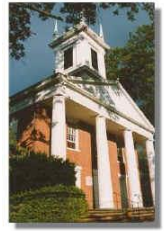




**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

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)



***SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***December 10, 2017***

***8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***



# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 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. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #155**

“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

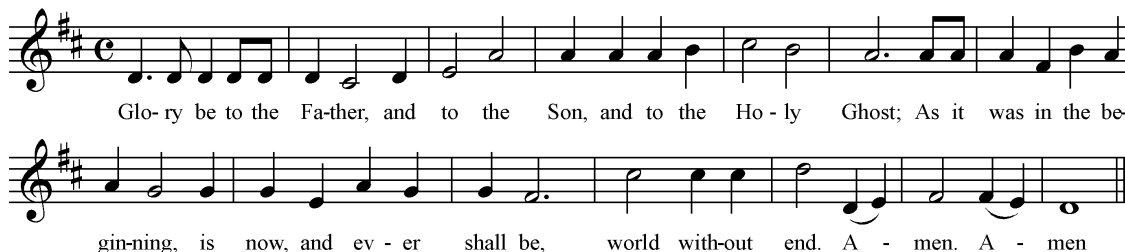
**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

**\*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 Almy family (10:00 a.m.)

### DEACON INTRODUCTION

Bill Lattimer (8:30), Phil Meyer (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

*(10:00 only)*

“PEACE”

Christine Geeding  
Director of Christian Education

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)  
Phil Meyer, Deacon (10:00)

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord’s hand  
double for all her sins.

*(continued)*

A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’

And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

‘Here is your God!’

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

**\*HYMN #115**

“COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE”

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
 ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
 who will prepare your way;  
 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

## SERMON

“GOING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?”

Rev. Rosenberger

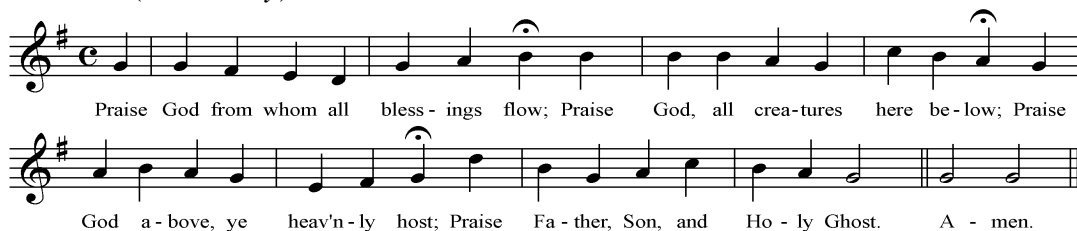
## OFFERTORY

“EVERY VALLEY”

John Ness Beck

*(10:00 only)*

Senior Choir

\*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.**

## \*HYMN #160

“GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

“VENI EMMANUEL”  
THE “BELLES” THAT RING

15<sup>th</sup> Century

\* \* \*

TODAY’S USHERS are Bill Lattimer (8:30 a.m.), Phil Meyer and Dave Sealy.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *CHURCH SCHOOL*



#### *Pageant and Pennies!*

Our Christmas Pageant is coming on December 17th at 11:00AM in Parish Hall! We will "pass the hat" for a free-will loose change offering. This will go to a local charity to be chosen by the youth of FCC. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

#### *Final Rehearsals: Pageant 2017*

Our final Christmas Pageant rehearsals are as follows:

- Sunday, December 10 (Church School)
- Saturday, December 16 (5:00PM-7:00PM, pizza to follow!)

#### *Youth Band*

The new FCC Youth Band looks forward to sharing their music with everyone. Would you like to join? Our next rehearsal is Sunday, December 17th at 3:00PM in the room next to Gary's office. Email [cgeeding@uccdarien.org](mailto:cgeeding@uccdarien.org) or [gmorello@uccdarien.org](mailto:gmorello@uccdarien.org) for more information.

## *NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS*

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!

## *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.



## *ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND COOKIE EXCHANGE*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 at 12:00 PM** – Parish Hall

A longstanding FCC Women's Association tradition, come and enjoy a holiday luncheon, some music and a cookie exchange. Participation in the Cookie Exchange is optional. \$5.00 Suggested Donation.

Leave this form in the Women's Association mailbox across from the Church Office or send an e-mail to Debbie Nelson, [dcnelson@optonline.net](mailto:dcnelson@optonline.net).

Women's Association Annual Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 15, 2017

12:00 pm in Church Parish Hall

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## *MUSIC AT FIRST NEWS*



### **Christmas Candlelight Concert: Saturday, Dec 16, 7:00 pm**

Bring the spirit of Christmas into your heart at the annual Candlelight Concert. The evening will feature performances by The Darien High School Tudor Singers under the direction of Chris Andrade, the church's Senior Choir soloists, world-class pianist Max Pakhomov and a carol sing-along by the audience. Refreshments will follow the program.

### **Christmas Eve Services: Sunday, Dec 24**

Family Services: 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols: 10:00 pm, with a Prelude Concert starting at 9:30 pm. If you would like to sing with the choir at this service, please contact Dan Hague ([dantheague@aol.com](mailto:dantheague@aol.com)) and come to a couple of rehearsals on Thursday nights at 8 pm before the service.

**For more information on the music program, contact Mariann Bigelow ([bigelow3@optonline.net](mailto:bigelow3@optonline.net) or John Stuart ([johnstuartmktg@optonline.net](mailto:johnstuartmktg@optonline.net))**

## *BIBLE STUDY / 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





**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS! PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Food First**

The FCCD congregation helps those in need by bringing non-perishable food items to church on the first Sunday of each month. Some food items to consider: dry beans, canned vegetables & fruit, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soups, peanut butter, rice, cereal. Food will be distributed to local shelters.

**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 [gayle@applebycapital.com](mailto:gayle@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 Cheswick

THE FCC CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS

P A G E A N T

2017



DECEMBER 17, 2017  
11:15AM IN PARISH HALL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF DARIEN



*Join Us As We Continue To Celebrate Advent!*



**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!***

## 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, DECEMBER 11

Board of Stewards, 7:45 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

Board of Deacons, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Bible Study in the Morehouse Room

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

WA Christmas Luncheon, 12 noon in the Circle Room

#### 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.

Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall

“Come As You Are” worship, 4:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

*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*