

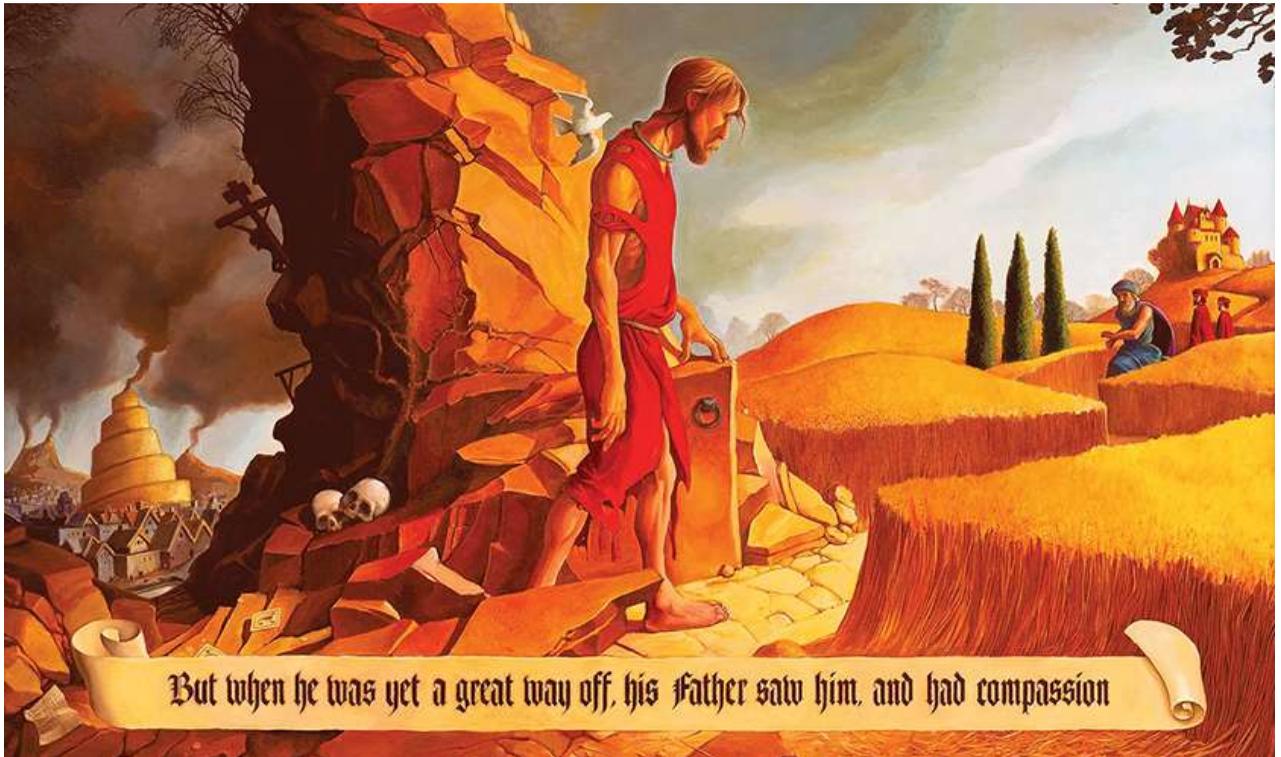


THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 6, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 6, 2016 – 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,
in the Nursery School wing starting at 9:45 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #20**

“SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mr. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

Come, people of God, to the One who is trustworthy.
Come, praise the Lord, who delivers and rescues us.

**God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress,
and saves us from this time of evil and cruelty.**

Hope in the one Lord, who has created you.
Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

**God accepts us, even as others do not.
God vindicates us, despite our failures.**

Calling us into service, God gives the strength to serve.
It is within our grasp to serve his purposes, here below.

