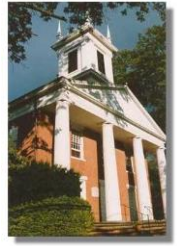




THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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 OF LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 2018 – 8:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M.

I believe in the sun
even when it's not shining.

I believe in love
even when I am alone.

I believe in God
even when He is silent.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 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

Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #S8**

“LIFT HIGH THE CROSS”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Such a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us.
Where do we find a strength not of this world?

**Our spirit finds true power and hope in God.
So often we need to remember who we are.**

Do we feel frail, weak, and uncertain of our future?
How do we move ahead with deep hurts exposed?

**Truly God is our rock and our salvation;
God is our fortress: we will not be shaken.**

Do we trust in our own faltering strength all alone?
How do we tap into bedrock deeper than ourselves?

**Our salvation and dignity are found with God;
the Lord alone is our mighty rock and refuge.**

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

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

Phil Meyer, Deacon (8:30 a.m.)
Frank Burke, Deacon (10:00 a.m.)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

***HYMN #191**

"JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY"

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 8:31-38

Rev. Rosenberger

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

SERMON

“WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR PAIN?”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)

THE 23RD PSALM
The Show Up and Sing Choir

DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (10:00 only)

Giving God, we are grateful for rescue, for support, and the many ways you fortify our faith. Most of all, we thank you for your care over us, for enlisting us in your work, and for entrusting us with your purposes. May these offerings show our fearlessness, and our awareness that in giving for your work, we will get back far more than we can count. Amen.

***HYMN #449**

“LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY’S USHERS:

Frank Burke, Phil Meyer (8:30), Tucker Scott and Liz Werner.

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 finish up the story of Moses and the miracle on the Nile River with a fun "River Escape" game, a science experiment, and some meaningful prayers. See you there!

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 and a Church School hand-out listing grade assignments for donation. Be sure to enter your donations online! Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

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.

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!

The next **Youth Ignite Group Band** rehearsal will take place at 3:00PM on February 25th before Come As You Are! We will not perform that day...but will prepare for the following Come As You Are service. Want to join the band? Contact 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.

KNITTING MINISTRY

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

1,000 Pound Food Challenge is underway and WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Help us reach our goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of food for local shelters by the end of March — we still have over 600 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.

Please contact Heather Raker if you would like to help. hraker@me.com.

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:**

Cabaret

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.

“Music At First” Concert

Featuring Maxim Pakhomov-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 portion of the proceeds from this concert will support Liberation Programs, a long-standing outreach partner of the church, whose mission is to empower people and their families to be free of the disease of addiction through targeted solutions that restore lives and strengthen our community. 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).

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

TODAY

11th Hour on Casino Gambling in Connecticut
YIG Band Practice, 3:00 p.m. in Parish Hall
“Come As You Are” worship service, 4:30 p.m. in the Circle Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28

Bible Study (*Acts 8:9-25*), 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Senior Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4 (*don't forget Food First!*)

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. 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*