



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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www.uccdarien.org



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 2018

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


Creative Connections
2018 International Young Performers Tour
presents

Abantu Mu Buntu

Talented young, dancers, singers, and drummers performing Ugandan folk tales and music

**FCC Welcomes You
in the Spirit of
Phileo Love!**

www.CreativeConnections.org

 Creative Connections
An International Cultural Education Organization

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 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 2 and younger in the Nursery School wing from 9:50 a.m. through the close of the service.

Please drop off nursery-age children at or before the other children are released for Church School.

A cry-room is also available in the library.

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL GUESTS

ABANTU MU BUNTU

MISSION MOMENT

FRANK KATOOLA

***HYMN #258**

“MORNING HAS BROKEN”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures.

We are refreshed beside still waters.

We have been given everything we have.

God offers us everything we need.

When we walk through life in community with others, God is with us.

We are comforted and reassured.

God leads us in the right paths.

Our cups are filled to overflowing.

God welcomes us to this church where love is expressed and unleashed!

We are invited to partake in phileo love.

We have received plenty that we might share.

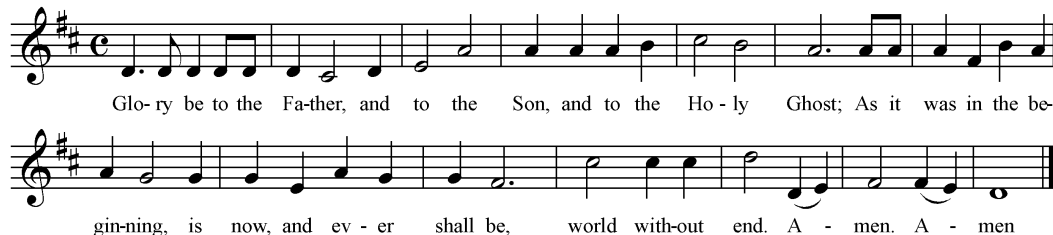
We are called to be God's helpers.

*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



SPECIAL GUESTS

ABANTU MU BUNTU

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL

JOYS AND CONCERNS

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

ACTS 2:1-11

Rev. Morello

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

SERMON

“WE ARE ONE”

Rev. Morello

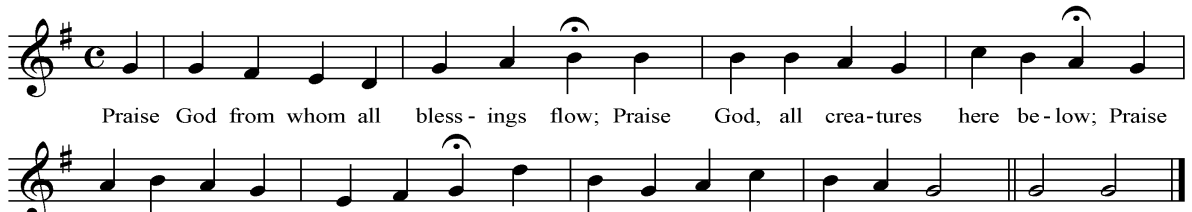
OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

“BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER”
(John 1:4)

V.D. Thompson

Elizabeth Russo and Senior Choir

***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)

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL GUESTS

ABANTU MU BUNTU

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Bill Lattimer (8:30 a.m.), Kristin Desautelle, Dave Miller and Steve Weeden.



Abantu Mu Buntu and Tender Talents School

Talented 14 – 18 year old Ugandan performers attending Tender Talents School present spellbinding tribal dances, drumming, songs, music, and folktales from their home in East Africa. Audiences not only enjoy watching these amazing young performers, but always are inspired by their irresistible joy and spirit.

Tender Talents is a school for children aged 12 to 18 in Kasangati, near Kampala. Set up in 1999 by Frank and Brenda Katoola (who will be on tour with the group), it offers a rigorous academic curriculum along with special arts training in cultural dance, music, drama, visual art and sculpting.

Many of the school's pupils come from the poorest section of the community. A high proportion have lost parents and other family members to AIDS, some come from single-parent families, others are refugees from the Northern Conflict (a regional war that rumbled on for over a decade). The school receives no direct state funding but relies on donations, bartering, and fees from those parents who can afford to pay.

