



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***November 12, 2017
8:30 a.m. and 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

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #10**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Blessed be God, who restores and nourishes us.
It is the Lord who provides food, rest and shelter.

**We have all been claimed by God’s love,
and we are covered by his extravagance.**

Praising God delivers us from self-serving anxiety;
we trust God by sharing just as God shares with us.

**We are assured by the example of Jesus Christ:
the more he gave, the richer were his treasures.**

Gather in confidence and hope to hear the Lord’s call;
may thankfulness and joy flow as we share ourselves.

**God’s Holy Spirit is at work in us from day to day;
what Christ has begun, the Spirit will consummate.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

***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.

***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

BAPTISM OF JULIET TIPPMAN DUNN (10:00 only)

Church school students are invited to come up and sit in the front pews during the baptism

CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 6:1-8

Phil Meyer, Deacon (8:30)
Dave Miller, Deacon (10:00)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said:
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

(continued)

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

***HYMN #516**

“O DAY OF GOD, DRAW NEAR”

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Rev. Rosenberger

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON

“THE PREPARATIONS OF JOY”

OFFERTORY

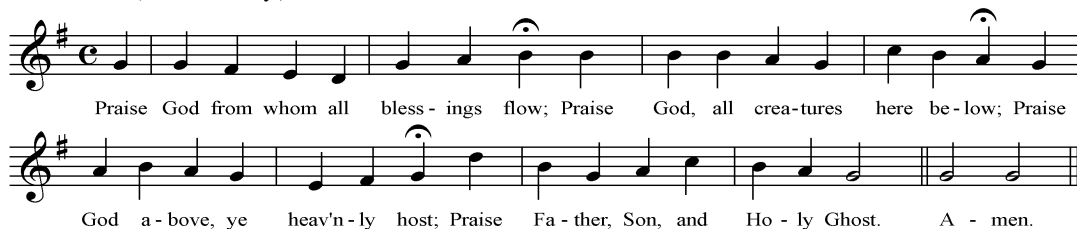
(10:00 only)

“HE”

Regina Elliott

Richards/Mullen

***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** (10:00 only) (unison)
Setting our hope on you, O God, we seek to serve through our efforts and our offerings. Accordingly, we strive to encourage and equip each other for ministry, and to give of our substance where we expect that you would have us make a difference. May your reign shape our lives in ways that witness to the joys of eternity, even here and now. Amen.

***HYMN #29** “REJOICE, O PURE IN HEART”

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE Mr. Pakhomov
*It is our custom at First Church to share quietly in our Postlude, as our final act of praise.
We invite you to remain seated with us.*

* * *

TODAY’S BAPTISM Today Jonathon and Melissa Dunn share with us in the baptism of their second daughter, Juliet, on the sixth anniversary of their marriage here at First Congregational Church, Darien. Jonathon was also baptized, raised, and confirmed in our church. Melissa works in advertising at Match Marketing Group and Jonathon is with a hedge fund in Stamford. Please make them and their extended family welcome.

TODAY’S GREETERS are the Trager family. (Brad, Confirmand)

TODAY’S USHERS are Kristin Desautelle, Phil Meyer (8:30 a.m.), Dave Miller and Dave Sealy.

TODAY’S BULLETIN COVER “Wise and Foolish Maidens” by He Qi.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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! 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.

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, November 30th from 7:00-8:30PM. Dinner is provided. Contact Christine Geeding at cgeeding@uccdarien.org for more information.

FCC YOUTH WORSHIP BAND

FCC's new youth worship band will have its first meeting on Sunday, November 19th at 3:00PM in the Dream Center. Bring your instruments, voices, and excitement! The worship band will play at various events including some Come As You Are services and YIG events. Contact cgeeding@ucdarien.org for more information.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Church School students have begun to rehearse for the 2017 Christmas Pageant to be performed on December 17th at 11:00AM in Parish Hall. If you would like to help out, contact cgeeding@uccdarien.org.

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).



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

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!

