



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



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 3, 2017
9:00 a.m.

We live not by
COINCIDENCE
we live by
PROVIDENCE.

Wes Feltner

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 3, 2017
9:00 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 starting at 9:45 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #1**

“WE LIMIT NOT THE TRUTH OF GOD”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our faith draws us together this day.
Let us trust enough to open ourselves.

**We have heard of miracles in former days.
Our ancestors have kept alive these stories.**

Give ear, all people, to God’s word for today.
Taste the goodness of our blessing even now.

**We long for a faith to make sense of our world,
a living faith we can hand down to our children.**

God’s revelation is for all people, near and far.
God is waiting to give audience to you and me.

**May God’s mercy to us be upon all people.
Surely our peace is found in the will of God.**

***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

GENESIS 45:1-15

Phil Meyer, Deacon

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are
(continued)

five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

***HYMN #83** “GOD OF OUR LIFE, THROUGH ALL THE CIRCLING YEARS”

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 16:21-28

Rev. Rosenberger

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?’

‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

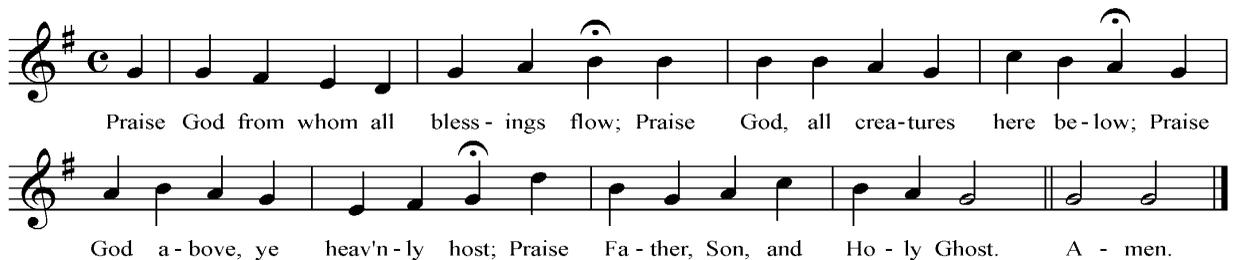
SERMON

"MORE THAN COINCIDENCE?"

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**



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*)

May our offerings express genuine love reflecting your great love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of resources that you entrust until our care goes beyond our own unto the building of a peace that values all worldwide. 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*)

Heavenly Father, we praise and extol you, for you have again amply blessed us at the table of Jesus. You have satisfied us with the food and drink of eternal life, and you have assigned us the signs and seals of your mercy. Having been fulfilled before your altar, we now offer ourselves, our bodies and souls, as a holy offering, that all of us who have united with Jesus Christ may grow daily in faith, rejoice in hope, and enrich one another in community. May your holy name bring praise, glory, honor and blessing, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN #102**

"GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Phil Meyer and Mandy Teare.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics Book Group is reading Trollope's, Barchester Towers and is meeting on Wednesday, September 20 in the library, at 3:30 p.m. Come check us out. Call Sally Bassler or just come, (203) 655-9658; sbassler13@gmail.com.) even if you haven't read/finished the book. This is a long one - hence for summer reading!

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and are on the table, outside the church office. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at KHansen@uccdarien.org.



MOBILEPACK

SAVE THE DATE

Feed My Starving Children

Annual Event is Around the Corner
September 30th - October 1st, 2017

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Participation VERY rewarding

Any questions, please feel free to contact Tracey Berry
(tbc@optonline.net)

Welcome Back to Church

PICNIC

A series of black silhouettes depicting various picnic activities: a person holding a drink, a person with a dog, a person sitting at a table with a picnic basket, a person standing, a person with a stroller, a person playing a game, and a person with a child.

Sunday, September 10, 2017
Right after our 10 a.m. "Jazz Worship" service

FOOD
ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS



JOIN US!
BRING A FRIEND!!



The First Congregational Church of Darien
14 Brookside Road, Darien CT
(203) 655-0491

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

*“Where God’s extravagantly welcoming love brings us all in,
and Christ’s transforming truth sends us all back out again.”*

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (no 8:30 service)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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

Feed My Starving Children Breakfast Fundraiser, 9:00 a.m. – 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*

Christine Geeding, *Director of Christian Education*

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*