



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2014**



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Children are always welcome at our worship services.

A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger,
at the Two's classroom starting at 9:45 a.m.

For parents who wish to remain with their children,
the church Library has a live audio feed of the worship service.

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #110**

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

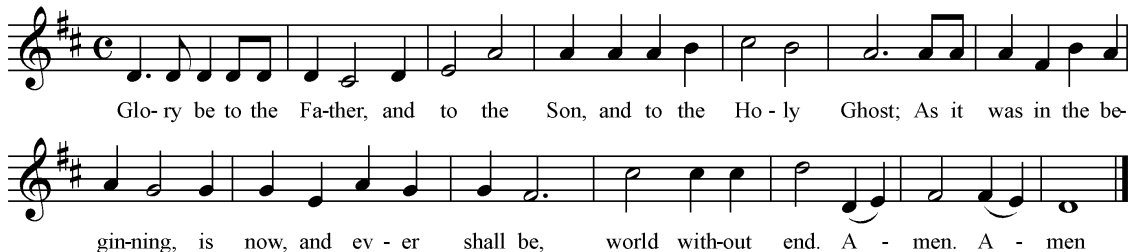
***CALL TO WORSHIP**

***OPENING PRAYER**

***THE 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.

***THE 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: The Wist Family (8:30 a.m.) and The Freeman 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*)

John Wygal

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

ISAIAH 40:1-11

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

GOSPEL LESSON:

MARK 1:1-8

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

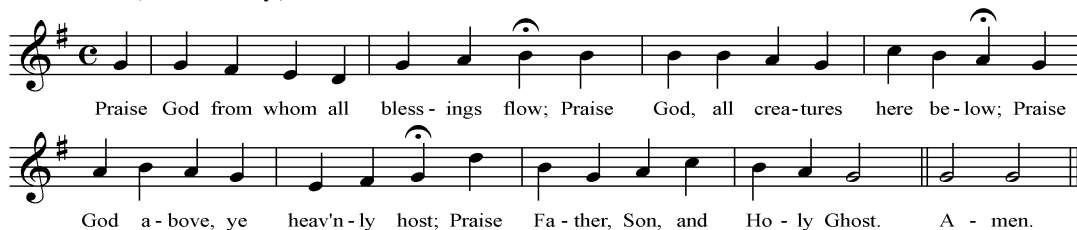
“THE GOD WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

(10:00 only)

***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)

As we wait and watch for Christ to appear, O God, we seek to be his faithful followers in the interim. May our offerings extends the promise of salvation not only to our own kind, but to all of the earth, to touch lives broken by neglect, bad choices, abuse, and sinful ways. Touch all whose hurt seems too much to bear. 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 #134

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Karen Brennan, Lou Converse, Karalesa DiFabio, Mary Ann Freeman and Gary Holmes.

TODAY'S GREETERS are The Fox Family (Confirmand, Anna).



COFFEE HOUR

EACH SUNDAY (EXCEPT FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS),
WE GATHER AFTER CHURCH FOR FELLOWSHIP IN OUR PARISH HALL.

PLEASE JOIN US!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHURCH SCHOOL PAGEANT: DECEMBER 14TH!

The Church School Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 14th directly following service. Rehearsal will be during Church School, this morning.

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'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Friday, December 12th 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.

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 this morning, 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 13th**, 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 or Gayle Appleby:
Gayle@applebycapital.com



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

Advent Celebration

Today - 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,
elizabethwerner@gmail.com



Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 16th**).*

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.**

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

Special Congregational Meeting, 11 a.m. in the Meetinghouse
Confirmation Class, 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Room
Advent Celebration, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bell Choir, 4:30 p.m.
Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room
Board of Stewards, 8:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Church School Christmas Pageant, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, in Parish Hall
Candlelight Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

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 this morning, 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.



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*