



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ

14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820

Phone: 203-655-0491 Fax: 203-655-7620

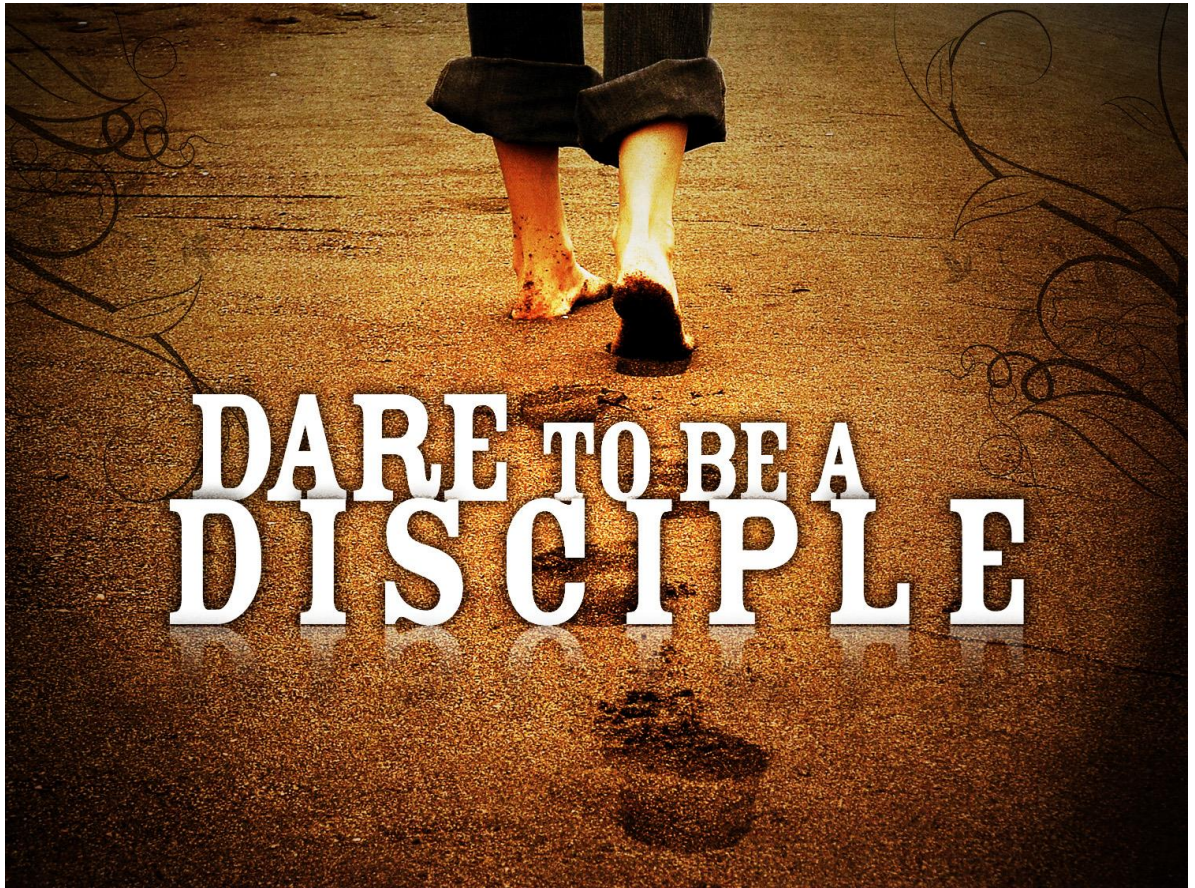
E-mail: [info@uccdarien.org](mailto:info@uccdarien.org)

[www.uccdarien.org](http://www.uccdarien.org)



***Sunday, November 12, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.***  
**Ordination Service**

*The Reverend Gary M. Morello*



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PRELUDE

Mr. Galen Tate

GREETING

Mr. Jon Bigelow

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Mrs. Christine Geeding

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

**(ALL UNITING)**

**He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."**

**(Mark 8:31-35)**

INVOCATION PRAYER

Rev. Gregory Penza

DUET

"I CHOOSE JESUS"

Ms. Ellison Brennan  
Ms. Samantha Berry

LITANY OF TRANSFORMATION (responsively)

Min. Mickey Morello

Jesus said, "Unless you change your whole outlook and become like small children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever is willing to be humbled like a child is the greatest in heaven."

