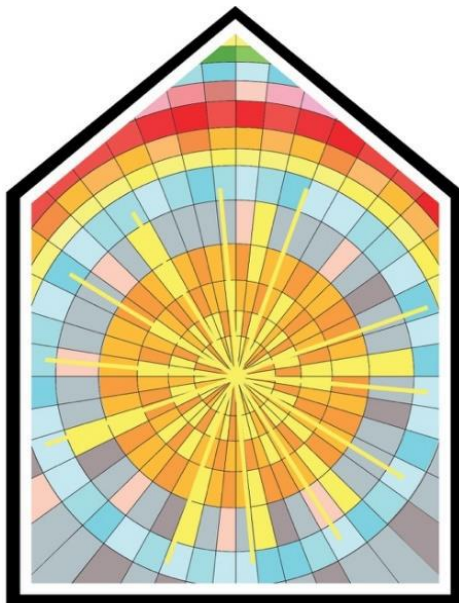


**Welcome to**  
**South Congregational Church, UCC**  
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT



**SOUTH**  
Congregational Church

**East Hartford, CT**

**May 21, 2023**

Interim Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Coordinator of CEFE

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

The Reverend Kent Rhodehamel  
Jeff Cregeur  
Lisa Griffen

Meditation

“Trust is born in love, and our need is to love God, not apprehend facts concerning him.”

George MacDonald, **The Curate's Awakening**

Welcome and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

† Opening Hymn

*How Great Thou Art*

Chalice Hymn #33

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:32-35

Kim Beaver

Lay Reader: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the LORD.

**People: O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

Lay Reader: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

**People: Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

Prayer of Adoration and The Lord's Prayer

In Unison

God of wonders, you have made for us a wonderful world. In your love, the blessings of creation provide for us all that is needful for life. In the midst of the world, you called Israel, our elder brothers and sisters, and your church, to witness and testify to the grace you share with us. You call and equip us to be beacons of light in the world. This morning we worship and praise you for the refreshment of our souls and the guidance we need for ministering in this world. Our cups overflow; our hearts yearn to serve, to sing, and to praise you in all we do. Amen. Now let us pray as Jesus teaches all his disciples: 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kent Rhodehamel

Act of Praise

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

Chalice Hymn #515

**Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.  
Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.  
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.  
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee.**

Offertory Sentences

Kim Beaver

O LORD, the bounty of your love astonishes us. When in need, we receive abundance; when in abundance, you teach to live with “enough.” In both cases, you show us that sharing what we have, whether a little or a lot, nourishes us in love. We bring our offerings, of our substance, our prayers, our time, and our energy, to your altar in token of our love, praise, and thanksgiving. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

*Thy Word*  
Chancel Choir

Amy Grant

† 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

Bless these gifts, gracious God, that they may serve your purposes in the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament

Acts 1:6-14

Pew Bible Pages 884-885

Gospel

John 17:1-11

Pew Bible Page 879

Sermon

“Are You Ready?”

Rev. Kent Rhodehamel

† Closing Hymn

*Pass It On*

Chalice Hymn #477

Sending Blessing

Rev. Kent Rhodehamel

Postlude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

The logo features the word "Welcome" in a large, elegant, green cursive font. Below it, the words "to Our Church" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The text is surrounded by decorative green leaves and vines. The word "Welcome" is particularly stylized, with a large 'W' that incorporates a circular vine motif.

# 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 also encourage you to speak with the pastor.

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

~

*Please place gifts and offerings in the collection plates located in the Narthex either before or after worship.*

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

**-Ushers:** Janet Lynch, Gary Armentrout and Liz O'Donnell

**-Lay Reader:** Kim Beaver

**-Deacons** of the month for **May:** Phyllis Carella, Linda Russell and Peggy Schoen

**-Audio Visual:** Chuck Pelletier and Bob Handel

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

## **INTERNATIONAL TASTE OF SOUTH CHURCH**

**Today after worship!**

Stop by Charrier Hall and sample the variety of dishes cooked up by our church members. Additionally, we have three eateries from the East Hartford community to sample from.

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**

**Special Missions Offering**

Our “Strengthen the Church” offering will be collected **Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**. This annual offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. You may donate any time online at [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc). or simply scan the QR code.



## **STRAWBERRY FAIR**

**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-2:00pm**

It's almost time for our annual Strawberry Fair! Plants, books, crafts and more will be available for sale, along with baked goods, hamburgers, hot dogs, and strawberry shortcake made with from-scratch biscuits and real whipped cream. Shortcake is available to go or eat-in. You may also want to take a chance on several raffle items. There will be outdoor games for the whole family. Admission to the Fair is free.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with set up, clean up, working the day of the fair, donating supplies for baking shortcake, items for the raffle, crafts etc., please contact Maureen Miller or Erin Pelletier, Fair Coordinators.

