



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

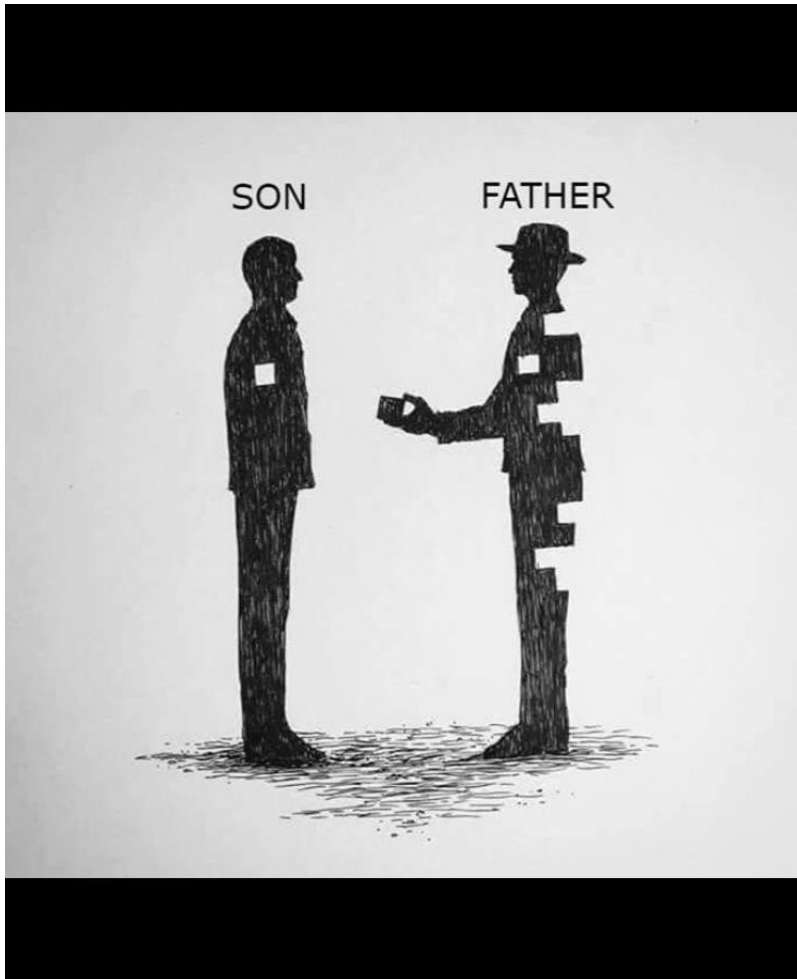
United Church of Christ  
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***SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER***

***April 8, 2018***

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



# ***SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER***

***April 8, 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. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**SONG**

“THE LOVE OF GOD”

Daniel Hague

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season.

Gather once more to testify to life.

**We declare to each other what we have experienced.**

**In community we find the life God intends.**

Early believers were of one heart and soul.

We, too, are called to find common ground in Christ.

**How very good and amazing it is**

**When kindred live together in unity.**

Peace be with you as we celebrate resurrection.

God’s agape love for us is eternal.

**We are here to testify to God’s grace.**

**We will share our story and ourselves.**

**\*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

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

PSALM 133

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)  
Tucker Scott, Deacon (10:00)

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

**\*HYMN #404**

“LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING”

**GOSPEL LESSON**

LUKE 15:21-32

Rev. Morello

Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”’

**SERMON**

"NO LECTURES, NO LESSONS, NO LANGUAGE - - JUST LOVE"

Rev. Morello

**OFFERTORY (10:00 only)**

“PRAISING SONG”  
Senior Choir

Marvin Curtis

**\*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 offer to you our common stewardship, loving God. We want to be faithful in meeting one another’s needs and in serving the world in Christ’s name. The gifts we bring today will not mark an end to our giving. We sense that you are sending us, as Jesus was sent, to share light with the world. As a result, we dedicate our time and effort as a further offering. May life and faith be extended to anyone we encounter. 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*)

