Senior Pastor’s Message

Loved ones:

Can I tell you what’s been difficult about interpersonal communication during each phase of the pandemic? Every! Doggone! Thing! I used to think I was skilled at trading thoughts and ideas and feelings and emotions in face-to-face situations. I understood how to read social cues. Once upon a time, I intuitively knew what to say (and what not to say) in my day-to-day dealings. Nowadays? Not so much.

Two weeks ago, for example, a friend suggested that it was impolite and intrusive to ask if someone has been vaccinated. Wait, what?! I had never considered that. In fact, I have posed that question with complete strangers for no reason other than to initiate casual conversation. Certainly, there are circumstances where the inquiry is appropriate (inviting another into your home, workplace, or intimate perimeters, for example). Otherwise, I probably don’t need to probe into such a private matter, even in the midst of a public health crisis that we all have in common.

As another example, I’ve made adjustments to the ways that I practice proximity and physical contact (hugs, fist bumps, etc.). Which is to say that I don’t take anyone else’s comfort level or personal preferences for granted. While we have come a long way through the wilderness, it is not universally true for everyone that nearness is niceness...that a handshake is harmless. After years in ministry, I had developed a reflexive ability to close the distance between the world and me. More recently, though, I notice a slight stutter in terms of my non-verbal exchanges. I pause more. I assume less.

Here’s the thing: It’s doggone difficult. But, it’s definitely doable! I believe the recent lifting of restrictions concerning masks, capacity limits, and social distancing presents an opportunity to recalibrate our boundaries as a united body of believers. “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love”. AND...blest be the borders between each member -- the God-given space that is yours to own and occupy and also offer to another, as you choose.

We’ll get there! I’ve been so encouraged to hear people asking each other, “Is it okay to hug you?” “Am I standing too close?” “Would you like me to wear a face covering in your presence?” “Are you comfortable meeting in person or would you prefer to meet via Zoom?” Oh. My. God. That’s the look of love. That’s incarnate empathy. That’s how we adjust and develop new reflexes and recalibrate. That’s how we live into the next normal. That’s us!

Be blessed and be a blessing,

Rev. Fredd
Church Council - May 19, 2021

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!!

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Live Streaming of Sunday Church Service</td>
<td>Sundays at 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Processing a Pandemic</td>
<td>Sundays in June, 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Father's Day - Cinnamon Buns, Photo Exhibit</td>
<td>Sunday, June 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strawberry Fair!! 🍓</td>
<td>Saturday, June 12th</td>
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Review of prior minutes & correspondence: April minutes were accepted with correction

Treasurer’s Report:
- Balance @ $4,225.91
- Pledging at just under 33%

Staff Reports:
Pastor - shared concerns - and celebrations

UCC Report:
- 2nd Annual Conference of the SNEC was held May 8th via Zoom
- The 1st Conference Minister of the SNEC will be installed on June 19th via Zoom

Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE) - Lisa Griffen
- Relocation of rugged cross. Thanks Bob and Rick! 😊
- Be the Church banner has been ordered for the front of the building but is currently backordered.
- Comfort Hearts now delivered to Manchester Manor, Riverside Health and Salmon Brook. 
  Over 125 distributed so far. Kelly will investigate gifting them to veterinarian offices and Manchester Hospital.
- Comfort Hearts are for all to distribute. Feel free to take them from the office.
- Ice Cream Social attended by more than 45 people and 40 sundaes were served! Extra ice cream donated to nursery school.
- Antiques Road Show: May 23 from 11-12:30 PM. Please consider helping with set up of tents, chairs or clean up. All proceeds to benefit CEFE and other SCC initiatives. (Including cookies made and sold by member Nicole Schufer)
- Kelly and Lisa researching the purchase of tents for outdoor church events
- Have you purchased a Lawn Sign to show your South Church pride?
- Processing a Pandemic scheduled for four Sundays in June after church. Info in View. Fredd has offered to participate in these discussions.
- Stories at South: dates to be determined. 6:30-7:15 PM for four Mondays or Wednesdays in July. Join Kelly and Lisa G. for a time of storytelling, fellowship and refreshments. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and a pocketful of sunshine to this community building adventure. Come celebrate stories of friendship, love, nature and acceptance. Whether you are four or ninety-four, you are welcome here.
- Youth Survey: Interest in hosting a food/toy/supply drive for Protectors of Animals. Will try to coordinate with the Blessing of the Animals in October. To strengthen youth engagement will experiment with a Youth Council.
• Celebration of Fathers and Men of Influence scheduled for Sunday, June 20th. There will be cinnamon buns and opportunities to share your favorite photos!
• Birthday blessings continue
  Kindly let Kelly or Lisa know if there is a family that could benefit from being chalked with the You Are Loved message.

