



## **THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

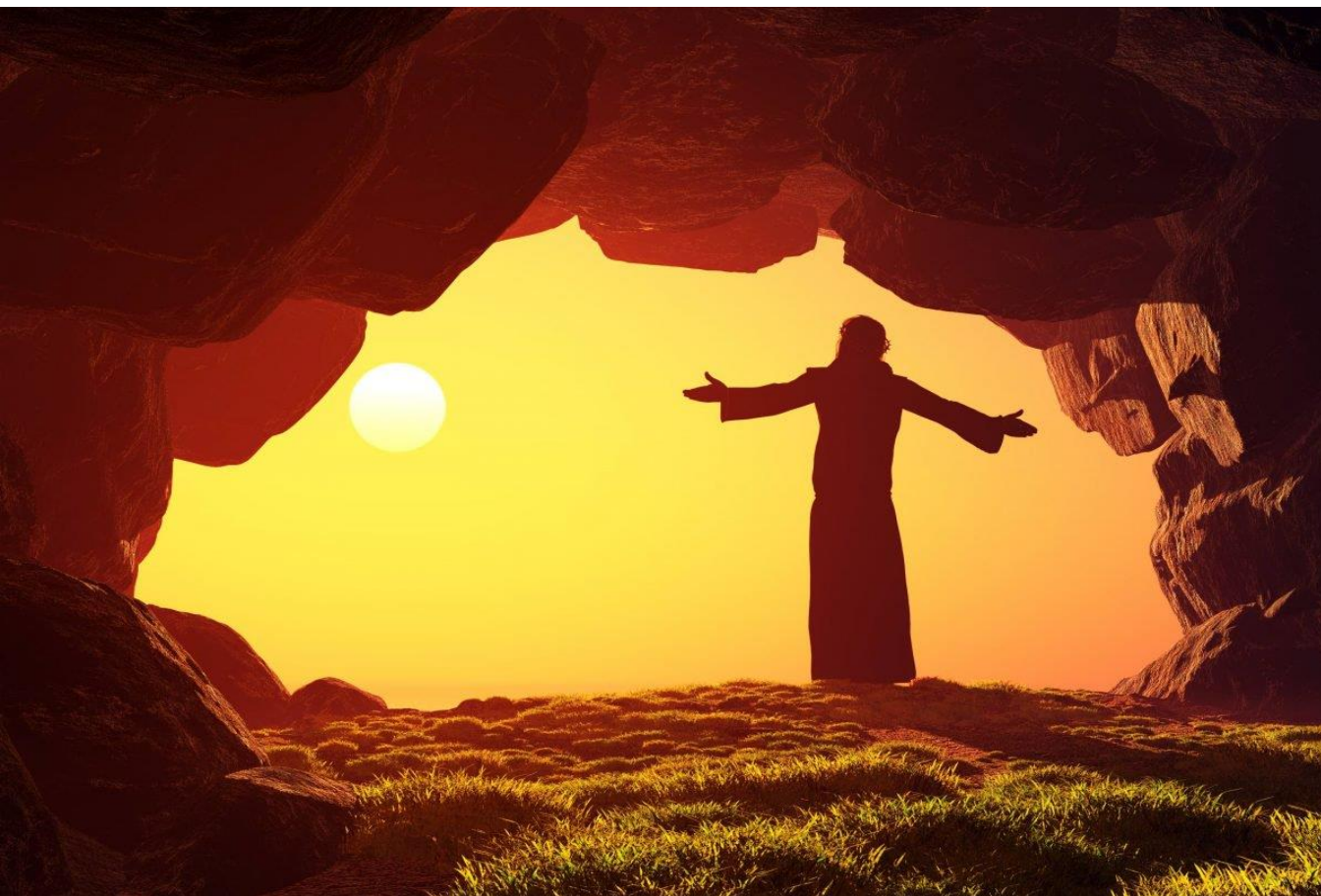
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# **EASTER DAY**

## **THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION**

### **APRIL 1, 2018 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**



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**THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION**  
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*For parents that wish to remain with their children  
the church Library has a live audio feed of the worship service.*

*There is no church school on Easter Sunday, but a Nursery for ages 0-2 will be available on  
Easter Sunday at both the 9-10 service and the 11-12 service.*

*To ensure the sanctity and safety of our Easter celebration, parents are asked to keep their  
children from reaching for the balloons - until the completion of our worship service!*

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

**PRELUDE**

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

**WELCOME**

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #205**

“CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsively*)

Rev. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;  
for the first heaven and earth had passed away.

**A voice said, “See, the home of God is with mortals.  
God is to dwell among them; God shall be with them.”**

“Behold, I make all things new. It is done!  
I am Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.”

**Death will be no more; mourning and crying will stop,  
God will dry our every tear, as former things pass on.**

We rejoice in the victory of our risen Lord;  
we receive his gifts of hope, joy and peace.

**Together, we discover the meaning of life, know the  
power of love, and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ.**

\***LORD'S PRAYER** (debts...debtors)

**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.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

(Childcare in the Circle Room, for infants and children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger.)

### **LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION**

(responsively)

Christ died for all the world, in order that all of us alive may live for something bigger than just ourselves, God's reign upon earth.