**O God, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and for all. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for abundant life. We thank you for your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting and miraculously renewed. Help us to remember your gifts that we may ever praise you with lives of joy and service; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

“GOD IS LOVE” (*pages 6/7*)

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Morello

**POSTLUDE**

Mr. Pakhomov


\*                   \*                   \*

**TODAY'S USHERS** are Marianne Lauer (8:30), Phil Meyer, Tucker Scott and Dave Sealy.

# GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM

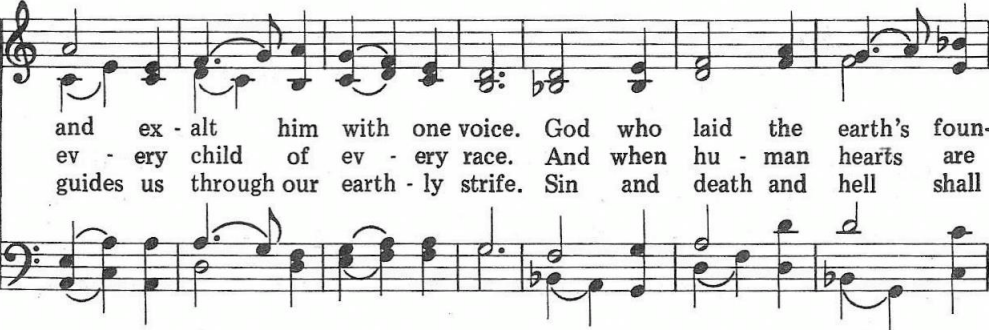
1  


1. God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
 2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in  
 3. God is Love; and though with blind - ness sin af - flicts all

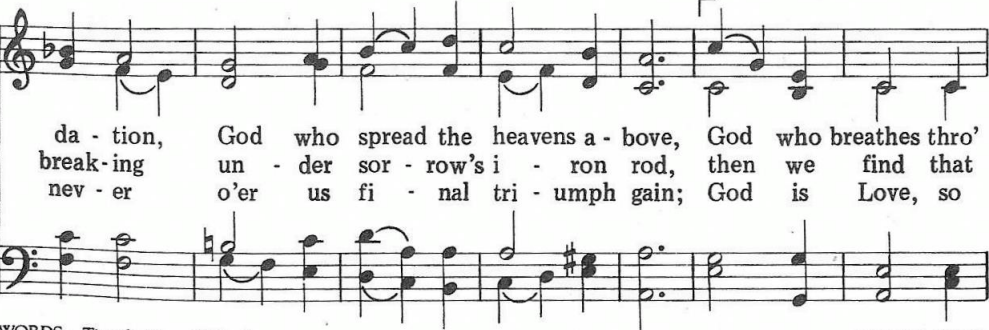
7  


earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
 one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -  
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall



da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes thro'  
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so



WORDS: Timothy Rees, 1922, alt.  
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH  
 8.7.8.7.D

## GOD IS LOVE, LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM (*cont'd*)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains a melody with various note values and rests. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love. self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God. Love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign." The bass staff contains a bass line with chords and some melodic lines. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

This week, 3's - 5th grade will learn the biblical story of Samuel, who was called by God as a child to grow up in faith. Samuel led a very interesting life, and we will learn through activities, games and crafts the amazing lessons we can learn from Samuel.

**Attention all Church School parents!** In order to minimize risks in the Parish Hall during coffee hour, please do not allow your children to run. Thank you!

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](mailto: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](mailto:cgeeding@uccdarien.org)

#### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

##### **COOK/SERVE AT THE OPEN DOOR SHELTER!**

Please help us to feed those in need.

Cook at The First Congregational Church of Darien kitchen — please note one morning and one evening cook time below!

Serve from 12 pm to 2 pm at The Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk

Thursday, April 26 cook at 8 am, Friday, April 27 serve

Thursday, May 17 cook at 6 pm, Friday, May 18 serve

Must be 16 years or older.