**We gather to embrace the mysteries of our faith.
We are here to learn how the Lord empowers us.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

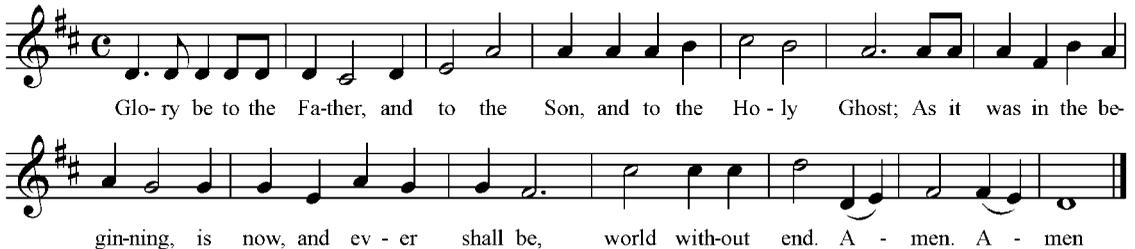
Almighty God, as you call us into this community of faith, you also command us to love one another. But we brush aside your word and defy your commandments. Why do we reflexively extend grace to ourselves only to deny and blame our neighbor? It is too easy to pick and choose among thy expectations of us by our personal whim and convenience. It is even tempting to enjoy the misfortune of others and exploit their hardships for personal gain. Forgive us, Merciful God. As you gather us in this worshipping community, restore us also back within the boundaries of your favor. Grant us to regain our love for you and for one another. Show forth our authenticity in both word and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***PROMISES OF GOD**

***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 DISMISSAL (*10:00 only*)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JOSHUA 5:9-12
(*page 197 NRSV*)

Lou Converse, Deacon (8:30)
Karalesa DiFabio, Deacon (10:00)

***HYMN**

“’TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE”

(pages 6/7)

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32
(page 78 NSRV)

Rev. Rosenberger

SERMON

“TURNING, TURNING WE COME ROUND RIGHT”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

(10:00 only)

PSALM 51
Senior Choir

J.A. Freylinghausen

***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 (10:00 only)**

(unison)

Thank you, God, for proclaiming our worth when we do not value ourselves or neighbor. Thank you for welcoming us to a celebration of life with the many gifts you entrust us. Thank you now for the privilege of sharing so others might enter the circle of your joyous embrace. Give us now the gift of generous gratitude, as you provide for all of our needs. 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)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. We thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live in faith. Help us to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.

***HYMN**

“THIS IS A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS”

(page 8)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

IN MEMORIAM: Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the Monro family, as they mourn the loss of Bob & Kathy’s former son-in-law Jay Guarmakin.

TODAY’S GREETERS are the Robbins family: Lee, Jay, Wyatt, Colt and Ryder.

TODAY’S USHERS are Lou Converse (8:30), Karalesa DiFabio, Mandy Teare and Brad Westbrook.

MUSIC NOTES: Throughout Lent the choir will be presenting various settings of Psalm 51. It speaks of self-examination and searching for the better self. This text seems to match our Lenten theme. We hope you find them interesting.

'TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE

G Em Bm⁺ Em

'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the

Am A D

gift to come down where we ought to be, and

G Em Bm⁺

when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill

Am D G

be in the val - ley of love and de - light.

Bm⁺ Em Bm⁺ C

When true sim - plic - i - ty is gained to

*Optional chord D.

continued

'TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE (*continued*)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple (continued). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system has chords Em, G, D, G, and C. The lyrics for the first system are: "bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will". The second system has chords G, Am, D, G, Am7, and G. The lyrics for the second system are: "be our de-light till by turn-ing, turn-ing we come round right."

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING RECEIVED THIS MORNING!

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in 138 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHs also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

THIS IS A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

1-3 4

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



COME AND SUPPORT OUR VERY OWN FCC "BEES TEAM,"

Alice McGill, Marc Thorne and Nina Miller, at the Town Wide Spelling Bee to support The Depot Teen Center. This afternoon, March 6th, 3:00 in the auditorium at Town Hall. Sting or be stung!!"

ANGEL CHOIR – TODAY!

Please join us to SING and PERFORM! We will learn music and rehearse from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and perform our music at 6 pm. This is your chance to be in the choir for one afternoon! The Angel Choir invites singers of all talents to come together to practice and perform a wide variety of choral music with the shared understanding that the human voice is visceral; the mind, body and spirit blending effortlessly to create sound. Raising one's voice in song promotes joy, fulfillment and self-awareness.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

MISSION MOMENT: INSPIRICA

Last Sunday we welcomed Lisa Stuart of Inspirica for a Mission Moment. In case you missed it, Inspirica's mission is to break the cycle of homeless by helping people achieve -- and maintain -- permanent housing and stability in their lives. With our help, Inspirica moved 163 men, women and children into permanent housing last year and placed 200 people into jobs.

