



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 19, 2017

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN

"BE THOU MY VISION"

In unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

(cont'd)

BE THOU MY VISION (cont'd)

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Thou My Vision'. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the last line of the first system and the first line of the second system. The third system contains the second and third lines of the second system. The fourth system contains the fourth line of the second system and the first line of the third system. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Come, children of God; Jesus is calling us.
The God of all time and space wants our attention.

We are ready to align our actions with our words.

We are blessed with the example given to us by Jesus.

Have we embraced, wholeheartedly, the teachings given to us by Jesus?
Are we ready to serve our spiritual virtues rather than our human emotions?

With God as our anchor anything is possible.

We are willing to open our hearts to change and transformation.

The love of God is like no other love in this universe.
Practicing the principles of our Christian faith in all our affairs is always worth it.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Today, we look to follow Jesus with our mind, body and soul.


***OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. 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

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

EPISTLE LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11, 16-23

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)

Steve Weeden, Deacon (10:00)

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

(continued)

‘He catches the wise in their craftiness’,
and again,
‘The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile.’

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

***HYMN**

“SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART”



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; Wean it from earth, throug
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies, No sud - den rend - ing
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine own: soul,
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh; Teach me the strug - gles
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love, One ho - ly pas - sion



all its puls - es move; Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
of the veil of clay, No an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
heart, and strength, and mind; I see thy cross—there teach my heart to cling;
of the soul to bear: To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
fill - ing all my frame; The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.



And make me love thee as I ought to love.
But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame. A - men.



GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 5:38-48

Mr. Gary Morello

‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

SERMON

“THE ANSWER IS IN YOUR ACTIONS”

Mr. Gary Morello

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)“TAKE MY LIFE” (*Frances Havergal, 1874*)
Senior Choir

Craig Courtney

***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)

Loving God, with these gifts, we express our desire to observe your guidance with wholeness of heart, to delight in your commandments with all that we have and are, to worship you not only when we are together but in many difficult places when we are apart. May our church reach out to care for enemies as well as friends. May we remember that we are your church, your temple, your holy ones. Amen.

*HYMN

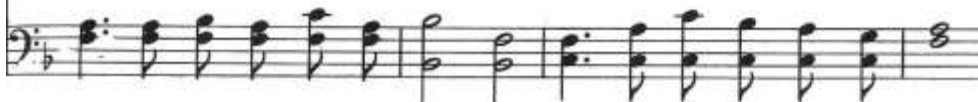
“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there. A - men.



*BENEDICTION

Mr. Gary Morello

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Frank Burke, Marianne Lauer (8:30) and Steve Weeden.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

Should you have a Pastoral Care Emergency, during Rev. Rosenberger's time from the office (Feb. 17- Feb 24), please do not hesitate to page our Associate Minister, Gary Morello (emergency pager # 1-(203) 368-7789).

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and can be found on the table, outside the church office. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at KHansen@uccdarien.org.

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics Book Group will meet on Wednesday, February 22nd at 3:30 in the library. We will be talking about All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren. It's an open, friendly group. Call Sally Bassler to know more or surprise us!

KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry will break out their needles on February 19 at 11 a.m. in the Morehouse Room. Bring your knitting, crochet projects, needlepoint, and join us for fiber and fellowship. New needle crafters are especially welcome. There is nothing like a little yarn therapy to get you through these trying times.

For more information, contact Lora Grassilli loragrass@gmail.com

OPENINGS AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

We have a few openings in the 3's and, for the first time ever, the Pre-k. If you are looking for a morning 3's class or are undecided about sending your child on to kindergarten in September, call us at 203 655-3150. Teri Manning is happy to discuss options!

