



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
www.uccdarien.org



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 27, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



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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 #125**

“GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

All Christian folk, rejoice! With heart and soul and voice.
What an unrivaled gift as God takes up our cause in life.

**Sing a new song to the God of our salvation.
But it all has a price. God will suffer our pain.**

God works in redemptive ways with his people;
and we are able to leave our deep burdens behind.

**We want our lives to be songs of praise,
for joy is the final note in life’s melody.**

God’s truth shall prevail despite everything.
That child of Bethlehem gets the final word.


**Then we shall follow where the Christ leads.
Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth.**

***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

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 63:7-9
(page 693 NRSV)

Lauren Ryder, Deacon (8:30)
Steve Weeden, Deacon (10:00)

***HYMN #146**

“WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS”

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 2:22-40
(page 59 NSRV)

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

"JESUS, SMALL AND LARGE"

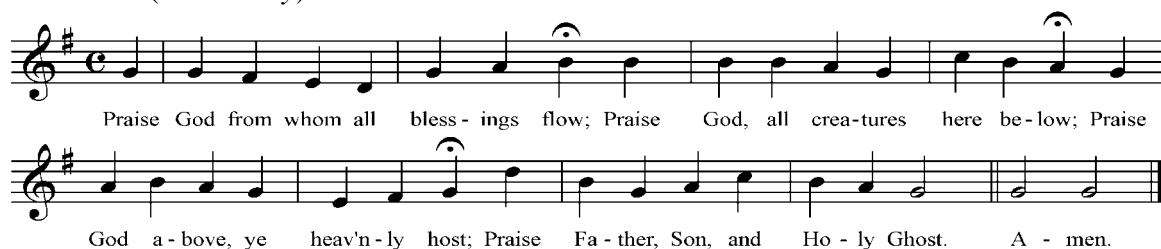
Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)**

“BEHOLD THAT STAR”
Daniel Hague

Arr. H. T. Burliegh

***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)

We thank you, God, for how your love gives us life, for the holy mission you initiated among us, for renewing purpose in our days. We praise you for the peace Christ makes possible among us. Guard us from needless anxiety, that we might live like Jesus—joyously, without counting the cost. We give of self and substance to spread this news. 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)

We give thanks, O Lord, for your unfailing love and your wonderful deeds on our behalf. You have fed us with the bread of life and the wine of forgiveness. We praise you for your Son, whose sacrifice has purchased our pardon. Unite us to you and to our neighbor, through your presence and grace in this holy meal. Help us, O God, to leave this place transformed, and committed to living lives that proclaim the Gospel of salvation. Amen.

*HYMN #129

“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY’S USHERS Frank Burke, Lauren Ryder(8:30) and Steve Weeden.

TODAY’S BULLETIN COVER “*A Light to the Gentiles,*” by Greg Olson.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS: CALL TO A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Scheduled for Sunday, January 3, 2016, at 11:15 am

The purposes of this meeting are:

- To approve a waiver of Article XX, paragraph 6.A. of the church By-Laws, which will allow us to call a pastoral candidate who is not already an ordained minister;
- To vote on the search committee’s recommendation to call Gary Morello as our new Associate Minister.

--Conni Moore, Clerk

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2016, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and can be found on the stage, in the Parish Hall. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at KHansen@uccdarien.org.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Each summer we send our high school youth and adult chaperones on a week-long work and spiritual journey with other youth from around the country. Past programs have seen our youth attend work camps and programs in Phoenix, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Staten Island, NY; and most recently in Accident, MD. Projects have included rebuilding and repairing homes and schools, cleaning shelters and churches, and harvesting food. To date, the mission trip has been for students in entering grade 9 through college.

This year's Youth Group has met and made a decision for the summer 2016 mission trip. Grade leaders have reached out to their peers and excitement for the trip is high. After some thoughtful discussion among our current seniors, we have decided to run two concurrent mission experiences – one for the high school youth and one for the middle school youth. Future years may see us running a joint mission trip.

In 2016, our high school group plans to partner with the Group Mission Trips organization from last year's very successful trip. This year's theme is "*(Extra)Ordinary – We are ordinary, but with Him in us, we are extraordinary, because He is extraordinary.*" We are targeting the week of June 26 to July 2 to head to Vienna, VA. There we will perform home repairs and improvements. The cost per person (not including travel) is \$470 (be sure to see Purpose section below on costs/fundraising). Gary Morello will lead the high school mission trip and is looking for parent chaperones/drivers (male and female) to join him.

Below is a link to some great parent resources and the Group Mission Trips website:

groupmissiontrips.com/parents-ebook
groupmissiontrips.com

I've been in contact with the High School Mission team leader. The sooner we know how many people are coming the better. As a result, in order for us to secure our spots -- each person

(continued)

needs to put down a \$50 deposit. If interested in attending, please drop a check to payable to FCC for \$50 with "2016 Mission Trip" in the Memo line as soon as possible.

Please see attached the copy of what the schedule will look like during our time in Vienna.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

During the same week, Karen Brennan, Board of Christian Education Chair, will lead a middle school mission trip closer to home, allowing for two or three days of local day travel. This will allow us to introduce rising 6th graders to our youth program, while offering a service program to our middle school students entering grades 6-8.

We are hopeful to partner with a community center or school in a town like Bridgeport or New Haven where there is a real need for building improvement (e.g., shore up a playground, paint classrooms) or a community-partner who needs help (e.g., reorganizing a food pantry or clothing distribution center). The cost per person is yet to be determined and we will need parent chaperones/drivers for this trip as well.

Please e-mail me if you are interested in participating for one, two or three of the days.

Purpose

Our goal for both trips is to attract as many youth as possible, while keeping costs manageable. Our Youth Group is united in our mission work and invested in holding fundraisers throughout the year to offset travel and supply costs. Two events held this fall (Car Wash, Children's Halloween Party) raised approximately \$700. A third fundraiser (Bake Sale) is planned for Easter weekend and we have received a small grant from the Board of Christian Outreach. Our goal is to reduce each participant's cost and pay for all chaperones to attend, and pay for gas and tolls for all drivers.

This is an opportunity for us to take the gospel message we believe in and put it into action.

Please note I'm here to discuss any and all questions you may have. I can't wait to serve with our young people at FCC.

This will be fantastic!

With great enthusiasm,

Gary M. Morello (GMorello@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).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday, January 2, 4:00 to 5:30 pm: Reception for Gary Morello

An informal meet-and-greet in the Morehouse and Circle Rooms: Especially if you haven't had the chance to get to know Gary yet, please stop by to say hello!

Sunday, January 3: Church meeting to vote on calling Gary Morello as Associate Minister

We will have a single worship service, at 10 am, which Gary will lead and at which he will preach. After the service, we will convene a church meeting. You will have the opportunity to ask Gary any questions about his ministry, and to ask the search committee any questions about process and why we recommend him so highly, before we vote on the search committee's recommendation to call Gary as our Associate Minister. Child care will be provided.

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

No Bible Study

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

Church Offices Closed (*Happy New Year!*)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

Reception/Meet-and-Greet with Gary Morello, 4:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. only (*led by Gary Morello*)

Special Congregational Meeting, 11:15 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

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*