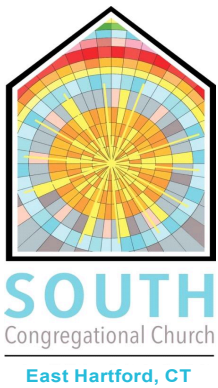


January 2025



The View

Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT

A Letter from Paul. . .

December 2024

It is difficult to believe that my time here at South Church is coming to an end on January 5, 2025 after 9 months. The calling of Kevin Weikel signed that my ministry was at its end and the time for goodbyes had arrived. With the adieu comes gratitude.

I must start by saying what a joy it was to work here with your incredible staff. Krista, Jeff, Lisa and Bill made my job not only smooth but also incredibly fun. They all are efficient professionals, who carry out their missions with joy and an ease that is inspiring. They are good at their jobs because they know how to be collaborative and communicate well across departments. But, and this is no small part, they are great at being nice people and nice people create a nice place for the ministry of Jesus Christ to be accomplished. The fruits of their labors are visible but the vast majority of their work is performed out of sight and can go unnoticed and underappreciated. But as one who worked “up close and personal” with them, you are blessed to have them ministering with and among you. I would encourage you to make it a point to let them know that they and their efforts are appreciated and honored. Of the 10 churches in which I have ministered South Church has the best staff teams and I am grateful to have been made to feel so welcome and at home. Thank you, team!

I have worked with thousands of people in ministry. Churches are heavily reliant upon the efforts and good will of the members, friends and guests of the congregation. Engagement with the community providing God’s presence and the love of Jesus is something that you folk are already embodying but hopefully will be led to expand. Keeping the good Christian fellowship that you offer within the confines of the building is a mistake and doesn’t allow for growth in the Spirit for the church or the community. You have a good story to tell about Jesus and his love. So be sure to go out and tell it in new, inspired and inventive ways.

Here I have found amazing goodness, kind-heartedness, commitment and care. Yes the church is not the size or composition it once was – very few are. South Church is worth survival and will take some strenuous prayer, discernment and collaboration with Pastor Kevin as you envision the new paths that not only respect the traditions but also take the risks of stepping into newness and expanding the message South Church proclaims about God yesterday, God today and God yet to come.

I write this well into Advent season with Christmas just around the corner. The joy of the season and the proclamations of hope, peace, love and joy are ringing in our ears. Many of our favorite songs are being (or waiting to be) sung. But one of my favorite Advent/Christmas songs is what I suggest for you as a church celebratory anthem -- “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (#138 in the Chalice Hymnal). The final verse reads:

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story,
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

That is my wish and my challenge to you as we part ways. Follow the rising sun. Be strong. Be loving. Be fearless. Be as loving in song and prayer and story – as you have been to me.

Thank you South Church – you make “retirement” fun.

Shalom

Special Announcements

Rev. Paul Goodman, who has served this Congregation for the past 9 months, as Interim Pastor, will be leading his last worship service with us on January 5, 2025.

A reception will follow the service.
Please join us to thank Pastor Paul and wish him well.



We are very pleased to announce that **Rev. Kevin Weikel**, will begin his ministry with us, as our Settled Pastor, on February 19, 2025 (Wednesday), with his first Sunday being February 23, 2025. A reception will follow the service. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Kevin to South Church

During the 6 weeks in January and February, the Deacons plan to fill Sunday worship with Pulpit supply including a few guest speakers.

Attention all Church Members

For the Lenten Season 2025 we will be putting together another of our popular all-Church Devotionals. Please think about a contribution, and sign up to submit an entry for a day (or two or three).

The sign-up sheet will be in the Cross-roads beginning January 5, 2025.

All entries will need to be turned in by February 23, 2025, and the devotional will be distributed March 2.

Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025.



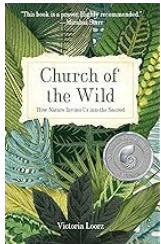


“All the great spiritual leaders in history were people of hope. Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Mary, Jesus, Rumi, Gandhi, and Dorothy Day all lived with a promise and a purpose in their hearts that guided them toward a future without the need to know exactly what it would look like. Let’s live with hope.”

~ Father Henri J.M. Nouwen



Creation Care Opportunity. Tuesday, January 14 @ 2 PM. Join Lisa G and friends as they write postcards to their legislators and the governor in support of our beloved Mother Earth. Postcards will be provided by the **Interreligious Eco-Justice Network** and writing prompts will be included, although sending your own message is also encouraged. This project will be impactful with your support, coupled with the support of other houses of worship. We’ll meet you in the library and invite you to bring your favorite pen!



Tuesdays at Two resumes on January 21. This winter the book club will be reading ***Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us Into the Sacred*** by Victoria Loorz. As described by author Veronica Kyle, *Church of the Wild* is “Deeply personal, inspirational, and spiritually nourishing. As you turn each page, you can feel yourself being called to get outside and connect with creation. Our natural alters-the trees, the waters, the sun, and the moon-are waiting to heal us.” Come and be a part of this magic! **Please contact Lisa G if you would like her to order you a book off Amazon. Books will cost \$15.**



South Church Chili Cook Off! Sunday, February 9 at 11 AM. Ladies and gentlemen, start your crock pots! The South Church Chili Cook Off is 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 sign up in the Crossroads if you are interested in participating in this exciting South Church tradition.

Sunday, February 9, 2025. Valentine Fun at South! After you have voted on your favorite chili recipe of the season, please consider joining CEFE as we decorate Valentine’s Day cards for our South Church neighbors and friends. We will provide greeting cards, construction paper and stickers, while you provide inspiration and creativity! This Valentines Day event 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.