**Master, we hear you call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Jesus said, "Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all. For the Son of Man himself has not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life to set many others free."

**Master, we hear your call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Jesus said, "You must love your enemies and do good without expecting any return and without giving up hope on anyone: so you will be children of the Most High. Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate."

**Master, we hear your call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

**Master, we hear your call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Jesus said, "This is my Father's glory, that you may bear fruit in plenty and so be my disciples. If you dwell in me, as I do in you, you will bear much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

**Master, we hear your call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Jesus said, "There is no greater love than this, to lay down your life for your friends. You are my friends, if you obey my command. This I command you; that you love one another as I have loved you."

**Master, we hear your call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**

Jesus said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. You, then, are to go and make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

**Master, we hear your call; Lord Jesus, help us to follow you. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

LEVITICUS 8:30-36

Rev. Shawn Garan

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

MATTHEW 3:1-12

Rev. Jimmy McPherson

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

“MOST AMAZING DAY”

Rob Silvan and  
The Talmadge Hill Choir

SERMON

“IN THE SPIRIT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST”

Rev. Carter Via

OFFERING *(to be donated to Crossing Thresholds -see pages 10 & 11)* Mr. David Miller

OFFERTORY

“BECAUSE HE LIVES”

Daniel Hague and  
The FCC Choir

DOXOLOGY

GREETING

THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

Rev. Kent Siladi

## + RITE OF ORDINATION +

GREETING

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

**PEOPLE: To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION

Mr. Philip Jacobs & Mrs. Diana Beecher

EXHORTATION

ISAIAH 6:8 // ROMANS 10: 14-16 // MATTHEW 28: 18-20

Rev. Max Grant

EXAMINATION

Fairfield West Association, Connecticut Conference

ACCLAMATION

Fairfield West Association & the Clergy

FWA: People of God, you have heard the promises that Gary Michael has made. What is your will?

**CLERGY: By the grace of God, he is worthy! Let us ordain him. Come, Holy Spirit!**

FWA: Will you support Gary in the ministry of Christ?

**CLERGY: We will!**

## ORDINATION AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Lay People & Clergy

FWA: The laying on of hands is a symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer on them gifts for ordained ministry.

## PRAYER OVER THE ORDAINED

Rev. Greg Doll

# + RITE OF INSTALLATION +

## COVENANT

Rev. Michael Ciba

Dear Friends, The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ, has declared that having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Gary M. Morello to minister in this place as associate pastor and teacher and that it now receives him as appointed by God for this ministry. The Fairfield West Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that he has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Gary M. Morello, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ has been led to call you as associate pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Fairfield West Association?

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Members of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your associate pastor and teacher?

**We, the members of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ, receive Gary M. Morello as our associate pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

Members of the Fairfield West Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ, and its associate pastor and teacher?

**We, the members of the Fairfield West Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the associate pastor and teacher of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Min. Ryan Burnham

DECLARATION

Mrs. Diana Beecher

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Fairfield West Association of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as associate pastor and teacher of the First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ.

**(ALL) Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Dale Rosenberger

CHARGE TO THE MINISTER

Rev. Ruby Wilson

HYMN #355

“LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION”

(Blue Hymnal)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Kris Watson

POSTLUDE

Mr. Galen Tate

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**The members of The First Congregational Church of Darien now cordially invite everyone to a reception in Parish Hall immediately following the close of worship.**

**Heartfelt thanks go out to all participants for their many contributions leading up to this day of Ordination and Installation. Special thanks from the Morello family, for everyone's support and encouragement. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE**

**God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and The Holy Spirit the gift from God to us**

ALL members of The First Congregational Church of Darien

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger is the Senior Minister of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Mrs. Christine Geeding is the Christian Education Director of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Mr. Dan Hague is the Music Director of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

The Senior Choir of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Mr. Galen Tate is the Organist

The Rev. Kent Siladi is the the Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba is the Senior Regional Minister, Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ

Mrs. Diana Beecher is the Fairfield West Association Committee on Ministry Chairman, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Carter Via is the Founder/Executive Director at Crossing Thresholds Inc. and co-minister of Talmadge Hill Community Church

Mr. Rob Silvan is the Music Director of Talmadge Hill Community Church

The Senior Choir of Talmadge Hill Community Church

The Rev. Dr. Ruby Wilson is the Senior Minister of Safe Haven, United Church of Christ, Ridgewood, NY

