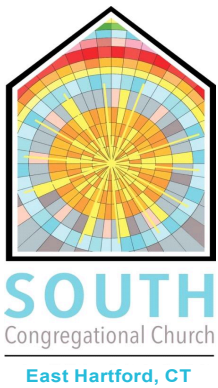


March 2025



The View

Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends and Members of South Church,

It is a joy and an honor to officially begin my ministry with you at South Congregational Church of East Hartford! Having experienced the warmth of our candidating weekend and the inspiring spirit of my first Sunday, I feel deeply grateful and energized to step into this journey together.

As I mentioned in worship, our church's story is much like a cherished family recipe handed down through generations. The core ingredients - faith, love, and justice - remain foundational. We stand proudly on the shoulders of those who built this community, whose faithfulness, dedication, and commitment to God's mission have shaped this sacred place. But, friends, as we stand on their shoulders, we are called not just to remain in place but to move forward with courage, creativity, and openness to new possibilities.

Today, we're invited not simply to celebrate our rich history, but also to embrace adaptability and welcome new people into our midst - people who, like us, hunger for a deeper experience of God's compassion, justice, and transformative love. Our mission is clear: to honor our past by courageously stepping into the future. As we open ourselves to change, growth, and fresh expressions of ministry, we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us into new, vibrant ways of being church.

Of course, stepping forward takes courage - it means leaving behind the safety of routine. But comfort, as comforting as it may be, can sometimes hold us back. Jesus calls us into the beautiful unpredictability of grace-filled relationships and challenges us to engage meaningfully with the world around us.

So let's choose bravery, leaning into this new beginning with openness and trust, and let's savor the journey together - full of grace, humor, and the occasional delightful surprise.

I am thrilled to be with you, eager to see how God will move among us, and thankful for the privilege of serving alongside each of you.

With joy and anticipation,

Pastor Kevin

Church Council Meeting Summary – Meeting held February 17, 2025

Review of prior Minutes & Correspondence: January minutes were accepted with correction.

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!!

Description	Date
Annual Meeting	Sunday, March 9 th
March Community Sunday/ Chili Cook-off!	Sunday, March 23 rd
Palm Sunday – Easter Egg Coloring	Sunday, April 13 th

Treasurer’s Report: No Report

Staff Reports:

Pastor Report: No Report

Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE) – Written report

Additional Comments:

- March 23rd – Community Sunday/Chili Cook-off
- Prayer cross targeted to be set up for Ash Wednesday

Board Reports:

Deacons:

- Pastor is planning to support visitation.
- Lenten Family brunch plans underway.
- Janet Lynch will take over usher responsibilities.
- Baptisms on March 2nd

Missions:

- 2025 budget under review
- Foodbank health inspection went well.
- Grant application approved – apple trees to be received.

Trustees:

- Locks replacement needed (men’s utility room plus additional fixes)
- Kitchen Inspection – EH health dept. provided suggestion for change.
- Bob Handel and Elly Milone have volunteered to take course on March 17th for food management.
- Fire alarm issue – loose wire fixed.
- Defibrillator overview suggested.

Church Growth:

- No updates

Stewardship:

- 2025 responses from 60 out of 62 that pledged in 2024 with an average increase of 7.6% - currently at \$100,324.

Old Business:

- Candlelight concerts paused for Summer – hope to start again in the Fall.

New Business:

- Community Outreach Meeting on Thursday Feb. 20th @ 6:30 with EH police dept – asked for South Church attendance.

Next meeting planned for Monday, March 17th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library and via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Miller, Council Clerk

C.E.F.E. News

“Instructions for living a life. Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.” ~ Mary Oliver



The Prayer Cross is Back: The large, wooden cross, crafted by Bob Handel and Rick Rodrigue, will soon be displayed on the front lawn of South Church once again. SCC members, friends and the general public are invited to offer a prayer and then tie a ribbon on the cross as a visual representation of their sacred Lenten journey. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your neighbors. Bring your own ribbon or use the donated ribbon that can be found in the metal box beside the cross. Come be a part of this transformational South Church tradition! **The prayer cross will be in place from Ash Wednesday, March 5, through Easter Sunday, April 20.**

