



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



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2018

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



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Church School/Nursery at FCC

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

***HYMN #250**

“HERE IN THIS PLACE”

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Christine Geeding, Christian Education Director

Come all who are seeking a relationship with God.

Abide in the love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

We come in response to deepen our connection.

We are here, committed to Christ’s command.

Remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.

Let hands and voices echo God’s praise.

Let us pour out a joyful noise.

Let our hands reflect the Savior of the world.

Sing a new song to God who does marvelous things.

Obey God’s commandments, which are not burdensome.

We lift our eyes to the Lord and sing for joy!

We live by faith that conquers the world!

***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

EXODUS 16:4, 9-12

Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)

Dave Miller, Deacon (10:00)

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.” ’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.” ’

*HYMN #311

“LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER”

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

SERMON

"THE PERFECT HEART"

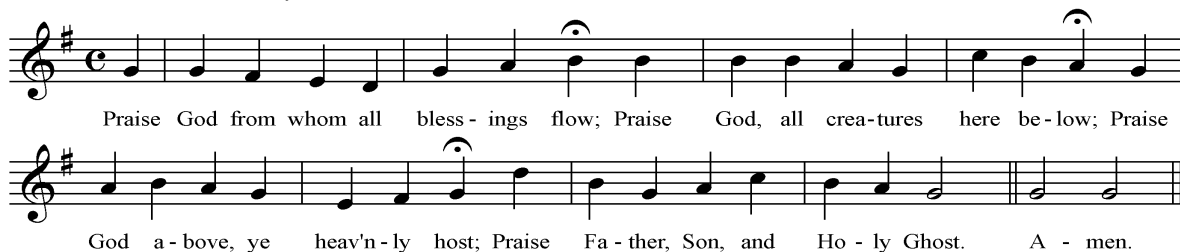
Rev. Morello

OFFERTORY (10:00 only)

"THE SUPPER OF THE LORD"
Senior Choir

Laurence Rosaria

*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)

Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offerings bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. 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*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks for what you have given us in this bread and cup. Fed and renewed by your life in us - we go now to share that life with others. Send us forth equipped with the power of your Spirit to spread the message of your love and compassion to all whom we meet. Amen.

*HYMN #29

“REJOICE, O PURE IN HEART”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Bill Lattimer (8:30), Dave Miller, Dave Sealy and Mandy Teare.

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 this morning
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

Church School This Week

This week, 3's - 5th grade will learn the story of Naaman, his wife, and their servant girl. Naaman was a military captain in the Bible who contracted a life-altering disease: leprosy. Naaman's servant girl, who was an Israelite, knew of the God of Israel who could heal people. Although God may not heal all sicknesses just yet, God can use us to bring hope to the hurting, just like the hope brought by Naaman's servant girl.

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!

Presentation of 3rd Grade Communion Class

3rd graders will receive their first communion during the 10:00 a.m. service on May 6th. Parents and families of the class: Please sit in the reserved first middle rows during the 10:00 service. Your child will be brought back into the service after Church School to receive communion with you.

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.

ACCESS - May 31. 6th - 8th graders, mark your calendars for the final ACCESS of the school year on May 31st at 7:00PM in the Dream Center! Can't wait to see you there!

Youth Ignite Band - May 20, 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The band will rehearse at 3:00 p.m. on May 20th before helping to lead worship 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 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.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Spring Luncheon and Talk

Women's Association and Board of Outreach are hosting a Spring Luncheon and discussion of the #Me Too movement. Quentin Ball, Executive Director of The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education, will lead the talk. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at 12:00pm in the Parish Hall. It is open to all interested Church members and the community at large. RSVP to Debbie Nelson (dcnelson@optonline.net or 203-655-4883).

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.

DARIEN HOUSE TOUR

Would you like to help with the Darien House Tour, but can't cover a shift during the day? We will be putting together Goody Bags on **Tuesday June 5th, 7:30 - 9 pm**, and we'd love to have your help! Refreshments will be provided! Please contact Annette Madden-Kline. a_madden_kline@hotmail.com

CALLING ALL FCC MEN (AND WOMEN, TOO!)

Please come and help with one of the most important jobs at the House Tour - parking! We need a volunteer at each house to oversee parking attendants. We have morning and afternoon shifts available.

Contact Annette Madden-Kline a_madden_kline@hotmail.com or sign up directly. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4da9ad29a5fd0-thejune>

BREEZE DATABASE

The church has upgraded to a new database, and we need your help. You may have already received an email with instructions for checking your information on Breeze. Please take a few minutes to make sure that the information the church has for you is right. If you are having trouble, please reach out to the office. Pam will be the point person for this initiative!

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.

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!

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.

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 on the following pages.



January 12, 2018

Rev. Dale Rosenberger
 First Congregational Church of Darien
 14 Brookside Road
 Darien, CT 06820

Dear Rev. Rosenberger,

Thank you for helping to improve the lives of homeless individuals. Your generous gift of \$6,000 on 12/22/2017 will make a tremendous difference to our clients as they work to build a better life.

An example is John, who had lived in the same house his entire life. After his mother's death, he could no longer afford to live there. At age 62, John was homeless.

"I went to the shelter and it was a different world. I didn't think there would be so many people in one room, it gets really crowded."

John was determined to find housing, and ultimately was placed in Pacific House's *Gateway* housing development.

"I cried my first time there, it felt like I was back home. With my back issues, now I can lie down whenever I need to. It's the little things that make such a difference."

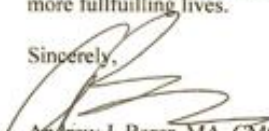
Your donation helps make a house a home: a bed, a couch, a kitchen table. These basic items have a lasting impact on someone who came to the Pacific House emergency shelter with nothing more than the clothes on his back.



Your gift also allows us to provide the critical case management services that help to ensure a successful transition from the shelter into housing. With care and compassion, our case managers help people reach their goals and recover from homelessness, for good.

Thank you for helping these formerly homeless individuals continue their journey to self-sufficiency and lead more fulfilling lives.

Sincerely,


 Andrew J. Barer, MA, CMC
 Director of Development

Thank you Dale - and to all the members of the congregation - for yet another wonderful generous gift!
 Best,
 Audrey

Dear Ms. Smenson:
Happy New Year! I am writing to
add my gratitude to you and the
Board of Christian Outreach at
the First Congregational Church
of Darien for your generous gift
of \$5,000 in support of our Youth
Development Program. I am new
to Carver and it is a pleasure
to meet friends of the organization.
Your commitment is making a
difference in the lives
of the young people I see nearly
everyday in our hallways. Thank
you so very much for caring
about Carver students and for
offering them a positive path
forward. My very best wishes
to everyone at Christian Outreach
for a healthy and joyous 2018!
Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Nikki Lafaye

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, MAY 7

Board of Christian Education, 7:30 p.m. in the Admin. Wing Meeting Room

Board of Christian Outreach, 7:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Bible Study 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

Women's Assoc. Cinco de Mayo Party, at the home of Debbie Nelson

THURSDAY, MAY 10

Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Men's Ministry, 7:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

SUNDAY, MAY 13

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*

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

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

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*