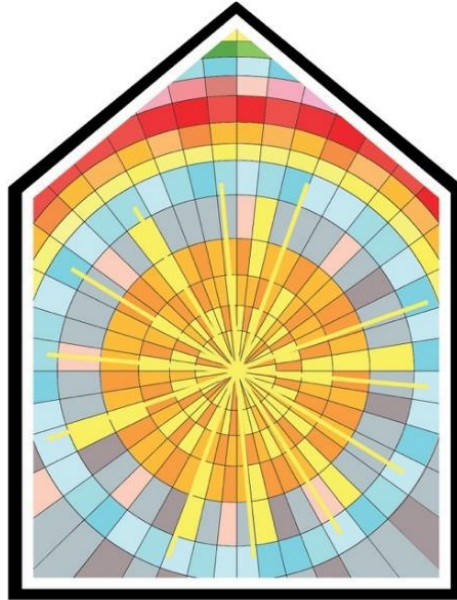


Welcome to
South Congregational Church, UCC
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



SOUTH
Congregational Church

East Hartford, CT

October 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor

Minister of Music

Director of Community Engagement

The Reverend Kevin Weikel

Jeff Cregeur

Lisa Griffen

Before the First Word: Entering Sacred Space



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, celebrating God's love for all people: of every age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, need, education level, and income. We welcome diverse beliefs, but not those rooted in hate or exclusion. This is a place for the spiritually curious, not the certain; for those who seek compassion over control. We honor each person's story and make space for questions, growth, and the mystery of God's love made known in Jesus. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you belong here!*



Meditation: Faith is not about getting what we want, when we want it. It is about staying open, continuing to knock, to hope, to trust, even when the door does not seem to move. In persistence, our hearts are shaped. In waiting, our hope is refined. And through it all, God listens with love that never tires.



For Children and the Young @ Heart

Jesus tells a story about a woman who keeps asking for what is right, even when no one seems to listen, and invites us to keep knocking.

Think about:

- **Something you have hoped or waited for.**
- **How it feels when you have to wait a long time.**
- **What it means to trust that God is still listening.**

You can draw or write your answers, maybe a picture of a door that opens after a long knock, or a heart that keeps hoping.

Worship Begins † Please stand in body or spirit

🎵 Prelude (*Instrumental*)

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

🗣️ Greeting and Announcements

🗣️ † Passing of the Peace (*Responsive*)

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

🎵 † Sung Response *I've Got Peace Like a River*

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

(sing twice)

🗣️ † Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Leader: Come, all who seek God's justice and peace.

People: We come, trusting that God hears our prayers.

Leader: When the world feels heavy and hope seems far away,

People: We lift our hearts to the One who is steadfast and true.

Leader: God calls us to pray without ceasing,

People: To keep knocking, keep trusting, keep believing.

Leader: Let us worship the God who listens with love and answers with grace.

People: Amen.

🎵 † Opening Hymn

Faith of Our Fathers

Chalice Hymn #635

🗣️ Prayer of Presence and Praise (*Unison*)

Jean Barrows

Loving and faithful God, You are the One who hears our prayers and knows our hearts before we speak. You invite us to bring our hopes, our weariness, and our wonder before you. When answers are slow to come, remind us that you are still near. When our faith feels small, renew us with your Spirit. You are the God of patient love and persistent grace. Gather us now in your presence. Write your truth upon our hearts. Make this time of worship a doorway to hope, and let our prayers rise as an offering of trust and praise. Amen.



Liturgical Response (*Responsive*)

Jean Barrows

Lay Reader: When our prayers feel unanswered,

People: God's love still holds.

Lay Reader: When we grow weary of waiting,

People: God's Spirit strengthens us.

Lay Reader: When faith feels small and fragile,

People: Christ whispers, "Keep knocking."

Lay Reader: For every act of faith opens the door a little wider.

People: And through that door, God's grace enters the world.



Offertory Sentences

Jean Barrows

Just as prayer is an act of trust, so is giving, a quiet "yes" to God's ongoing work.

May our gifts today be signs of persistent faith, offered with gratitude and hope.

What we give becomes part of God's answer to someone's prayer.



Offertory Anthem

Bow the Knee

by Machen and Harland

Chancel Choir



†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 (*Unison*)

Faithful God, You have heard our prayers and met our needs again and again. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to open doors of hope, to strengthen this community of faith, and to bring your justice and compassion to life in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1–8

Pew Bible Page 853



Sung Response

More Light

More light, more truth, is breaking from your Word.

More light, more truth, Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.

(sing twice)



Sermon

"Faith That Keeps Knocking"

Rev. Kevin Weikel

🎵 † Sermon Response *Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind* Chalice Hymn #594

🙏 Celebrations, Concerns, and Pastoral Prayer Rev. Kevin Weikel

🗣️ The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

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.

🎵 Song of Response and Reflection
 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Chalice Hymn #305

🔒 Covenant of Membership (*Marking What's Already True*)

Confession of Faith and Belonging (*Dick and Gae Larsen*)

Circle of Support (*Congregational representatives standing in welcome and support*)

† Promise of Mutual Care (*From the congregation*)

† Words of Welcome (*Unison*)

Dick and Gae, we welcome you with joy into the shared life of South Congregational Church, East Hartford, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We promise you our friendship and our presence as together we seek to embody love, pursue justice, and live with compassion. May this church be a place where your spirit is nourished, your questions are honored, and your gifts are received with gratitude. As we walk the path of faith together, may we grow in wisdom, deepen in love, and bear witness to the living presence of Christ among us. Amen.

