



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Parish Columns

SEPTEMBER 2013

Inside this issue:

- From the Desk of Teri Manning 2
- Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event 2
- In Brief 2
- Youth Group News 3
- Board of Christian Education 3
- Church Calendar 4

An Excerpt From Flash, 8/22/13 ... A Few Words From Dale
 "... I thought about the best church we might become here in Darien, the church God wants us to be. We bring the time-tested truths of ancient teaching and structures in the church only to breathe new life into them with fresh imagination. Those who have done this before us with passionately creative devotion are waiting to inspire us. Goodness, we can look to one another for ideas, insight, and improvisation on ancient truth.

So this is my "back to church" moment with you. In these Sundays ahead, particularly on our Welcome Back/Jazz Sunday featuring our own Katharine Hedlund Trio at 10:00 a.m. on September 8, we have the chance to be refreshed, renew inspiration, find hope, and ask God what manner of contribution we might make. I am back now and in it for the duration. I need you to join me.

I feel energized to be back at our beautiful Church. I invite you to feel the same. So here we go."

**Welcome Back/
Jazz Sunday**

September 8
10:00 a.m.

(One Service Only)
In addition to the Katharine Hedlund Trio, this will be the first day back for Church School including a kick-off party with face-painting and balloons! Followed by our annual Ice Cream Social on the lawn.

New Member Class

September 29 and
October 6
following the
10:00 a.m. Service
Morehouse Room

Who are you inviting?
All are Welcome

Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 22 at 11th hour
on the front lawn

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

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PARISH COLUMNS STAFF

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*To submit information, send an email to:
ParishColumns@uccdarien.org*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Church School and child care available
during the 10:00 a.m. service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

From the Desk of Teri Manning ...

Summer time and the livin' is easy...maybe so, but there's been a lot going on up in the education wing. Rotted wood was removed and replaced, two classrooms were painted, and halls were touched up as well as much of the trim, inside and out. The security doors and a numerical keypad were installed in July. By the time school starts, the door on the ramp will be repaired and there will be locks on the playground gates.

And what about the teachers...I hope they're taking time to rest and to have fun with their own families, but I know from their emails that they are already planning and organizing for the year ahead. Some are even sneaking into the building to set up their classrooms, not to mention preparing mentally for the exhilarating but, let's admit it, taxing job of working with preschoolers (did you know that an average 4 year old child asks 437 questions a day?). As anyone who works in the field of education knows, September, not January, marks the beginning of the year!

Spotlight On: FMSC MobilePack™

Preparations are underway for Darien's 5th Annual Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ Event, to be held on October 19 & 20 at Middlesex Middle School. The event is hosted by Darien's 11 local churches and co-sponsored by the Council for Darien School Parents. The Darien FMSC MobilePack™ Event offers local volunteers a chance to provide hope and life to starving children. Each day approximately 6,200 children die from starvation all around the world.

The Darien FMSC MobilePack™ Event continues to be a great success. In 2012 more than 1,000 children and adults from Darien volunteered their time and energy to put together over 240,000 MannaPack™ Rice enough to feed 657 starving children a meal a day for a year. Meals packed in the 2012 Darien FMSC Event were sent to needy children in Ghana and El Salvador.

Since the first Darien FMSC MobilePack in 2009 our community has packed over one million lifesaving meals. The goal for this year's event is to pack a further 200,000 meals.

In Brief...Church Announcements

Help Clean up the Church Grounds

- On Saturday, September 7, please join us to get the grounds looking great for Welcome-Back Sunday. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon or 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Bring clippers, tarps, loppers and trowels to weed and trim bushes. If you can help out at another time, that would be great. Come and be a Giver! Please call Wyn Lydecker with questions, 203-655-6968

FoodFirst FoodFirst FoodFirst Sunday, September 1

- Help us stock the pantry shelves for those in need.

Youth Minister Search

Our Church is seeking a committed and dynamic youth minister to work with our middle and high school students. We hope to find a candidate who can provide leadership and direction in ministering to our youth, and who can collaborate with our Church staff and adult leaders to create a comprehensive and diverse faith based ministry.

