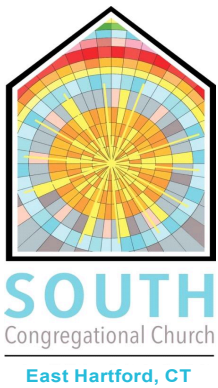


May 2025



The View

Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT

Pastor's Message

Dear South Church Family,

I began my ministry with you on February 23, the Sunday before Lent, and from the very beginning, we have walked together through a season both sacred and profoundly full.

As we journeyed through Lent and Holy Week with intention, depth, and joy, the season was also marked by profound loss. We grieved the passing of Louise “Weezie” Ryan-Perrine, whose life we celebrated on April 16. We continue to hold her husband, Harry, in prayer, and are deeply grateful for his steady presence among us on Sunday mornings. We were stunned by the sudden loss of Jean Foisey, a dear friend to many, whose deep care for others showed through in countless thoughtful ways. Jean’s gracious leadership and quiet strength are missed more than words can express. At 95, Barbara Hooker left us with a legacy of faithfulness, humility, and quiet resilience. A devoted and longtime member, Barbara’s spirit is woven into the very fabric of this church. These three remarkable women, each in her own unique way, will be dearly missed, and their spirits continue to bless and guide our community.

Even in our grief, we marked the movement of Holy Week - celebrating Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, experiencing the heartbreak of the cross, and, finally, rejoicing in the hope of Easter resurrection. On Palm Sunday, our children handed out palms during the opening hymn, followed by the choir’s stirring rendition of The Palms, fittingly one of Jean’s favorite hymns. Our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service brought solemn beauty and sacred stillness, while Good Friday offered space for deep reflection and quiet prayer. On Easter morning, a crisp breeze welcomed early risers to our sunrise service in the Memorial Garden, and the 10:00 a.m. service concluded in joy as children and choir released mechanical butterflies—resurrection joy rising right before our eyes. I offer heartfelt thanks to Jeff, the choirs, and our special musicians for the hours of preparation and the love they poured into their music, all to the glory of God.

It has been a true gift to get to know many of you over these past weeks—to hear your stories, share in prayer, and witness the spirit and resilience that make this church so special. I am deeply grateful for the warmth and welcome you have shown me.

A special thanks to Deacon Dan, who is now coordinating our Sunday morning acolytes. In a simple but meaningful liturgical shift, the lay reader, the acolyte (and Dan when needed), and I now process forward together at the start of worship. Dan has also taught the acolytes to light their taper before extinguishing the candles, a beautiful reminder that we carry Christ’s light into the world as we go.

Continued...

Pastor's Message continued...

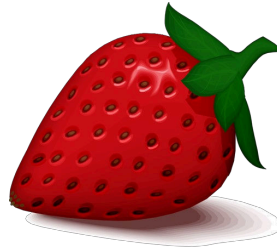
This month, we also celebrate Krista Goh, whose role has grown from Office Manager to Communications and Office Manager. Krista will be working with a team to implement new church software that will help us stay better connected and more organized. I'm grateful to the Administrative Team for supporting this important work. Our next step will be partnering with Lisa to ensure her job description reflects the full breadth of what she contributes so faithfully.

As spring unfolds around us - trees blooming, light stretching longer into evening, and life returning - may that same spirit of renewal take root within us. May we honor those we've lost by living fully and faithfully, loving with open hearts, listening with care, and trusting that God is doing a new thing, even now, even here.

With gratitude and peace,

Rev. Kevin

South Church 2025 Strawberry Fair



Time: Saturday, June 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18th following church service.

Please stop by to see how you can be part of this annual event!!

Many hands are needed in support of set up, clean up, donations to defer the cost of strawberries, shortcake ingredients, bake sale items, helping hands across all fair activities, as well as participating in joining in the festivities!

Please reach out to Erin Pelletier or Maureen Miller for further information.

We will be in The Crossroads before and after church for sign up opportunities on Sunday mornings!