The Rev. Kris Watson is the Associate Minister of Safe Haven, United Church of Christ, Ridgewood, NY

The Rev. Max Grant is the Senior Minister of The Second Congregational Church of Greenwich, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Shawn Garan is the Associate Minister of The Second Congregational Church of Greenwich, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Greg Doll is a Minister-At-Large, Presbytery of Southern New England

The Rev. Gregory Penza, Gary's brother-in-law, is the Senior Minister of Parkland Church, Langhorne, PA

The Rev. Jimmy McPherson is the Associate Minister of Noroton Presybyterian Church, Darien, CT

Min. Mickey Morello, Gary's brother, is the Youth Minister of Ridgeway Alliance Church, White Plains, NY

Min. Ryan Burnham is the Co-Director of We Want More Ministries, Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Philip Jacobs is the Moderator at The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Mr. David Miller is the Chair of Deacons at The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Mr. Jon Bigelow was the Chairman of the Search Committee for the Associate Minister at The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Ms. Ellison Brennan is a member of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ

Ms. Samantha Berry is a member of The First Congregational Church of Darien, United Church of Christ





**The Rev. Carter Via**  
**Founder/Executive Director at Crossing Thresholds Inc.**

Carter was born in North Carolina, and raised in Charlottesville, Virginia. He received his BA at Wake Forest University, and his Masters of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1987, he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister (PCUSA) and served The Reformed Church in Bronxville, New York.

In 1992, Carter left the church and became the founder and executive director of Bridges to Community Inc., a non-profit engaged in community development projects across Nicaragua. For nearly 10 years, he led hundreds of trips to Nicaragua for high school students, college students, families, churches, civic groups, and business leaders. In the late 1990's, Carter was introduced to the late Kenyan legend Dr. Wangari Maathai – founder of the Green Belt Movement and Nobel Peace Laureate (2004). Together they designed the Green Belt Safaris – a 15 day travel adventure to Kenya involving home visits, environmental education, tree-planting, and game viewing. Carter went on to serve as the Chairman of the Board for The Greenbelt Movement (US).

In 2004, Carter left Bridges to Community to become the senior pastor of The Presbyterian Church in White Plains, New York. The return to full-time ministry lasted only 4 years, and in 2008 he founded Crossing Thresholds Inc., a non-profit committed to building schools in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi, Kenya. Since that time, he has taken more than 40 groups and nearly 500 volunteers to Kenya. Currently, he is also serving as the part-time co-pastor of The Talmadge Hill Community Church in Darien, CT.

Crossing Thresholds Inc. works in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi, Kenya. We find local partners. We build schools. We take volunteers to work in these schools. Everybody is somehow changed.

## HISTORY & PROJECTS

Crossing Thresholds (CT) founder, Carter Via, was first introduced to the Kibera Slum of Nairobi, Kenya in 2007. Kibera is the second largest slum in the world and home to more than one million Kenyans. Half of the population is under the age of fifteen. Tens of thousands of children do not have access to schools and only one percent of kids will graduate from high school.



## HOW WE WORK

- ✓ Identify, empower and employ local community leaders who have a vision to transform the lives of children.
- ✓ Lead trips to stretch the boundaries of cross- cultural learning & service.
- ✓ Build schools so children can access nutrition, learning, health care, music and dance.



# TRIPS TO KENYA

2018 Trip Dates: THE BIG BUILD-June 22-July 4

Trips to Kenya are a dynamic and essential part of our mission. Only 9 days in length, these intensive experiences give volunteers the chance to learn about Kenyan culture and the realities of global poverty. Trips are also about connection and engagement. During the first part of the trip, we are onsite at one of our schools in the Kibera Slum. At the end of each trip, we spend several days on safari at one of Kenya's premiere national parks.



Crossing Thresholds

168A Irving Avenue

Suite 300K

Port Chester, NY 10573

cctsponsorships@gmail.com

[www.crossingthresholds.org](http://www.crossingthresholds.org)



### **UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, to whose deeds we testify:**

**God calls the worlds into being,  
creates us in the divine image,  
and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

**God seeks in holy love to save all people  
from aimlessness and sin.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,  
God has come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to the Creator.**

**The Holy Spirit has descended upon us,  
creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**God calls us into the Church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the Gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**God promises to all who witness in faith,  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
God's holy presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in that reign which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.**