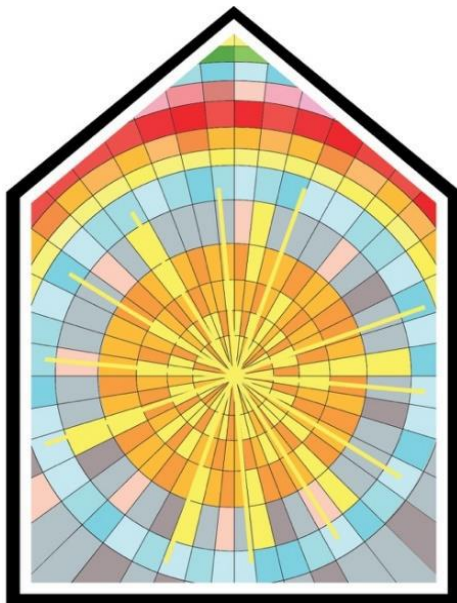


Welcome to
South Congregational Church, UCC
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



SOUTH
Congregational Church

East Hartford, CT

January 12, 2025

Guest Minister
Minister of Music
Coordinator of CEFE

Baptism of Jesus

The Reverend Pamela Rose Vollinger
Jeff Cregeur
Lisa Griffen

Meditation

“Baptism symbolizes our union with Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection, and signifies our own spiritual rebirth.” – Max Lucado

“Baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation, a visible sign of God’s work in our lives.” – Charles Stanley

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Welcome and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

Jim Sime

Lay Reader: Creator God, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you brought forth light.

People: Your Spirit gives us birth. Your light shines within us.

Lay Reader: Brother Christ, you submitted to baptism in the Jordan River; you immersed yourself in our life.

People: Your presence warms us. We rejoice in your grace.

Lay Reader: Holy Spirit, your breath gives us life; your flame burns with compassion within us.

People: Alleluia! We immerse ourselves in your grace, that we may always shine with the light of your love. Alleluia!

† Gathering Hymn

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Chalice Hymn #70

Prayer of Adoration and Lord’s Prayer

Unison

God of truth, at Jesus’ baptism you spoke words of love and grace. We come now and immerse ourselves in your presence, and sink beneath the surface of your Word. We listen for your voice. Speak to us, and let us hear. Send the dove of your Spirit upon us and let us be changed. We pray the prayer that Jesus taught his followers to pray: 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. We pray in the name of Jesus, and in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger

Offertory Sentences

Jim Sime

A generous God calls us to live generous lives. Let us present our tithes and offerings to further Christ’s mission and ministry.

† 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 and multiply these gifts, God, that they may be a blessing to others. May whoever benefits from these offerings know of your love for them and our desire to serve you. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Witness of Nature Starlight The Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger

Witness of Scripture
Old Testament Isaiah 43:1-7 Pew Bible Pages 585-586
Gospel Luke 3:15-22 Pew Bible Page 834

† Hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Chalice Hymn #254

Sermon “Remembering the Baptism of Jesus, Renewing Our Baptism”
The Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger

Renewing Our Baptism

† Hymn *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* Chalice Hymn #75

Sermon Response

Pastor: Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

People: We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.

Pastor: Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

People: We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.

Pastor: Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

People: We will be a community of justice, not judgment; we will be a household of hope, not an exclusive club for just a few.

† Sending Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Chalice Hymn #431

Benediction

The Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger

Postlude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Liturgical Resources used with permission from:

[Baptism of Jesus – Unfolding Light](#) by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes
[Lectionary Liturgies](#)



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.

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

This Sunday's Service Volunteers:

-Ushers: Scott and Mark Davis

-Lay Reader: Jim Sime

-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.**

Chili Cookoff

Sunday, February 9, 11:00 a.m.

The South Church Chili Cook Off is back! 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.

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 & 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 Stickleby, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie

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

This Week at South Church

SUNDAY, January 12

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement

8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary

10:00am – Worship Service

MONDAY, January 13

No Events

TUESDAY, January 14

12:00pm Food Bank/Charrier Hall

2:00pm - Creation Care/Library

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

6:30pm – CEFE/Zoom

7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

WEDNESDAY, January 15

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

THURSDAY, January 16

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

7:00pm – Choir/Library

FRIDAY, January 17

4:00pm – Cub Scouts/Charrier & Kitchen

5:30pm – Hayes/Rms 9&10

SATURDAY, January 18

No Events

SUNDAY, January 19

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*



Scan QR code to visit our website



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southucc.org
office@southucc.org