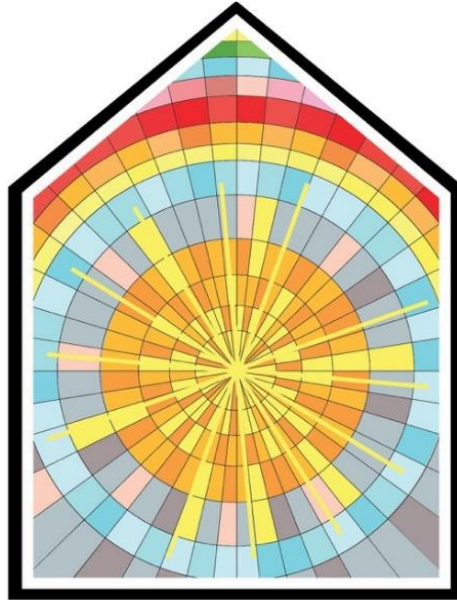


Welcome to
South Congregational Church, UCC
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



SOUTH
Congregational Church

East Hartford, CT

October 26, 2025

Gratitude Grows from God's Abundance

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: Gratitude begins with noticing. The more we notice God's abundance, the more generous our hearts become. Each seed of generosity, a kind word, a shared gift, a moment of care, multiplies in ways we cannot always see. When we give, we join God in the work of creation, turning small acts into holy ground. May we sow seeds of grace, trusting that God's garden always grows, and that we are part of its growth.



For Children and the Young @ Heart

Wonder Questions:

- What is something you have planted and watched grow?
- How can kindness grow like a seed?

Draw: In the space below, draw something that starts small and grows into something beautiful.

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, people of God, sowers and dreamers of grace.

People: We come to plant gratitude in the soil of our hearts.

Leader: The Giver of every good gift has already provided all we need.

People: In God's abundance, we find enough for all.

Leader: Let us worship the One who makes gardens from giving hearts.

People: We come to grow in gratitude and joy.

🎵 † Opening Hymn *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Chalice Hymn #606

🗣️ Prayer of Presence and Praise (*Unison*)

Eddie Lackard

Generous God, you scatter blessings like wildflowers, freely, abundantly, everywhere. The air we breathe, the people we love, the grace that meets us each new morning, all of it comes from you. Remind us that there is always enough and that your grace never runs short. Teach us to see the abundance that surrounds us and to live as people whose hearts overflow with gratitude. May every seed we plant, in kindness and courage, take root and grow in your love. Through Christ, the giver of all good things. Amen.

🗣️ Liturgical Response (*Responsive*)

Eddie Lackard

Lay Reader: For every seed sown in faith,

People: Gratitude grows.

Lay Reader: For every act of kindness shared,

People: Gratitude grows.

Lay Reader: For every gift offered in love,

People: Gratitude grows.

Lay Reader: For every life touched by grace,

People: Gratitude grows.

Lay Reader: In God's abundance, we are blessed to bless.

People: And the garden of God's love keeps growing.

 Offertory Sentences Eddie Lackard

God's generosity is not a theory; it is our daily reality. Every breath we take, every meal we share, every sunrise we see is a reminder of your endless giving. Each gift we bring today is a seed of hope, planted in faith and watered by love. May our offerings reflect the abundance we have already received, and may they bear fruit in compassion, courage, and joy. In our giving, may we echo your endless generosity.

 Offertory Anthem *In All the Season Seeking God*
Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

 †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*)

Giver of all good things, we offer these gifts as seeds of your kingdom. Plant them in fertile soil, that they may bear fruit in love, compassion, and justice. May gratitude grow in us as we give, and may your grace grow through us as we serve. In Christ's name, Amen.

 Gratitude Grows: A Testimony — Stewardship Moment Celia Collins

 Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 Pew Bible Page 942

 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 “Seeds of Enough” Rev. Kevin Weikel

 † Sermon Response *God of the Fertile Fields* Chalice Hymn #695

 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

 † Closing Hymn *We Give Thee but Thine Own* Chalice Hymn #382

 † Benediction Rev. Kevin Weikel

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

This Sunday's Service Volunteers:

Ushers: Janet Lynch and Gayle Juliani

Lay Reader: Eddie Lackard

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 Host: Pat Zendzian

Church Prayer List

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

This Week, We Pray For...

- Nancy Goding, preparing for eye surgery on October 29. She hopes this procedure will help restore sight in her affected eye. May God guide her medical team and bring her healing, calm, and renewed vision.
- Barbara Guthrie, who was hospitalized late last week and is receiving care for health concerns. May strength return to her body, clarity to her mind, and comfort to her and Robin in these uncertain days.
- John Hahn, friend of Debbie Wall, as he begins treatment for cancer. May he be strengthened in body and spirit, and surrounded by care.
- Roseann Russell, also a friend of Debbie Wall, facing new health concerns after a period of remission. May courage and comfort meet her each day, and may God's healing presence draw near.
- For all God's creatures. Nova, Yvonne's small dog who comes to the church on food bank Tuesdays, often joins the start of staff meetings in Pastor Kevin's office, a gentle reminder of the quiet grace found in companionship. In that spirit, we give thanks for all animals who share our lives with loyalty and love. May all creatures be treated with kindness, cherished for the comfort they bring, and honored as part of God's good creation.

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; Mary Ann Higgins; Macarah and Patrick Lynch; Liz Costa Mayerson; Beth McGinnis; Kim McMenamin; Gene Pellett; Chris Rataic; Will Sime; Russell Turner
- **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; 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; 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.



STEWARDSHIP SERIES: GRATITUDE GROWS

This Sunday we begin our fall stewardship series, “**Gratitude Grows.**” Over the next four weeks, we’ll explore how gratitude takes root and grows - how, when we give from the heart, God takes what we offer and does amazing things with it. Through our generosity, lives are touched, hope takes root, and God’s abundance continues to grow in and through us.



Our *Gratitude Grows* series will lead us to **Pledge and Celebration Sunday on November 16**, when we will dedicate our pledges for 2026. Pledging is not a financial obligation but a spiritual practice, a way of planning faithfully, sustaining the ministries of South Church, and extending generosity into the wider community. Pledge cards may be brought to worship on November 16 or mailed to the church. Alternatively, your pledge may be submitted through scanning the QR code below or on your pledge card. Together, we’ll discover that when we give from the heart, gratitude truly grows.



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.

All Saints Sunday

November 2

Next Sunday we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, honoring the saints of our church and our lives, those who have gone before us and those who continue to light our way. During worship, we will light candles in remembrance and gratitude for these beloved saints. Please note that Communion will be moved to the second Sunday in November to allow space for this special service of remembrance.

Annual Fall Cleanup

Saturday | November 8 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Rain Date: November 15)

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the grounds of South Church. Please bring tools such as rakes, tarps, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, chainsaws, pruners, and cleaning supplies. All are welcome, and even an hour of your time is appreciated. This is a great opportunity for students to complete community service hours, Boy Scout/Girl Scout merit badge requirements, or volunteer work. Please share with anyone who may be interested.

This Week at South Church

SUNDAY, October 26

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary
11:00am – Coffee Hour/Charrier Hall
11:00am – Jeff/Sanctuary
1:00pm – Girl Scouts/Charrier Hall

MONDAY, October 27

No Events

TUESDAY, October 28

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

WEDNESDAY, October 29

6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Rms 9&10, 1&2, Charrier Hall

THURSDAY, October 30

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

FRIDAY, October 31

No Events

SATURDAY, November 1

No Events

SUNDAY, November 2

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement
9:00am – Choir/Sanctuary
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*



Scan QR code to visit our website



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