



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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 14, 2018

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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 14, 2018

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

*A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 3 and younger,
in the Nursery School wing from 9:45 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.*

Please drop off children ages 0 - 2.9 at or before students are released for Church School.

The nursery is the first classroom in the left hand hallway, after the supply closet.

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #8**

“FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Arise and shine for your light has come.

The Glory of God has risen amongst us.

We are awake; we are alive!

Praise God for love and blessings.

Lift up your eyes to see the world around you.

Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

May justice water the earth.

Let righteousness and peace abound.

Receive again the promises of the gospel.

Participate in the mystery of God.

God's ways are being revealed to us today.

Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.

***OPENING PRAYER**

*LORD'S PRAYER

(unison)

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17

Phil Meyer, Deacon (8:30)
Steve Weeden, Deacon (10:00)

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

(continued)

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

***HYMN #S19**

“SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER”

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 6:5-15

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

‘Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.’

SERMON

“JESUS WAS A RABBI”

Rev. Morello

OFFERTORY

“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”
Senior Choir

Arr. Harold Best

*DOXOLOGY

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

(unison)

We are stewards of God’s grace, entrusted with the faith found in Christ. We are channels in which the wisdom of God is offered to the world. Our prosperity gives us the marvelous opportunity to share. Out of devotion to God, we commit our best to serve our neighbors. Help us all, O God, to be authentic stewards of your grace and truth. Amen.

*HYMN #S14

“O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

*It is our custom at First Church to share quietly in our Postlude, as our final act of praise.
We invite you to remain seated with us.*

* * *

TODAY’S USHERS are Marianne Lauer, Phil Meyer, Dave Miller and Steve Weeden.

**A CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHUCH OF DARIEN**

You are hereby called to the First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ, 14 Brookside Road, for the first portion of the Annual Meeting of the church scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2018 immediately following our 10 o'clock service of worship.

The purpose of this meeting of the congregation is to:

- * receive the 2017 financial reports.
- * receive the recommendations of Church Council for the 2018 budget.
- * address any other business or concern relating to the life of our congregation, that may properly be brought before the assembled congregation.

From Gary...

Pursue a Purpose

2018 has started off with a bang! Last weekend, January 7th, I had the privilege and honor of officiating the wedding of my eldest sister, Melissa Kathryn Penza. Our family and friends were riveted by the love we all share for Jesus Christ.

After the sermon, a gentleman, who has been married for over 40 years came up to me and said: "Young man, you are one of the most gifted preachers I've ever heard. Today, you taught me new things about the Bible and inspired me to love my wife even more." As usual, this comment brought tears to my eyes. Immediately, I thought about Jesus. Primarily, what a phenomenal teacher He is. His ability to teach us lessons about our human nature, how to develop our character and how to live a faithful life is superb.

This Sunday, I want to share with you the *main teaching* Jesus has taught me. In truth, I believe deeply, that it's the secret to a beautiful life regardless of age, race, creed, religion, or lack of religion. Since I became a Christian it's always been my anchor.

(continued)

My prayer is that you have taken the time to sit alone with God and think about the year ahead. I came across a great article entitled: “*5 Steps to Success in Achieving Goals*”, it is a great framework to use so that you can pursue your purpose. I hope it inspires you:

Step 1: Set Goals with the Greatest Positive Impact

We are often pulled in many directions, which makes it hard to accomplish even one small goal. To prioritize your goals, look at all areas of your life such as family, health, career, finances, and leisure activities. Then decide what goal(s) in each area truly motivate you and will most positively impact your life.

Step 2: Make SMART Goals for Best Results

To make goals that are focused and achievable, they need to be S.M.A.R.T., an acronym that typically means: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-limited.

For example, instead of saying, “I want to start my own business,” a SMART goal would be: “I will start my own life coaching business that helps people with major life transitions by May 1, 2015.” The latter goal is specific in that there is no question as to what is trying to be accomplished. Also, anyone can determine whether or not it has been completed, which makes it measurable, and the time-limitation helps create the motivation.

Step 3: Writing Goals Down Is Essential

Writing goals in a daily planner, a journal or even on sticky notes, helps focus our attention on them and makes them more real.

