



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820  
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**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

*Stewardship Celebration Sunday*

*November 20, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.*



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*Stewardship Celebration Sunday*  
**November 20, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

*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**

“WE GATHER TOGETHER”

*(next page)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,  
all the earth. Let yourself respond.

**Worship the Lord God with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.**

Remember that the Lord is God.  
It is he that made us; we are his.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into God’s courts with praise.**

Generously return thanks to the Lord God.  
For all goodness we receive points to him.

**God’s steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**\*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.**

# WE GATHER TOGETHER



1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing, He chas - tens and  
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Or - dain - ing, main -  
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, And pray that thou



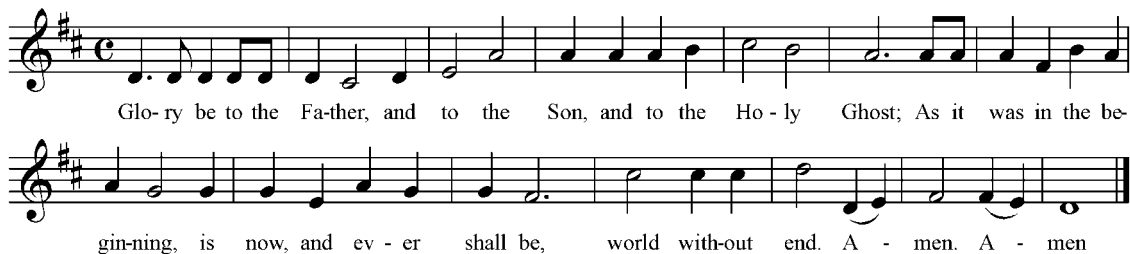
has - tens his will to make known; The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -  
tain - ing his king - dom di - vine, So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were  
still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u -



ress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
win - ning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine.  
la - tion. Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free! A - men.



## \*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 & DISMISSAL** (*10:00 only*)

Rev. Rosenberger

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

Leila Wetmore

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

Phil Meyer, Deacon (8:30)

Mandy Teare, Deacon (10:00)

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

\*HYMN

“WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER”



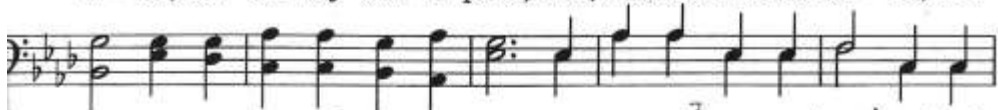
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land, But it is  
 2 He on - ly is the mak - er Of all things near and far; He paints the  
 3 We thank thee, then, O Fa - ther, For all things bright and good: The seed-time



fed and wa - tered By God's al-might-y hand. He sends the snow in  
 way-side flow - er, He lights the eve-ning star. The winds and waves o-  
 and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food. Ac - cept the gifts we



win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain, The breez-es and the sun-shine, And  
 bey him, By him the birds are fed; Much more, to us his chil-dren, He  
 of - fer, For all thy love im-parts, And, what thou most de-sir - est, Our



REFRAIN

soft, re - fresh - ing rain.  
 gives our dai - ly bread. All good gifts a - round us Are sent from heaven a -  
 hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.



bove; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all his love. A - men.



Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, “I repent”, you must forgive.’

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would obey you.

‘Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, “Come here at once and take your place at the table”? Would you not rather say to him, “Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink”? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, “We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!” ’

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ When he saw them, he said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, ‘Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then he said to him, ‘Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.’

## SERMON

“HUNGRY THANKSGIVING”

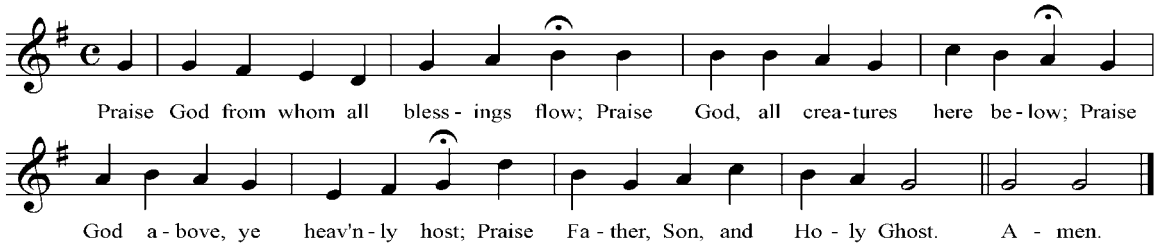
Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY  
(10:00 only)“I GIVE TO YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT”  
Senior Choir

P. Nardone

Latin Portion: *Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found.  
Brought here together by Christ’s love; by love are we thus bound.*

**\*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)*

**O Source of all good gifts, empower us to thank you in a way that befits our blessings. Quicken our senses. Make us aware of your presence here, of our ability to do your work. Move us beyond rote gestures and mere nods. Put words of thanks on our lips and let glorious gratitude flow from our hearts. Give us the simple grace of thanksgiving. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

*(next page)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

Mr. Pakhomov

\* \* \*

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Doug Kline, Annette Madden-Kline, Addison (Confirmand) and Thea.