The South Church Lenten Love Project returns on Ash Wednesday, March 5! Are you an early riser? Would you like to share God’s love with commuters and pedestrians alike? For the forty weekdays during the Lenten season, CEFE is looking for volunteers to hold signs of affirmation in front of the church during the morning commute. **(From 8-9 AM daily.)** You can make your own sign, or we will provide one for you. Let us spread hope during this time many spend in the wilderness, and work together to build a community infused with joy, smiles, laughter, and love. **A sign-up calendar is available in the Crossroads.**



Introducing the Forty Day-Forty Items Lenten Challenge: To align with our congregation’s commitment to simplicity, sustainability and Creation Care, members and friends are encouraged to intentionally remove one item from their home for each of the forty days of Lent. Consider things that you no longer need or wear, clean clothing, clean towels or sheets, children’s clothing and toys, small housewares, and the like. At the end of forty days, donate those items to a place where they can be shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ. (Goodwill and Savers are both excellent donation sites.) **Please do not bring your items to South Church.**

RESCHEDULED: South Church Chili Cook Off! Sunday, March 23 at 11 AM. Ladies and gentlemen, start your crock pots! The South Church Chili Cook Off is **FINALLY** back and it is going to be delicious! Whether you have a treasured family recipe to share or have a hankering to experiment with a new one, this is your opportunity to shine and claim the coveted chili pepper necklace prize. Please see Lisa G. if you are interested in participating in this exciting South Church tradition.

COMMUNITY
SUNDAYS 
AT SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

Save the Date: April 13, 2025, 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM. Egg Coloring Extravaganza. Please join us for this intergenerational time of artistry, color, and fellowship. Whether you are three or one hundred and three, you are welcome here! Additionally, South Church is excited to announce that **Beacon, the new EHPD Community Engagement Dog**, and his handler, Officer Marc Caruso, will be in attendance as well! Come and share time with Beacon, meet Officer Caruso and color an egg. This event is **free** and open to the public and is supported by the **South Church Community Sunday** initiative which seeks to support, engage, and nourish the East Hartford community and beyond. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the love of God.

CEFE contact information: To sign up for an initiative, ministry or to simply ask a question, we can be reached at cefe@southucc.org or 860.568.5150. We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in love, laughter, and peace: Lisa ☺

More Good News From CEFE!



Thank you, Emily and Avery, for participating in the **Creation Care** postcard writing campaign for the **Interreligious Eco-Justice Network!** You. Are. Loved.

The Seven Symbols of Ash: An Interactive Ash Wednesday Experience



Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 5:00–7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday invites us to pause, reflect, and begin our Lenten journey with intention. There is something powerful about touch—whether it's the bread and wine of communion, the waters of baptism, or the ashes placed upon our foreheads. These simple, sacred elements help us connect with God in ways words sometimes cannot.

Yet, over time, the deeper meaning of ash has faded for many. We know Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, that it comes after Mardi Gras and before Easter. We may recall its connection to repentance and dust, but what does it truly signify?

We invite you to experience Ash Wednesday in a new and meaningful way. Stop by the Sanctuary anytime between **5:00 and 7:00 PM** for an **interactive, open-house-style journey** through **seven prayerful stations**, each revealing a biblical symbol of ash. You are welcome to move at your own pace—whether you stay for a few moments or linger in quiet reflection.

Come as you are. Bring your questions, your prayers, your hopes. Let this be a time to slow down, breathe deeply, and step into Lent with open hands and an open heart.

Come and experience Ash Wednesday as never before.

OFFICIAL CALL – 2025

Please be advised that the Annual meeting of the South Congregational Church of East Hartford, Connecticut, will be commencing on Sunday, March 9th, 2025 following the 10:00 A.M. worship service.

The purpose of the Annual meeting is:

- * to promote fellowship and deepen our spiritual life together as the body of Christ;
- * to elect officers;
- * to vote on the annual budget;
- * to vote on the proposed By-laws;
- * to receive annual reports;
- * to conduct any other business to be properly brought forth before the church.