Board Reports:
Deacons:
  • Communion will remain as is until at least Sept.
  • We will continue to have a greeter at the door

Church Growth:
  • Began taking orders for “Church Merch”
  • Felix reached out to Habitat
  • Little Theatre of Manchester just beginning to reopen
  • Yard Goats – unsure whether this will work as a fellowship opportunity this year

Missions:
  • No Nancy Fitzgerald Scholarship this year
  • all set for our week at the Soup Kitchen
  • Goodwin School garden being coordinated by a new group
  • Portable ramps donated – used to move items for the Food Bank

Stewardship: no report

Trustees:
  • Sprinkler system is on
  • Repairs to trim on roof – done

Old Business:
  • Pandemic Response Committee – see email to congregation sent May 17th
  • Strawberry Fair – planning continues
  • Talents/Service Auction – plans pending

New Business:
  • Charge from cleaning service to Sexton position going well
  • May want to purchase a Bluetooth mike to help with sound for hybrid meetings using Zoom

Next meeting planned for June 16th at 7 pm in the Church Library and on Zoom
“Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time.”
Maya Angelou

Celebrating Fathers and Men of Influence: On Sunday, June 20th, we honor the important men in our lives. Cinnamon buns will again be lovingly prepared and served by Kelly and Lisa G. Additionally, all are invited to submit a framed photo of their significant someone to be included in our Celebration of Men exhibit. Photographs will be displayed in the narthex before the Sunday service. If you would like to participate, please leave a framed photograph, in the church office by Wednesday, June 16th (include your name on the reverse side). To ensure that there is enough space for all, we ask that photos be no larger than a 4x6 or 5x7 and that, if possible, ONLY the special celebrant should be pictured.

Comfort Hearts Update: At the time of printing, over 125 handcrafted Comfort Hearts have been gifted to members, neighbors, strangers and friends of South Church. Congratulations and thank you to all of our knitters who have dedicated themselves to this important outreach ministry! You. Are. Loved.

Liz Ciccone, Director of Recreation, and Mel Fiore, Administrator, accept an additional 42 Comfort Hearts for a Mother’s Day distribution at Salmon Brook Center in East Harford.

A Word of Thanks:

Dear South Congregational friends:
Thank you so very much for your thoughtful donation of comfy hearts of love for our residents. What a kind gesture of thoughtfulness. Thank you for thinking of us.

Much appreciated: Recreation Dept C, Riverside Health and Rehab

We also thank Cassidy Ward for lovingly providing handmade cards to be distributed by the Caring Ministry
South Church Antique Road Show Success: On Sunday, May 23, South Church members and friends shared a time of fellowship, refreshments and treasured antiques. Thanks to SCC member Nicole Schufer and her remarkable cookie sales and to Philip Papadakis and his volunteer appraisal services, over $530. was raised for CEFE ministries! It was a pleasure having the opportunity to host this outdoor event and we look forward to providing meaningful programming experiences to this special congregation.

In Case You Missed It:

Processing a Pandemic: Emerging from the Wilderness. I recently attended an exhibit and was challenged to confront my feelings about the Covid-19 pandemic. Through a series of photographs and questions, I found myself facing some unsettling new revelations. Although I had navigated the pandemic landscape to the best of my ability, I had not allowed myself the space to process everything that I was seeing, feeling, or experiencing. It occurred to me to that folks in this community of faith might benefit from what I have learned. Please join me, Rev. Fredd and Kelly as we explore the following topics:

June 6: In the face of the sheer magnitude of this global pandemic, how have you tended to your own spirituality? Reflect on a time during the pandemic when God’s love followed you, whether it be mourning a loss, the experience of isolation, or anywhere else?