## **WELCOME BACK!**

For a **BIGGER** and *BETTER* season!

This season of **MOSAICS** is shaping up nicely to include 6 **EXTRAORDINARY** groups of musicians from June 3rd to August 19th! We have a diverse musical line-up from **bluegrass** and *folk* to *jazz* and **FUNK!** There is something for everyone in the series!

## **KICKOFF PASTA DINNER!**

Plan to come at 5:30 on June 3rd to enjoy a pasta dinner sponsored by the Board of Deacons. You will not be disappointed with Bob Handel's amazing spaghetti sauce and Kim Beaver's homemade meatballs or selection of sausage. Vegetarian? No problem, a meatless sauce will also be provided.

## **OUR FIRST CONCERT!**

Then at 7:00 we begin our first concert with **On The Trail**, a modern acoustic band that explores everything from bluegrass to contemporary pop, from stunning instrumentals to beautiful traditional songs! You don't want to miss this talented group of musicians!

## **DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE!**

Through the generosity of our choir members, a gift basket valued at \$50.00 will be given away as a door prize at the end of each concert! Each ticket purchased enters you for a chance to win!

And... speaking of generosity, Charlotte Turner has graciously offered us one of her beautiful paintings for raffle! Stay tuned for more information!

## **PERSONAL DONATIONS**

If you are unable to attend the concerts or would like to support **MOSAICS mission** beyond the price of a ticket, please know that you can make a personal donation for any amount. This can be done by speaking with Jeff, our Minister of Music, or by visiting the **MOSAICS** website at: [www.mosaicsconcerts.com](http://www.mosaicsconcerts.com).

If you would like, this donation can be noted in the concert program to honor someone or in memory of a loved one.

Tickets for the dinner and concerts are on sale today in the Crossroads or by visiting [www.mosaicsconcerts.com](http://www.mosaicsconcerts.com).

Dinner tickets \$10.00 Concert tickets \$15.00

**THANK YOU for your continued support!**



### **Hospitalized/Convalescening...**

*Barbara Hitchcock, Bryan Denman's mother, is recovering from a surgery performed on May 18<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Continued Prayers Are Needed For...**

<i>Barbara Abbott</i>	<i>Phyllis Carella</i>	<i>Barbara Hooker</i>	<i>Gene Pellett</i>
<i>Nimmi Baker</i>	<i>Veona Cashman</i>	<i>Ivy Lehmann</i>	<i>Barbara Slocum</i>
<i>Georgi Beers</i>	<i>Eugenia Dansinghani</i>	<i>Scott Malin</i>	<i>Rev. Will Thayer</i>
<i>Glo Benson</i>	<i>Bill Fagan</i>	<i>Liz Costa Mayerson</i>	<i>Charlotte Turner</i>
<i>Arthur Bradbury</i>	<i>Charlie Goding</i>	<i>Beth McGinnis</i>	<i>Russell Turner</i>
<i>Charlotte Bradbury</i>	<i>Mary Ann Higgins</i>	<i>Jill McNamara</i>	

*Alejandro, brother-in-law of Vanessa Barros*

*Andrew, grandson of Margie Articulo and Ron, her brother-in-law*

*MaryJo & family, friend & fellow therapist of Betsy Rodrigue*

*Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman*

*Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson*

*Maylamd Clark and Bob Davivson, friends of Barbara McNamara*

*Allison Cornelius, stepdaughter of Gary Fowler*

*Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articulo*

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

*Carol Poehnert, friend of Maureen Miller*

*Christine Rhodes, friend and co-worker of Jean Foisey's daughter, Sharon*

*Rita Rodrigue, mother of Rick Rodrigue*

*Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall*

*Liam Sticklely, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie*

*Lynda Zamora, extended family of Jean Foisey*

## **This Week at South Church**

### **SUNDAY, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service  
11:00am – International Taste of South Church  
11:15am – Fair Meeting/Library

### **MONDAY, MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

12:00pm – Food Bank (Packing)/Charrier Hall

### **TUESDAY, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

12:00pm – Food Bank (Distribution)/Charrier Hall  
2:00pm – Tuesdays at Two/Library  
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
– Girl Scouts/Rms 1&2  
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

### **WEDNESDAY, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Rms 9&10

### **THURSDAY, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **SUNDAY, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

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



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youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863  
southucc.org  
office@southucc.org