



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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***PALM SUNDAY
PASSION SUNDAY
March 25, 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. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #180**

“A CHEERING, CHANTING, DIZZY CROWD”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Open to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter and give God praise.

**Our gathering is the gate of the Lord;
all who hunger for God shall enter it.**

Our king comes to us, triumphant;
riding on the colt foal of a donkey.

**All this is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Let us all keep our gaze on Jesus,
blazing a way, never walked before.

**He endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

***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)

EPISTLE LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 2.5-11

Phil Meyer, Deacon (8:30)
Tucker Scott, Deacon (10:00)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, (continued)

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

***HYMN #179**

“RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY!”

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 11:1-11

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SERMON

“GOD’S DOWNWARD MOBILITY”

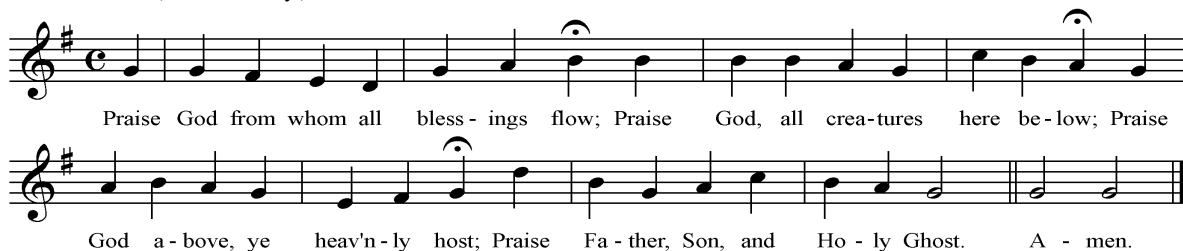
Rev. Dale Rosenberger

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

“RIDE ON KING JESUS”
Senor Choir

Arr. Moses Hogan

***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*)

Our hearts would not withhold our devotion to you, O God. Neither would our hands cling to retain for ourselves that which you summon us to share. May these gifts signify our commitment to follow Jesus Christ, our willingness to trust his grace, so far beyond our own sense of what is needed to heal this broken world. We find our hope in your way. Amen.

***HYMN #178**

“ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE (*10:00 only*)

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Kristin Desautelle, Phil Meyer (8:30 a.m.), Tucker Scott and Steve Weeden.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOVIE TODAY

at 3:30 in Parish Hall

“THE ULTIMATE GIFT”

starring James Garner and Lee Meriwether

It is a movie for the whole family



It will make you smile



This is the wonderfully engaging and meaningful story of a grandfather who is not able to have an very important conversation with his spoiled grandson during his lifetime. He finds a special way, after his death, to be with him and bring him into a world of responsibility and authenticity. It is a reminder of the importance of inter-generational conversations - best taking place when families can share, during healthy times.

BELL CHOIR

Calling anyone interested in learning to "play" the hand bells! New members welcome, no experience required. Come to our first rehearsal, Monday, April 2, at 4:30 in the Morehouse Room.

For more information, contact Theo Osgood, 203-722-4483, or tosgood123@optimum.net.



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).

(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 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: Tuesday, April 3 (at the home of Lou Converse); and after church Sunday April 15 (in the Morehouse Room). 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 packing Blessing Bags of toiletries for Midnight Run, in addition to making some fun crafts for our Palm Sunday Parade!

Toiletry Donations: Please bring your donations by Friday, March 23! 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 at <https://tinyurl.com/MidnightRun-18-Toiletries>

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! The Easter Bunny, along with crafts and activities (including some great photo-ops!) will be available starting at 10:00, and our Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 10:40. 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!

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.

Let's Talk! Have an idea for Church School? Have a thought regarding a fun event that you'd love to put on for the kids of the church? Let's talk! cgeeding@uccdarien.org

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.

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.

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!!!

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.

RING IN SPRING DRINKS PARTY

All church members and friends are invited!

Saturday, April 21st

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).

“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).

From the Nominations Committee

FCC of Darien is a vibrant congregation with a myriad of opportunities to get involved at all age levels and with various degrees of commitment...our volunteers are the very fiber of our church community. Whether you are a new member looking to meet people or a long standing member who wants to get involved in supporting our community, we have something for you.

Serving on a board or committee is a great way to get involved. The Nominating Committee is working now to fill the volunteer leadership positions for 2018-19 for our boards and committees...we have many spots to fill especially on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Christian Education. Please get involved! You'll be glad you did.

Please contact Molly Watkins, Nominating Chair, if you are interested in volunteering and/or have suggestions for potential candidates, contact Molly Watkins (mollyo60@aol.com, 203-656-2296). All communications with members of the Nominating Committee are treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your active engagement in the process!

If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below and place in the collection plate during the offering.

Name:

Contact Info:

Board(s) or committees of interest:

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 10:30 am <i>(last week's bulletin incorrectly listed this as 10:00 am)</i>	Please join our 2018 Good Friday Cross Walk, uniting our Christian communities. We begin at First Congregational Church at 10:30 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 10:40, 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>

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

*“Where God’s lavish love embraces us,
Christ’s bold truth transforms us,
the Spirit’s healing power sends us.”*

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 26

Care, Connect and Communicate, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

No Bible Study

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Good Friday Vigil 6 a.m.-Midnight
Good Friday Cross Walk – **10:30 a.m.**
Midnight Run

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service - Mather Cemetery
Easter Worship Services 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*