Church Council Meeting Summary – Meeting held April 21, 2025

Review of prior Minutes & Correspondence: March minutes were accepted with a correction

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!!

Event	Date
Spring Cleanup – Inside and Outside Opportunities!	Saturday, May 3 rd from 9 am to noon
Car seat safety and Bike Rodeo!	Saturday, May 17 th from 10 am to 2 pm
Strawberry Fair Planning Meeting in the Library	Sunday, May 18 th following church service
Annual Strawberry Fair	Saturday, June 21 st from 10 am to 2 pm

Treasurer’s Report:

- Pledging at 38% at end of March vs. target of 25% - key driver continues to be those who paid full year pledge
- \$40,432 balance at March month end

Staff Reports:

Pastor Report:

Comments:

- Holy week services went well
- Pentecost services planning underway
- Services for Jean Foisey and Barbara Hooker planned

SNECUCC Report: No update

Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE)

- Lisa extended a big thank you to all who supported holding Lenten signs as well as for easter egg cleanup
- Car seat safety and bike rodeo planned for Saturday, May 17th

Board Reports:

Deacons: Written Report

Additional Comments:

- Thank you to Eddie for leading March 30th worship service!
- By-laws updates will transition to Office Manager (Krista Goh)
- Food safety guideline review will continue

Missions:

- 36 Easter baskets were distributed!
- 4 additional Foodbank volunteers have joined
- 4 apple trees will be planted in circle green

Trustees:

- Roof repair completed – future state evaluation underway
- New handicapped parking signs have been put up in parking lot
- Kitchen refrigerator repair completed
- Furnace repairs completed
- Education wing updates under consideration

Church Growth:

- Lenten sign pictures posted in Crossroads
- Mother’s Day gift planned
- Consideration for putting up “you are loved” signs on back playground fence
- 12 Easter baskets for younger children, and 8 bags to older children distributed on Easter Sunday

Old Business:

- Bob Handel and Elly Milone have taken the food safety training and will continue to share and apply their learnings

New Business:

- Administrative Committee to complete job description review, starting with Krista Goh – her position will be expanded to “Communication and Office Manager”.

A motion to allow for a 10% increase in salary for Krista’s expanded role was made by George Schoen, seconded by Chuck Pelletier, and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting planned for Monday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. in Church Library and via Google Meet

C.E.F.E. News

Christian Education & Faith Enrichment

“Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it.” Roald Dahl

Community Bike Rodeo and Car Seat Safety Check: May 17, 10 AM-2 PM. Please consider joining CEFE, Church Growth and the East Hartford Police Department as we host a community Bike Rodeo and car seat safety check. Bring your friends to the bike rodeo to engage in activities designed to teach children the skills and precautions needed for safe bike riding. Stay for the car seat safety check to ensure your children are buckled in appropriately. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 59% of child safety seats are installed incorrectly. Come visit with our neighbors, share a cup of coffee, and participate in family friendly games and activities. Let’s do our part to ensure that all of God’s children are enveloped in both community and love!

Trash Talk: Resources and Ways to Reduce Waste. South Church was gifted with forty informational pamphlets created by the Hartford Garden Club and distributed by the Interreligious Eco-justice Network. These user-friendly brochures focus on sustainable consumer practices and healthy living. From reducing your carbon footprint to upcycling food, to reducing waste and recycling responsibly, this is your “how to” blueprint for caring for God’s Creation. Copies of this valuable resource will be available during the month of May. As a community of faith, let us commit to making everyday Earth Day!

Lenten Love Project Success: A heartfelt thank you to the following South Church members and friends for their support of the Lenten Love Project. Whether you made a sign, honked at our Lenten Love greeters on your way to work, took photographs for Facebook or held a sign in some unsavory weather conditions, we are proud of you! Thank you for showing up, for 40 days, to share messages of hope and affirmation with this community. Prayers of thanksgiving for Gary Alff, Gary Armentrout, Kim Beaver and Chloe, Alison and Dave Caruso, Lisa Griffen, Debbi Grote, Janet Lynch, Debbie McNamara, Elly Milone, Liz O’Donnell, Chuck Pelletier, Felix and Bea Piersa, Linda Russell, George and Peggy Schoen and Kevin Weikel. We look forward to seeing you next year! You. Are. Loved.

