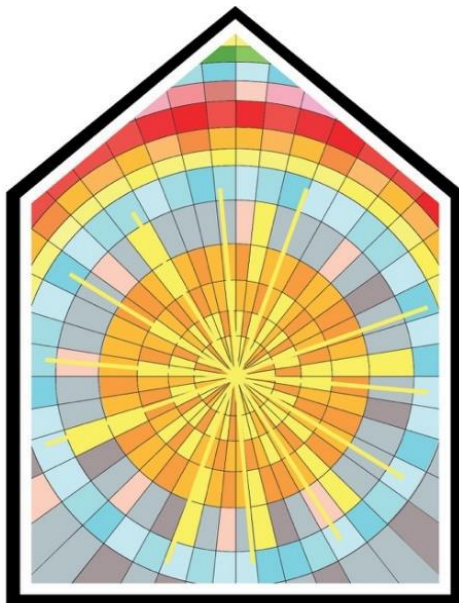


Welcome to
South Congregational Church, UCC
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



SOUTH
Congregational Church

East Hartford, CT

April 28, 2024

Interim Pastor
Minister of Music
Coordinator of CEFE

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Reverend Paul Goodman
Jeff Cregeur
Lisa Griffen

† Please stand in body or spirit

Meditation

Do not judge others. Stand by them with love. Then God will lead them to be open to you and to themselves and to God.
--Mechtild of Magdeburg

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Welcome and Announcements

† Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

Jana Sime

Lay Reader: We are called by God, drawn to the water,

People: Sprinkled with love, claimed forever.

Lay Reader: We are loved by God, never forgotten,

People: Treated as honored and precious, receiving divine blessing.

Lay Reader: We are sent by God, to befriend the world,

People: Cherish the young, comfort the grieving, lift up the fallen, forever singing of God's love.

† Gathering Hymn

Thine Is the Glory

Chalice Hymnal #218

Prayer of Adoration and the Lord's Prayer

In Unison

O God, whose Spirit moved upon the waters of the deep at Creation and whose power parted the waters of the Red Sea, we have come here for cleansing and renewal. Like the psalmist, we ask you to purge us and wash us so we are clean as snow. Even as the waters of baptism touch this life (these lives) today, may your words purify us and keep us in paths everlasting as we now offer the words of praise that Jesus taught us: 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism for Dane George Snyder

We celebrate the sacrament of Baptism and welcome Dane, son of Jenna and Kevin Snyder. Dane's godparents are Taylor Rodrigue and Ryan Snyder. Dane was born into this world on May 2, 2023.

Statement on the Sacrament of Baptism

Questions to the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your son baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Questions to the Parents and Godparents

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents and Godparents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the faith, to help him to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents and Godparents: We do, with the help of God.

Question to the Congregation of their Support

Deacon: All of us, as a church, have a share in the happiness and growth of God's children. As a sign of the United Church of Christ's acceptance, and our responsibility as South Congregational Church, let us say together what we promise before God to this child and his family.

All: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We enfold him in our love and prayers, trusting that he will grow to love and serve the Lord. Through baptism, we are bound to one another. We pray that we might fulfill our baptismal vows to you and God.

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Pouring and Blessing of the Water

The Act of Baptism

Presentation and Welcome

Prayer

Pastor: We give you thanks, O Holy God, mother and father of all the faithful, for this child Dane and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as daughters and sons in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

All: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in the time of suffering, the joy of faith, the comfort of community, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Praise be to God! Amen.

Blessing

† Baptismal Hymn

Be in Our Midst, O Christ
(verses 1, 3, 4)

Chalice Hymnal #373

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Paul Goodman

Offertory Sentences

Jana Sime

We love because God first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. We show our love as we bring our offering today. If you didn’t leave an offering in the plate as you came in this morning, you are invited to leave your gifts in the plate located in the narthex as you leave this morning’s service. Let us stand and give God our praise!

