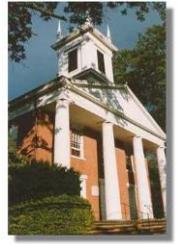


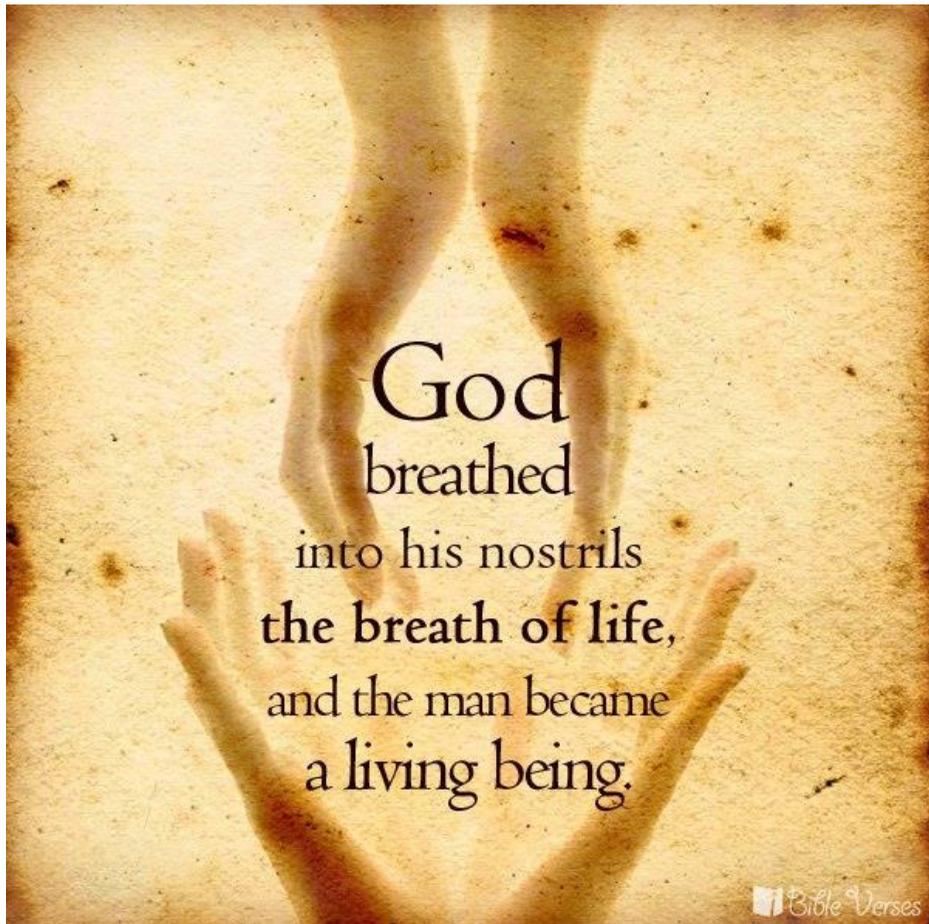


THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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 OF LENT ***FEBRUARY 18, 2018 – 8:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M.***



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2018 – 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, starting at 9:45 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #401**

“AMAZING GRACE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

God has searched us and knows us.
God knows as we sit and as we rise.

**God searches out our work and our rest.
The Lord is familiar with all of our ways.**

Before a word is upon our tongue, God knows it.
God’s hand is ever present, to show us the way.

**Such lofty knowledge is wonderment to us.
And it is far beyond anything we can attain.**

**All: We cannot escape God’s Spirit or flee his presence.
Darkness is as light for God, who illumines our way.**

OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Gary M. 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

DEDICATION OF ARIANNA GRACE MORELLO (10:00 only)

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

GENESIS 2:4-9

Dave Sealy, Deacon (8:30 a.m.)

Tucker Scott, Deacon (10:00 a.m.)

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,* and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

*HYMN #207

“TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE”

(sung twice)

EPISTLE LESSON

1 PETER 1:3-9, 22-25

Rev. Rosenberger

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is

(continued)

revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

‘All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

but the word of the Lord endures forever.’

