

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



December 8, 2024

Interim Pastor
Minister of Music
Coordinator of CEFE

Second Sunday of Advent

The Reverend Paul Goodman
Jeff Cregeur
Lisa Griffen

† Please stand in body or spirit

Meditation

“The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal.”

–Stuart Briscoe

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Welcome and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Janet Lynch and Peggy Schoen

One Candle is Lit (v. 2)

Chalice Hymnal #128

Call to Worship

Geroge Schoen

Lay Reader: Make ready a pathway for our God.

People: Clean out the debris in our hearts and our closets.

Lay Reader: Clear out a space in our calendars.

People: Put aside any sense of unworthiness.

Lay Reader: And focus on the One who comes to love us.

People: Prepare a place in our homes and hearts.

Lay Reader: Set the table and light the candles,

All: For Christ is coming.

† Gathering Hymn

When God Is a Child

Chalice Hymn #132

Prayer of Adoration and Lord's Prayer

Unison

God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us again. Come to us in the breaking of the bread and the harmony of our songs. Come in the sound of silence and the laughter of friends. Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching. Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness. God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us now in this hour; be with us every hour beyond and hear us now offer prayer of praise that Jesus taught us: 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Nora Joyce Zadrozny

We welcome Nora Joyce, daughter of Emily and Andrew Zadrozny as we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism. The godparents are Alissa Kloter and Colin Schleicher. Nora was born on March 24, 2024.

Statement on the Sacrament of Baptism

Question to the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your daughter baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Questions to the Parents and Godparents

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the faith, to help her to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism?

Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.

Question to the Congregation of their Support

Deacon: All of us, as a church, have a share in the happiness and growth of God's children. As a sign of the United Church of Christ's acceptance, and our responsibility as a family of Christ, let us say together what we promise before God to this child and her family.

All: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We enfold her in our love and prayers, trusting that she will grow to love and serve the Lord. Through baptism, we are bound to one another. We pray that we might fulfill our baptismal vows to you and God.

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Pouring and Blessing of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Presentation and Welcome

Prayer and Blessing

† Baptismal Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
[see insert]

New Century Hymn
CCLI #1586369

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Paul Goodman

Offertory Sentences

George Schoen

What is a fitting offering that is pleasing to God? When we sense the wonder of God’s majesty and realize the amazing extent of God’s concern for us, we can only respond with all that we have and all we are. What we place on the altar is a small measure of our gratitude. Let us now present our thank offerings to God.

Offertory Anthem

Advent Lullaby
Chancel Choir

by John L. Bell

† Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Chalice Hymn #46

CCLI #1586369

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; Praise Fa- ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

† Prayer of Dedication

In Unison

How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible Page 778

Luke 3:1-6

Pew Bible Page 834

Sermon

“Another Thing to Prepare!”

Rev. Paul Goodman

† Sending Hymn

Comfort, Comfort, You My People

Chalice Hymn #119

Benediction

Rev. Paul Goodman

Postlude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

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.

The choral anthem for today's worship service was purchased with a generous donation by Betty Good in loving memory of Charles & Ana Mae Good.

~

Steeple lighting for the month of December is provided by Sylvia Johnson in loving memory of Catherine Brewer, Marion Brewer, Clifford Brewer, Lee McIntyre, and Michael Demers

This Sunday's Service Volunteers:

- Ushers:** Scott Davis, Jean Barrows, Mark Davis
- Lay Reader:** George Schoen
- Deacons** for the month of **December:** Bob Handel and Peggy Schoen
- Audio Visual:** Chuck Pelletier, Bryan Denman, Bob Handel
- Flower Contacts:** Jean Foisey, Lisa Handel, Gayle Juliani

COMMUNITY
SUNDAYS 
AT SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

TODAY after worship service!

Holiday Fun at South Church! Join us as we celebrate the magic of the season with cookies with Santa, Christmas carols, origami, simple crafts for young children and decorating luminarias to be displayed on Christmas Eve. Channel your inner artist and draw images of holiday cheer or decorate a bag in honor of or in memory of a loved one. **All ages and abilities are welcome.**

Stewardship Campaign

We thank all those who have returned their pledges for 2025 and are hopeful that we will receive the remaining pledge cards as soon as possible to help us budget for the 2025 year.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We Celebrate with...

The Schleicher and Zadrozny families upon the baptism of Nora Joyce Zadrozny this morning.

Our Sympathy goes to...

The family of Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articulo, upon her recent passing after a long illness.

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 Articulo

Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman

Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson

Allison Cornelius, stepdaughter of Gary Fowler

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 McMenam, 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 Severson, friend of South Church

Ruth Sheehan, friend of Celia Collins

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

This Week at South Church

SUNDAY, December 8

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary
10:00am – Worship Service
11:00am – Community Sunday

MONDAY, December 9

6:00pm – Girl Scouts/Rms 9&10

TUESDAY, December 10

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement
7:00pm – Trustees/Library
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

WEDNESDAY, December 11

6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Rms 2, 9&10,
Charrier Hall
7:00pm – Deacons/Library

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

THURSDAY, December 12

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

FRIDAY, December 13

7:00pm – Cub Scouts

SATURDAY, December 14

6:00am – Candlelight Concert
8:30pm – Candlelight Concert

SUNDAY, December 15

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

*Pastor Paul can be reached at
203.507.0006*



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