep will lie down together in peace.

Congregation: And there will be no difference between the people of all nations. Peace with justice will make us one with the Prince of Peace—the center of our hope, faith, and love.

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

“PEACE”

Roisin Burke

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

MALACHI 3:1-4
(page 1088 NRSV)

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)
Mary Ann Freeman, Deacon (10:00)

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 3:1-6
(page 72 NSRV)

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

“IT ALL BEGINS IN A WILDERNESS”

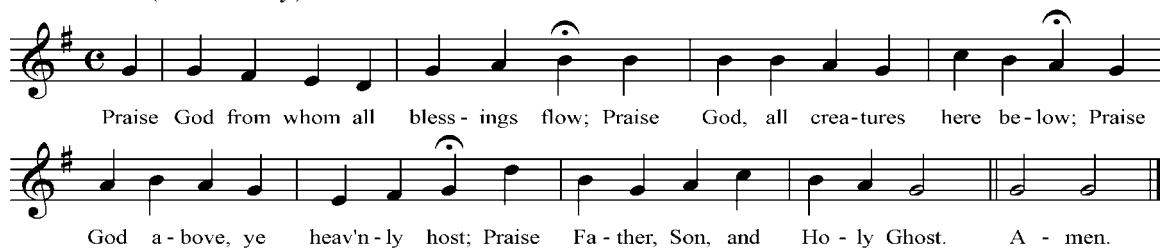
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)

“EVERY VALLEY”
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)

O God, we thank you that your Son is soon to be born. Jesus' birth clothes the world in glory; we rejoice even now. You offer us heavenly power, grace we can use, and hope for eternal life. May we declare your praise with gladness in how we live, and in these gifts that we bring forward for the cause of your reign. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

CALL TO PRAYER

(Leader) The Lord be with you.
(Congregation) **And also with you.**
(Leader) Lift up your hearts.
(Congregation) **We lift them up to the Lord.**
(Leader) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
(Congregation) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*SANCTUS

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”
*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks for what you have given us in this bread and cup. Fed and renewed by your life in us - we go now to share that life with others. Send us forth equipped with the power of your Spirit to spread the message of your love and compassion to all whom we meet. Amen

*HYMN #116

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

“VENI EMMANUEL”
“The Belles that Ring”

Arr. D. Hague

TODAY'S GREETERS The Sheed Family: James, Nancy and Owen (Confirmand).

TODAY'S USHERS Frank Burke, Lou Converse, Mary Ann Freeman and Bill Lattimer (8:30).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be Counted in Pledge 2016!

We can do this!

If every member makes a pledge to the 2016 budget, we can support the meaningful ministry of this church. A pledge from each of us 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!

Look for a pledge card in the lobby of the parish hall, or email your pledge directly and confidentially to our Treasurer, Karen Hansen at Khansen@uccdarien.org.

Thank you!

2016 Pledge Committee

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

Refugees in Connecticut – Eleventh Hour, this morning!

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 11th Hour to discuss the refugee situation in Connecticut. Claudia Connor 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.

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

The Church School Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 20th directly following service. Pageant will be held in Parish Hall. Rehearsal will be during Church School on Dec. 13th. Please let Mary Jo know if your child will be absent for rehearsal on the 13th!
mjcolman@uccdarien.org

The Classics Book Group

The Classics Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, January 20th at 3:00pm, in the library. We will be reading, Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner, an early twentieth century Pulitzer winning novel about America's western frontier. Please call Sally Bassler for more information: 203-655-9658 (sbassler13@gmail.com).

FCCD Helps!

Turkey Distribution

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

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

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!

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!!

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](mailto:madden-kline@yahoo.com) or cwetmore@optonline.net**

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

The Women's Association Annual Christmas Luncheon is coming up!

Please, join in the festivities on Friday, December 11th at 12:00.

Holiday cheer will abound with a performance by the Accabellas with Heather Raker and a delicious lunch by Polly Morehouse. Sign up in Parish Hall or email machiodo1@gmail.com. See you there with bells on!



All Are Invited!

**Advent Workshop and Family Dinner
Today, 4:00-6:30 p.m.**

The Board of Christian Education invites you, your family and friends to join us this afternoon, for our annual Advent Workshop and Family Dinner. From 4:00-5:00 p.m., we will 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 will 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 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.

**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!

TODAY! - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Remember Food First!)

Advent Workshop & Family Dinner, 4:00-6:30 p.m. (see page 9)

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

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE, 4:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE, 5:30 P.M.

Our 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services are exuberant, lively and have a family friendly atmosphere.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS, 10:00 P.M.

(Musical Prelude begins at 9:30 p.m.)

*A classic, quiet and contemplative Christmas Eve service,
accompanied by our Senior Choir*

Bring a Friend!

All are welcome!!



CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

11th Hour Discussion – “Refugees in Connecticut”
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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Women’s Association Christmas Luncheon, 12 noon in Parish Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall
Christmas Candlelight Concert 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

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* Ruth Salazar, *Sunday Sexton*