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

SERMON

“DUST AND GRASS”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD” (PSALM 23)
Senior Choir

Thomas Matthews

DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (10:00 only)

For how you wondrously preserve and deliver us from our troubles, O God, we give you our thanks. Bless these tokens of gratitude as we grow in appreciation of your gifts and in response to your love. May all touched by our offerings be led to know the blessing of community and commitment we share in our home church. In Christ, we offer our best. Amen.

***HYMN #327**

“I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY’S USHERS:

Phil Meyer, Tucker Scott, Dave Sealy and Mandy Teare.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Midnight Run Collection Has Begun: **Look for the Marked Donation Boxes in Parish Hall** **"If It's Good Enough for You to Wear,** **It's Good Enough to Give Away!"**

On Friday, March 30 (Good Friday) members of our congregation and Youth Group will be heading into NYC to bring food, clothing, and personal care items to the homeless living on the streets. We are asking for the entire congregation to help with our collection efforts. Here's how you can participate:

- Church School families are being asked to collect personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, soap, deodorant, shampoo, lip balm and tissue packages. Details are being sent out to all via e-mail. If you are unsure what your child is supposed to collect, please contact Mrs. Geeding.
- We need LOTS AND LOTS of men's clothing, specifically in this order: durable pants like blue jeans or sweatpants (large and XL sizes preferred); socks (tube socks, white or dark); men's briefs (jockey style, sizes 32 to 42); sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts (large and XL, dark colors preferred); and T-shirts (medium to XL).
- We would love belts this year – at least 30 of them, so please either pick one up at Walmart, Target or Kohls (size 36 to 42) or find a good one from your closet.
- We need just a few of the same items for women. Typically, we'll clothe 60-65 men and about 10 women during the evening.
- As we did last year, we would like to give everyone who comes out a recyclable shopping bag to carry food and clothing home. If you have bags to spare, please consider donating. These will work better than paper grocery bags used in the past.

NEW THIS YEAR -- We'd like you to think about giving away something you are currently wearing instead of something old in your closet. Too often we receive clothing that isn't acceptable to give away. So, you are more than welcome to clean out your closet and bring items in that are in clean and good condition. Our motto this year is that "if it is good enough for you to wear, it is good enough to give away to someone who really needs it more!"

(continued)

If you are out and about at Walmart, Kohl's, or Target, look for deals and pick up a few new items to donate (especially new socks and underwear).

Don't have time to shop? No problem, our youth will happily do it for you! Simply give your donation to Gary Morello, Andy Huntington or Karen Brennan and they'll get the youth organized and looking for deals. We can make \$25 go a long way at Walmart!

Or, want to help with the food? Here's a link where you can make a donation:

<https://tinyurl.com/FCCRRunFood>

Questions? Please contact our Midnight Run organizers, Gary Morello and Karen Brennan for more information.

Looking to sign up to come on the run? Space is limited and open on a first come/first serve basis. We need adults to drive (with BIG cars) and youth.

<https://tinyurl.com/FCCRRunSpaces>

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

This week in Church School we will cover the story of Moses and the miracle on the Nile River. Baby Moses' life was saved by four amazing women: **a defiant midwife, a brave mother, a faithful daughter, and an Egyptian princess!** We will talk about the importance of helping others, and the fact that God works in many mysterious ways to look out for us!

KIDS COOK is coming back this March: Breakfast for Dinner on Tuesday, March 6th at 5:30PM. Look for the sign-up link coming soon.

Toiletry Donations: Look for a Sign-up Genius! The Church School will be collecting toiletries in the upcoming weeks for Midnight Run. Please look for an email listing grade assignments for donation. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

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.

ACCESS: March 8, 7:00-8:20PM. We are enjoying a wonderful time of conversation, food, and activities. Last time we learned about the "History" section of the Bible, and we will continue on to the "Wisdom" books in March! Can't wait to see 6th and 8th graders in the Dream Room!

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 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.

