



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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www.uccdarien.org



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 4, 2018

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

**YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH SHALL
MAKE YOU FREE.**

JOHN 8:32

LifeHopeandTruth.com

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 4, 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 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 #67**

“GOD, WHO STRETCHED THE SPANGLED HEAVENS”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

The difficult stories of the gospel finally elevate us,
as their inspiration offsets the weight of our failure.

**Today we are invited to let go of our flaws,
and to equip ourselves for our challenges.**

We recall Jesus’ pioneering work along this path,
how he confronted his fears and faced detractors.

**Lent is our walk with Jesus back to Jerusalem.
Along this walk, we will not faint or be crushed.**

(Unison)

**Here we brace ourselves for every way life tests us.
Here we prepare for all that the world can hurl at us.**

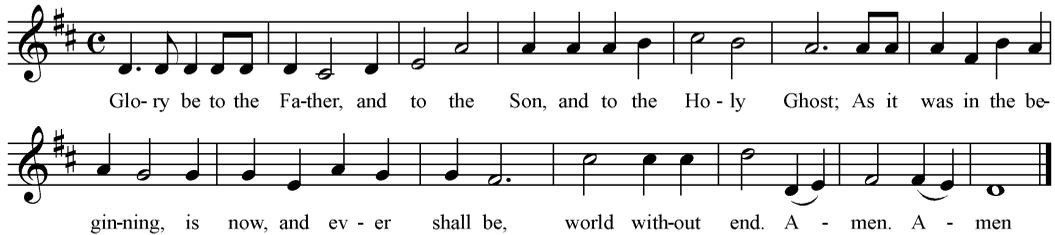
***OPENING PRAYER**

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

EXODUS 20:1-17

Dave Miller, Deacon (8:30)
Liz Werner, Deacon (10:00)

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

(continued)

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 2:13-22

Rev. Rosenberger

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON

"WHEN ONLY THE TRUTH WILL DO"

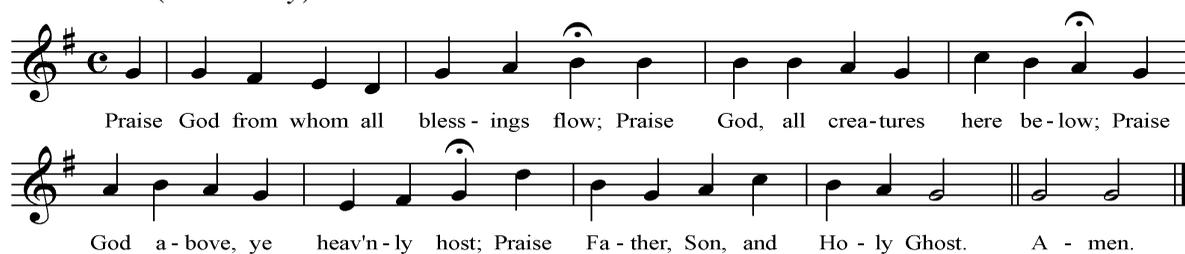
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD"
Senior Choir

Thomas Matthews

***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)**

Grant, O God, that the ears which have heard the voice of your song may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute; that the eyes which have seen your great love may also behold your blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung your praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked your courts may walk in the region of light; and that the bodies which have tasted your living body may be restored in newness of life. Glory be unto you, O God!

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 #516**

“O DAY OF GOD, DRAW NEAR”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Frank Burke, Dave Miller (8:30), Anne MacInnes and Liz Werner.

*Please continue to embrace the Sinche family
with your love, prayers and support
as they mourn the loss of Bob's mother,
Edna Miller Sinche.*

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>

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

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

This week in Church School we will be learning that God calls us in surprising ways! We will look at the story of Moses and the burning bush, and remember that God sees all of us as part of a wonderful plan.

Toiletry Donations: Sign-up has been sent! The Church School and Access students are responsible for the toiletry donations for Midnight Run. 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** performance will be on April 22nd at Come As You Are! Meanwhile, please look for emails regarding upcoming rehearsals. Want to join the band? Contact cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

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 400 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. (continued)

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

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>



CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 5

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

“Kids Cook” 5:30 p.m. in the Church Kitchen

WEDNESDAY MARCH 7

Bible Study (*Acts 8:26-40*), 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Night Owls, 6:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Senior Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

All Church Skate, 3:50 p.m. at Darien Ice Rink

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

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*