June 13: What are the things you want to keep from this time in the wilderness? What are the things that have frustrated you? What has liberated you? Where did you hear God speaking?

June 20: How have you connected with creativity during the pandemic? What were the stories that engaged you (television, novels, games)? Where did you experience God’s warmth and humor?

June 27: Are there photographs, news clips, or stories about the pandemic that particularly moved you? The loss of a public figure? The economic impact? What is a story from this time that you want to be sure to remember? Why is that image or story important to you? Where is God in that story?

All gatherings will be held at 11 AM, outside, for approximately 45 minutes. You are welcome to attend one or all sessions.

Stories at South: Wednesdays July 7, 14, 21 and 28. 6:30-7:15 PM. Join Kelly and Lisa G. for a time of storytelling, fellowship and refreshments. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and a pocketful of sunshine to this community building adventure. Come celebrate stories of friendship, love, nature and acceptance.

Whether you are four or ninety-four, you are welcome here.

The prayer cross has been relocated to its temporary home, to the left of the stained-glass window, in the front of the church. All continue to be welcomed to visit the cross and offer a prayer. At this time, however, we request that you bring a ribbon of your own to tie to the cross.

Please note that Sunday morning children’s lessons continue to be available on Facebook.

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: Kelly and Lisa
May 17, 2021

Dear South Church Family,

Last fall, the Pandemic Response Committee formed to provide leadership around the impact of the pandemic on our church life. Since that time, we have been proud to share decision-making as a group that we believe has balanced the most current health guidance and state regulations while honoring the spirit of our faith community. We are proud that South Church has been a trailblazer among our UCC sister churches, re-convening for in-person worship since early November 2020, throughout the winter and through yesterday. Being a trailblazer means you don’t have a rule book to follow, so this group has made thoughtful decisions along the way, by listening to the input of health professionals, our members and each other.

We find ourselves at another crossroads where there is divergent guidance as well as a desire to continue to move closer to fully reconnecting as a worship community. With that, the committee has decided that in alignment with Gov. Lamont’s lifting of business restrictions on May 19, worship and other activities at South Church will proceed following the guidelines below, also effective May 19.

- The church office will be open from 8:30 – 2:30, Monday – Friday, beginning June 1.
- There will be no further restrictions on numbers in the sanctuary and no pre-registration is required. However, we will still be checking people in as they come to worship in order to know who is present.
- Masks will not be required for people who have been fully vaccinated. For those who cannot, or have chosen not to be vaccinated, masks are strongly recommended. In addition, we recognize and respect that there are a variety of reasons why people may choose to wear masks both in and outside of the building and encourage everyone to be kind and considerate about individual choice regarding the wearing of masks.
- We ask everyone attending worship and other events at the church to be respectful of differing levels of comfort around social distancing, handshakes, hugs, etc. While we are all eager to greet one another and connect, please be aware of others’ feelings and boundaries.
- We will begin outdoor coffee hour every other Sunday beginning June 6 and invite you to bring your own lawn chair if you would like to visit after church.
- We recognize that singing is a central language of our church community and our worship practice. As guidance is still emerging around this area, we will make decisions around singing as the next phase of our work as the Pandemic Response Committee.

If you have any questions about any of the above information, please contact Krista Goh who is a member of the Pandemic Response Committee and will either answer your question, or bring the issue to the group for further discussion.

Yours in Faith,

The Pandemic Response Committee

Krista Goh
Chuck Pelletier
Erin Pelletier
Bea Piersa
Felix Piersa

George Schoen
Peggy Schoen
Rev Fredd Ward
Sandy Ward
2021 Strawberry Fair - Saturday, June 12th!!

It’s that time of year again!!