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

- **2nd annual 1,000 pound food challenge** - We are off to a great start thanks to “Soup or Bowl” where we brought in over 400 pounds of food! But we still need lots more to get to 1,000 pounds. Bring your food donations each Sunday or leave at the church any time!! Most needed items include dried beans (both black & white), canned veggies, canned fruit, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, Chef Boyardee products (e.g., ravioli), rice (small bags preferred), cereal & peanut butter and small water bottles.
- **Midnight Run Sunday, April 1** - Boxes are ready for donations in the church library. Please help us fill them! We could use men’s t-shirts, jeans, sweatshirts, belts and new socks and underwear. We also love travel size shampoos, soaps, tissues, chapsticks and washcloths. A few items needed for women. Thank you!
- **Habitat for Humanity Build Days** in Bridgeport - FCCD is invited to join The Sound Coalition of Churches in Fairfield to help build on the following dates during 2017: 2/18, 4/8, 7/8, 8/26, 10/21 and 12/9. No experience needed! Just come with willing hands and heart! Helpers (16 or older) will meet at the warehouse by 8:30 am, and be done by 4. Please email Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to help.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events held by our Outreach Beneficiaries!

Grab some friends and GO and SUPPORT our fabulous friends!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Havana Nights - Saturday, February 25, 2017, 6:30 to 11:00 pm at Fairfield Theater Company Warehouse, 70 Sanford Street, Fairfield. More info at habitatcfc.org.

PACIFIC HOUSE Dessert and Chocolate Lovers Tasting - Friday, March 31, 2017, 7 to 10 pm at the Hyatt in Greenwich. More info at pacifichouse.org.

INSPIRICA Spring Soiree - Thursday April 20, 2017, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at The Palace Theater, 61 Atlantic Street, Stamford. More info at inspiricact.org.

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach

Chair: Heather Raker, Vice Chair: Anna Denoyer, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Tracey Berry, Elmerina Brooks, Annette Madden-Kline, Bob McGee, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson, Lauren Swenson



Midnight Run Collection Has Begun:
Look for the Marked Donation Boxes in the Library

On Saturday, April 1, 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 MJ Colman.
- We need LOTS of men's clothing, specifically in this order: durable pants like blue jeans or sweatpants (large sizes preferred); socks (tube socks, white or dark); men's briefs (jockey style, sizes 32 to 42); sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts (large and extra-large, dark colors preferred); and T-shirts (medium to extra-large).
- 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.
- NEW this 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.

You are more than welcome to clean out your closet and bring items in that are in clean and good condition. Please do not use this as an opportunity to give us everything in your closet you don't want.

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 or Karen Brennan and they'll get the youth organized and looking for deals. We can make \$25 go a long way at Walmart!

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

***CALLING ALL CHURCH SCHOOL KIDS!
PLEASE JOIN US AT CHURCH SCHOOL
ON FEBRUARY 26th, 2017
FOR OUR 1ST ANNUAL***

**BIBLE
JEOPARDY**

**HOSTED BY OUR VERY OWN TEEN JEOPARDY
STAR...**



MICHAEL BORECKI!

***TEST YOUR BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE!
COMPETE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
PRIZES! SNACKS! AND MORE!***

“Music at First” NEWS:

Fat/Jazz Sunday: Feb 26

A Dixieland celebration of being back in our beloved Meetinghouse.

We will thank God for our restored and refreshed Meetinghouse, rededicate our sanctuary for worship, and celebrate our new hymnals and pew cushions. We will raise our voices in song, tap our feet, and clap our hands in joyful gratefulness. Then we will eat our fill of delicious southern-style food in the Parish Hall.

“Alt Music Sunday”: March 12

Something a little different than the choir singing...perhaps an instrumentalist...perhaps Dan will teach us a new hymn. Always inspirational and appropriate for worship, get ready for some alternative music.

Cabaret Night: March 18

Invite your family and friends for our annual Cabaret Night. You will enjoy some good songs performed by our church’s own talent in a relaxed club-style setting with light food and drink. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. A free-will donation will be taken to cover costs.

For more information on the music program, contact Mariann Bigelow (bigelow3@optonline.net) or John Stuart (johnstuartmktg@optonline.net)

THE DARIEN DOMESTIC ABUSE COUNCIL, INC.

