



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 18, 2018

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

**Success is not final,
failure is not fatal.
It is the courage
to continue
that counts.**

Winston Churchill

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 18, 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 (10:00 only)

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov
with Special Guest John Hanulik - Oboe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #477**

“GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

The rhythms of time beat within God’s own heart;
he appoints life’s seasons, the bleak and bursting.

**Each season of life is beautiful within its own time,
renewing trust and insight into God’s full purpose.**

We would hear God’s voice in life’s little moments.
In tune with bigger realities, details find their place.

**How can we live mindfully of how God marks time?
How can we live both in time and aware of eternity?**

(All uniting)

**We delight that God always invites our approach:
that our souls find their rest in God’s will and way. Amen.**

***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

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:00 only)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JEREMIAH 31-31-34

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)

Phil Meyer, Deacon (10:00)

“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.”

***HYMN #443**

“SEEK YE FIRST”

“Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.”

SERMON

“HOW TO OVERCOME SUCCESS”

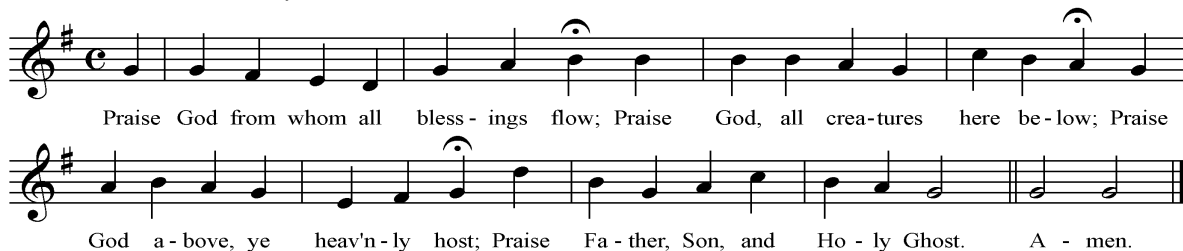
Rev. Dale Rosenberger

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

THE 23RD PSALM
Senior Choir with John Hanulik

John Rutter

*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)

We dedicate these offerings for the proclamation of your word, O God, for the teaching of your ways, and to sound now and always your note of hope. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May today’s offerings empower the sharing of your presence with all who do not yet know themselves as your beloved children. Amen.

*HYMN #470

“PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE (*10:00 only*)

Mr. Pakhomov

Mr. Hanulik

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Marianne Lauer (8:30 am), Phil Meyer, Tucker Scott (10:00 am).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCE NOTICE

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Dale's stepfather, Walter Romanow, on March 13, 2018. Please pray for Dale and his family during their time of bereavement.



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 will 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).

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 a.m. 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 the story of Deborah from the Old Testament. Deborah was chosen by God to do some amazing things for the Israelite people...leading, helping, and protecting. God calls us to do amazing things, too!

Toiletry Donations: Sign-up has been sent! The Church School and Access students are responsible for the toiletry donations for Midnight Run.

Nursery/PreK - small bar soaps

K-1st - travel shampoo, combs

2nd - chapstick, moisturizer

3rd - travel tissue packets

4th-5th - washcloths, travel deodorant

ACCESS - travel toothpaste/toothbrushes

Be sure to enter your donations online at <https://tinyurl.com/MidnightRun-18-Toiletries>

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.

Easter is upon us and we have some **EXCITING** activities planned for your kids! Please attend our **EASTER EGG HUNT** between the 9AM and 11AM services at 10:15AM! The Easter Bunny, along with crafts and activities (including some great photo-ops!) will be available. See you there!

ACCESS: April 5, 7:00-8:20PM. We will continue our amazing lesson on the "Wisdom/Poetry Books" of the Old Testament, and then start into learning about the Major Prophets! **Attention All 5th Graders:** You are invited to try out ACCESS on April 5th in the Dream Center, 7:00-8:20PM! Dinner, fun, and friendship will be provided at no cost. Can't wait to see you there!

Youth Band Vocalists: Please plan to meet at 3:00pm in Parish Hall for vocal rehearsal for our next Youth Band Performance! See you there!

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 — WE DID IT!

We collected more than 1,000 pounds of food for local shelters ahead of our goal date. Thank you! Donations have been distributed to the Open Door and Pacific House food pantries, both of which suffer from lower donations during the winter when people need it most. They still need food so keep it coming! Our next collection day will be on April 1st, Food First Sunday, although you can leave your donations at church any time.

Cook/Serve/Distribute Hams at the Open Door Shelter!

Please help us to feed those in need. Please note that May 17th will be an evening cook to include some of you who can't make it during the day!

Upcoming dates as follows:

Thursday, March 29 DISTRIBUTE EASTER HAMS from 8:30 to 11:30 at the Open Door Shelter

Thursday, April 26 cook at 8 am at FCC, Friday, April 27 serve at 12 pm at the Open Door Shelter, we could also use 1-2 people to help Polly transport food to the shelter around 11 am!

Thursday, May 17 cook at 6 pm at FCC, Friday, May 18 serve at 12 pm at the Open Door Shelter, we could also use 1-2 people to help Polly transport food to the shelter around 11 am!

Must be 16 years or older.

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

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR A SHIFT FOR THE HOUSE TOUR!

We need LOTS of volunteers to pull off the house tour. Please email hraker@me.com if you can volunteer from 8:45 to 12 OR 11:45 to 3 on June 7!!!

“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).

RING IN SPRING DRINKS PARTY

All church members and friends are invited!

Saturday, April 22nd
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Hosted by James and Nancy Sheed at 85 Maywood Rd, Darien, CT

- Come when you can, stay as long as you can.
- Feel free to bring a savory or a sweet.
- Please encourage a church friend, old or new, to join you.

Invitations are being sent by email but feel free to RSVP directly to Nancy at nmsheed@yahoo.com or call [203-918-5442](tel:203-918-5442).

FCCD *Celebration of Easter*



EVENT	DATE/TIME	DESCRIPTION
Maundy Thursday	March 29, 2018 7:00 pm service	A quiet, contemplative, "Tenebrae" service (early evening, without lights) with communion..
Good Friday Vigil	March 30, 2018 6am-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
Good Friday Cross Walk	March 30, 2018 10:00 am	Please join our 2018 Good Friday Cross Walk, uniting our Christian communities. We begin at First Congregational Church at 10:00 AM and walk across town to St. Luke's, making prayer stops throughout the community. You may walk part or all of the way. Baby strollers and dogs welcome.
<p>Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service</p> <p>Easter Services</p> <p>Hospitality and Fellowship</p>	<p>April 1, 2018 7:00 am</p> <p>9:00 am & 11:00 am</p> <p>In between the two Easter services.</p>	<p>At Mather Cemetery Stephen Mather Road</p> <p>Complete with balloons and "The Hallelujah Chorus."</p> <p>Please join us for coffee, fruit, and sweets. The Youth Group will be hosting a bake sale. At 10:15, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for small children on the Nursery School playground. Bring your own baskets. It is rumored that the Easter Bunny will be making an appearance!</p>



CHURCH CALENDAR

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
Youth Band Vocalists Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
“Come As You Are” Worship Service, 5:45 p.m. at the Darien YMCA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Bible Study 9:30am – 10:30a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Book of Acts 9:1-31

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Good Friday Vigil 6a.m.-Midnight
Good Friday Cross Walk – 10:00 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service - Mather Cemetery
Worship Service 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

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*