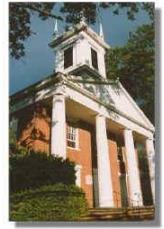




**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

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)



***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***December 3, 2017***

***8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.***



# ***FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

***December 3, 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 #114**

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*responsive*)

The days are surely coming, says our God,  
When justice and righteousness will appear.

**God’s promises will be made known to us,  
And we will declare God’s goodness and salvation.**

Lift up your souls in trust and praise;  
Open your hearts and minds to God’s teaching.

**God’s ways will be demonstrated to us,  
And we will seek to walk in them all our days.**

Render thanksgiving to God for all life’s benefits.  
Watch and pray, in holiness and abiding faith.

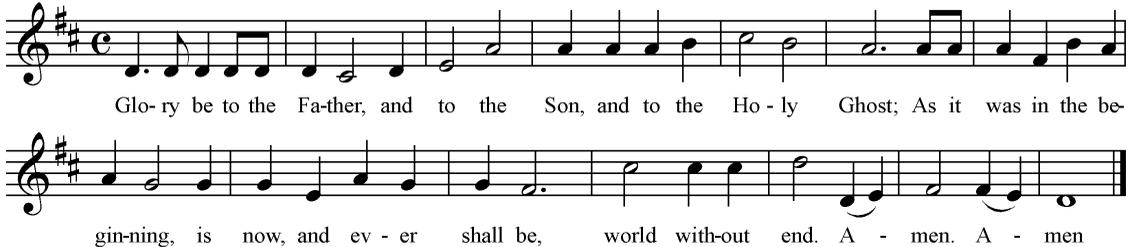
**God’s mercy and steadfast love will surround us,  
And we will always look to hope despite circumstance.**

**\*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



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

### THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT – “HOPE”

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Liz Werner (8:30 a.m.) and the Nickerson family (10:00 a.m.)

## DEACON INTRODUCTION

Liz Werner (8:30), Mandy Teare (10:00)

## ADVENT PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)

Family Member: This is a season for planning. We make lists of tasks, friends and family to visit, and holiday food to cook. Great hopes lie at the root of all our planning. Our fertile minds are opening, bringing forth visions of our deepest longings.

Congregation: **Yet, planning makes us vulnerable to hurt and to our own deepest fears. Sometimes, our hopes begin to form but do not take shape. Sometimes, they lie dormant in our dreams.**

Family Member: Even so, in the mixture of hope and despair, God is always with us, gathering us in, comforting our broken hearts, gently leading us to new possibilities, and rejoicing with us.

Congregation: **As we come to worship God, we light the first Advent candle. We are aware that our planning reflects our deepest hopes and our trust. These bear witness to God's promise of new life. We are not afraid to speak out now, to tell the world that a God-sent baby is coming!** (*Worship Ways, Eden Theological Seminary Students, 2005, Worship & Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, UCC*)

**All:** O God, you have caused this world to shine with the illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that we, being regenerated and made your children by adoption and grace; be renewed daily by your Holy Spirit. Grant us, we pray, that as we have known the mystery of that light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

Liz Werner, Deacon (8:30)  
Mandy Teare, Deacon (10:00)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. *(continued)*

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**\*HYMN #121**

“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

**GOSPEL LESSON**

LUKE 1:26-38

Rev. Rosenberger

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

**SERMON**

"BLESSED INTRUSIONS FROM ABOVE"

Rev. Rosenberger

**OFFERTORY (10:00 only)** "I SHALL KNOW HIM WHEN HE COMES"

Douglas E. Wagner

The Show Up and Sing 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** (*unison*) (*10:00 only*)

**As we wait and watch for Christ to appear, O God, we seek to be his faithful followers in the interim waiting. May our gifts extend the promise of salvation not only to our own kind, but to all of the earth, to touch lives broken by neglect, bad choices, abuse, and sinful ways. Touch all whose hurt seems too much to bear. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

**CALL TO PRAYER**

(Leader)	The Lord be with you.
(Congregation)	<b>And also with you.</b>
(Leader)	Lift up your hearts.
(Congregation)	<b>We lift them up to the Lord.</b>
(Leader)	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
(Congregation)	<b>It is right to give God thanks and praise.</b>

**\*SANCTUS**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”  
*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!*  
*My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!*

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*(please wait until all are served, so that we might partake as one)*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*unison*)

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. We thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live in faith. Help us to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #119**

“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

**POSTLUDE**

Mr. Pakhomov

TODAY'S USHERS are Marianne Lauer, Phil Meyer, Mandy Teare, Tucker Scott and Liz Werner.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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](mailto:cgeeding@uccdarien.org).