The Darien Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. brings the Yellow Dress to Darien to raise awareness and educate our community about Teen Dating Violence and Domestic Abuse.

The Darien Library will sponsor this event on Thursday, February 22nd, at 7pm.

All are welcome to attend.

SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SKILLS!

Add your unique talents to the leadership of our church by joining one of our four Boards. We invite you to feel the reward of deeper involvement at FCCD.

Board of Deacons: Responsible for our worship services, including the order of worship, the music, the scripture readings, communion, ushers, greeters, and feedback to the clergy, as well as our church's membership. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Stewards: Handles our church's finances, including the budget, investments, restricted funds, as well as maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Education: In charge of the Church School, adult education programs, special events (the Sunday Sundae ice cream social, the Blessing of the Animals, the Advent Workshop, etc.) and youth programs. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Outreach: Researches local nonprofits, allocates church charitable funds to these groups, organizes hands-on mission projects and our ongoing relationship serving the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. Oversees the In May We Help campaign, Christmas Dove Box program, and monthly Food First Sundays. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

*"MEET NEW PEOPLE", "FEEL REWARD", ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OUTSIDE YOUR CURRENT SPHERE",
"HAVE FUN!" ***

***(words of current board members)*

Your participation in the volunteer leadership of our church is an important and rewarding part of being a member of this congregation. **Ideally, each family is represented on at least one board.**

We look forward to helping you find the committee that best suits your current interests and talents!! Be in touch with Molly for more information at mollyo60@aol.com.

Thank you!

2017 Nominating Committee,

*Anna Denoyer, Audrey Esmond, Tom Hager, Andy Huntington, Harry McLachlin,
Dave Miller, Leo Schlinkert, Molly Watkins*

RENOVATIONS COMPLETE ✓

PAINTING UNDERWAY ✓

LIGHT FIXTURES POLISHED ✓

ORGAN/PIANO TUNING SCHEDULED ✓

NEW COMPANION HYMNALS HAVE ARRIVED ✓

NEW PEW CUSHIONS ORDERED ✓

CLEANING HAS BEGUN ✓

TIME TO WORSHIP IN OUR MEETINGHOUSE,
GIVE THANKS & CELEBRATE!!



JAZZ/FAT
Sunday

Sunday, February 26

10:00 a.m.
no 8:30 service on 2/26

Mardi Gras "Supper" 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
suggested donation of \$5 per person/\$10 per family



BONHOEFFER

PASTOR — NAZI RESISTOR — MARTYR

Movie & Discussion **Sunday, March 5th⁷ 4-6pm**

**“SILENCE IN THE
FACE OF EVIL IS
ITSELF EVIL;
GOD WILL NOT HOLD
US GUILTLSS.**

**NOT TO SPEAK
IS TO SPEAK.
NOT TO ACT
IS TO ACT.”**

A MUST SEE DOCUMENTARY!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of the great theologians of the 20th century. His books are considered classics. What is even more remarkable is the story of the man behind the books - who became a pastor and theologian during the rise of the Nazis. This documentary is a must-see for anyone haunted by the question of where the German conscience was during the Holocaust.

Presented by Board of Christian Education. Snacks and beverages will be available!

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

**"Where God's extravagant love welcomes and affirms,
where Christ's transforming truth enlivens and compels."**

We are an accepting community where faith in Christ makes a difference. We welcome you to worship with us wherever you are on your journey. As a spiritual home, our hallmarks are education, fellowship and pastoral care. Children have a special place in our church family, and are embraced with love, guidance and opportunities for spiritual growth. We are a church of conscience, unafraid of the issues of today and serving as a reconciling force among different faiths.

CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – PRESIDENT'S DAY

Church Offices Closed

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Memorial Service for Denise Laking Hamson, 3:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

FAT/JAZZ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Mardi Gras "Supper", 11:00 a.m.

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, *Senior Minister (emergency pager) 1- (203) 368-7789*

Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

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*