



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CELEBRATION OF OUR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COSTA RICA WORK TRIP

December 13, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Love THE WEEKS OF ADVENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CELEBRATION OF OUR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COSTA RICA WORK TRIP

December 13, 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 #140

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS, WHO, LAID TO REST”

*CALL TO WORSHIP


Mr. Gary Morello, Interim Youth Minister

*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 THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT – “LOVE”

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Bob and Judith Sinche (8:30 a.m.) and the Kline Family (10:00 a.m.)

DEACON INTRODUCTION

Lou Converse (8:30), Gary Holmes (10:00)

ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: God’s passionate love for all creation bursts into a sacred flame, producing a light for all to see. Now may our souls kindle like brushwood —with fire for the third candle of Advent.

Congregation: Something new is happening within us. We, who are waiting for the birth of the Christ, catch a glimpse of our reflection, expecting to notice a change. But we, and the holiday bustle of the season, look the same.

Family Member: For some, this season arrives with anxiety over changes we had not planned. Yet God works with us, helping to mold the clay of our lives.

Congregation: Like an expectant mother, we dream of God's work occurring just below the surface. We wait for the Messiah to meet us again, in fire, water, flesh, and blood.
(Worship Ways, Eden Theological Seminary Students, 2005, Worship & Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, UCC)

DEACON ADVENT PRAYER

BAPTISM OF MICHAELA ELAINE MADURI, TYLER JAMES MADURI, KAITLYN MARIE MADURI

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

Rev. Rosenberger

MOMENT OF SILENCE

EPISTLE LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7
(page 242 NRSV)

Lou Converse, Deacon (8:30)
Gary Holmes, Deacon (10:00)

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 10:30-38
(page 87 NSRV)

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

"WHAT WOULD YOU BUILD?"

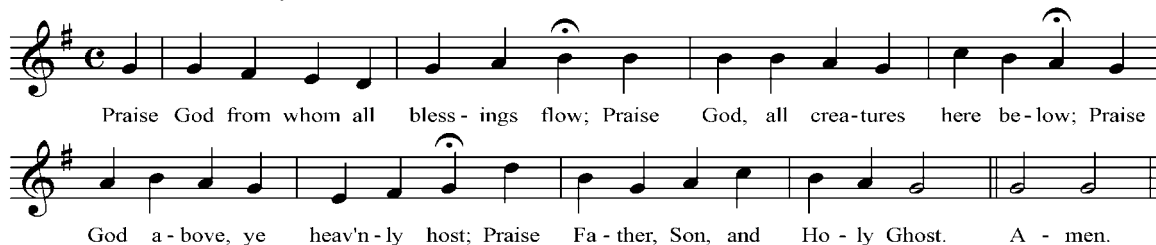
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS”
Philippians 4:4-7
Senior Choir

H. Purcell

***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)

(*responsively*)

The Lord Jesus is homeless!

Homeless?! When was that?

When he was a little boy standing by a garbage dump in Lagos, Nigeria. You saw him on the news. You also saw him as an old man on the porch of his tenement shack. Remember? You noticed him as you drove by in your air-conditioned car.

That little boy and that old man---they were Jesus?

Yes. And you also saw his face in the faces of other poor children. Our well-traveled congregation has seen us their faces and heard their stories. You've seen Jesus, in India, in Africa, in New Orleans and Detroit, even among our area homeless.

What do you expect us to do about it?

First, realize that all of those hurting people living in hovels are the Lord Jesus, in distressing disguise. Then pray, organize, and act to begin working out solutions.

But the problem is so big, and we are so few and small.

If God is with you, who can be against you? Faith no larger than a mustard seed moves mountains and rebuilds whole cities. If five loaves and two fish could feed thousands, surely the bricks, boards, and concrete available can house millions.

Maybe we should take more time to study the problem.

Worship God in spirit and in truth. We've already waited for centuries. Enough with studies, let's put faith in action. Genuine worship leads to worshipful service.