Responsibilities include ministry and service, along with program design, coordination, and implementation of meetings, outings, mission trips, community service activities and social events for our youth. A candidate should have spiritual commitment, be creative and have the ability to engage youth and parents. We would like a candidate to commit to a minimum two year term. Check our website for the job description: www.uccdarien.org. Interested candidates should submit a letter of intent and resume to: Sarah Gleason, Chair, Board of Christian Education and Youth Minister Search Committee, at christianeducation@uccdarien.org.

Confirmation 2014

Registration: Sunday, September 8

We are delighted to let you know that our Confirmation Coordination Team for 2013/2014 is being overseen by the following members of our Congregation: Tracey Berry, Kristin Desautelle and Ellen Kirby.

We are very excited about the rising 8th graders and currently have the following names on our list for the Confirmation Class: Emily Bergwall, Samantha Berry, Julia Carruthers, Tate Desautelle, Kevin Grune, Paul Hager, Annabel Hartigan, Nicholas Karlik, Caroline McKeon, Tommy Mullin, Cade Pankowski, Brett Peters, Scott Peters, Caroline Trager, Eliza Wetmore, Alexander Williams, Kendall Wisinski. Have we missed anyone? Please let one of the members of the Coordination Team know so we can update our list.

Youth Group Calendar

September 11: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Serve Dinner
New Covenant House

We will need 1 or 2 parent volunteers to help.

September 15: 3:00 p.m.

Welcome 6th graders!
All Middle School YG should attend this Kick Off Meeting

September 29: 12:00 noon

Yankee Paintball

Parents and youth 10 and older are welcome.

Anyone who wishes to join the Youth Group should contact Sarah Gleason at sarahgle@optonline.net

Church School

September 16: First day of Church School and Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendars because Church School begins on September 8th. To kick off the year the right way, the Board of Christian Ed will be hosting an Ice Cream Social with some face-painting and balloon animals on the lawn directly following Church School!

We are still looking for teachers to fill our classrooms. If you have any interest in volunteering in our Church school, please feel free to contact Kate Nelson, the Church School Director, at KNelson@uccdarien.org or by phone at 203-655-0491. Remember, you'll never be alone in a classroom and the lessons are already planned for you!

Registering Your Child for Church School

It's easy! Download the form on our website or collect a copy on the first day of Church School. Registration forms will be accepted early at Kate Nelson's office drop slot.

Teens needed for the Nursery Room

During the 10:00 a.m. Service, we offer a nursery for children 2 years old and younger. We have it staffed with a Church Member volunteer and two paid teens each week. Teens must be in 8th Grade through 12th Grade or higher and will be paid \$15 each, working from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. Please contact Kate Nelson if you are interested.

Church Calendar Notes

September 8: First day of Church School and Ice Cream Social, 10:00 a.m., Meetinghouse

Please join us for a special Homecoming "Jazz Sunday" (one service only 10:00 a.m.) In addition to the special worship service and Church School kick off, we will have a party on the lawn at the 11th Hour. We have a very exciting day planned, which includes face-painting and balloons!

September 8: M&M Fundraiser for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), 11th Hour, Parish Hall

Welcome Back Sunday and Kick-off of the FMSC M&M Drive. Gobble up those tasty and colorful bites and refill the tube with quarters. Each Tube accounts for \$14.00 in quarters. Start collecting now!

September 19/20: Cook/Serve, 8:00 a.m./11:45 a.m., Church Kitchen/Open Door Shelter

Join us as we prepare a meal and then serve the following day for the residents of the Open Door Shelter. Contact Heather Raker at hraker@optonline.net for more information and to join the group.

September 22: Kids Cook For Kids, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., Parish Hall

Join us to raise money for Darien's 5th Annual Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event. We'll be featuring lots of yummy choices. Come hungry and help us raise money for this important community event.

October 19 and 20: Feed My Starving Children Packing Event, various, Middlesex Middle School

The Board of Christian Outreach has so many opportunities for everyone to help give of their time and manpower to this wonderful cause.

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