KNITTING MINISTRY

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

OUTREACH

Pacific House presents "Close to Home" Dessert Tasting and Youth Concert - Friday, February 23, 2018, 7 to 10 pm at the Greenwich Hyatt

Featuring outstanding performances by talented musicians from local high schools, plus desserts and food tastings from the areas finest local artisanal bakeries, restaurants and chocolatiers. Special performance by guest artist, Javier Colon, winner of "The Voice".

Complimentary tickets offered by Pacific House for our church's ongoing support of their organization. Please contact hmaker@me.com for more info! \$50 tickets available for purchase at Pacifichouse.org/ClosetoHome.

(continued)

1,000 Pound Food Challenge is underway!

Help us reach our goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of food for local shelters by the end of March — we still have 700 pounds to go!! Please bring to church cans of soup or other non-perishable food items such as pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, tuna fish, rice and beans. Donations will go to the Open Door and Pacific House food pantries, both of which suffer from lower donations during the winter when people need it most.

Cook/Serve at the Open Door Shelter!

Please help us to feed those in need.

Cooking at 8 am at The First Congregational Church of Darien kitchen

Serve from 11:45 am to 2 pm at The Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk

Must be 16 years or older.

Upcoming dates as follows:

March 8 cook/9 serve

April 26 cook/27 serve

May 17 cook/18 serve

The fourth annual Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart is scheduled for June 7, 2018!

This event has raised over \$60K each year for our Outreach Beneficiaries. This year our lead beneficiary is Pacific House in Stamford. Specifically, we will fund their new initiative which addresses the growing problem of young adult homelessness. Please consider attending their February 23rd “Close to Home” dessert tasting and youth concert to find out more about Pacific House!

Ways you can get involved in the house tour ...

- Recommend a home! We are looking for a variety of homes that would be of interest to our tour-goers — modern, traditional, big, small ... let us know if you have one in mind.

- Sponsor the tour! The tour is a great way to promote your business with over 500 people in attendance.

- Volunteer! We have lots of roles, big and small and would love your help. Contact Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to find out more.

For more information, check out darienhousetour.org.

Our next Blood Drive:

Tuesday, February 27, from 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Schedule your appointment at RedCrossBlood.org, or call 1-800 Red Cross (800-733-2767)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING MUSIC AT FIRST EVENTS:

Show up and Sing Sunday, Feb 25: Come and sing with the choir on this Sunday! All you need to do is show up at 9:15 am in the Morehouse Room and learn a simple piece. With the aid of choir members, you will raise your voice in this wonderful form of prayer.

Cabaret Night, Saturday, March 17, 7 pm: This ever popular evening of old standards sung by our choir's professional talents and other church friends includes audience sing-alongs and the keyboard stylings of Max Pakhomov! Admission: \$10 per adult; \$20 per family.

Max's Concert, Saturday, April 7, 7 pm: Max will delight listeners with selections from Schubert, Brahms, Chopin, and Prokofiev. Admission: \$10 per adult; \$20 per family. A donation will be given to a local agency chosen by our Board of Outreach. Refreshments served at the end.

Music Sunday, May 20: As part of the 10 am service, the choir will offer a number of pieces for all to enjoy to celebrate all that music brings to our worship.

For more information, please contact Mariann Bigelow (bigelow3@optonline.net) or John Stuart (johnstuartmktg@optonline.net).

IN MEMORIUM

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Bob Sinche and family, as they mourn the passing of Bob's mother, Edna Miller Sinche on 2/15/18.

Visiting hours Sunday 2-4 and 7-9
Service Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Wantagh Abbey
3374 Park Ave, Wantagh, NY 11793

ALL-CHURCH SKATING PARTY!!!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL FCC ALL-CHURCH SKATING PARTY!

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH FROM 3:50PM - 4:50PM

WHERE: DARIEN ICE RINK (ACROSS FROM FCC)

COST: FREE! NO CHARGE FOR SKATING OR RENTALS!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THE PARSONAGE AFTER FOR
HOT COCOA & COOKIES WITH REVEREND DALE & CECILE

Please RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/FCCSkatingParty>



**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 19

Church Council, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Senior Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

“Come As You Are” worship service, 4:30 p.m. in the Circle Room

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*