



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



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 22, 2017 – 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



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*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

The Rev. Dale B. Rosenberger

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #67**

“GOD, WHO STRETCHED THE SPANGLED HEAVENS”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Put away the things you have substituted for God.
Let worship of the one, true living God rule the day.

**We know God doesn't resemble our false images.
We seek to know God truly, to worship our Maker.**

God is not deceived by solemn pretense to goodness.
Empty assemblies and ceremonies don't impress God.

**We seek a living faith, giving joyous expression.
We praise that God whom Jesus revealed to us.**

Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment.
We trust the power of God's love more than self.

**As the days draw dark, we welcome God's light.
We answer God in real and living ways of service.**

***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**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO FOURTH GRADERS AND RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS
(10:00 only)

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL *(10:00 only)*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 25:1-9

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)

Dave Miller, Chair, Board of Deacons (10:00)

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled. *(continued)*

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 #412**

“JESUS, I LIVE TO THEE”

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.’

SERMON

“NOT A PARTY FOR THE FASHIONABLY LATE”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

“I GIVE TO YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT/UBI CARITAS”

(10:00 only)

John 13:34-35, Liber Usualis

Peter Nardone

Senior Choir

***DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow: Praise God all creatures here below:
Praise god above ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live daily according to your will and way, not ours. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to eternal joy in the midst of this living moment. Amen.

***HYMN #S6**

“I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Pakhomov

* * *

TODAY'S GREETERS are Janet and David Soskin.

TODAY'S USHERS are Mary Ann Freeman, Marianne Lauer (8:30), David Miller and Dave Sealy.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER YOUR FAMILY!

All FCC Families with children between the ages of newborn to grade 12, please take a moment to go online to our electronic registration form at www.tinyurl.com/FCCFamilyRegistration and register your family! This is required for all children participating in Church School and Youth Group. It will only take a few moments of your time. This insures you are on the right email distribution lists and that children are included in communications for upcoming service and social activities. Thank you!

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We are still looking for more Church School teachers, subs, and one-time speakers! If you have a talent you are willing to share with the Church School at FCC, please email cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

YIG PRESENTS MIDDLE SCHOOL "ACCESS":

Connect with friends and dig deeper into God's Word!

Our next Access meeting will be held in the Dream Center on Thursday, October 26th from 7:00-8:30PM. Dinner is provided. Contact Christine Geeding at cgeeding@uccdarien.org for more information.

FCC YOUTH WORSHIP BAND

Attention all 6th-12th graders! Do you play an instrument? Do you want to get involved in music at FCC? Christine Geeding (Director of Christian Ed) is looking to form a youth worship band for FCC. The band will play at various events including some Come As You Are services and youth group events. The band will have their first meeting in mid-November! Contact cgeeding@uccdarien.org for more information!

HALLOWEEN TREAT @ FCC

After picking up your kids from Church School on October 29th, the Church School will have a quick grab-and-go treat table in Parish Hall! Decorate a baked good and grab a treat bag! See you there!"

BELL CHOIR

The Bell choir would welcome anyone who would like to learn to play a beautiful set of bells. We practice on Monday afternoons, 4:30-5:30 in the Morehouse room. If you are interested, please call Theo Osgood: [203-655-2538](tel:203-655-2538)

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

Building One Community Family Night – Friday, October 27th

Join us for a night of fun as we eat and socialize with new immigrants in our area, helping them to acclimate to our country and culture. Bring your family! It's a fun event!! Please email Lauren Swenson at lauren.s.swenson@gmail.com to join in the fun!

Mark your calendars to help distribute turkeys at the Open Door Shelter! Tuesday, November 21st, 9 am to 12:15 pm (or whenever you can help!)

Distributing turkeys is a great way to kick off the holiday season! It's fun AND you help others in need. Contact hraker@me.com to help!

Thank you for your help for those in need!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach

Chair: Lauren Swenson, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Elmerina Brooks, Gary Holmes, Bob McGee, Doug McPheters, Heather Raker, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson



Let's help.

UNDIES SUNDAY

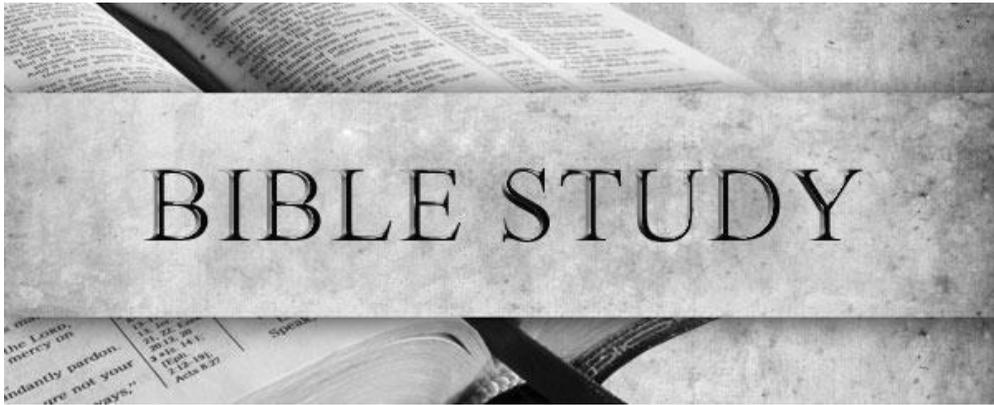
October 29, 2017

Nothing says you care like underwear!