Our annual Strawberry Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. To 2:00 p.m.!!

Strawberry Shortcake sales, Chuck Wagon, limited plant sales, AND a Silent Auction!!

Be a part of the Fair!!

- Help with Activities the Day of the Fair
- Donate Supplies for Shortcake (All set, thank you for your generosity!!)
- Donate dollars to defray the cost of strawberries

Contributions to defray the cost of strawberries may also be left in the office.

If you would like to help the day of the fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. please let Maureen know via email: maumlr46@gmail.com or via phone at (860) 918-8038.

We can still use help with the following activities:

Shortcake servers    Cream whipper    “To go” Prep    Dining room servers

Thank you!!

Fair Coordinators; Erin Pelletier and Maureen Miller

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SCC Preschool is currently taking applications for our fall program which runs Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am-12noon, for 3 & 4- year-olds. If you know someone looking for a preschool program, please contact us at 860-569-8053 or email sccps2019@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Erin Pelletier
Strawberry Fair 2021 – Offering Curb-side Pick up!!

On Saturday, June 12th, we will be holding an event featuring our traditional plant sales, strawberry shortcake and chuck wagon items!! In addition, we will be providing pre-ordered “curb-side” pick-up!

Date: Saturday, June 12th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Cost: $5.00 per lunch, $5.00 for shortcake
Location: South Church parking lot OR please feel free to enjoy your selections in Charrier Hall!!

If you would like to pre-order for curb-side pick-up, or reserve an indoor table, please make checks payable to “South Church” and, with enclosed order form, mail to:

Maureen Miller, 1202 Dzen Way, South Windsor, CT

Orders must be received by Saturday, June 5th for curb-side pick up

Please feel free to reach out to Maureen Miller if you have any questions, 860-918-8038

Order Form

Lunch choices: 2 hot dogs, 1 kelly dog, 1 hamburger or cheeseburger and chips.

Select a pick up time between 10 and 2.

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Name _____________________________         Phone # __________________________
Pick up Time __________________     Total $ Enclosed __________________
South Church Merch – We’re Back With New Items

The Growth Team is bringing back the company store and has added new clothing items that feature both our logo and the **You.Are.Loved** theme. The new items include a ¼ zip sweatshirt, short and long sleeve t-shirts and a short sleeve polo. We have also expanded the color choices for all of the items except the sweatshirt. All of the items feature an embroidered pocket size version of our logo on the front. The sweatshirt and t-shirts will also have printing on the back sharing our theme.

**Item Description:**

- **¼ Zip Sweatshirt**
  - Cost: $37 (XS-XL)
  - Color: Black

- **Short Sleeve T-shirt**
  - Cost: $23 (XS-XL)
  - Colors: Black, Maroon, Dk. Navy, White

- **Long Sleeve Tshirt**
  - Cost: $25 (XS-XL)
  - Colors: Black, Maroon, Dk. Navy, White

- **Men’s/Women’s Polo**
  - Cost: $25 (XS-XL)
  - Colors: Black, Red, Dk. Navy, White

* All of the items are available in extended sizes for an additional cost: $2 - 2XL, $3 – 3XL

* When ordering the polo please specify men’s or women’s since they are styled differently.

**Size Chart:**

**Tshirts (S-3XL), Sweatshirts (XS-3XL) and Men’s Polo (XS-3XL):**

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**Women’s Polo (XS-3XL):**

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We are holding a pre-sale until June 13 when we will place the order. You can place your order in the parking lot after worship, via e-mail to bar.hbr.cat@comcast.net or by mail to Felix Piersa, 181 Oak St. East Hartford, CT 06118. Checks should be made payable to South Congregational Church and can be mailed to my home address.
We Celebrate With:
– The Benigni family on the marriage of Laura Benigni to George Madkour on Saturday, May 29th.
– The class of 2021 high school and college graduates. We wish you much success in your future endeavors.
– Congratulations to Julia Harris Switzer on her graduation May 15th from USUHS, the US Military Medical School in Maryland. Along with being conferred her MD degree, she was promoted to the rank of Captain in the United States Air Force. Julia and her husband Mike are headed to San Antonio, TX for her residency. Proud parents are Madeline and Stuart Harris. Julia & Mike’s new address is: Dr. Julia & Mike Switzer, 3407 Pecan Gap, San Antonio, TX 78247

Hospitalized/Convalescing:
– Dorothy Smitko, Margie Articolo’s sister, has been re-hospitalized to the ICU with pneumonia.