Lisa thanked the Congregation for our financial and other support and highlighted a few ways that we can continue to help their work. Spreading the word about Inspirica's work is always appreciated and groups and individuals are invited to visit the organization to see programs in action. Volunteers are always needed as well to work with children in Inspirica's youth center and to work with infants and toddlers in the Early Childhood and Parenting Program. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner 7 nights a week at Inspirica's women's shelter and 3 nights a week in its early childhood program. To find out more about volunteer opportunities contact Lauren Dubinsky at ldubinsky@inspiricact.org or 203-388-0187.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH - CONTINUED

FOOD FIRST & 1,000 pound food challenge – WRAPPING UP!

The 1,000 pound food challenge is wrapping up and we are short 127 lbs. of food. The FCC Board of Outreach had set a goal to collect 1,000 pounds of non-perishable food for our local shelters: The Open Door Shelter (Norwalk Emergency Shelter) and Person-to-Person. We are almost there and with FOOD FIRST this weekend the challenge will be a total success if we can meet this last hurdle. Please help us reach our goal – chunky soups and pasta sauce needed most! If every family in the Congregation donates five pounds of food, we will surpass our goal! Collection baskets are located on the stage in Parish Hall or you may leave donations near the pulpit in the sanctuary. THANK YOU!

COOK SERVE AND DISTRIBUTE HAMS AT THE OPEN DOOR SHELTER!

We will be cooking and serving at the Open Door Shelter (Norwalk Emergency Shelter) AND distributing Easter hams this month!

Thursday March 17th -- 8:00 am -- cook at First Congregational Church in Darien

Friday March 18th -- 11:45 am - 2 pm -- serve at the Open Door Shelter

Thursday March 24th — 8:30 am - distribute hams at the Open Door Shelter (formerly Norwalk Emergency Shelter), 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk.

Please keep in mind, volunteers must be 16 years of age or older.

If you are interested in either cooking or serving, please contact Heather Raker at HRaker@me.com

The Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart

Planning is now underway for the second *Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart*, which will take place on June 2nd with a celebratory after party on June 3rd. Proceeds will benefit *Darien's Thriving Youth Initiative*, the Community Fund of Darien's new program that seeks to address the issues of youth mental health in our community, as well as approximately 20 other local non-profit organizations. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 30 at 9:30, at FCCD.

NEEDED - SILENT AUCTION ITEMS – Anyone with connections to events (sporting, theatre, television) or restaurants, Services (interior Design, Art, landscaping) please contact Anna Denoyer at anna.denoyer@gmail.com.

The Board of Christian Outreach thanks you for your support!

Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Tracey Berry, Yvette Borecki, Anna Denoyer, Joanne Gabriel, Lora Grassilli, Vince Hough, Annette Madden-Kline, Wendy Mulligan, Heather Raker, Charlie Wetmore

KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry will meet in the Morehouse Room on Sundays March 13 and March 20 after church at 11:30 A.M. Bring your own sandwich if you wish and join in fellowship, music, prayer and new needlework ideas. All novices and other levels of experience are welcome. If you have questions call Marnie Hodil at 203.655.0888 or e-mail at grhodil@optonline.net.

TIRED OF WINTER?

YOU ARE INVITED TO FCCD'S ANNUAL "RING IN SPRING" PARTY

Saturday March 19th, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Home of Nancy & James Sheed

Come when you can, stay as long as you can. Bring a savory or sweet to share.

Please RSVP - March 15th - nmsheed@yahoo.com, 203-655-0557

YOUTH COLLECTIVE EXPERIMENT

The Youth Collective is a place where youth groups can come together and connect with other kids to learn about God and learn about community. We meet monthly (*last Saturday of every month through June*) at the Stamford YMCA located at 10 Bell Street in Stamford.