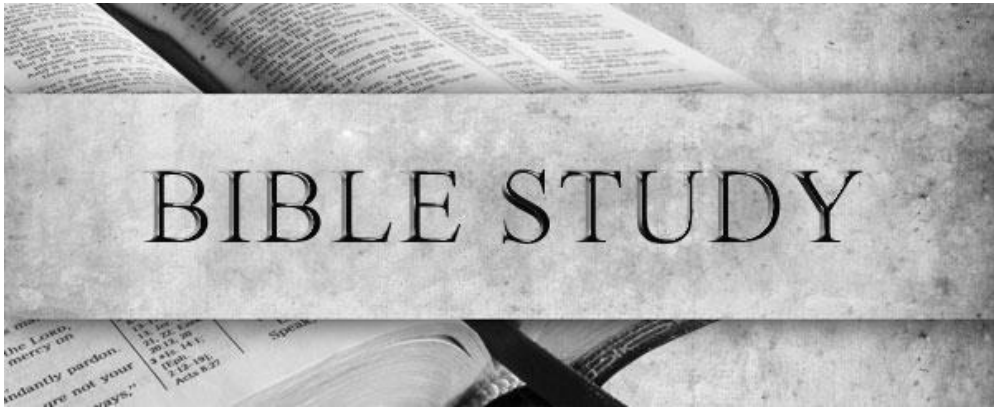
It's fun AND you help others in need.

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



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

Here's how you can help with the Dressings to Drumsticks Fair, Sunday November 19:

- Donate gently used household items (not so big it can't be carried home by someone else) for our Jumble Table. (Box at front of stage in Parish Hall.)
- Recycle your costume jewelry by donating it to the Jewelry booth at the fair. (Box at front of stage in Parish Hall.)
- Help make crafts and food for the Fair. Craft Day is Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 in Parish Hall. Quiche Baking and Fair set up on Saturday, November 18 at 10:00.
- Pre-order Quiche and Pies from the form below by leaving it in the Women's Association Mailbox across from the office or e-mail Debbie Nelson @ dcnelson@optonline.net.

Pie, Quiche and Pumpkin Floral Arrangement Order

Please indicate your selection below.

You may pick your order up on Sunday, November 19 at the Fair.

Pies and Quiche are priced at \$15.00. The Floral Arrangement is \$25.00.

_____ Pecan Pie

_____ Chocolate Pecan Pie

_____ Apple Pie

_____ Ham and Cheese Quiche

_____ Sugar Pumpkin Fall Floral Arrangement

Leave the completed form in the Women's Association Mailbox across from the office or e-mail Debbie Nelson @ dcnelson@optonline.net with your selections.

Cooking Classes at FCCD!

*Featuring Michelle Gamer and Edgar Gudiel,
of "The Caterers"*



Come join us and learn from these two talented chefs!

**Our first class will be on
Wednesday, November 15, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

Entertaining With Fall's Best Flavors:

A Fall Risotto Workshop, with Roasted Butternut Squash, Grilled Shrimp and Panchetta

\$75 per person, per class.

Space is limited to 12 people, so sign up now!
Call the church office, to register (203) 655-0491.



All Are Invited!
Advent Workshop and Family Dinner
Sunday, December 3rd, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

The Board of Christian Education invites you, your family and friends to join us on Sunday, December 3rd for our annual Advent Workshop & Family Dinner. From 4:00-5:00pm, we'll socialize and make homemade Christmas tree ornaments. From 5:00-5:30pm, we'll gather together for Christmas carols & cheer. Then we'll have a family potluck dinner from 5:30-6:30pm.

Please use the link below to RSVP and please sign up to bring something to share. We are asking for a donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family to cover the cost of the main dishes (ham and chicken nuggets), the music, and event materials. Also, feel free to bring a libation of choice to share!

<http://tinyurl.com/2017AdventWorkshop>

Questions: Please e-mail Andy Huntington at:
andreatkinson101@hotmail.com

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

TODAY

Ordination of Gary M. Morello, 3:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room

Board of Stewards, 7:45 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Crafting for Dressing to Drumsticks, 10 a.m. – noon, in the Circle Room

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Care, Connect & Communicate, 7:00 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Men’s Ministry, 7:30 a.m. in the Conference Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. 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*

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*