



Welcome *Packet*

Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:00 am.
All are invited.

Worshippers are invited to come casually dressed.

Services include acts of praise, confession, thanksgiving, proclamation and dedication. They also feature the great hymns of our faith. Sermons are biblically based and seek to emphasize spiritual growth, Christian service and the worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sunday School classes for youth and children are offered during services and instructed by Church members.

Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month. In the Methodist tradition, communion is open to all, including the children, the divorced, and anyone, regardless of denominational affiliation who wishes to dedicate their life to Jesus, the Christ.



Reverend Phyllis J. (`PJ`) Leopold

Our pastor is the Reverend "PJ", who has served in extension ministry for 18 years as Executive Director of the Association of Religious Communities in Danbury, Connecticut. She received her B.A. from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and her Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School.

Rev. Leopold has held prior extension ministry appointments to the Council of Churches in Bridgeport, Connecticut; the National Council of Churches in New York City and as a Peace with Justice Advocate on Bishop C. Dale White's Program Cabinet. She also served several local churches in the New York Conference: St. John's UMC in Elmont, Christ UMC in Brooklyn, Washington Square UMC in Manhattan, and Nichols UMC in Trumbull, CT. She has also taught "Ministry in Non-Profit Settings" to students at Yale Divinity School.



Who We Are

We are the people of the United Methodist Church who share a common heritage with other Christians:

- ▶ Conviction that God has mercy and love for all people
- ▶ Belief in a triune God
- ▶ Faith in the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ
- ▶ Celebration of the sacraments.

The Darien congregation enjoys a vital connection with the larger United Methodist Church that enables it to be part of critical mission and ministry around the world. Our staff and members strive to have open hearts, open minds, and open doors so that we can make a positive impact on our community and the world beyond.

Our congregation seeks to be in ministry with all God's people. Through prayer, Bible study, open dialogue, and fellowship opportunities, working together as a community of faith, we seek to encourage and challenge one another to deeper spiritual growth and stronger faith in the power of Jesus Christ to transform the world.

Theology

The United Methodists share four main guidelines for belief. These guidelines help us understand our faith:

- ▶ Scripture
- ▶ Tradition
- ▶ Experience
- ▶ Reason

These are interdependent and allow for variety in theology. Darien congregation respects tradition, but at the same time, we are concerned to find ways of understanding tradition that make sense for us today. We encourage exploring the Bible, theological concepts, and Christian discipleship in a manner that fully engages contemporary insights and scholarship.

The preaching and teaching at DUMC aim to combine the best in critical Biblical scholarship and contemporary knowledge from all disciplines of study. We attempt to simultaneously stimulate the heart and mind in worship and other congregational gatherings.

Education

Our goal is to nurture the faith of children and adults by helping people understand God's love for them, grow in their relationship with God, and act on their faith in their daily life.

Sunday School – Our Sunday School Classes for children and youth meet on Sunday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. All are welcome to participate as we explore the meaning of God's love for us, and the wisdom in God's words and teachings. Childcare is provided during this hour every Sunday.

Adult Class – Women's Group Bible Study meets on Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 PM with Rev. Thomas Kim as a leader. We are currently using Companions in Christ Bible Study Series.

Directions

From I-95 (North or South)

- ▶ Take Exit 10 - Noroton.
- ▶ If *Northbound* on I-95, make a LEFT at light onto NOROTON AVE.
- ▶ If *Southbound* on I-95, continue off of exit until you reach NOROTON AVE, make a RIGHT.
- ▶ Go through traffic light at West Ave.
- ▶ After 0.7 miles, make RIGHT onto MIDDLESEX ROAD. Follow Middlesex Road as it bends around to the left. The Church is on the left (0.8 miles).

From Merritt Parkway (Rt 15 - North or South)

- ▶ Take Exit 37 for Darien, and turn RIGHT heading towards Darien onto MANSFIELD AVE (RT 124).
- ▶ Go about 1 mile and make a RIGHT onto MIDDLESEX ROAD.
- ▶ Middlesex Road will come to a stop sign, and continue onto Middlesex Road by making a LEFT. The Church is on your right in approximately one mile.