† 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

In Unison

When we really don't understand what to do next or how to leave matters in your hands, O God, still let us wait in hope. Now as you accept our offerings, O God, know that we know it is not enough. But it is what we have today and now. Use it your way. Amen.

Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible Pages 892-893

Sermon

“Red light – Green Light”

Rev. Paul Goodman

† Sending Hymn

I Come to Be Baptized Today

Chalice Hymn #368

Benediction

Rev. Paul Goodman

Postlude

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 the pastor.

Please place gifts and offerings in the collection plates located in the Narthex either before or after worship.

~

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

This Sunday's Service Volunteers:

-Ushers: Elly Milone and Barbara Benson

-Lay Reader: Jana Sime

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

-Audio Visual: Chuck Pelletier and Bob Handel

-Flower Contacts: Jean Foisey, Lisa Handel, Gayle Juliani

Service Sunday: May 12 @ 10:45-11:45 AM. Mother's Day and Caregivers Coffee Hour Celebration! Calling all mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins, neighbors, and friends. Join us as we provide light refreshments and lots of love to the caregivers among us who make the world a more beautiful place. Besides the delicacies that will be provided by our very own **Kim Beaver**, a table will also be available where you can make a card for your special someone. This event is **free** and open to the public and is supported by the **South Church Service Sunday** initiative which seeks to support, engage, and nourish the East Hartford community and beyond. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the love of God. **Please RSVP to Lisa G. by Wednesday, May 8 if you are planning to attend.**

TUESDAYS AT TWO

Join Lisa G, Wayne Smith, and friends as they explore *The Shepherd's Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape* by James Rebanks. Wayne shares that "This book is about an Oxford University graduate who becomes a third-generation shepherd in northern England. It takes the reader on a years-long journey through a rural life revolving around the ancient profession of shepherding. It gives the reader an in-depth look at what a modern shepherd does and how it mirrors the actions of the Good Shepherd of Jesus' time. It is filled with love and caring, joy and heartache, gratification and disappointment but mostly pride in being a part of an ancient custom continuing to this day. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in understanding the basis of shepherding as it applies to today's church." Contact Lisa G if you would like her to order you a book off Amazon. The books will cost \$19, but please see Lisa if you would like a donated copy. **Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 30, from 2-3 PM. All are welcome, whether you have a copy of the book or not.**



Continued Prayers Are Needed For...

<i>Barbara Abbott</i>	<i>Eugenia Dansinghani</i>	<i>Ivy Lehmann</i>	<i>Barbara Slocum</i>
<i>Nimmi Baker</i>	<i>Bill Fagan</i>	<i>Liz Costa Mayerson</i>	<i>Rev. Will Thayer</i>
<i>Georgi Beers</i>	<i>Charlie Goding</i>	<i>Beth McGinnis</i>	<i>Russell Turner</i>
<i>John & Phyllis Carella</i>	<i>Mary Ann Higgins</i>	<i>Jill McNamara</i>	
<i>Veona Cashman</i>	<i>Barbara Hooker</i>	<i>Gene Pellett</i>	

Andrew, grandson of Margie Articolo

Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman

Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson

Mayland Clark, Mayland Clark Jr., Krista Clark, and Gail Lopez, friends of Barbara McNamara

Allison Cornelius, stepdaughter of Gary Fowler

Judy Dunn, neighbor of Debbi Grote

Barbara Hitchcock, mother of Bryan Denman

Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articolo

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

Liam Stickley, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie

This Week at South Church

SUNDAY, April 28

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement

8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary

10:00am – Worship Service & Sunday School

MONDAY, April 29

7:00pm – CitySingers Rehearsal/Library

TUESDAY, April 30

2:00pm – Tuesdays at Two/Library

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

WEDNESDAY, May 1

10:00am – Caring Ministry/Library

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

THURSDAY, May 2

9:00am – DDNCS/Library

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

7:00pm – Choir/Library

FRIDAY, May 3

7:00pm – Cub Scouts Leaders/Library

SUNDAY, May 5

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement

8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary

10:00am – Worship Service

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



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