**Praise God, bringing life out of death, hope out of despair.**

If then any of us are in Jesus Christ, we are a new creation; for the former things have passed away, we are made new.

**Praise God, bringing life out of death, hope out of despair.**

For we who were once in darkness now dwell in the light, routing all shadows of fear, chasing all specters of doubt.

**Praise God, bringing life out of death, hope out of despair.**

We walk, then, as children of light; for the fruits of the light are goodness, justice and truth; all the godly things lasting forever.

**Praise God, bringing life out of death, hope out of despair.**

So if we live, we live to the Lord God, or if we die, we die to the Lord. And whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is real freedom.

(All respond, singing...)

**“Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.  
Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory, Thou over death has won.”**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 25:6-9

Mandy Teare, Deacon (9:00)  
Karalesa DiFabio, Deacon (11:00)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.  
It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### \*HYMN #210

“CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS”

### GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 20:1-18

Rev. Rosenberger

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. *(continued)*

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**SERMON**

“THE EMBRACER AND THE EMBRACED”

Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERTORY**

“AN EASTER ALLELUIA (Psalm 150)”  
Senior Choir

Cesar Franck

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures 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** (*all uniting*)

**O Risen Christ, you blaze new paths of life beyond death. As we look to you, we see all whom you touched: the troubled in search of calm, the broken in need of healing, the hungry craving bread, and the lost waiting to be found. Through our giving, may your love blaze new paths of life beyond death. Because we know your love endures forever; everything is changed here and now. So we rejoice to give on this holy day! Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SINGING OF THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS FROM “MESSIAH”**

*After the service, kindly leave copies of the “Hallelujah Chorus” score in the pews.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are:

(9:00 a.m.) Dave Miller

(11:00 a.m.) Mary Ann Freeman

**TODAY'S USHERS** are:

(9:00 a.m.) Mandy Teare, Steve Weeden and Liz Werner.

(11:00 a.m.) Karalesa DiFabio, Anne MacInnes and Phil Meyer

***This Easter Sunday, half of the offering will benefit The Open Door Shelter. Their mission is to effectively address the causes and complexities of the homeless and working poor by providing shelter, food, clothing, case management services, treatment services, transitional planning for short and long term goals, subsidized housing, education, employment, and a path towards independence and success.***

***The shelter operates primarily from private donations, with less than 40% of our operating budget coming from government funding. 90 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to providing food, shelter and assistance to those in need. Our board is comprised entirely of uncompensated volunteers.***

**Sugar Maple Tree**

As Dale explained in the latest Flash, we need to take care of a risk at the front of our Church with the old and deteriorating sugar maple tree. We have had multiple arborists take a look at the tree, but the verdict has been consistent. The deterioration is significant to the point where the tree is now a safety hazard. Further repairs to the tree or attempts to save it will not be effective at this point in the tree's life. Church Council has discussed and we will have the tree taken down as soon as practicable. We plan to save a portion of the tree for a suitable plaque. We also plan to replace the tree with a young and new tree that can grow with the next 80-100 years of our historic church!



## ***EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS***

*In Gratitude for Our Church*  
*In Memory of Helen, Phil and Robert Appleby and Debra Shilale*

*In Memory of Eleanor and Warren Anderson*  
**Margi and David Anderson**

*In Memory of Osborne and Margot Griggs*  
**Margi and David Anderson**

*In Memory of the Victims of The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting*  
**Scott, Sammie, and Max Berry**

*In Memory of John Cortissoz*  
**Mariann Bigelow**

*In Memory of Our Family*  
**Nathan and Danielle Craig**

*In Memory of Our Parents*  
**Nathan and Danielle Craig**

*In Memory of Deacon Bill Murphy*  
**The Eising Family**

*In Memory of Diane Friend*  
**Warren and Holly Friend**



## ***EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS***

*In Memory of Nance and Bill Hanlon  
Warren and Holly Friend*

*In Gratitude for Family and Friends  
Joan and Bob Hopkins*

*In Memory of the Honorable George Bregianes  
The Hult Family*

*In Memory of Jay Winfield Jacobs  
Philip and Eliot Jacobs*

*In Memory of Loved Ones  
Seth & Linda Morton, and Family*

*In Gratitude for my Children and Grandchildren  
Theodora S. Osgood*

*In Memory of Vince Rajczewski and Dan Dolittle  
Donna Rajczewski*

*In Gratitude for Our Loving Parents  
Elaine and Tucker Scott*

*In Gratitude for my Mother and Grandmother  
Marny Smith*



## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

*There will be no Church School on Easter Sunday. However, please join us for crafts and a photo booth at 10:00AM, and for an Egg Hunt at 10:40AM! See you then!*

**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](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)

### **YOUTH GROUP BAKE SALE**

Stop on by after Easter Services and pick up some yummie treats at the Youth Group Bake Sale Fundraiser! **Today – After the 9:00 and 11:00 Services.**

### **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 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](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 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](mailto:tosgood123@optimum.net).

## **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](mailto:grhodil@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.*

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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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**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**

**TODAY**

Youth Group Bake Sale after the 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services  
Easter Egg Hunt, 10:40 a.m.

**MONDAY, APRIL 2**

Bell Choir, 4:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Admin. Wing Mtg. Room  
Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5**

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8**

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

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

**Clergy and Staff:**

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

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*