Creative Connections

As part of Creative Connections' annual two week International Young Performers' Tour, Abantu Mu Buntu will be visiting 15 schools in our area, performing and giving cultural workshops to 5000 students and their teachers. Founded in 1992, Creative Connections is a non-profit international education organization headquartered in Norwalk, CT.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

YOU ARE HEREBY CALLED TO THE
“ANNUAL MEETING: PART II–PROGRAMS”
OF
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

This meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 6
immediately following our 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to:

- * receive the 2018 nominating reports,
- * receive committee program reports,
- * address any other business or concern relating to the life of our parish,
which may properly be brought before the assembled congregation.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

This week, 3's - 5th grade will learn the biblical story of Ruth, who was committed to her family and friends even through difficult times. Ruth was a woman of great faith!

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!

3rd Grade Communion

Classes for 3rd Grade Communion begin this week, April 22nd during Church School. Two topical classes will be held: one during today's service and one on April 29th. Attendance at both is encouraged! 3rd graders will receive their first communion during the 10:00 a.m. service on May 6th. If your child is above 3rd grade and has not experienced these communion classes, they are welcome to join the group of 3rd graders.

5th Graders - You have Access to ACCESS

5th graders may continue to attend ACCESS through the end of the school year until they will be officially invited as 6th graders in the fall! Our next access is April 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Dream Center.

Let's Talk!

Have an idea for Church School...a story, craft, or game? Have a thought regarding a fun event that the kids of FCC would love? Let's talk! cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

Youth Ignite Band

The band will rehearse at 3:00 p.m. on April 22 before helping to lead worship at 4:30 p.m. at Come As You Are! Want to join the band? Contact cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Cook/Serve at the Open Door Shelter in May

Please help us to feed those in need.

Join the outreach committee in the FCC kitchen on Thursday, May 17th at 6 pm for cooking as well as dinner and fun!

Serve Friday, May 18 from 12 pm to 2 pm at The Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt Street, South Norwalk

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

Volunteer for a house tour shift

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!!!

Our Outreach beneficiaries are appreciative of what we do!

Each year, the Outreach Committee gives away \$100,000 to our beneficiaries who depend upon our funds for the important work we do. We receive so many thank you notes!! Look at the bulletin board for a few. We share two examples with you below.

Save the date for the 11th Liberation Programs Spirit of Hope Benefit

On Thursday, June 7, 2018, Liberation Programs will honor Jayme Stevenson, our First Selectman, and raise funds for their important work. Liberation Programs' mission is to empower people and their families to be free of the disease of addiction by providing targeted solutions that restore lives and strengthen our community. Contact John Bassler at johnbassler@gmail.com for more information.

Mark your calendars for the annual Person-to-Person Postal Drive on May 12

On May 12, we will join the Darien community at Person-to-Person to help sort food donations collected during the Postal Workers' Food Drive. Stay tuned for a sign-up genius link!

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).

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.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming **Music at First** Events:

Show up and Sing Sunday, April 29: Come and sing with the choir on this Sunday! All you need to do is show up at 9:15 am in the Morehouse Room and learn a simple piece. With the aid of choir members, you will raise your voice in this wonderful form of prayer.

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).

TWO EXCITING EVENTS SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Exploring Selleck Woods with Nina Miller

Next Sunday, April 29 Nina Miller will lead a tour of Selleck Woods. This is open to all Church members. We will meet at Selleck Woods around 11:20. Selleck Woods is near Church on Parkland Drive which is off of Kings Highway North. There is a large construction project on Parkland so drive past that to park. Wear footwear that can take muddy conditions and clothing that will prevent ticks from attaching.

Cinco de Mayo Dinner

The next Nite Owls Dinner is Wednesday, May 9, at the home of Debbie Nelson (14 Hamilton Lane, Darien), at 6:30. This dinner is open to all Church women. A feisty of Mexican treats will help us celebrate the event. RSVP to Debbie Nelson (dcnelson@optonline.net) to let her know you can attend.

11TH 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

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.



POSTAL DRIVE MAY 12TH, 2018



Sign Up for a fun and easy way to give back by becoming a post man for a few hours!

Volunteer to be a Driver! Grab your car and a friend or a family member, get your route at Person-To-Person and start collecting food donated by people's mailboxes

Volunteer to Sort Food! Help at Person-to-Person to sort the collections as they come into the facility

Can't Commit? Please leave food out for donation on May 12th and help fill your local pantry!

SIGN UP COMING SOON[™]

EASY WAY TO HELP FILL LOCAL FOOD BANKS!

Free Hot Dog Lunch at
P2P for volunteers



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:

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

11th Hour Discussion: Legal Issues for Seniors and Their Families
"Come As You Are" Worship Service, 4:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 (CONFIRMATION SUNDAY)

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*

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

(emergency pager for Senior. & Associate Ministers: 1- (203) 368-7789)

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

Mrs. Christine Geeding, *Christian Education 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*