



**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)



***THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***December 14, 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*

# **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 14, 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**

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger, Pastor

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #136**

“ON THIS DAY, EARTH SHALL RING”

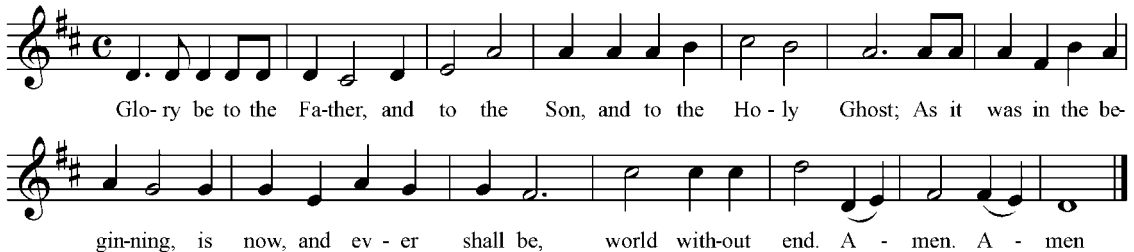
**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*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: The Werner Family (8:30 a.m.) & The McCarthy Family (10:00 a.m.)

DEACON INTRODUCTION

Al Nickerson (8:30), Theo Osgood (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.

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

“LOVE”

Kathy Cramer

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

NUMBERS 11:24-30

Al Nickerson, Deacon (8:30)  
Theo Osgood, Deacon (10:00)

\*HYMN #140

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

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 6:2-12

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

"COMFORTERS, EVERYWHERE!"

Rev. Rosenberger

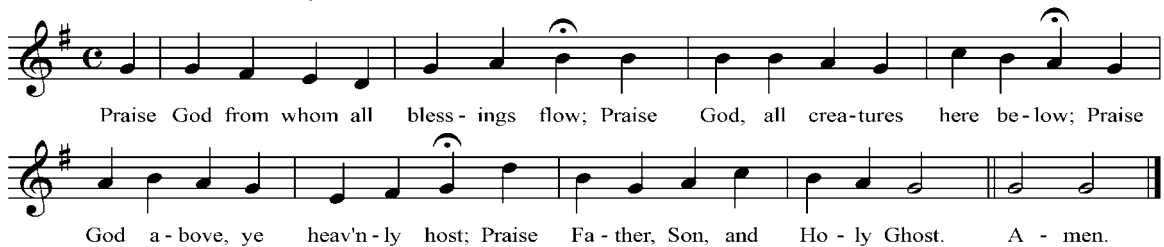
## DEDICATION OF THE CARE CIRCLE

**OFFERTORY**  
(10:00 only)

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD (MESSIAH)  
Senior Choir

G.F. Handel

**\*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)

**Despite our unworthiness, O God, we bring worthy gifts to honor the newborn Messiah. May the brokenhearted be led to new celebrations of life. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as your beloved children. We give ourselves as your servants, knowing that our commitment hallows our gifts. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #488**

“GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

\* \* \*

**TODAY'S GREETERS** the Cator Family (Confirmands: Ellie and Lindsay)

**TODAY'S USHERS** April Barker, Karalesa DiFabio, Al Nickerson (8:30) and Theo Osgood.

**ADVENT PRAYER:** *Worship Ways, Eden Theological Seminary Students, 2005, Worship & Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, UCC*

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TODAY DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE 10:00 SERVICE!**

The Christmas Pageant is finally here and the children have been working hard in preparation. Please join us in the **Parish Hall** directly following service to see the most magical show performed by our very own Church School children!

### **CALLING ALL CHILDREN GRADES 2-6!**

Come to one rehearsal to sing at 4pm Christmas Eve Service.

The One Rehearsal is Sunday 12/21 during the 8:30 am Service.

We will learn the songs then. Hope to see you then.

### **DAY WINGS LUNCH AND CONCERT – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**

Special **Max Pakhomov Concert** for Day Wings on Thursday, Dec. 18th at 12:30 in the church. We invite all Max lovers to come and if you have time, to join us for lunch in the Circle Room. Bring a sandwich - we provide drinks and cookies. Let us know if you can, but come anyway. (contact: Sally Bassler - [sbassler@me.com](mailto:sbassler@me.com) or 203-655-9658)

### **CHRISTMAS HAM DISTRIBUTION**

The Board of Outreach needs some helpful hands to distribute Christmas Hams to the families at the Norwalk Emergency Shelter on **Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 2014 between the hours of 8:30am – 11:30am. We need at least twelve volunteers for this very rewarding work. Please sign up in Parish Hall OR contact Bob McGee: [rmcgee03@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmcgee03@sbcglobal.net).

### **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!

### **LOOKING FOR A NEW CHURCH? ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Want to learn more about becoming a member of First Congregational Church? Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Join us at noon on Saturday, January 24 for a conversation on what membership means at FCC. This informational gathering is open to anyone who would like to understand how the church can play a more meaningful role in their lives. Lunch and child care available. If you'd like to learn more about this gathering, please contact Pastor Rosenberger at [drosenberger@uccdarien.org](mailto:drosenberger@uccdarien.org).

## **THE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP**

Will be meeting on Dec. 17th at 3:00 in the Morehouse Room. We will talk about the short story, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor. **Read and Come** or call Sally Bassler ([sbassler@me.com](mailto:sbassler@me.com) or 203-655-9658) with questions.



### **Join Us**

## **As We Continue To Celebrate Advent!**

### **TODAY, DECEMBER 14 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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”

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**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. Our Jr. Choir will sing at the 4:00 p.m. service.*

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

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

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

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

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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**

Church School Christmas Pageant, following the 10 a.m. worship service, in Parish Hall  
Candlelight Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Classics Book Group, 3:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Church Council, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**

Day Wings Lunch & Concert, 12 noon in the Circle Room  
Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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