"WHEN THE CHURCH OF JESUS"

Unison

1. When the church of Je - sus shuts its out - er door,
 2. If our hearts are lift - ed where de - vo - tion soars
 3. Lest the gifts we of - fer, mon - ey, tal - ents, time,

lest the roar of traf - fic drown the voice of prayer,
 high a - bove this hun - gry, suf - fering world of ours,
 serve to salve our con - science, to our se - cret shame,

may our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more a - ware
 lest our hymns should drug us to for - get its needs,
 Lord, re - prove, in - spire us by the way you give;

that the world we ban - ish is our Chris - tian care.
 forge our Chris - tian wor - ship in - to Chris - tian deeds.
 teach us, dy - ing Sav - ior, how true Chris - tians live.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

TODAY'S GREETERS The Hult Family: Ann-Gail, Fred and George (Confirmand).

TODAY'S USHERS Lou Converse (8:30), Gary Holmes, Lauren Ryder and Brad Westbrook.

MUSIC NOTES: "WHEN THE CHURCH OF JESUS," Words: ©1969 by Hope Publishing Co.
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TODAY'S BAPTISMAL FAMILY: CHRIS, LYLA, KAITLYN, TYLER AND MICHAELA MADURI.
Chris and Lyla both grew up in Stamford and went to high school together, where Lyla was Chris' junior prom date. They eventually went their separate ways before reconnecting at their 15th high-school reunion. They married a year and a half ago and have a two-month old daughter, Michaela. Chris also has two children from his first marriage: Kaitlyn, age 5 and Tyler, who is 3. Lyla, who is an investment banker in New York, grew up in the North Stamford Congregational Church and says that First Congregational has the same welcoming and inclusive spirit of that church. Chris grew up Catholic and works in investment sales in Stamford. Interestingly, both Chris and Lyla are twins! Chris is an identical twin and Lyla has a twin brother.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Goal of Pledge 2016... **... is FULL participation!**

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!

THANK YOU!

2016 Pledge Committee

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

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.

Nursery School News

Teri Manning is giving tours of the nursery school January 3 - January 14 and church members receive priority placement! In addition, there will be an open house on January 10th! Call 203 655-3150 for more information.

11 Brookside Update...Good News and Better News!

We are pleased to report major progress on the renovation of our facility at 11 Brookside Road. Installation of new plumbing, electric wiring, soundproofing and insulation is complete and the sheetrock was started this past week. The 3 areas - Residence, Community Room and Youth Room - are quickly taking shape. The *even better news* is that YOU get to help! During the proposal/budget process we agreed that in order to save about \$20,000 we would use volunteers from our church family to paint...and paint...and paint. Moreover, we may be close to securing the paint at a very discounted price! Many of us eat too much during the holiday season and look for ways to work off a few pounds in that week between Christmas and New Year, and we have just the opportunity you are looking for. Look for sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall or contact Bob Sinche at rsinche@aol.com for details. Exercise, contribute and enjoy some quality time with your fellow church members...a great way to ring in the New Year!

With great thanks and excitement - 11 Brookside Road Committee

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).

CBS Documentary

The CBS documentary, "Marriage, Religion and Modern Life", will air on Sunday, December 20th at 1:00 p.m. on WCBS (Chanel 2). The special will be on Channel 2 (WCBS) on 1pm on 12/20. For those who can't wait to see it on tv, it will be posted here:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/religion-and-culture/>

FCCD Helps!

Cooking for the Open Door Shelter

We will be cooking for and serving at the Open Door Shelter (formerly the Norwalk Emergency Shelter) on the following dates in December. Join us!

- **Thursday, December 17th**, 6:30 p.m. – Cook at the FCCD kitchen –
PLEASE NOTE EVENING COOK TIME!
- **Friday, December 18th**, 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Serve at the Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk. Must be 16 or older to serve.

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!!

Contact Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to help with any of the above.

The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you for your support!



*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 - 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!!



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 **Friday, December 18th**).*

*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

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall
Christmas Candlelight Concert 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Church Council, 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Cooking for the Open Door Shelter, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Serve at the Open Door Shelter, 11:45 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Pageant, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service
Youth Group, 6:00 p.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*

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*