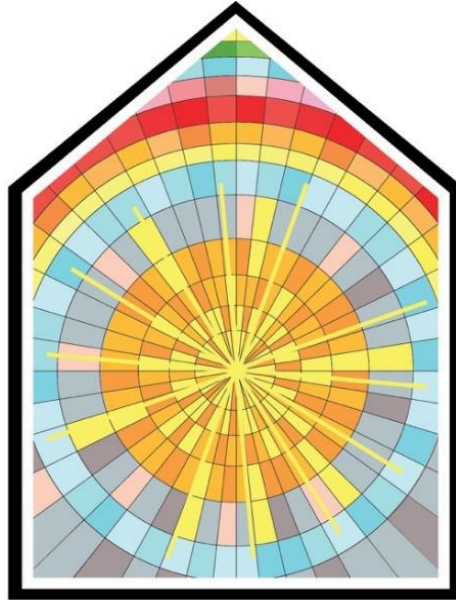


**Welcome to  
South Congregational Church, UCC  
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118**



**SOUTH**  
Congregational Church

**East Hartford, CT**

**January 5, 2025**

Interim Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Coordinator of CEFE

**Epiphany Sunday**

The Reverend Paul Goodman  
Jeff Cregeur  
Lisa Griffen

Meditation

*“O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to they Perfect Light”*

–John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Welcome and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

Bob Benigni

Lay Reader: Christ has put the door of eternity ajar;

**People: The Light of Life streams into every dismal corner.**

Lay Reader: Fear and shame flee like shadows before the dawn.

**People: Arise! Shine! Our Light has come!**

Lay Reader: Lift up your eyes and look around!

**People: The Lord will be our everlasting light.**

† Gathering Hymn

*Once in Royal David's City*

Chalice Hymn #165

Prayer of Invocation

Unison

**Come, Lord, come be light for our path and a lamp in our darkness. Come, Lord, fill our days with song and our nights with blessing. Come, Lord, deepen our prayers for others and quicken our steps to do justice. Come, Lord, enlighten our worship and bless us with peace. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Paul Goodman

Offertory Sentences

Bob Benigni

Just as strangers put out great effort to bring their gifts to the house of the holy child, we reach deep that our devotion to the Jesus may be the guiding star that leads to You. Our versions of gold, frankincense and myrrh manifest our commitment to the way of Jesus -- work that extends to the whole human family. What a privilege to have so much to share! Our morning offerings will now be received.

† Doxology

*As With Gladness* v. 3

Chalice Hymn #173

† Prayer of Dedication

In Unison

**Wise God, we bear our gifts to you as our homage for your presence in our lives. Take these gifts, make them be an instrument of shalom in the world for those in need. Remind us that your generosity to us far surpasses anything we might give to you - teach us to respond the best we can. With your blessing on these gifts here today, we thank you. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-18

Pew Bible Pages 783-784

Sermon

“Dark Christmas”

Rev. Paul Goodman

Communion Hymn

*Down to Earth*

Chalice Hymn #168

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer of Dedication and 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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of The Bread and The Cup

*(We offer communion on Jesus’ behalf. Jesus welcomed all regardless of the categories we use to exclude. Therefore, this table is open to all people regardless of age, sex, nationality, sexuality, belief, or background. No matter where you are on the life-long journey of faith, you are invited to join us at His table. Trays will be passed with the bread, take for yourself and then serve your neighbor. Please hold the bread so that we may eat together – a symbol of our oneness in Jesus. Trays with un-fermented grape juice will then be passed, again take for yourself and serve your neighbor. Drink as the spirit moves you – a symbol of our unique relationship with God through Jesus.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

In Unison

**We give you thanks, eternal God, for the gifts of life and love we have received in your presence. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service gently embracing the earth and pronouncing shalom to all of creation. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

† Sending Hymn

***Brightest and Best***  
*(Insert - see following page)*

New Century Hymn #157  
CCLI #1586369

A Note of Thanks

Erin Pelletier

Benediction

Rev. Paul Goodman

Postlude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

## Brightest and Best

157

*Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.**Matt. 2:9-11; Luke 2:10-14*

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
 3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.  
 God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;  
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - ing,  
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

*An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta (including all of India), where he died of exhaustion at age forty-three. His Hymns (1827) was the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year.*

Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.  
*James P. Harding, 1892*  
 The New Psalms and Hymns, Richmond, Va., 1901  
 Alternate setting: WALKER

# Welcome to Our Church

The South Church family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers and visitors this morning. We hope you will find this worship service meaningful, the fellowship friendly, and that you will consider making this your church home. If you are a first-time visitor, please fill out the Pew Card that can be found in the pew or at the Welcome Station outside the sanctuary. You may give this card to any usher or put it in the offertory plate. We invite you to join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments in Charrier Hall.

*In loving memory of Tom Juliani, the steeple is lighted for the month of January by his family.*

## **This Sunday's Service Volunteers:**

**-Ushers:** Celia Collins and Linda Russell

**-Lay Reader:** Bob Benigni

**-Deacons** for the month of **January:** Bob Handel and Peggy Schoen

**-Audio Visual:** Chuck Pelletier, Bryan Denman, Bob Handel

**-Flower Contacts:** Jean Foisey, Lisa Handel, Gayle Juliani

## **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.



## Creation Care Opportunity

**Tuesday, January 14, 2:00 p.m.**

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

**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.**

## *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

### **Continued Prayers are Needed for...**

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

*Andrew, grandson of Margie Articolo*

*Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman*

*Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson*

*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 Stickle, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie*

*Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall's brother-in-law*

## This Week at South Church

### **SUNDAY, January 5**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service  
11:00am – Reception/Charrier Hall

### **MONDAY, January 6**

No Events

### **TUESDAY, January 7**

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

### **WEDNESDAY, January 8**

6:30pm – CEFE/Zoom  
– Cub Scouts/Rms 2, 9&10, and  
Charrier  
7:00pm – Deacons/Library

### **THURSDAY, January 9**

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
7:00pm – Choir/Library

### **FRIDAY, January 10**

6:00pm – Candlelight Concert/Sanctuary  
8:30pm – Candlelight Concert/Sanctuary

### **SATURDAY, January 11**

No Events

### **SUNDAY, January 12**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service

*Please email/call the office at  
office@southucc.org or 860.568.5150  
to reserve a room*



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office@southucc.org