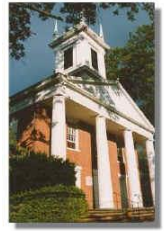




THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
Phone: 203-655-0491 Fax: 203-655-7620
E-mail: info@uccdarien.org
www.uccdarien.org



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

APRIL 29, 2018

8:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M.

**CHASE
THE
LION**

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

APRIL 29, 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

Rev. Gary Morello, *Associate Minister*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #331**

“GOD, WHEN I CAME INTO THIS LIFE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP: 1 TIMOTHY 4**

Christine Geeding, *Christian Ed. Director*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
These are the things you must insist on and teach.
Let no one despise your youth.

**We as believers are an example in speech and conduct,
in love, in faith, in purity. We give attention to the public reading
of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching.**

To the young and the wise do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you
through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

**Put these things into practice; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.
Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing
this you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

*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

LITANY OF OUR JOURNEY IN CHRIST (*10:00 only*)

(responsively)

Leader: We gather today to worship God and celebrate our many and various journeys of faith, and yet that we are also community, part of something bigger than ourselves.

Confirmands: We have gathered in community for the past year to study and learn, to observe and notice, to deepen our souls in service, to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mentors: Our confirmands asked us to walk alongside them and we agreed to do so, uncertain whether we would be equal to this honor. We too have grown immeasurably.

Parents: How can we pass on our faith to our young? We have turned to the church to help us lead our children to live in the image of Christ, our fullest human stature.

People: How can we know the way? We want to lead a Christian life—all of us—yet we are still learning and growing ourselves, no matter what age we are along life's way.

Leader: Our youth learn more from us than we will ever know; by what we say, yes, but most especially by what we do. We are witnesses, in this sense, to God's age-old story.

People: Teach us, Christ, to live your laws of loving God and neighbor with real compassion.

Confirmands: The faith we are learning is so great. It is big. We thank our parents, our mentors, and this, our home church for walking with us and guiding us along our way.

Mentors: Through our relationship with you, our own discovery has unfolded. Your young lives and faith enrich us. By knowing you, we have received more than we gave.

People: Of course, the journey is not over. Your whole life opens up before you. Wherever you go, we hope you will seek out a community of faith for support along your way.

Confirmands: Thanks be to God, for all of God's gifts. We have so much to celebrate today. Amen.

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

*Children will proceed to Church School.
Grades 6/7 are welcome to stay in service.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS (8:30 a.m. only)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

JOSHUA 1:1-9
(NRSV: Old Testament, Pg. 194)

Phil Meyer, *Deacon*
Mandy Teare, *Deacon*

SOLO

“A THOUSAND YEARS”

Christine Geeding

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 3:1-6
(NRSV: New Testament, Pg. 34)

Rev. Morello

SERMONETTE

“YOUNG AND FAITHFUL”

Rev. Morello
(Confirmands)

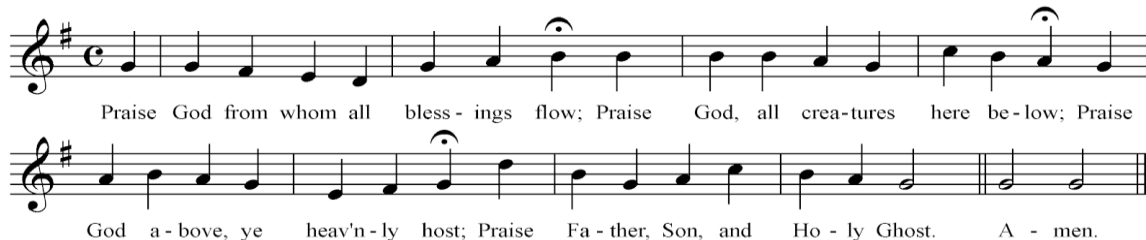
FAITH STATEMENTS

OFFERTORY
(10:00 only)

“THE SUMMONS”
Senior Choir

John Bell

***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.



RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:00 only)

ADDRESS

*We invite our Confirmands to rise and face the congregation
as they affirm the faith of their baptism according to this order
from the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.*

QUESTIONS OF THE CONFIRMANDS

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMAND

MADELYN HULT
ALEXIS LYONS
SOPHIE PETTI
BRAD TRAGER
JACK WALSH

MENTOR

MELISSA ALMY
KARALESA DIFABIO
LORA GRASSILLI
ROLAND CLOUGH
TODD BORTEL

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*COVENANT

(unison)

We covenant with God and with one another, as fellow Members of this Church, and bind ourselves in God's presence to serve His kingdom in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. We pledge our loyalty to this Church and to the whole body of Christ's Church declaring our intention to walk together in God's holy ways, made known to us and to be made known to us. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(unison)

**Living Lord, we praise you for the faith and love of all disciples here.
Blessed by the ministry of our spiritual home, we grow strong and true.
Today we all reconfirm and receive the grace revealed in our baptism.
Today all join in lifelong promise to praise and serve you, first and last.
Fortify us to fulfill vows—spoken and heard--in our future decisions.
Help us discover our calling through the gifts you have given us.
Show us the wonders of your Holy Spirit at work in the world,
so that our faith will keep getting richer, stronger, and deeper,
until we find ourselves, whatever generation, old and gray.**

***LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)**

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.

***HYMN #329**

“NOW IN THE DAYS OF YOUTH”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Phil Meyer (8:30), April Barker, Mandy Teare and Tucker Scott (10:00).

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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

This week, 3's - 5th grade will learn the story of Solomon's Temple. Although Solomon wasn't a perfect person, God still used him to do great things. We aren't perfect either, but God can still use us!

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 continues this week, April 29th. 3rd graders will receive their first communion during the 10:00 a.m. service on May 6th.

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 - May 20

The band will rehearse at 3:00 p.m. on May 20th before helping to lead worship at our last CAYA at 4:30 p.m. at Come As You Are! Want to join the band?

Contact cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

MUSIC SUNDAY

May 20: As part of the 10 am service, the choir will offer a number of pieces for all to enjoy celebrating 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.

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!

TWO EXCITING EVENTS SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Exploring Selleck Woods with Nina Miller

Today 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 fiesta of Mexican treats will help us celebrate the event. RSVP to Debbie Nelson (dcnelson@optonline.net) to let her know you can attend.



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



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

Selleck Woods Tour, 11:20 AM

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

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

Annual Meeting Part II, immediately following 10:00 a.m. service of worship

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*