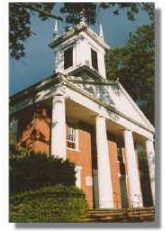




THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 11, 2018

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 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. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #353**

“CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST’S SERVICE”

MISSION MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Light has entered our world; rejoice!

Light is God’s gift to everyone!

Give thanks to God for days of watchful care.

The steadfast love of God endures forever.

Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!

Let them tell the world of God’s good news!

We will thank God for wonderful works.

We will rejoice in God’s love for all humankind.

By God’s word, we are delivered from destruction.

By God’s mercy, we are healed and made whole.

Our works can help change the world!

Our lives can offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.

*OPENING PRAYER

*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

BAPTISM OF EMERSON AILISH POST (10:00 only)

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

MICAH 6:1-8

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)
Frank Burke, Deacon (10:00)

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

(continued)

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

***HYMN #366**

“WE ARE WALKING”

GOSPEL LESSON

HEBREWS 13:1-3, 7-9

Rev. Morello

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them.

SERMON

"SURRENDERING TO LOVE"

Rev. Morello

OFFERTORY (10:00 only) “BROTHER JAMES AIR” (PSALM 23)
Senior Choir

James MacBain

***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)**

For life sustaining gifts that we have been blessed to offer our family. For shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us—we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.

***HYMN #355**

“LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY’S USHERS are Frank Burke, Bill Lattimer (8:30), Dave Miller and Dave Sealy.

Today’s Baptismal Family: Kevin and Karen, Derek and Emerson Post

We celebrate with Kevin and Karen Post at the baptism of their daughter, Emerson “Emmy” Ailish Post. Their firstborn, Derek John, was also baptized here at First Congregational, Darien. The couple met in Fairfield, Connecticut and began dating as high school seniors. Kevin went to college in North Carolina while Karen studied in Virginia. Karen is fully and lovingly engaged raising the children. Kevin is a patent litigator for Ropes and Gray in New York. They joined FCC a few years ago. Today we welcome their extended family and celebrate the life of a growing family in the FCC church family.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Beyond Thought & Prayers:

A Christian Response in the Age of Fear and Anxiety

Discussion lead by Rev. Dr. Heather Wright, Greenwich Center for Hope and Renewal & Rev. Greg Doll, Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Wednesday, March 14 • 7:30-9:00 pm
Middlesex Middle School Cafeteria

Shootings in public spaces are leaving many in our community fearful and fragile — especially our children. Parents are on the frontlines of addressing these fears, and find themselves looking to reassure children afraid to go to school. What do we say to a generation who, for good reason, is anxious and afraid? We invite all from the Darien community for a thoughtful, faith-based conversation for parents about helping your children in this age of fear and anxiety.

For more information, contact Jimmy McPherson, jimmy.mcpherson@norotonchurch.org

SPONSORED BY #DARIENUNITED PARTNER MINISTRIES



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!"

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).

(continued)

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 learn that God gives us what we need through the story of a Miracle in the Desert: God provided for the hungry Hebrew people with water from a rock, and bread and meat from heaven!

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, **and bring them to the church by Friday, March 23.** 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 .

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:

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).

Cooking for the Norwalk Emergency Shelter

1,000 lb. Food Challenge

Midnight Run



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" worship, March 18, 4:30 p.m.

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



CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room
Board of Stewards, 7:45 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY MARCH 14

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 15

Senior Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Cabaret Night, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Knitting Ministry, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
“Come As You Are” Worship Service, 4:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

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*