Coming Soon! More South Church Love: Thanks to the craftsmanship of Dan Werkheiser and the painting skills of Jana and Jim Sime, thirteen wooden hearts will soon be displayed on the front lawn of the church. Like the Prayer Cross and the Lenten Love Project, the colorful hearts will serve as a visual reminder that God’s love continues to shine brightly in our community. **Stay tuned for more information about this community engagement opportunity...**

CEFE contact information: To sign up for an initiative, ministry or to simply ask a question, we can be reached at cefe@southucc.org or 860.568.5150. We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in love, laughter, and peace: Lisa ☺



SPRING CLEANUP
Saturday | May 3 | 9:00am-noon

Come lend a helping hand at our annual Spring Cleanup. Please bring your rakes, tarps, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, chainsaws, pruners, rags, cleaner, etc. to assist with the cleanup. Even if you can only spare an hour, your help would be greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity to complete community service hours for high school graduation, Boy Scout/Girl Scout merit badge requirements, or volunteer work. All are welcome to participate. Rain date will be Saturday, May 10.



CitySingers of Hartford, directed by Jeff Cregeur, presents...

“Songs! Visions of My Homeland - A Celebration of Connecticut Composers”

The concert will be held in the church sanctuary on **Saturday, May 3 at 4:00 PM**. In a world where music is more accessible than ever, many new compositions often remain unheard, overshadowed by beloved classics. Come and discover these hidden gems from Connecticut – you might even recognize an up-and-coming composer!

Tickets are \$20 at the door.

See you there!

EARLY PLANT SALE!!!

Included in this newsletter is an order form with available plants and pricing. We are requesting pre-orders and payment if possible. This will make the sale run more smoothly for all. You may place your order one of three ways:

- 1) email your order to **rickrod19@cox.net**
- 2) text your order to 860-930-2312
- 3) mail your order to Rick Rodrigue, 10 Bush Hill Rd., Manchester, CT 06040.



You may make payment through Venmo using **@Rick-Rodrigue-1** or you may mail a check to his home address. **Checks should be made payable to South Congregational Church.** If you must pay cash, please bring the exact amount to pick-up. Place your order by **May 15th** (any orders after the 15th, call Rick for plant availability).

*****Call or text Rick to arrange pickup of plants.*****

2025 South Congregational Church Plant Sale !

Regular Tomato Varieties (\$3 per plant)	Description of each variety
Goldie	Large golden-orange fruit with low acidity and amazing sweet tomato taste. (Heirloom)
Golden Jubilee	Medium yellow fruit w/ low acidity and excellent tomato taste. (Heirloom)
Premio	Limited Small to medium round red and early variety. Prolific producer, stay firm on the vine
Beefsteak - Heirloom	Large red slicer with extraordinary, 'award winning', flavor. (Heirloom)
Jet Star	Medium to large, uniform, round, red fruits. Good flavor and production
Pineapple	Large Red and gold striped fruits w/marbled interior flesh. Mild sweet and lower acidity.
Cosmonaut Volkov	Early ripening medium sized red fruit. Awesome flavor. (Heirloom)

Sub-Total \$ -

Smaller Tomato varieties

NOTE!!! (\$3 per plant)

Super Sweet 100's	The standard for small sweet prolific cherry tomato plants
Sun Gold Cherry	Also an amazing producer of small golden to light orange fruits (prone to crack)
Black Cherry	Larger sized cherries . deep black/purple color with great juicy flavor
Esterina	Bright Yellow cherry, produces large numbers of medium sweetness cherries.
Sweet Treat	Gorgeous deep blush watermelon pink color and sweet. Family favorite, productive.

Sub-Total \$ -

PEPPERS \$4/6-pack

of individual plants (so for a single six pack write 6!)

