

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



**December 1, 2024**

Interim Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Coordinator of CEFE

**First Sunday of Advent**

The Reverend Paul Goodman  
Jeff Cregeur  
Lisa Griffen

† Please stand in body or spirit

Meditation

*“The world will belong tomorrow to those who brought it the greatest hope.”*

–Teilhard de Chardin

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Welcome and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Lisa Handel, Becky and Cameron Jack

*One Candle is Lit* (v. 1)

Chalice Hymnal #128

Call to Worship

Lisa Griffen

Lay Reader: The God of peace calls us to this season of anticipation; God calls us to this time of worship.

**People: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of our God.”**

Lay Reader: Let all people and all nations bow together in praise. Let us wake from sleep to welcome our salvation.

**People: Here we seek the light God offers us; here we prepare to walk in God’s path.**

Lay Reader: Let us conduct ourselves in comely ways – as in the day. Let us watch for the One who makes all things new.

**People: We will equip ourselves as Jesus’ disciples, watching and waiting and serving in Christ’s name.**

† Gathering Hymn

*Come, O Long-expected Jesus*

Chalice Hymn #125

Prayer of Invocation

Unison

**God of new beginnings, make this hour the hour of your coming to us. Break into our routines, transform our vision, equip us to hear and see you at work among us. Take away our lust for dominating, that we may meet one another as equals in your sight. Remove our warring spirits, to open us to your peaceful ways. Send your light to illuminate our thinking and warm our responses. Fill us with the hopeful anticipation of the birth of the One who can lead us from dark to light, from despair to hope, from sadness to joy, from hatred to love and from war to peace. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Paul Goodman

Offertory Sentences

Lisa Griffen

As our love for one another increases and abounds, so does our generosity. The circle of our concern widens. Our passion for justice expands. Our desire to join in Christ's redeeming work extends to the whole human family. What a privilege to have so much to share! Our morning offerings will now be received.

Offertory Anthem

*Advent Calls*  
Chancel Choir

by Stan Pethel

† Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Chalice Hymn #46  
CCLI #1586369

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures 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

**Loving God, we bring these tithes and our offerings before you. We humbly ask your blessing upon what they can do. We know you are a God who can bring life to a valley of dry bones. We know you are a God who can cause dead roots to grow and produce amazing fruit. So, in hope, we ask that you will take what we have given, allow it to reach out and produce fruits that will lift the spirits of the downtrodden, encourage the depressed, comfort the grieving, and guide those who are lost. In Christ who is our hope we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible Page 645  
Pew Bible Pages 856-857

Sermon

“Wishful Thinking? Nope. Hope!”

Rev. Paul Goodman

Communion Hymn

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Chalice Hymn #124

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer of Dedication

Lord's Prayer (*see next page*)

**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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of The Bread and The Cup

*(We offer communion on Jesus' behalf. Jesus welcomed all regardless of the categories we use to exclude. Therefore, this table is open to all people regardless of age, sex, nationality, sexuality, belief, or background. No matter where you are on the life-long journey of faith, you are invited to join us at His table. Trays will be passed with the bread, take for yourself and then serve your neighbor. Please hold the bread so that we may eat together – a symbol of our oneness in Jesus. Trays with un-fermented grape juice will then be passed; again take for yourself and serve your neighbor. Drink as the spirit moves you – a symbol of our unique relationship with God through Jesus.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

In Unison

**We give you thanks, eternal God, for the gifts of life and love we have received in your presence. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service gently embracing the earth and pronouncing shalom to all of creation. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

† Sending Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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.

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

~

*This morning's pedestal flowers are given by Debbie McNamara in loving memory of Jay McNamara on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing on November 29<sup>th</sup>.*

~

*The choral anthem for today's worship service was purchased with a generous donation by Fred & Wyrot Ward in loving memory of Art & Charlotte Bradbury.*

~

*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:** Celia Collins and Linda Russell

**-Lay Reader:** Lisa Griffen

**-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 Carol Sing and Lighting of the Crèche**

**Today immediately following worship service!**

Prepare your hearts for the arrival of the Christ Child with the return of this South Church tradition. Join SCC members and friends on the front lawn for this Advent celebration and then consider indulging in some hot chocolate and holiday treats.

### **A Quiet Space for Advent Centering**

**Thursday, December 5, 5:30-7:00pm**

South Church members and friends are invited to enter the church, light a candle, listen to soft music, center themselves, pray and reflect on the gifts and/or lessons of the season. This is a drop in, stay as long as you would like, event. Pastor Paul will be available for quiet prayer or consultation. **To maintain a contemplative atmosphere, we kindly ask that you enter the sanctuary in silence.**

### **Cookie Walk**

The Choir's annual Cookie Walk is planned for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 12 noon. Members of the Choir will be in the Crossroads throughout November to sign up cookie bakers. The more cookies we have the better, as this is a part of the town-wide Holiday Fest weekend, and lots of folks know that we here at South bake the best cookies!! We thank you in advance for helping us make this event successful.

### **CitySingers**

CitySingers of Hartford will present "Hearth and Tapestry" at South Church on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm. Jeff Cregeur is the newly appointed Artistic Director of this group and will conduct the performance. Tickets are \$20.00 and will be sold at the door. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music right here in our sanctuary.



**Sunday, December 8, 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.**

# *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 &amp; Phyllis Carella</i>	<i>Charlie Goding</i>	<i>Liz Costa Mayerson</i>	<i>Rev. Will Thayer</i>
<i>Veona Cashman</i>	<i>Barbara Guthrie</i>	<i>Beth McGinnis</i>	<i>Russell Turner</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*

*Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articulo*

*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*

*Ruth Sheehan, friend of Celia Collins*

*Richard Shonti, husband of a friend of Jean Foisey*

*Liam Sticklely, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie*

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

## This Week at South Church

### **SUNDAY, December 1**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service  
Communion  
11:00am – Lighting of the Crèche

### **MONDAY, December 2**

6:30pm – CitySingers Rehearsal/Library

### **TUESDAY, December 3**

12:00pm – Food Bank/Charrier Hall  
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

### **WEDNESDAY, December 4**

10:00am – Caring Ministry/Library  
6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Rms 2, 9&10,  
Charrier Hall

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

### **THURSDAY, December 5**

9:00am – DDNCS/Library  
5:30pm – Quiet Space/Sanctuary  
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
7:00pm – Choir/Library

### **FRIDAY, December 6**

5:30pm – Hayes/Rms 9&10  
7:00pm – Cub Scout Leaders/Library

### **SATURDAY, December 7**

9:00am – Cookie Walk/Charrier hall  
4:00pm – City Singers/Sanctuary

### **SUNDAY, December 8**

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

*Pastor Paul can be reached at  
203.507.0006*



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