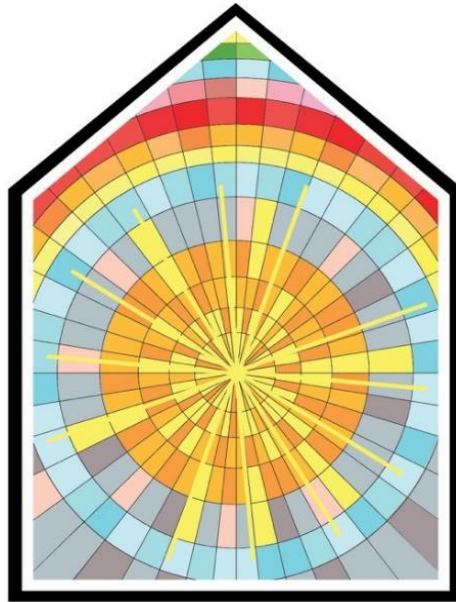


Welcome to
South Congregational Church, UCC
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



SOUTH
Congregational Church
East Hartford, CT

June 22, 2025

Pastor
Minister of Music
Coordinator of CEFE

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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, committed to embodying God's extravagant love for all people. We invite you to experience the warmth of community, the peace of prayer, and the joy of song as we journey together toward deeper connection with God and one another. May our time together this morning renew your spirit, inspire your heart, and nourish your soul.*



Meditation: The Seeds We've Sown

There are seasons that shape us, places that hold our laughter and voices that still echo in who we've become. Today, we honor one of those seasons: a preschool where children grew, teachers gave their hearts, and families found a place to belong. Though this season is ending, the seeds remain—in kindness passed on, in curiosity still blooming, in love that outlives the walls that once held it. We give thanks for the seeds we've sown and for the God who is still helping them grow.



For Children and the Young @ Heart

The Seeds We've Sown

Today we're saying thank you for our preschool! It was a place for playing, learning, laughing, and growing. What do you remember about preschool or your classroom? Draw it here!

My favorite part of school was...

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

If I could talk to Jesus today, I would tell Him...

Draw something that makes you feel happy, safe, or loved:
(heart, rainbow, family, favorite animal, etc.)

***Movement Cue:**

✚ Please stand in body or spirit

Worship Begins



Prelude (*Instrumental*)

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music



Greeting and Announcements



Passing of the Peace (*Responsive*)

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: 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 two times)



Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Leader: Welcome to this place...

Where children and seasoned citizens sit side by side.

**People: To discover God's love,
To hear the tender voice of Jesus,
To have the Spirit teach us new songs...
and remember the old ones with joy.**

Leader: Welcome to this place...

Where seasons begin and seasons end,
Where hands have planted, watered, and blessed.

**People: Where we bring our gratitude and find peace,
Where we bring our endings and find new hope,
Where we bring our whole selves and find belonging.**

Leader: Welcome to this place...

**All: Let us worship God...who holds every season,
welcomes every child, and grows love that lasts.**



Opening Hymn

This Is the Day
(sing twice)

Chalice Hymn #286



Prayer of Presence and Praise (*Unison*)

Chris Fahnestock

**God of all seasons, you are with us in every beginning and every ending. You
were with us when this preschool first opened its doors, and you are with us
now as we give thanks for all it has been. We praise you for the seeds planted**

(continued)

here. For laughter, learning, kindness, and care. For teachers who gave their hearts, for children who taught us to see with wonder, and for families who trusted this sacred place with their little ones. Come be present in our worship today. Fill this space with your peace. Bless our remembering, honor our gratitude, and help us trust that what was planted in love will keep growing, wherever life leads next. In every season, O God, you are faithful. And we give you thanks. Amen.

 “Stories that Still Grow” Tracy Schleicher, Mallory Walsh

 Liturgical Response (*Responsive*) Chris Fahnestock

Lay Reader: We have heard stories of joy and growth, of learning that lasts and love that made a difference.

People: Thanks be to God, for every child welcomed, every lesson shared, every heart opened in love.


Lay Reader: What was planted in love still grows, in our homes, our hearts, and throughout our church and community.

All: Thanks be to God who blesses every season and carries every story forward.