More Good News from CEFE!



A **Worship Station** for young children has lovingly been placed in the Narthex. Children are invited to take two or three items into the sanctuary, and then return those items to the shelving at the conclusion of the service. Thank you for your support of this ministry and our efforts to ensure that even our littlest members feel validated and seen.

Over 125 pairs of socks were collected at the Carol Sing and Lighting of the Creche! The socks were then donated to the food pantry to be gifted to our food pantry clients. A humble and heartfelt thank you to those individuals who were able to give this gift of warmth and generosity. You. Are. Loved.



Save the Date: South Church Second Hour. Sunday, February 2 at 11:00 AM. Join CEFE as we welcome Rebecca Johnson from the **American Red Cross**. Becky will share some history about the organization, volunteer opportunities, and tips about disaster preparedness. This gathering will be held in the library and light refreshments will be served.

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 ☺



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

While South Church certainly continues to be spiritually viable in terms of our mission and ministries, our economic situation is critical. Our 2025 budget has had increases in all expense items: utilities, insurance, maintenance, services, supplies, and staff. While our Boards and Committees have cut their budgets to the bare bones, our 2025 pledging is still \$25,000 short of our projected needs. If you would like to make a pledge commitment to South Church, you can pick up a pledge card in the Church Office, or you can call the Church Office (860-568-5150) or send an email to Madeline Harris (accounts@southucc.org) to request that a pledge card be mailed to you. Also, if you would like to use offering envelopes without making a pledge, please email Madeline Harris or call the church office and she will provide them to you.

Thank you and God's blessings!



A HUGE THANK YOU to all who supported the Choir Cookie Walk in December. The few leftovers we had were given to Lisa G. for refreshments for the Community Sunday "Cookies with Santa" event, which took place the next day. Whether you baked cookies, bought cookies, donated to the cause, or maybe did all 3, we are most grateful for your support. We collected close to \$1,500. Thank you again and a very happy New Year to all!



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 **January & February** is posted on the bulletin board directly across from the church library. You may also contact Krista Goh in the office to sign up. The scheduled dates we are still in need of hosts are **1/12, 1/26, & 2/9**. Please consider hosting a Sunday that you are available.



We Celebrate with:

–The Schleicher and Zadrozny families upon the baptism of Nora Joyce Zadrozny on December 8th.

Our Sympathy goes to:

–The family and friends of Rev. Will Thayer, retired South Church Parish Visitor, who entered into God’s eternal care on November 19, 2024. A memorial service will be held on January 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Society of Greater Springfield, Mass.
 –The family of Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articolo, upon her passing in November after a long illness.

Please keep in your prayers.....

Barbara Abbott	Traci Constantine	Mary Ann Higgins	Jill McNamara
Nimmi Baker	Eugenia Dansinghani	Barbara Hooker	Gene Pellett
Georgi Beers	Bill Fagan	Ivy Lehmann	Barbara Slocum
John & Phyllis Carella	Charlie Goding	Liz Costa Mayerson	Russell Turner
Veona Cashman	Barbara Guthrie	Beth McGinnis	

Andrew, grandson of Margie Articolo
 Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman
 Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson
 Allison Cornelius, stepdaughter of Gary Fowler
 Barbara Hitchcock, mother of Bryan Denman
 Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Jean Foisey and Debbie Rataic
 Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall
 Kim McMenamin, daughter of Chuck and Nancy Goding
 Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen
 Carol Poehnert, friend of Maureen Miller
 Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall
 Deborah Lambert Sevetson, friend of South Church
 Richard Shonti, husband of a friend of Jean Foisey
 Liam Sticklely, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie
 Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall’s brother-in-law

Rejoice in hope
 Be patient in affliction
 Be faithful in prayer
 Romans 12:12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	30	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED 12pm - Food Bank 7:30pm - AA	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	3 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	4
5 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	6	7 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	8 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Deacons	9 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	10 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	11
12 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Community Sunday	13	14 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Creation Care 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - Council 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	15 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	16 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	17 4pm - Cub Scouts 5:30pm - Hayes	18
19 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	20 Inauguration Day (regional) Martin Luther King Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED	21 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	22 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	23 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	24 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	25 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candelight Concert
26 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	27	28 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	29 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	30 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	31 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	1

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

Church Staff & Positions

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.....*Rick Rodrigue*
 Board of Church Growth.....*Linda Russell*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Eddie Lackard | 17 William Fagan, IV | 23 Robert Howe, IV |
| 3 Barbara Hooker | 18 Jane Porowski | Charlotte Turner |
| 6 Lisa Abbott | 19 Marcus Griffin | 26 Lilyana Zaikarite |
| Liz Costa Mayerson | Jack Guerin | 28 Kathy Kurniawan |
| 8 Lou Skinner | Zachary Juliani | 30 Molly Caruso |
| 9 Sylvia Johnson | Richard Rodrigue | 31 Robert Benigni |
| 10 Caitlin McNamee | 21 Timothy Pelletier | |
| 16 Barbara Guthrie | Bernice Savastio | |

Annual Reports are due by **January 10th**.
 Please email your report to Krista Goh at
office@southucc.org.
 Thank you!

Emails

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



*The office will be closed January 1st for
 New Year's Day and January 20th for
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day.*

Bulletin and View Deadlines

Bulletin:

All announcements are due by Wednesday.

View:

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



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facebook.com/SouthUCC/
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

January 2025

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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*.