Please bring NEW, unused briefs & boxers for men, women's panties and children's underwear for those in need to improve their lives. All sizes and ages needed. A donation bin will be provided.

All items donated will be distributed to local area organizations who help those in need such as: Person to Person, Pacific House, Clothes to Kids of Fairfield County.

Underwear is the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing. No one should be deprived of the simple, daily necessity of clean underwear that many of us take for granted. Hygiene and physical comfort are only a part of this basic human need. New, clean underwear also provides dignity and self-esteem. The Undies Project Inc. was started to fulfill this need. The Undies Project Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.



The Genesis Stories:

Please join us for a 10-week examination of some of the best-known stories from the book of Genesis and a discussion about what they tell us about our lives today, including how we deal with disobedience to God, jealousy, sibling rivalry, faith and treachery.

Each one-hour meeting will include a review of the story, a short video presentation from a Bill Moyers special, and group discussion about the story's meaning as facilitated by our pastors.

All are welcome regardless of their background in the Bible.

If you can only attend a few of our sessions, that is perfectly fine! Please come anyway. This is a great way to understand how the Bible has relevance to everyone today.

The meetings will be on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room, finishing on January 3, 2018.

Dressings to Drumsticks Fair November 19

An old tradition is back! Come before or after the 10:00 service on **Sunday, November 19** to shop for things to enhance your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Fair is put on by the Women's Association.

We will have your favorite offerings:

- *BAKE SALE*
- *JEWELRY TABLE*
- *RAFFLE FOR SOME BEAUTIFUL WREATHES AND OTHER HOLIDAY ITEMS*
- *JUMBLE SALE*
- *DOVE BOX SIGN UP*
- *CABOT CHEDDAR CHEESE FOR SALE*
- *CRAFT, KNITTING AND CROCHET CREATIONS*
- *WONDERFUL BAKERY BREAD FROM BELDOTTI'S BAKERY*
- *TABLE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS*

We need your help to make this a success. Please think about what you can contribute. We are collecting contributions for the Jewelry and Jumble sales in boxes at the front of the stage in Parish Hall. (Jumble items are used household items that are small (think toaster size or less). If you are baking or making soup or other savorys, put some in the freezer to contribute to the Bake Sale.

We will be making craft and food items for the Fair. Watch for dates for crafting mornings. Also, **Wednesday, November 8** we will be making quiches to sell at the Fair. This is our "Nite Owls" night so we'll bake quiche and then eat some for dinner.

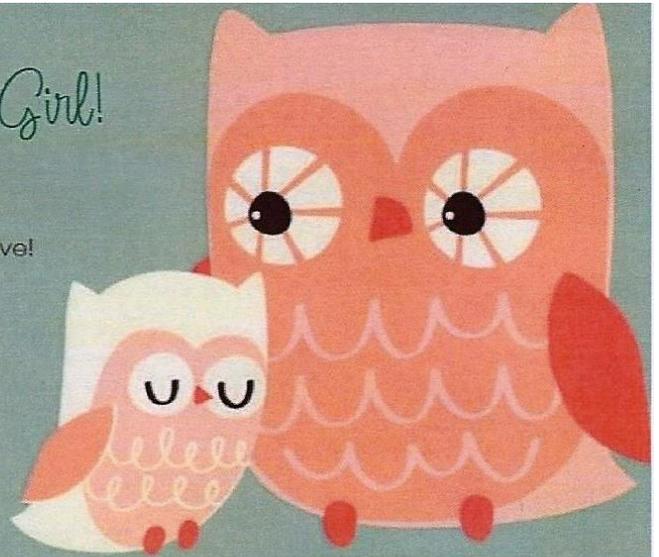
More details, dates and order forms will follow.

Look Whooo's Having A Girl!

Let's Shower Gary and Erica Morello with FCC Love!
203-655-0491

Saturday, October 28 from 2:00 PM
to 3:30 PM

Parish Hall
14 Brookside Road
Darien, CT 06820



We are tickled pink that a baby girl is on her way. Please come celebrate with Gary and Erica before their big day. Everyone is welcome as we'll have something fun for everyone to do. And we've got a few funny surprises in mind for the parents-to-be too!

Tiny t-shirts, rattles, and some bigger items, plus the party food we will supply. A group FCC gift is what we are hoping you'll contribute to and we'll go and buy.

(Contributions can be sent to Karen Hansen in the church office.)

Get ready for laughter, giggles and fun ... before Miss Arianna Grace is here and on the run!

Saturday, October 28, Parish Hall

2:00: Crafts and Well Wishes

2:30: Games and Presents

3:00: Cake and Desserts

An e-vite went out to all. Please RSVP and do note the one extra special request for each family to bring.

Questions: Please contact Karen Brennan, Andy Huntington, Judith Sinche, or Debbie Nelson

**ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO A
“FALL FUN” DRINKS PARTY**

**Saturday, November 4th, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Hosted by Caroline & Frank Burke at
29 Tower Lane, 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 to join you!

**Invitations were sent by email but feel free to RSVP
Caroline directly at cburkeok@gmail.com
or call 203-656-3050**

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

***“Where God’s lavish love embraces us,
Christ’s bold truth transforms us,
the Spirit’s healing power sends us.”***

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Baby Shower for Ariana Grace Morello, 2:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

(please remember “Undies Sunday”

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

Halloween Treat @ FCC, 11:00 a.m. in Parish Hall

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*