Step 4: Think of Potential Obstacles and Real Solutions

Winston Churchill said, “Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.” Successful people fail more than unsuccessful people simply because they keep trying no matter what obstacles they come across.

Step 5: Focus on Goals Everyday

Focusing daily on our goals helps us succeed in reaching them because it’s a constant reminder of what we desire in life. Achieving important goals in life can truly be difficult yet so rewarding. Enthusiasm, self-discipline, commitment, and perseverance is what’s needed to get our desired results. Once a goal is realized, a dream turned into reality, we gain acknowledgement that through hard work and passion nothing is impossible.

Friends, I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday. God bless you and stay passionate!

Compassionately,
Rev. Gary Morello



FCC Care Circle 11th Hour Discussion:
The Invisible Conversations
With Your Aging Parents

With Author Rev. Shannon A. White
Sunday, January 21, 11:15 a.m.

As an ordained minister, Rev. White has seen countless families going through the aging and dying processes with a loved one—some with joy and peace, able to say everything they needed to say, and others with reluctance and struggle, hampered by “invisible conversations” in operation for decades.

In her book, *The Invisible Conversations With Your Aging Parents*, Rev. White provides practical tools to help families deal better with the aging and dying process, wherever they are on life’s journey. Specifically, she provides guidance on how to discuss tricky topics such as legal documents the elderly and everyone should have in place, dealing with dementia, helping seniors decide where to live, financial oversight by adult children, what to do when a parent’s driving is no longer safe, aging and alcoholism, caregiving, and loss and grief.

Undergirding all these topics are lists of practical questions that should be addressed, tips on how to speak aloud the conversations we have in our minds, and brief case studies that provide powerful examples.

RSVP to Mariann Bigelow (bigelow3@optonline.net).

Refreshments and child care will be provided. Rev. White’s book is available in the church office for those who wish to purchase it before the discussion (\$10).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We are still looking for more Church School teachers, subs, and one-time speakers! If you have a talent you are willing to share with the Church School at FCC, please email cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

BIBLE STUDY / THE BOOK OF ACTS

Please join us for a 10-week examination of some of the best-known stories from the book of Acts and a discussion about what they tell us about our lives today.

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.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and can be found near 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.

THE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics Book Group will be meeting on Wednesday, January 17 in the library at 3:30. We will be talking about Turgenev's Fathers and Sons. This announcement is very late, but the book is short - try us out: Interesting people and thoughtful, relaxed discussions. Sally Bassler [203-655-9658](tel:203-655-9658) or sbassler13@gmail.com.

The First Congregational Church of Darien Presents:



Join us for our Sunday afternoon Worship Service,
on **Sunday, January 21 at 4:30 p.m.**

Key elements of the service include:

A casual and more contemporary worship service, lasting about 45 minutes. Designed for people of all ages, from teens and young adults, to families with young children and empty-nesters. Led by our Associate Minister Gary M. Morello, with a short message and a combination of contemporary music, familiar hymns, upbeat choruses and prayerful songs.

Hymns of Truth & Light

Christmas is a wonderful time to dedicate a hymnal to someone special with a bookplate!

The cost of adding a personalized bookplate is \$25 per hymnal. Please fill out the following form, printing clearly so that your name and that of a loved one are readable and reproducible on a bookplate:

Your Name: _____ Email _____

>>To honor the memory of a loved one:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

>>To celebrate someone special:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

>>To dedicate a meetinghouse hymnal(s) in your family name:

Your family name: _____

>>Other wording: _____

Total number of hymnals ordered above: _____

Total amount due with this order: \$ _____ (Price: \$25 each)

(Please make check out to First Congregational Church of Darien, with "hymnal" in the memo section, and leave it and the form in the church office.)

Thank you! Through your purchase, you are helping subsidize the cost of these hymnals to the church.



CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Church Office closed in observance of MLK Jr. Day

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Church Council, 8:00 p.m.

Classics Book Group, 3:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

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

Senior Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Men's Ministry, 7:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

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*

Find "First Congregational Church of Darien"
on Facebook, Google+, Vimeo and "@UCCDarien" on Twitter.

