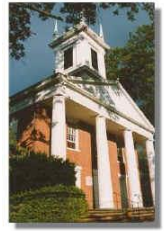




THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 4, 2018

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



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February 4, 2018

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Children are always welcome at our worship services.

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. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #S10**

“HOW GREAT THOU ART”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

God summons us, from the sun's rising to its setting.
We listen for your voice, Mighty One, addressing us.

**Our God comes, and does not keep silence.
Through fire and tempest, he abides with us.**

God speaks to those faithful to his covenant promises,
to all with eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to embrace.

**We have come seeking the knowledge of Jesus Christ,
We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

**All: Unstop your ears for the good news of the Gospel.
Open your eyes to behold no less than God's glory.**

***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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 40:21-31

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)
Frank Burke, Deacon (10:00)

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble. *(continued)*

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

‘My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God’?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

***HYMN #400**

“THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD”

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 1:29-39

Rev. Rosenberger

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. (*continued*)

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, ‘Everyone is searching for you.’ He answered, ‘Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.’ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

SERMON

"ANY ROOM LEFT FOR MIRACLES?"

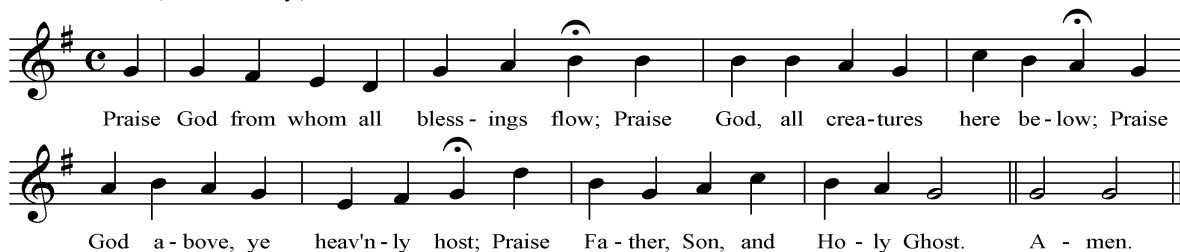
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

“LIFT THINE EYES” (Psalm 21)
Senior Choir

F. Mendelssohn

***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** (*unison*) (10:00 only)

Use our gifts, mighty God, to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May Jesus Christ be proclaimed among us and around your world. May loving righteousness prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit the spirit of the prophets and the vision of the mystics as we dedicate these gifts. 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*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks for what you have given us in this bread and cup. Fed and renewed by your life in us - we go now to share that life with others. Send us forth equipped with the power of your Spirit to spread the message of your love and compassion to all whom we meet. Amen.

***HYMN #395**

“WE YEARN, O CHRIST, FOR WHOLENESS”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Frank Burke, Bill Lattimer (8:30), Tucker Scott and Dave Sealy.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2018, 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.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Needed: YOU!

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.

"Ready Begin" Music Class with Mrs. G. - FEBRUARY!

Want your 3 to 6 year old kids to excel in music? Register for the all-new interactive kids music class focusing on healthy confident singing and note-learning. Classes will be offered twice monthly on Sundays, with a second option on Tuesdays or Fridays. Materials provided! See Christine Geeding or email cgeeding@uccdarien.org for more information.

YOUTH

ACCESS: Moved to February 8th

Access has been moved this month from January 25th to February 8th. Can't wait to see all 6th-8th graders! Dinner and great conversation provided.

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.

CLASSICS READING GROUP

The Classics Reading Group will meet next on Wednesday, February 21st. at 3:30 in the Library. We are reading Joan Didion's, Slouching Toward Bethlehem. (Looking ahead, we will read Democracy, by Henry Adams for our March 21st meeting).

Contact Sally Bassler sbassler13@gmail.com or [\(203\) 655-9658](tel:(203)655-9658).

DAY WINGS

Day Wings (eligible, seniors by AARP definition) will meet on Thursday, February 15th, for a late Valentine's Day lunch in the The Circle Room at noon. Please bring a sandwich - call Sally Bassler to reserve a place [\(203\)655-9658](tel:(203)655-9658).

KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry will meet in the Morehouse Room on the following dates and times:

7:30 PM Tuesday February 6; after church Sundays February 18 and March 18; 7:30 PM Tuesday April 3; and after church Sunday April 15.. We make items for baptisms and for our members who are suffering from illness or personal loss. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and help is available to novices. If you prefer to crochet, that talent is also welcome.

Prayers, readings and fellowship serve as nourishment for our time together.

For more information, Marnie Hodil at grhodil@optonline.net

YOUTH GROUP PIZZA NIGHT!! **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – 6:00 P.M.**



Donations Welcome!



JAZZ/FAT Sunday

Sunday, February 11

10:00 a.m.

no 8:30 service on 2/11

Mardi Gras "Supper" 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

suggested donation of \$5 per person/\$10 per family



“Soup or Bowl” kicks off
the 1,000 Pound Food Challenge!!

It’s that time of year again!



Our **SOUP or BOWL** event coincides with **FOOD FIRST** and kicks off our 2nd annual **1,000 POUND FOOD CHALLENGE** – so if soup isn’t your thing, feel free to bring what you can for those in need (e.g., non-perishable food items: pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, tuna fish, rice, beans and the occasional cake mix & icing for special occasions). The clock is ticking and the play is on. Help us **win the bowl** by getting to 1,000 pounds by the end of March! Donations will go to the Open Door Shelter and the Person-to-Person pantry, both of which suffer from lower donations during the cold winter months when people need it most.

Please help!

Thank you from the Outreach Committee!

GO PATS! GO EAGLES!



**American
Red Cross**

POWER *in the* blood

You can put the power of faith into action and help save a life!

Blood Drive **First Congregational Church of Darien**

Church Hall
14 Brookside Road
Darien, CT

Tuesday, February 27th
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

To schedule your appointment visit
REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG
or call 1-800 -RED CROSS ~ 800-733-2767

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to
15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass
to complete your pre-donation reading and health
history questions on the day of your appointment.**



CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Board Of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Office Wing Mtg. Room
Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Access 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Senior Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (no 8:30 service)
Youth Group Pizza Night, 6:30 p.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*

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