



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE SUNDAY
November 19, 2017
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

It is not joy
that makes us grateful;
it is gratitude that makes us
joyful.

Brother David Steinell-Rost

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE SUNDAY
November 19, 2017
8:30 a.m. and 10:00 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 #526**

“COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Come, stewards of God’s good and manifold gifts;
hear of abundance, and how in giving, we receive.

**We who have received much are reminded that,
having blessed us, God expects our generosity.**

Gratefully, we recall our fathers and mothers before us;
who, with little, hardly set limits on how much they gave.

**The world imparts the fear that there is not enough,
that we had better hurry to grab more for ourselves.**

God’s Word declares that the Lord has already provided
for all of us. Our challenge is overcoming the fear of giving.

**We recall the stories of sharing that make us who we are,
stories of God’s beloved, delivered from despair to hope.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

***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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**PSALM 100
(All Uniting)**

**Bill Lattimer, Deacon (8:30)
Phil Meyer, Deacon (10:00)**

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

**Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

**For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

***HYMN #23**

“WE GATHER TOGETHER”

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 12:13-21

Rev. Rosenberger

Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

SERMON

“WHY WAIT FOR A DAY THAT NEVER ARRIVES?”

OFFERTORY

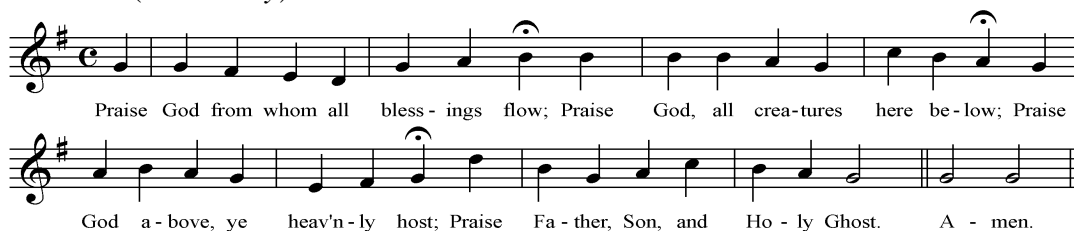
“PRAISE WE SING TO THEE”

F.J. Haydn

(10:00 only)

Senior Choir

***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)

In this season we gladly present ourselves, O God, for you gift us in many ways. You have filled our pockets which we now open them for your work, trusting you. We also empty our selfish ambitions knowing we are blessed to support the work of your reign upon earth. We give finally because you have so richly blessed us. Amen.

***HYMN #27**

“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

***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 GREETERS are the Swenson Family.

TODAY'S USHERS are Karalesa DiFabio, Bill Lattimer (8:30), Phil Meyer and Dave Sealy.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@ucdarien.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@ucdarien.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).

NURSERY SCHOOL

The First Congregational Church Nursery School is registering children for 2018-19. Teri Manning is offering tours weekdays at 10:00 and there will be an Open House on January 7th, 2 - 3:30. Please call the school at 203 655-3150 for more information. Church members receive priority placement!

KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry will meet after church in the Morehouse Room on Sunday, December 3rd. We make items for baptisms and for our members who are suffering from illness or personal loss. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and help is available to novices. If you prefer to crochet, that talent is also welcome.

Prayers, readings and fellowship serve as nourishment for our time together.

For further information: Marnie Hodil at grhodil@optonline.net

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS! (OUTREACH)

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!

Dove Boxes are BACK!

Dove Boxes! The holiday season is upon us and therefore so are Dove Boxes!

This year marks the **49th anniversary** of the Person-to-Person Dove Box Program, which is enthusiastically supported by area churches. Dove boxes provide holiday food to families and seniors in need in our community, while also giving individuals and families the opportunity to share their blessings with their neighbors at Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity to help your children understand the joy of giving during the Christmas season. Participation is open to anyone and may involve preparing a wrapped carton of food or can be as simple as making a direct donation to families/adults through Person to Person.

Parishioners wishing to participate need only select a Dove on any **Sunday after Service (Starting November 19, 2016)**, follow directions printed on it and bring joy into another home this Season.

White Dove: Fill two reusable grocery bags with food and love for Christmas Day. All necessary food items and directions are on the reverse side of the Dove. A \$15.00 contribution is required so Person-to-Person can purchase a supermarket gift card for each family to buy their own choice of meat. Fill in the back of the dove with your name, address & telephone number and return it (along with the \$15.00) to either Lauren Swenson or Gayle Appleby of the Board of Outreach (details below)

RETURN your filled, closed, wrapped bags to the Library, off Parish Hall, on Saturday, **December 9th, 2017.**

If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact **Lauren Swenson** at Lauren.s.swenson@gmail.com



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.



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:
andreaatkinson101@hotmail.com



Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the First Advent Candle – “HOPE”

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(remember Food First!)

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – “PEACE”
Advent Celebration, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Christmas Candlelight Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle – “LOVE”
Christmas Pageant, 11:00 a.m.
“Come As You” Are worship service, 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY(morning), DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Service of Prayers, Poems and Carols at 10:00 a.m.
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle – “JOY”

SUNDAY(evening), DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Service, 3:00 p.m.
Family Service, 5:00 p.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 p.m.

Bring a Friend!
All are welcome!!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are in the season of giving thanks.

This is the time to recognize the special people and events that make you smile, warm your heart and make your days a pleasure.

Memorial poinsettias and evergreens always add a tender touch of grace and color to our holiday worship.

Then, when shared with church members who aren't able to join us for worship, they become an ongoing gift.

You may fill out this form or sign up in the church office.

Include your check for \$25.00 to "The First Congregational Church of Darien, and note "Flower Donation" on the memo line.

*(Due in the church office by **Friday, December 15th**).*

A list of the dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

I would like _____ dedication(s).

In Gratitude of/for _____

In Celebration of/for _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Graciously Donated by: _____

Enclosed is my check for: _____ (\$25.00 each)

**** Please note:**

_____ **I will be taking my poinsettia.**

_____ **I will not be taking my poinsettia, so please donate it in my/our name**



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

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

Dressing to Drumsticks Fair, before & after worship, in Parish Hall
“Come As You Are” worship service, 4:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Church Offices Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

The Rev. Dale B. 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, *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*