Please contact Heather Raker if you would like to help. [hraker@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:hraker@me.com) if you can volunteer from 8:45 to 12 OR 11:45 to 3 on June 7!!!

## **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](mailto:nmsheed@yahoo.com) or call [203-918-5442](tel:203-918-5442).

## **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](mailto:bigelow3@optonline.net)) or John Stuart ([johnstuartmktg@optonline.net](mailto:johnstuartmktg@optonline.net)).

## **BELL CHOIR**

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

For more information, contact Theo Osgood, 203-722-4483, or [tosgood123@optimum.net](mailto:tosgood123@optimum.net).

## **KNITTING MINISTRY**

The Knitting Ministry will meet in the Morehouse Room 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](mailto:grhodil@optonline.net)



# 11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR DISCUSSION: LEGAL ISSUES FOR SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Led by Joseph M. Pankowski, Jr., Esq.

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Please join us for this follow-up to Rev. Shannon White's discussion of her book, "Invisible Conversations With Your Aging Parents." We are so pleased to have Joe, who is an estate planning attorney and a church member, share important insights with us. He will cover the following topics:

- Primary goal: Maintaining family harmony between the generations
- The senior's personal and financial autonomy vs. the children's desire for safety
- Getting the senior and the children on the same page
- The importance of transparency
- Legal documents:
  - a) Power of Attorney
  - b) Living Will and Appointment of Health Care Agent
  - c) Revocable Living Trust
  - d) Will
- "Conservatorships" and "Intestate Estates": The danger of unsigned documents
- Gift and estate tax planning for seniors of significant means
- Medicaid planning for seniors of limited means

**Joseph M. Pankowski, Jr.**

**Partner, Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin, & Kuriansky, LLP**

[203-327-2300](tel:203-327-2300)

[jpankowski@wrkk.com](mailto:jpankowski@wrkk.com)

Joe limits his practice to estate planning, real estate and the administration of trusts and estates. He counsels individuals, families and corporate fiduciaries with respect to intricate personal and business issues associated with the administration and disposition of assets. He is a graduate of Florida State University (B.S., summa cum laude, 1986) and the University of Virginia School of Law (J.D. 1990). He received an LL.M. in Taxation from the New York University School of Law and an M.A. in Religion from Yale University. Joe is the Chairman of the Darien Commission on Aging and serves as a Justice of the Peace. He is admitted to practice in Connecticut and New York. Joe is a frequent lecturer at community and bar association seminars, and is currently a member of the Estates and Probate Sections of the Connecticut Bar Association and the Stamford/Norwalk Regional Bar Association.



**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.*

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*Name:*

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*Contact Info:*

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*Board(s) or committees of interest:*

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## ***Hymns of Truth & Light***

**Would you like to dedicate a hymnal to someone special with a bookplate?**

The cost of adding a personalized bookplate is \$25 per hymnal. Please fill out the following form, printing clearly so that your name and that of a loved one are readable and reproducible on a bookplate:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**>>To honor the memory of a loved one:**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

**>>To celebrate someone special:**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

**>>To dedicate a meetinghouse hymnal(s) in your family name:**

Your family name: \_\_\_\_\_

**>>Other wording:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Total number of hymnals ordered above:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount due with this order:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Price: \$25 each)

(Please make check out to First Congregational Church of Darien, with "hymnal" in the memo section, and leave it and the form in the church office.)

**Thank you! Through your purchase, you are helping subsidize the cost of these hymnals to the church.**

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

**"Where God's extravagant love welcomes and affirms,  
where Christ's transforming truth enlivens and compels."**

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, APRIL 9**

Board of Deacons rescheduled for April 16  
Board of Stewards rescheduled for April 16

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11**

Bible Study rescheduled for April 18

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12**

Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15**

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.  
Knitting Ministry, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

***Ministers:*** Every member of the congregation.

***Clergy and Staff:***

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

The Rev. Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

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

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

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*