King of the North	Green bell that ripens to red,
Cubanelle - Fryer	Light green color, thinner wall good producer
HOT Trident Oncho Hot	3-5" Dark green w/mild heat. Thick walled with a sweet pepper flavor.
Jalapeno	2-3" dark green peppers. medium heat, great for poppers and other recipes
Scotch Bonnett (\$2 per plant)	Extremely hot bright red peppers, approx. 1.5 inches long with thick walls and firm skin.

EggPlant (\$2 each)

Black King variety, 7" Purple black bellshaped fruits. Good yield on vigorous plants

Sub-Total \$ -

Herbs (Priced as shown)

plants

Basil (Genovese) \$3/6 pk	Sweet variety, highest yielding, great for eating, pesto, and drying !
German Thyme (\$2 per pot)	Perennial variety, great for pizza, soups, gravies, casseroles !
Scallions (\$2 per pot)	Ever-Green Hardy White - Japanese heirloom (perennial)
Oregano (\$2 per pot)	Greek - Green and Purple leaves with white blossoms. Great for Italian cuisine !

Herb Sub-Total \$ -

Flowers

(\$3/6pk or \$16 for flat of 36...)

Marigold varieties

Please Indicate Number of 6-pks

- Crackerjack mix	Tall (24-30") - mixed assortment of yellows, golds, rust and orange. 3-4" double-blooms
- Lemondrop (French)	All yellow, extra-dwarf crested variety. 6-8" inch double blossom
- Brocade mix (French)	10" ruffled double flowers in rust, yellow, orange, red, and bi-color
Bambino - French Marigold	
Orange Tangerine(French)	10-12" plants with solid orange blooms

Other Flower varieties

Zinnia (Benary mix)	2-3' plants w/ 4-6" blooms in brilliant yellow, red, orange, lavender, maroon, violet, white
Bachelor's Button	Frosty Mix - Blues, deep maroons and purples
Livingston Daisy	Gorgeous mixed colored daisies. Also called Ice plant - 18-24" plants.
Dianthus (Sweet William)	Double Choice - 12-18" biennial w/flat clusters of red, violet, rose, red and pink, blooms.
Cleome - Mixed	2 to 3' plants w/pinks and purples 5" balls of flowerettes. Self seeding.

Sub-Total \$ -

Total Donation ----> \$ -

Feel free to check out full descriptions and photos of each variety at..... www.FEDCOSEEDS.com (Use personal electronic devices of course.)

PLEASE !!! Save, return, recycle, reuse all empty undamaged pots and flats!

MAY BIRTHDAYS



- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Amy (Guthrie) Keyes | 9 Rebecca DeCrescenzo | 23 John Carella |
| 2 Dane Snyder | 10 Eileen Marino | Patrick Lynch |
| 3 Krista Goh | Bea Piersa | 26 Rev. Henry Millan |
| Andrew Schleicher | 11 Jared Handel | 27 Bob Reid |
| 4 Carol Vann | 15 Peter Higgins | Sue Smith |
| 5 Georgi Beers | 19 Ben Goh | 29 Lisa Handel |
| 7 Karen D'Attilio | | |



Our Sympathy Goes to:

- The family and friends of Jean Foisey as she passed away unexpectedly on April 4th. A service will be held on Saturday, June 14th, at South Congregational Church.
- Nancy & Bob Benigni and family as Nancy's mother, Jean Brusseau, passed into God's eternal care on April 6th.
- The family and friends of Barbara Hooker who entered God's eternal care on April 15th. A service will be held at South Congregational Church on Saturday, May 24th, at 11:00am.
- Bill & Pat Vibert and family upon the sudden passing of Pat's brother, Michael Lee, on April 22nd.

Hospitalized/Convalescing:

- Debbie Grote's brother-in-law, Jim, as he recovers from an extensive spinal surgery.

Please keep in your prayers.....