**TODAY'S USHERS** are April Barker, Kristin Desautelle, Phil Meyer (8:30) and Mandy Teare.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**TODAY**

Confirmation Class, 5:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

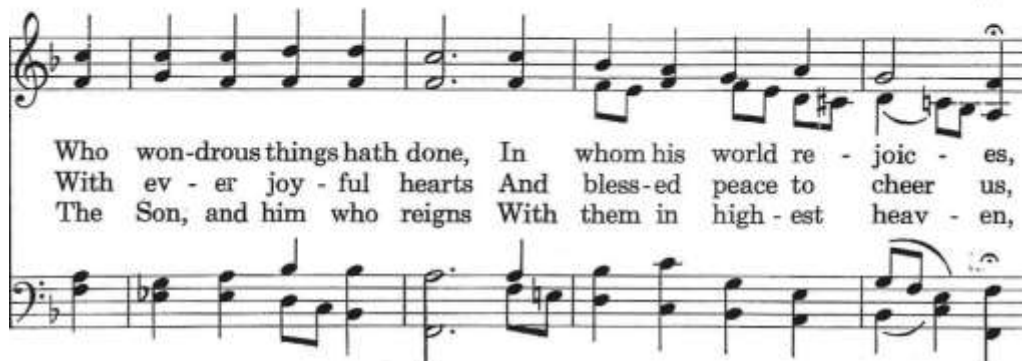
Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



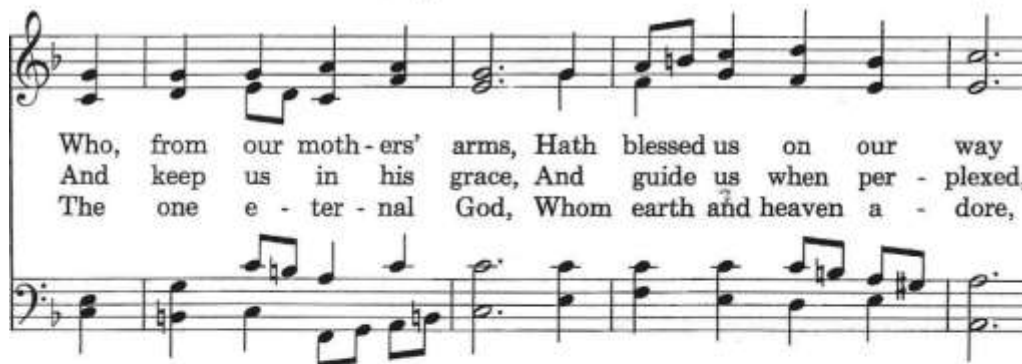
# NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD



1 Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,  
2 O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,



Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,  
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,



Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore,



With countless gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore. Amen.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

#### PLEASE JOIN US!

**Help at the Open Door Shelter!** We will be distributing turkeys at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk on **Tuesday, November 22nd** from 8:30 to 11:30 am — lots of volunteers needed for this event! Please email Heather Raker at [hraker@me.com](mailto:hraker@me.com) to help or for more information.

**Food First!** Please bring your non-perishable food items to church on Sunday, December 1st! Food will be distributed to local shelters.

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

This year marks the 48th 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 White or Green Dove on any **Sunday after Service (Starting November 20, 2016)**, follow directions printed on it and bring joy into another home this Season.

**White Dove:** Fill a box 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 dove with your name, address & telephone number and return it (along with the \$15.00) to either Annette Madden-Kline or Gayle Appleby of the Board of Outreach (details below)

**Green Dove:** A financial contribution to Person-to-Person's Scholarship or Emergency Assistance Fund. Scholarship will enable eager students to continue their education. Emergency Assistance Fund will help someone with a fuel bill, rent or a medical bill not covered by Medicaid. Please mail your financial contribution directly to Person-to Person.

**RETURN** your filled, closed, wrapped box to the Morehouse Room in Parish Hall on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact **Annette Madden-Kline** at [a\\_madden-kline@yahoo.com](mailto:a_madden-kline@yahoo.com) or **Gayle Appleby** @ [gayleappleby@applebycapital.com](mailto:gayleappleby@applebycapital.com).

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!



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

The Board of Christian Education invites you, your family and friends to join us on Sunday, December 4 for our annual Advent Workshop and Family Dinner. From 4:00-5:00 p.m., we'll socialize and make homemade Christmas tree ornaments -- some for small trees to be shared with members of our church and some for our trees at home. From 5:00-5:30 p.m., we'll gather together for carols and Christmas cheer. Then we'll have a family potluck dinner from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Please click on 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!

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4AAAAF2EA4F58-advent](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4AAAAF2EA4F58-advent)

**Questions: Please e-mail Andy Huntington at:**  
[andreatkinson101@hotmail.com](mailto:andreatkinson101@hotmail.com)

# ***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.*

***This year, the smaller space in our parish hall will limit the number of poinsettias we are able to use.***

***Excess funds will be used towards the purchase of "Dove Boxes" which will feed those in need.***

*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 18<sup>th</sup>**).*

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

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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**

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

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.

**The First Congregational Church of Darien**  
***Vibrant, Authentic and Here For You!***

**2017 Pledge Campaign**

First Congregational Church of Darien is a pretty amazing place! We are a strong, vital, gifted, spirited and caring church community. The wonderful growth and momentum in 2016 does not mean we need you less, it means we need you more! So much of what we hoped and dreamed for has unfolded. Now we gladly step forward to underwrite our prayers, the prayers of many, as we see them take shape. We need your talents, we need your time and we need your continued financial support. In the coming week, you will receive a letter in the mail asking you to take part in the 2017 pledge campaign, which supports the general operations of our church.

**Every member dollar counts**

and we are praying for full membership participation this year!

***2017 Pledge Co-Chairs***  
***Caroline Burke and Leila Wetmore***

***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*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

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*