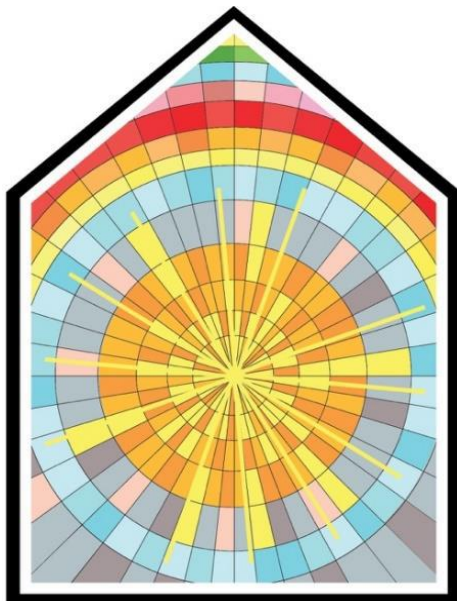


**Welcome to**  
**South Congregational Church, UCC**  
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



**SOUTH**  
Congregational Church

**East Hartford, CT**

**March 9, 2025**

Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Coordinator of CEFE

**First Sunday in Lent**

The Reverend Kevin Weikel  
Jeff Cregeur  
Lisa Griffen

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**A Welcome for All:** *Good morning, and welcome to worship at South Congregational Church in East Hartford! We are an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, committed to embodying God's extravagant love for all people. We invite you to experience the warmth of community, the peace of prayer, and the joy of song as we journey together toward deeper connection with God and one another. May our time together this morning renew your spirit, inspire your heart, and nourish your soul.*

**Meditation:** *As we enter the season of Lent, we step into a sacred journey—a time of reflection, renewal, and trust. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, facing trials and temptations, yet he emerged strengthened by God's presence. Lent invites us to walk with Jesus, to trust in God's guidance, and to draw closer to the heart of faith. Whether we are giving something up or taking something on, may this season deepen our connection to God and one another.*

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Greeting and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

† Gathering Hymn

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

Chalice Hymn #179

Call to Worship (Thom Shuman, adapted)

George Schoen

Lay Reader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**People:** **As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.**

Lay Reader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

**People:** **As we seek to follow Jesus, may we be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Lay Reader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**People:** **As we continue on our path to faithfulness, may we be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

Prayer of Adoration and The Lord's Prayer

Unison

**Loving and faithful God, in the wilderness, You are our guide. In our weakness, You are our strength. When we feel lost, You are the voice calling us home. As we begin this Lenten season, shape our hearts to trust in You. Help us to see Your presence in our trials, to rely on Your word, and to follow in the way of Jesus. Fill us with courage**

when we are afraid, with patience when the road is long, and with compassion for those who journey alongside us. May our time in this season draw us nearer to You, preparing our hearts for the promise of resurrection. We give You our praise and our lives, trusting that You will lead us through every wilderness. We join our voices together now in the prayer that Jesus taught, saying: **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.**

Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Song of Response and Reflection

*Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

Chalice Hymn #306

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,  
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen**

Offertory Sentences

George Schoen

Lent is a time to realign our hearts with God's purposes, a time to give freely as Jesus gave of himself. In this season, we are called to generosity—of spirit, of service, and of resources. May our gifts today be an offering of love and trust, a sign of our faith in God's abundant grace.

† Offertory Hymn

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Chalice Hymn #627

† Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Chalice Hymn #46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

† Prayer of Dedication

In Unison

**God of all provision, we bring these gifts to You, knowing that You are the source of all that we have and all that we are. Bless what we offer today, that it may nourish the work of Your church, sustain those in need, and bring hope to all who hunger for Your love. May we, in giving, become a blessing to others. Amen.**

† Hymn

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Chalice Hymn #211

Scripture Readings

Genesis 3:1–7

Matthew 4:1–11

Pew Bible Page 2

Pew Bible Page 785

Sermon

“Faith in the Wilderness”

Rev. Kevin Weikel

† Sending Hymn

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Chalice Hymn #622

Benediction

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Postlude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music



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 also encourage you to speak with Pastor Kevin.

*Hearing devices are available for use during worship service. Please see an Usher if you're in need of one.*

**This Sunday's Service Volunteers:**

**-Ushers:** Scott and Mark Davis

**-Lay Reader:** George Schoen

**-Deacons** for the month of **March:** Bob Handel and Dan Werkheiser

**-Audio Visual:** Chuck Pelletier, Bob Handel and Elly Milone

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

***Reminder:*** *Our Annual Meeting will be held shortly after this morning's worship service ends. All are encouraged to attend.*

## 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.**

## *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

### **Of Special Concern...**

–*Veona Cashman is receiving hospice care.*

–*Louise (Weezie) Ryan-Perrine is nearing the end of life.*

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

*Barbara Abbott*

*John & Phyllis Carella*

*Nancy Goding*

*Beth McGinnis*

*Nimmi Baker*

*Joann Dufresne*

*Barbara Guthrie*

*Gene Pellett*

*Georgi Beers*

*Bill Fagan*

*Mary Ann Higgins*

*Bev Saunders*

*Barbara Benson*

*Charlie Goding*

*Barbara Hooker*

*Russell Turner*

*Andrew, friend of the Turners*

*Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson*

*Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Jean Foisey and Debbie Rataic*

*Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall*

*Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen*

*Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall*

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

### **This Week at South Church**

#### **SUNDAY, March 9**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service  
11:00am – Annual Meeting/Sanctuary

#### **MONDAY, March 10**

7:00pm – CitySingers/Library

#### **TUESDAY, March 11**

11:00am – Staff Meeting  
12:00pm – Food Bank/Charrier Hall  
2:00pm – Tuesdays at Two/Library  
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
6:30pm – CEFE/Zoom  
7:00pm – Trustees/Library  
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

#### **WEDNESDAY, March 12**

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

#### **THURSDAY, March 13**

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

#### **FRIDAY, March 14**

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

#### **SATURDAY, March 15**

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

#### **SUNDAY, March 16**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service  
11:00am – Annual Meeting Snow Date

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



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