The Youth Collective Vision

The youth collective has three goals:

1. Biblical Literacy: We want to teach kids the basics about the Bible
2. Spirituality: We want to encourage young people to pray and meditate daily
3. Community: We want to create a place where kids can come together and have shared experiences, building new friendships with others in Fairfield County

How We Accomplish the Vision

While Gary and Shawn have ministries going on at their own churches, the youth collective is an experiment that we are doing to help build interdependence between churches. Youth ministry is tough in Fairfield County and getting kids together without having other kids around can be hard. To solve this problem we thought we would try an experiment for 6 months to see if, by inviting youth groups to come together once a month, we could create an event that kids would come to. We've partnered with the YMCA in Stamford and locked in our schedule for the next 6 months to see if this experiment might work.

It's as simple as that.

And so we invite you to join us.

MIDNIGHT RUN COLLECTION HAS BEGUN:

LOOK FOR THE MARKED DONATION BOXES IN PARISH HALL

On Good Friday, our 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 this month:

- 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 were sent 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); sweaters, sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts (large and extra-large, dark colors preferred); and T-shirts (medium to extra-large).
- We need a few of the same items for women. Typically, we'll clothe 60-65 men and about 10 women during the evening.

You are more than welcome to clean out your closet and bring items in that are in good condition. Or 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 socks and underwear). Any items of clothing not on the list above should be given to Person-to-Person.

Don't have time to shop? No problem, our youth will happily do it for you! Simply give your donation to Gary Morello and he'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 organizer, Gary Morello.



Please join the
First Congregational Church of Darien for its
Celebration of Easter

Palm Sunday – March 20, 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services

The highlight of the 10:00 a.m. service will be the parade of Church School students waving their palms.

Maundy Thursday – March 24, 7:00 p.m.

A quiet, contemplative, “tenebrae” service (i.e., early evening, without lights) with communion.

Good Friday Vigil – March 25, 6:00 a.m.—Midnight

As is tradition, FCC will be reading the entire New Testament from the pulpit on Good Friday. Sign up for 20-minute blocks between 6:00 a.m. and midnight. The signup sheet is posted in Parish Hall or you can contact Lou Converse at lou.converse@viacom.com.

Carrying the Cross – March 25, 10:30 a.m. in front of FCC (or join along the route)

Come help carry the cross from our church to St. Luke’s. An all-community Good Friday Worship will follow at St. Luke’s between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – March 27. Easter morning will commence with a 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Mather Cemetery on Stephen Mather Road. We will then have two identical services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., complete with balloons and “The Hallelujah Chorus.” In between the two services, please join us for coffee, fruit, and sweets. The Youth Group will be running their annual Bank Sale! And at approximately 10:30 – we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for small children on the Nursery School playground. Bring your own baskets.

Cooking for the Norwalk Emergency Shelter

Midnight Run



1,000 lb. Food Challenge

Knitting Ministry

LENT

– 40 Days Of Renewal –

Join us each Sunday for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

"Come As You Are" Service - 4:30 p.m. on March 20

Bible Study each Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

Angel Choir, 4:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

Youth Group, 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Care, Connect & Communicate, 6:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

(start of daylight savings time)

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

Knitting Ministry, 11:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room



Easter Flowers

We are in the season of giving thanks.

This is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

Flowers always add a tender touch of grace and color to the Meetinghouse at Easter time. Then, when shared with church members who are not able to join us for worship, they become an ongoing gift.

You may fill out this form or sign up in the church office.

Include your check for \$30.00 to “The First Congregational Church of Darien,” and note “Flower Donation” on the memo line.

(Due in the church office no later than **Friday, March 18th**).

A list of the flower dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletins.

I would like _____ Easter plants.

In Gratitude of/for _____

In Celebration of/for _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Graciously Donated

by: _____

Enclosed is my check for: _____ (\$30.00 each)

**** Please note:**

_____ **I will be taking my flowers.**

_____ **I will not be taking my flowers, so please donate it in my/our name.**

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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.



Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

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

Mr. Gary Morello, *Associate Minister*

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

Sally Bassler, *Lay Minister for Pastoral Care (cell) (203) 554-1724*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator*

Carlos Maya, *Weekday Sexton* Ruth Salazar, *Sunday Sexton*

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