Please keep in your prayers…..

Dave Abbott       Eleanor Cooley       Barbara Guthrie       Barbara Slocum
Myrtle Backus     Eugenia Dansinghani  Ivy Lehmann        Bob & Debby Wood
John Carella Jr.  Bill Fagan          Beth McCashland   
Veona Cashman     Charlie Goding       Beth McGinnis     
Margie Articolo’s grandson, Andrew
Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articolo
Dick McCarthy, member of the Rotary Club
Addison Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen
Carol Poehnert, friend of Maureen Miller
Elaine & Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall’s sister and brother-in-law
Theresa Violette, Barbara McNamara’s friend’s daughter

On Saturday, June 26th, we’ll be celebrating the life of George Tryon with a memorial picnic at 1:00 p.m. at 1473 Forbes St. All are welcome. ~Lisa Handel
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<td>6pm - Atwater Martial</td>
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<td>11am - Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>Father's Day</td>
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<td>8am - Atwater Martial</td>
<td>6pm - Atwater Martial</td>
<td>11am - Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>7pm - Cub Scout</td>
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<td>10am - Worship</td>
<td>7:30pm - AA</td>
<td>6pm - Atwater Martial</td>
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Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm

Church Staff & Positions
Senior Pastor.................Rev. Fredd L. Ward III
Minister of Music.............Mary Douglas
Coordinator of CEFE...........Kelly Consalvo
Coordinator of CEFE.............Lisa Griffen
Minister in Residence......Rev. Dr. Henry Millan
Treasurer........................George Schoen
Assistant Treasurer...........Robert Fitzgerald
Office Manager...............Krista Goh
Accounts Manager............Madeline Harris
Moderator.........................Susan Smith
Clerk..........................Maureen Miller

Chairpersons:
Board of Deacons...Bob Handel & Peggy Schoen
Board of CEFE...............Sandra Ward
Board of Missions..........Lisa Handel
Board of Stewardship......Jane Porowski
Board of Trustees..........Rick Rodrigue
Board of Church Growth.....Felix Piersa

JUNE BIRTHDAYS
1 Shirley Berner 10 Lily Nelson 20 Kylah Brown
1 Lou D'Attilio 10 Victoria Prevost 20 Sean Malin
3 John Gammie 12 Carl Berner 25 Mason Brown
12 Brian Harris 13 Maureen Miller 25 Olivia Brown
4 Madeline Harris 14 Eric Simard 25 Benedecta Odoi
15 Patricia Spicci 14 Jessica Berner 27 Susan Gammie
8 Joshua Zaikarite 15 Philip Zaikarite 27 Mackenzie Caruso
9 Nate Ward 15 Philip Zaikarite 29 Peter Strong
19 Greg Davis 20 Kylah Brown 30 Tyler Schleicher

Emails
Rev. Fredd Ward..........pastor@southucc.org
Krista Goh..................office@southucc.org
Madeline Harris..........accounts@southucc.org
Lisa Griffen...............cefe@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.

www.facebook.com/SouthUCC/
office@southucc.org
Search for us on YouTube: South Church East Hartford
Visit our website at southucc.org
THE VIEW

South Congregational Church
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East Hartford, CT 06118-2898

Telephone (860) 568-5150; Fax (860) 568-5152
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South Congregational Church is part of the
United Church of Christ (UCC) Connecticut

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

June 2021

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 ($40 minimum)
□ Purchase choir music ($40 for 25 copies)

My Name: __________________________ Telephone Number ____________________

I wish to honor/remember: ______________________________________________________

Reason/note for bulletin: _________________________________________________________

Please make all checks payable to South Congregational Church.