



# The View

*Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT*

## Moderator Message

February hasn't always been the best month for me, as I lost my father in February in 1995 after a brief illness. Both my children were young, Chuck and I, along with my mother, were members of South Church and there were many members who brought us meals during that time. Although this was a difficult time, the members and close friends of my mother helped us through that dark time.

My message is not to bring attention to myself, but to explain how our life experiences and closeness of the members of our congregation help us through those dark times. That's also true during the winter months, when it's cold and dark.

Some of the music I have been listening to is Christian music. One of the songs that is inspiring to me is 'Brighter Days' by Blessing Offor. He is a Nigerian-born, Nashville-based singer-songwriting in the Christian music industry. He was born with blindness in one eye and at the age of 6 his parents sent him to the United States to seek medical aid, but Offor lost complete sight by the age of 10. If you have a chance, look up 'Brighter Days'. (chorus below)

**I know there's gonna be some brighter days  
I swear that love will find you in your pain  
I feel it in me like the beating of life in my veins  
I know there's gonna be some brighter days  
I know there's gonna be some brighter days**

February will be an exciting month for us, as we start a new chapter with The Reverend Kevin Weikel joining South Church as our new Pastor.

We hope you will continue to be with us as we look forward to having continued brighter days.

Blessings for a brighter days,

Erin Pelletier

**Church Council Meeting Summary – Meeting held January 21, 2025**

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

**Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!!**

Description	Date
Candlelight Concert	February 7 <sup>th</sup> .
Candlelight Concert	February 14 <sup>th</sup>
Candlelight Concert	February 28 <sup>th</sup>
Chili Cook-off!	February 9 <sup>th</sup>
Annual Meeting	Sunday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>

**Treasurer’s Report:**

- Pledging as of end of December at 97.1%, vs expected of 100%.
- Balance of \$18,773 at end of December

**Staff Reports:**

**Pastor Report:** No Report

**Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE) – Written report**

**Additional Comments:**

- Additional Chili Cook-off participants needed!

**Board Reports:**

**Deacons:**

- Pulpit Supply in place until Kevin is in place.
- Upon Bryan Denman’s departure, need to firm up usher alignment.

**Missions:**

- EH residents – survey due Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – Website to be shared with Congregation.
- 2025 Budget at \$3000 carry forward from 2024. 2025 budget under review
- Donald Padgett – Services homeless in Hartford. Going forward he will take leftover Trader Joe’s produce.

**Trustees:**

- Front sign set up complete - Lights need to be re-established
- Side door in Charrier hall – toe kick replaced

**Church Growth:**

- No updates

**Stewardship:**

- 37 pledges returned out of 62 that pledged in 2024 with an average increase of 7.6% - currently at \$100,324.

**Old Business:**

**Search Committee update:**

- 2025 Roster submitted to Annual Report

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

**Respectfully submitted by Maureen Miller, Council Clerk**

# C.E.F.E. News

**“We need Joy as we need air. We need Love as we need water. We need each other as we need the earth we share.” ~Maya Angelou**



**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.



**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.

**CT Environmental Legislation: Tuesday, February 18, 7:00-8:30 PM.** This online seminar, sponsored by the **Interreligious Eco-Justice Network**, will update you on the environmental bills in front of committees and provide you with details regarding supporting or opposing them. **Details and registration are on IREJN's website at [www.irejn.org](http://www.irejn.org).**

**Creation Care Postcard Writing Update:** Thank you South Congregational Church! Over thirty people have participated, written and sent a total of 150 postcards to the Governor, their state representatives, and senators! Supported by the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, SCC joins 25 other houses of worship that are advocating for policies that support people, trees, wildlife, and all of God's extraordinary creation.

**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.**

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

Yours in love, laughter, and peace: Lisa ☺

## Lenten Devotional Reminder

For all of you who are contributing to our 2025 Lenten Devotional, please submit your entries to me by **February 16**, if you are submitting them in **handwritten** form. If you can send them **electronically**, to *pgaschoen179@yahoo.com* then **February 23** should be okay. In any case, the sooner you can get them to me the better. The devotional will be distributed Sunday, March 2 so that it is ready for you by Ash Wednesday, March 5. Thank you all so very much. Blessings, Peggy Schoen



### 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.



The Deacons will be hosting a “Meet and Greet” reception in Charrier Hall directly after the Worship Service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have light refreshments and a Q&A discussion with Rev. Weikel during the reception. Hope to see you all there.



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 month of **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. We are still in need of a host/s for **2/9**. Please consider hosting if you are available.



**Please keep in your prayers.....**

<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*  
*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*  
*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*

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	27 7pm - CitySingers	28 12pm - Food Bank 1:30pm - Missions 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	29 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	30 9am - Floor Wash 1:30pm - Cintas 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	31 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	1
2 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Guest Speaker	3	4 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	5 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	7 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	8 Setup
9 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Community Sunday	10 7pm - CitySingers	11 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	12 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Deacons	13 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	14 Valentine's Day 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	15
16 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	17 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day 6:30pm - Council 7pm - CitySingers	18 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	19 6:30pm - Pinewood Derby Setup 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	20 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	21 5:30pm - Hayes 7pm - Cub Scouts	22 Cub Scouts/Derby
23 Derby Snow Date 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	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

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*

***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*

**Bulletin and View Deadlines**

**Bulletin:**

All announcements are due by Wednesday.

**View:**

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



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                       |                    |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 William Berner, Jr. | 14 Madelyn Griffin | 21 Gail Wilds       |
| Cameron Jack          | 17 Brigitte Berner | Cole Snyder         |
| 4 Ronald Schleicher   | Avery Kelman       | 22 Barbara McNamara |
| 5 Lisa Davis          | 18 Jaime Beaver    | 24 Nancy Benigni    |
| 7 Gary Armentrout     | Christopher Vann   | 28 Vanessa Barros   |
| 9 Sheryl Caldwell     | 20 Keith Davis     |                     |



The office will be closed February 17<sup>th</sup> for Presidents' Day.



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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

**February 2025**

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
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**Dated Material  
Deliver no later than  
the 12th of the month**



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*.**