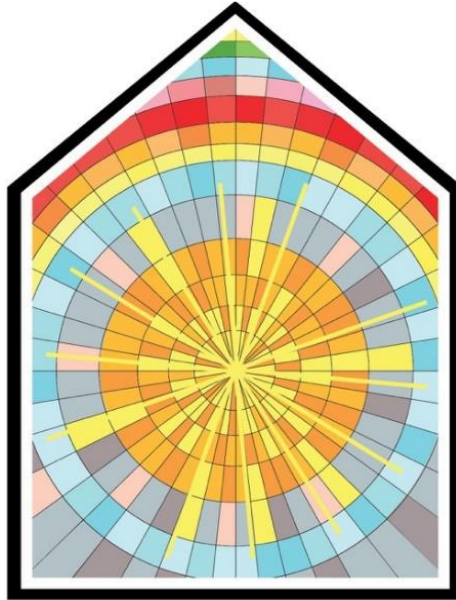


Welcome to
South Congregational Church, UCC
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



SOUTH
Congregational Church

East Hartford, CT

August 24, 2025

Pastor
Minister of Music
Coordinator of CEFE

Eleventh 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, 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: *Jesus sees a woman bent low for eighteen years and lifts her up with compassion. His healing restores more than her posture, it restores her dignity. In a world that overlooks and devalues, Christ notices and uplifts. May we too learn to see and respond, to our own burdens, and to those our neighbors carry.*



For Children and the Young @ Heart

Try walking like a turtle, a tall giraffe, and someone carrying a heavy backpack. What helps you stand up straight and tall on the inside?

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, all who feel weighed down or worn out.

People: We come to be lifted by God's love.

Leader: Jesus sees what others ignore.

People: We come to be seen and healed.

Leader: Let us worship the One who makes us whole.

People: We rise in hope and praise.

🎵 † Opening Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Chalice Hymn #586

🗣️ Prayer of Presence and Praise (*Unison*)

Bea Piersa

God of compassion, you notice what others miss. You meet us where we're most burdened – in pain, in shame, in exhaustion – and you lift us with grace. Help us stand tall in your love. May we also be lifters in a world that bends people low.

🗣️ Liturgical Response (*Responsive*)

Bea Piersa

Lay Reader: Christ sees you

People: Even when others look away

Lay Reader: Christ heals you


People: In body, mind, and spirit

Lay Reader: Christ calls you to stand tall


People: With courage, joy, and dignity


Lay Reader: Let us walk together


People: Lifted by grace


 Offertory Sentences Bea Piersa
Healing takes all of us. Each gift becomes part of a movement that sees, serves,
and restores. Let our generosity stand as an act of love.

 Offertory Anthem ***Someone Who Can*** Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music
by Ron Harris

 †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*)
**Healing God, bless these gifts with your presence. Use them to help
straighten what's been bent and bring hope where it's been missing. In love,
we give. Amen.**


 Scripture Reading Luke 13:10–17 Pew Bible Page 848

 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 “Straightened Up” Rev. Kevin Weikel

 †Sermon Response ***Live in Charity*** Chalice Hymn #523
(repeat ad lib.)

 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.**

♪ † Closing Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me
(sing twice)

Chalice Hymn #583

🕊 † Benediction

Rev. Kevin Weikel

♪ Postlude (*Instrumental*)

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

This Sunday's Service Volunteers:

Ushers: Janet Lynch and Gayle Juliani

Lay Reader: Bea Piersa

Deacons for the month of **August:** Janet Lynch and Debbie McNamara

Audio Visual: Chuck Pelletier, Bob Handel and Elly Milone

Flower Contacts: Lisa Handel and Gayle Juliani

Together in Prayer...

The celebrations and concerns of our church and world

This Week, We Pray For...

- We celebrate with grateful hearts the opportunity to donate school supplies and notes of affirmation to the students who will be attending O'Connell Elementary School (East) in the fall. May the gifts of this congregation be a blessing to that community and remind them that they are supported, valued and loved.
- We celebrate with the Miller family, that Steve Miller, Maureen's brother-in-law and Matt's brother, is now home and recovering after a mini-stroke and time in the ICU. We pray for his continued healing and strength.
- Deb and Chris Rataic and their family upon the passing of Deb's brother, Keith. May God's comfort surround them in their grief.
- Bill West, brother of Kathy Werkheiser, who has entered hospice care. May he now strength, peace, and Christ's abiding love.

We Continue to Pray For...

Our 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; Russell Turner; Rev. Pam Vollinger & family; Omolara Mae Caldwell, as we give God thanks for her baptism on August 17th

Family and Friends:

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; 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

Our Wider Community and World

- For all who are displaced by war, violence, or climate disaster. May they find safety, shelter, and welcome
- For those facing extreme hunger in the Gaza Strip of Palestine, and in Sudan, Haiti, and Mali. May the world be moved to act and feed your children, O God.
- For all communities impacted by wildfires, and for first responders serving with courage and compassion



Prayer Requests

If you would like to add a prayer to the list on the previous page or schedule a visit with Pastor Kevin, you can call the church office at 860-568-5150, email him at pastor@southucc.org, or text him at 860-324-5630. Texting or calling Kevin's cell is welcome for emergencies, prayer requests, or if you have something joyful or fun to share, like a meaningful story or something that brought you delight. 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.

Godspotting 2025

The Board of Christian Education and Faith Enrichment would like to explore where you experience the presence of God during this glorious summer 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.

This Week at South Church

<u>SUNDAY, August 24</u> 8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement 10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary <u>MONDAY, August 25</u> OFFICE CLOSED No Events <u>TUESDAY, August 26</u> 12:00pm – Food Bank/Charrier Hall 6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement 7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10 <u>WEDNESDAY, August 27</u> 10:30am – Cook for Soup Kitchen/Kitchen	<u>THURSDAY, August 28</u> 6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement <u>FRIDAY, August 29</u> No Events <u>SATURDAY, August 30</u> No Events <u>SUNDAY, August 31</u> 8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement 10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary
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Please email/call the office at office@southucc.org or 860.568.5150 to reserve a room



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