 Offertory Sentences Chris Fahnestock

We give today in gratitude...
for the seeds of love planted in this church, for the laughter and learning that filled our preschool classrooms, and for the hands that shaped children and welcomed families for generations. As we give, may we trust: What is planted in love, God will continue to grow.


 † Offertory Hymn *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!* Chalice Hymn #588

 † 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*)

Gracious God, we offer these gifts with thankful hearts. May they honor the love that shaped our preschool, the lessons that took root, and the lives forever changed. Bless what we give, that it may nourish new growth, extend your welcome, and plant hope wherever it is needed most. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.


 Scripture Readings
Ecclesiastes 3:1–8
Luke 18:15–17
Pew Bible Pages 537-538
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 two times)
Help us hear what needs to be heard.

 Sermon “What Has Been Planted Still Grows” Rev. Kevin Weikel



 Gift of Music ***Friends*** by Michael and Deborah Smith
Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

 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
Hear Our Prayer, O Lord Chalice Hymn #306
**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.**

 The Proclamation and Blessing Erin Pelletier, Rev. Kevin Weikel

  Closing Hymn ***Go, My Children, with My Blessing*** Chalice Hymn #431

 Benediction Rev. Kevin Weikel

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



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 Pastor Kevin. We invite you to join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments in Charrier Hall.

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

~

A Children's Shelf, located in the Narthex, is supplied with resources for children. All children are invited to visit the shelf on their way into the sanctuary, bring quiet toys and activities to their pews, and then return the items to the shelf at the conclusion of the service.

~

The steeple lighting for the month of June 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: Janet Lynch and Gayle Juliani

-Lay Reader: Chris Fahnstock

-Deacons for the month of **June:** Jim & Jana Sime

-Audio Visual: Chuck Pelletier, Bob Handel and Elly Milone

-Flower Contacts: Lisa Handel and Gayle Juliani

-Coffee Hour: Preschool

Godspotting 2025

With the season of summer upon us, the Board of Christian Education and Faith Enrichment would like to explore where you experience the presence of God during this glorious season of color, travel, traditions, and rejuvenation. Do you feel the closeness of God at the beach? On a mountaintop? In the woods? Visiting with a friend? Birdwatching? We would like to encourage you to be mindful about where God is speaking to you this summer, where you feel most at peace or perhaps where you are inspired by a new thought or idea. If it feels appropriate and meaningful, please consider taking a picture of this sacred space to be shared in a community photography exhibition this fall. If interested in participating, please give your photographs to Lisa G **no later than August 31**. To ensure clarity and visibility, pictures that are **at least five-by-seven in size** would be appreciated.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Continued Prayers are Needed for...

<i>Barbara Abbott</i>	<i>John & Phyllis Carella</i>	<i>Mary Ann Higgins</i>	<i>Gene Pellett</i>
<i>Nimmi Baker</i>	<i>Bill Fagan</i>	<i>Liz Costa Mayerson</i>	<i>Chris Rataic</i>
<i>Georgi Beers</i>	<i>Charlie Goding</i>	<i>Beth McGinnis</i>	<i>Bev Saunders</i>
<i>Barbara Benson</i>	<i>Barbara Guthrie</i>	<i>Kim McMenamin</i>	<i>Russell Turner</i>

Andrew, friend of the Turners

Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson

Elijah Bertram, step-grandson of Barbara McNamara's friend, Gail Lopez

Robin & Barbara Guthrie and family as they grieve the loss of their brother-in-law,

Ardith Gregory

Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Debbie Rataic

Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall

Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen

Sam Ranno, friend of the Handel family

Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall

Bill Vendetta, brother-in-law of Debbie Wall

Bill West, brother of Kathy Werkheiser

This Week at South Church

SUNDAY, June 22

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
10:00am – Worship Service
11:00am – Preschool Reception/Charrier Hall

MONDAY, June 23

No Events

TUESDAY, June 24

11:00am – Staff Meeting
2:00pm – Tuesdays at Two/Library
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

WEDNESDAY, June 25

No Events

THURSDAY, June 26

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

FRIDAY, June 27

No Events

SATURDAY, June 28

No Events

SUNDAY, June 29

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
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



facebook.com/SouthUCC/
youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863
southucc.org
office@southucc.org
860.568.5150