### YOUTH BAND

Our first Youth Band meeting was an amazing time of sharing music and conversation. Special thanks to John Stuart for lending his musical expertise! We look forward to sharing our music with everyone! Our next rehearsal will be Sunday, December 17th at 3:00PM in the room next to Gary's office. Email [cgeeding@uccdarien.org](mailto:cgeeding@uccdarien.org) or [gmorello@uccdarien.org](mailto:gmorello@uccdarien.org) for more information. Can't wait to 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).

### 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, this morning after the 10 a.m. service. 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](mailto:grhodil@optonline.net).

## ***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.



## ***ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND COOKIE EXCHANGE***

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 at 12:00 PM** – Parish Hall

A longstanding FCC Women's Association tradition, come and enjoy a holiday luncheon, some music and a cookie exchange. Participation in the Cookie Exchange is optional.

\$5.00 Suggested Donation.

Leave this form in the Women's Association mailbox across from the Church Office or send an e-mail to Debbie Nelson, [dcnelson@optonline.net](mailto:dcnelson@optonline.net).

Women's Association Annual Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 15, 2017

12:00 pm in Church Parish Hall

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Music at First NEWS:**

### **Christmas Candlelight Concert: Saturday, Dec 16, 7:00 pm**

Bring the spirit of Christmas into your heart at the annual Candlelight Concert. The evening will feature performances by The Darien High School Tudor Singers under the direction of Chris Andrade, the church's Senior Choir soloists, world-class pianist Max Pakhomov and a carol sing-along by the audience. Refreshments will follow the program.

### **Christmas Eve Services: Sunday, Dec 24**

Family Services: 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols: 10:00 pm, with a Prelude Concert starting at 9:30 pm. If you would like to sing with the choir at this service, please contact Dan Hague ([danthehague@aol.com](mailto:danthehague@aol.com)) and come to a couple of rehearsals on Thursday nights at 8 pm before the service.

**For more information on the music program, contact Mariann Bigelow ([bigelow3@optonline.net](mailto:bigelow3@optonline.net)) or John Stuart ([johnstuartmktg@optonline.net](mailto:johnstuartmktg@optonline.net))**



**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](mailto:andreaatkinson101@hotmail.com)



***Join Us As We Celebrate Advent!***

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Advent Workshop and Family Dinner, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – “PEACE”

**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!***

# kids · cook

walking · tacos

gingerbread · houses

Join us for Food, Family & Fellowship!

Kids will get to make (and eat!) their own “walking tacos” with mini bags of fritos and taco toppings. We will then split into teams to make gingerbread houses for our staff!

Fruit, drinks & dessert provided.



**Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

**5:00PM - 6:30PM**

FCC Darien, Parish Hall

Please note: This is not a drop-off event.

Parents and caregivers are welcome.

Contact [cgeeding@uccdarien.org](mailto:cgeeding@uccdarien.org) for more information.

THE FCC CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS

P A G E A N T

2017



DECEMBER 17, 2017

11:15AM IN PARISH HALL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF DARIEN

## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

### **Food First**

The FCCD congregation helps those in need by bringing non-perishable food items to church on the first Sunday of each month. Some food items to consider: dry beans, canned vegetables & fruit, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soups, peanut butter, rice, cereal. Food will be distributed to local shelters.

### **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 and follow directions printed on it and bring joy into another home this Season.

If you have any questions regarding the Person-to-Person Christmas Dove Program, please contact Gayle Appleby at [gayle@applebycapital.com](mailto:gayle@applebycapital.com).

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 Cheswick



## **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 15<sup>th</sup>**).*

*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**

# 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

Knitting Ministry, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room  
Advent Workshop and Family Dinner, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Kids Cook, 4:00 p.m. in the church kitchen

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Bible Study in the Morehouse Room  
Night Owls Christmas Celebration, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*