Barbara Abbott	John & Phyllis Carella	Nancy Goding	Beth McGinnis	Russell Turner
Nimmi Baker	Joann Dufresne	Barbara Guthrie	Gene Pellett	
Georgi Beers	Bill Fagan	Mary Ann Higgins	Chris Rataic	
Barbara Benson	Charlie Goding	Liz Costa Mayerson	Bev Saunders	

Andrew, a dear friend of the Turners
 Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson
 Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Jean Foisey and Debbie Rataic
 Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall
 Paul Morgan, brother Gayle Lopez who is a friend of Barbara McNamara
 Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen
 Sam Ranno, friend of the Handel family
 Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall
 Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall's brother-in-law

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Family Brunch	28 7pm - CitySingers	29 11am - Staff Meeting 1pm - Memorial Garden 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	30 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	1 9am - DDNCS 11:15am - Software 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	2 9am - Floor Wash 7pm - CitySingers 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	3 9am - Spring Cleanup 4pm - CitySingers
4 8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Deacons	5 Cinco de Mayo 2:30pm - Administrative	6 10am - Bible Study 11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	7 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Choir	8 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts	9 5:30pm - Hayes	10 9am - Cleanup Rain Date
11 Mother's Day 8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	12 2:30pm - Administrative 6pm - Bible Study	13 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - CEFÉ Meeting 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	14 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	15 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	16 7pm - Cub Scouts	17 10am - Bike Rodeo & Car 12pm - Private 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert
18 8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Fair Meeting	19 2:30pm - Administrative 6:30pm - Council Meeting	20 11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	21 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	22 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	23	24 11am - Memorial 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert
25 8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	26 CLOSED Memorial Day	27 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	28 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	29 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	30	31

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm

Church Staff & Positions

Pastor.....*Rev. Kevin Weikel*
Minister of Music.....*Jeff Cregeur*
Coordinator of CEFE.....*Lisa Griffen*
Treasurer.....*George Schoen*
Assistant Treasurer.....*Pat Zendzian*
Communications & Office Manager...*Krista Goh*
Accounts Manager.....*Madeline Harris*
Moderator.....*Erin Pelletier*
Clerk.....*Maureen Miller*
Sexton.....*Bill Vibert*

Chairpersons:

Board of Deacons...*Bob Handel & Peggy Schoen*
Board of CEFE.....*Felix Piersa*
Board of Missions.....*Lisa Handel*
Board of Stewardship.....
Board of Trustees.....*Chuck Pelletier*
Board of Church Growth.....*Linda Russell*



South Church has a long tradition of hosting a coffee hour after Sunday worship as a means of extending fellowship among the congregation and visitors to our church. Coffee Hour will continue to be held every other Sunday in Charrier Hall, provided we have hosts. The sign up sheet for the months of **May & June** is posted on the bulletin board directly across from the church library. You may also contact Krista Goh in the office to sign up. The scheduled dates we are in need of hosts are **5/11 (Mother's Day), 5/25, 6/8, 6/15 (Father's Day) & 6/22**. Please consider hosting if you are available.



Emails

Rev. Kevin Weikel.....pastor@southucc.org
Jeff Cregeur.....music@southucc.org
Lisa Griffen.....cefe@southucc.org
Krista Goh.....office@southucc.org
Madeline Harris.....accounts@southucc.org
Bill Vibert.....sexton@southucc.org



The office will be closed on
Monday, May 26
in observance of Memorial Day



Scan QR code to visit our website



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

Bulletin and View Deadlines

Bulletin:

All announcements are due by Wednesday.

View:

All submissions are due by the 3rd Friday of the month.

THE VIEW

South Congregational Church

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South Congregational Church is part of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The View is published monthly with the exception of 1 issue during July and August.

The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Friday of each month. Please contact Krista Goh with any questions at 860.568.5150 or office@southucc.org

May 2025

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Dated Material
Deliver no later than
the 12th of the month



I wish to honor/remember a loved one or someone special by doing the following:

- Worship folders (\$10 per week)
- Lighting of the steeple (\$1 per day)
- Flowers for the altar (cost is determined by you)
- Purchase choir music (\$65 for 20 copies)

My Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

I wish to honor/remember: _____

Reason/note for bulletin: _____



Please make all checks payable to *South Congregational Church*.