† Prayer for the Journey

🎵 † Closing Hymn *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Chalice Hymn # 576

🔒 † Benediction Rev. Kevin Weikel

🎵 Postlude (*Instrumental*) Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Church Prayer List

Together in Prayer: The celebrations and concerns of our church and world

This Week, We Pray For...

- We celebrate the welcome of Dick and Gae Larson into the life of South Church. Their faith and friendship remind us that the Spirit is always moving, opening new doors and weaving new connections of grace among us.

We Continue to Pray For...

- **Members and Friends of the Congregation:**
Nimmi Baker; Georgi Beers; Barbara Benson; John and Phyllis Carella;
Bill Fagan; Charlie Goding; Nancy Goding; Barbara Guthrie; Mary Ann Higgins;
Macarah and Patrick Lynch; Liz Costa Mayerson; Beth McGinnis; Kim McMenamin;
Gene Pellett; Chris Rataic; Will Sime; Russell Turner; Kathy Werkheiser & family
- **Family and Friends Connected to the Congregation:**
Cher Allen, friend of Gary Alf; Andrew, friend of the Turners;
Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson; Elijah Bertram, step-grandson
of Barbara McNamara's friend, Gail Lopez; Maggie & John Hahn, friends of
Debbie Wall; Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Debbie Rataic; Ron Lumpkin,
brother-in-law of Elly Milone; Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall; Steve
Miller, Matt's brother; Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and
Peggy Schoen; Joe Palenza, friend of Bill Saunders; Sam Ranno, friend of the
Handel family; Joan Rhode, friend of Barbara McNamara; Roseann Russell,
friend of Debbie Wall; Frank Tozzoli, nephew of the Turners; Bill Vendetta,
brother-in-law of Debbie Wall;
- **Our Community and the Wider World**
- For all who are displaced by war, violence, or climate disaster. May they find safety, shelter, and welcome.



Prayer Requests

If you would like to add a prayer to the list on the previous page or schedule a visit with Pastor Kevin, please call the church office at **860-568-5150**, email **pastor@southucc.org**, or text him at **860-324-5630**. Texting or calling Kevin's cell is welcome for prayer concerns, celebrations, and emergencies. For all other regular church business, please contact him through the church office or by email.

Children in Worship

We are glad to have children in worship. A **Children's Shelf** is located in the Narthex (just outside the sanctuary) and is stocked with quiet activities and toys to help children engage during the service. Children are invited to visit the shelf on their way into the sanctuary, bring items to their pew, and return them after the service. These materials are intended to support children's participation in worship and are for use in the sanctuary.

Visitor Cards

If you are visiting for the first time, or if you've been with us for a little while and would like to learn more about South Church, we would love to learn more about you. Visitor cards are available in the pews and at the Welcome Station just outside the sanctuary. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. We look forward to connecting with you. We also invite you to join us for fellowship time after worship. It's a great opportunity to meet others, ask questions, and feel at home.

Hearing Devices

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

Coffee Hour

We invite you to join us for fellowship time after worship. It's a great opportunity to meet others, ask questions, and feel at home.

Announcements in Worship

If you have an announcement to share in worship, please let us know by **Friday at noon** before the Sunday service. Email **pastor@southucc.org** or call the church office at **860-568-5150** to inform **Krista** or **Pastor Kevin**. This helps keep worship organized and avoids duplication. When there are many announcements, some may be scheduled for another Sunday to keep the service balanced.

8th Halloween Trunk or Treat – Don't Miss Out on the Fun! **Saturday, October 25, 2:00-4:00 PM**

The congregation has been very supportive of this event in the past and we look forward to your support this year. There are two different ways you can help. What would you like to do?

1. Volunteer to be a trunker – The congregation can directly participate by decorating their car's trunk and coming down to be part of the trunk or treat lineup.
2. Supplement our candy supply – This opportunity is open to anyone who cannot be a trunker but is willing to support our efforts. You may leave your donations in the candy box in the church office.

If you are interested in being a trunker or have questions, please contact Lisa Griffen or Felix Piersa.

Email Change

As announced in our October issue of *The View*, Lisa Griffen now serves as our Director of Community Engagement, focusing on ministries of connection, invitation, and community presence. In order to reflect this change, we will retire her cefe@southucc.org email address. Going forward please direct any email communications to Lisa to **community@southucc.org**.

This Sunday's Service Volunteers:

Ushers: Liz O'Donnell and Gary Armentrout

Lay Reader: Jean Barrows

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

Audio Visual: Chuck Pelletier, Bob Handel and Elly Milone

Flower Contacts: Lisa Handel and Gayle Juliani

Coffee Hour Hosts: Board of Deacons

This Week at South Church

SUNDAY, October 19

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
9:00am – Choir/Sanctuary
10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary
11:00am – Deacons/Library
1:00pm – Girl Scouts/Charrier Hall

MONDAY, October 20

6:30pm – CitySingers/Library

TUESDAY, October 21

11:00am – Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
12:00pm – Food Bank/Charrier Hall
2:00pm – Tuesdays at Two/Library
5:50pm – Council Prep Meeting/Pastor's Office
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement
7:00pm – Council/Library
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

WEDNESDAY, October 22

10:30am – Cook for Soup Kitchen/Kitchen
6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Rms 9&10, 1&2, Charrier Hall

THURSDAY, October 23

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

FRIDAY, October 24

No Events

SATURDAY, October 25

2:00pm – Trunk or Treat

SUNDAY, October 26

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary
1:00pm – Girl Scouts/Charrier Hall

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



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southucc.org
office@southucc.org
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