Copies of the proposed 2025 budget, and proposed officers and other leadership nominations list will be available in the church office prior to the Annual meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Faithfully submitted,
Maureen Miller, Clerk

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11am - Coffee Hour Q&A	24 7pm - CitySingers	25 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	26 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	27 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	28 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	1 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert
2 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Baptisms 10am - Worship Service 11am - Coffee Hour	3 7pm - CitySingers	4 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	5 Ash Wednesday 10am - Caring Ministry 5pm - Seven Symbols Of Ash 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	7 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	8 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert
9 Daylight Saving Time starts 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Annual Meeting	10 7pm - CitySingers	11 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	12 8:30am - IREJN's Legislative 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Deacons	13 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	14 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	15 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert
16 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - AM Snowdate	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30pm - Council 6:30pm - Council 7pm - CitySingers	18 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	19 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	20 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	21 5:30pm - Hayes 7pm - Cub Scouts	22
23 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Baptism 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11am - Community Sunday	24 7pm - CitySingers	25 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	26 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	27 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	28	29
30 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	31 7pm - CitySingers	1 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	2 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	3 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	4 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	5

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm

Church Staff & Positions

Pastor.....*Rev. Kevin Weikel*
 Minister of Music.....*Jeff Cregeur*
 Coordinator of CEFE.....*Lisa Griffen*
 Treasurer.....*George Schoen*
 Assistant Treasurer.....*Pat Zendzian*
 Office Manager.....*Krista Goh*
 Accounts Manager.....*Madeline Harris*
 Moderator.....*Erin Pelletier*
 Clerk.....*Maureen Miller*
 Sexton.....*Bill Vibert*

Chairpersons:

Board of Deacons...*Bob Handel & Peggy Schoen*
 Board of CEFE.....*Felix Piersa*
 Board of Missions.....*Lisa Handel*
 Board of Stewardship.....
 Board of Trustees.....*Chuck Pelletier*
 Board of Church Growth.....*Linda Russell*

Emails

Rev. Kevin Weikel.....pastor@southucc.org
 Jeff Cregeur.....music@southucc.org
 Lisa Griffen.....cefe@southucc.org
 Krista Goh.....office@southucc.org
 Madeline Harris.....accounts@southucc.org
 Bill Vibert.....sexton@southucc.org

Bulletin and View Deadlines

Bulletin:

All announcements are due by Wednesday.

View:

All submissions are due by the 3rd Friday of the month.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Veona Cashman	12	Andrew Sime	19	Taylor Rodrigue
	Ella Weikel	13	Nicole Larsen	21	Julia Switzer
3	Eugene Pellett	14	Kelsey Werkheiser	23	Todd Pilkin
4	Bryan Goh	15	Scott Davis	26	Bill Vibert
5	Sam Goh	17	Barbara Abbott	28	Michael Ouellette
8	Matthew Miller	19	Jean Barrows		Jana Sime
10	Patricia Zendzian		Alexander Juliani	30	Chris Lynch



South Church has a long tradition of hosting a coffee hour after Sunday worship as a means of extending fellowship among the congregation and visitors to our church. Coffee Hour will continue to be held every other Sunday in Charrier Hall, provided we have hosts. The signup sheet for the months of **March & April** is posted on the bulletin board directly across from the church library. The dates we are in need of hosts are **3/16, 3/30, 4/13 & 4/27**. You may also contact Krista Goh in the office to sign up. Please consider hosting if you are available any of these dates.



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youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863
southucc.org
office@southucc.org

THE VIEW

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South Congregational Church is part of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The View is published monthly with the exception of 1 issue during July and August.

The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Friday of each month. Please contact Krista Goh with any questions at 860.568.5150 or office@southucc.org

March 2025

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Dated Material
Deliver no later than
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I wish to honor/remember a loved one or someone special by doing the following:

- Worship folders (\$10 per week)
- Lighting of the steeple (\$1 per day)
- Flowers for the altar (cost is determined by you)
- Purchase choir music (\$65 for 20 copies)

My Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

I wish to honor/remember: _____

Reason/note for bulletin: _____



Please make all checks payable to *South Congregational Church*.