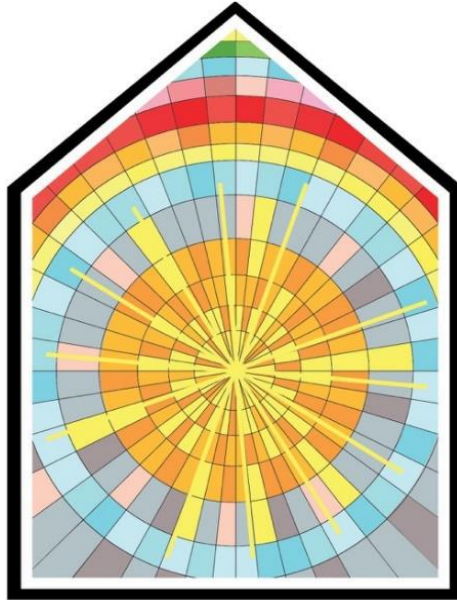


**Welcome to**  
**South Congregational Church, UCC**  
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



**SOUTH**  
Congregational Church  

---

**East Hartford, CT**

**September 7, 2025**

Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Coordinator of CEFE

**Godspotting in Creation**

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:** *As we enter worship, we are surrounded by creation's quiet testimony. The skies, the seas, the fields, and the stars all proclaim the presence of God. Consider the sacred rhythm: light to darkness, morning to evening and evening to morning again...and again...it is goodness upon goodness. May creation itself draw us nearer to the Creator. The God who shaped the cosmos is also present with us here.*



### **For Children and the Young @ Heart**

Draw your favorite part of creation - an animal, a tree, the sun, or the ocean - and write the words "*God made this good*" on your picture. Where do you most often see God outside? Write about it in a sentence or two.

## 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: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: The skies proclaim God's handiwork.**

Leader: Day to day pours forth speech.

**People: Night to night declares knowledge.**

Leader: Let us join the chorus of creation.

**People: We come to worship the Maker of all that is good.**

🎵 † Opening Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Chalice Hymn #22

🗣️ Prayer of Presence and Praise (*Unison*)

Debbie McNamara

**Creator God, we gather in awe of your majesty. From the rising sun to the shining stars, your glory is revealed in all that you have made. We thank you for the beauty of this world and the gift of life within it. Be present with us now, as we open our hearts to your Spirit. Receive our worship and shape us into a people who cherish and protect your creation. Let us leave this place ready to care for the earth as you care for us. Amen.**

🗣️ Liturgical Response (*Responsive*)

Debbie McNamara

Lay Reader: Where do we spot God?


**People: In the vastness of the skies and the whisper of the wind.**

Lay Reader: Where do we spot God?


**People: In the rhythm of day and night, work and rest.**


Lay Reader: Where do we spot God?

**People: In all creation, declaring, "It is good."**


 Offertory Sentences Debbie McNamara  
All of creation belongs to God, and from that abundance we live. As the earth yields its fruits and the skies shine with beauty, we remember the One who made it all. Our offerings are a way of joining with the song of creation, proclaiming God's goodness. Let us bring our gifts, offering ourselves as stewards of God's good creation.


 Offertory Anthem 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*)  
**God of all creation, we dedicate these gifts to your service. May they sustain your work in the world and nurture the goodness you have sown. Use us, along with these offerings, to care for your people and your earth. May our generosity reflect the abundance of your love. Amen.**

 Scripture Readings Pew Bible Page 433  
Psalm 19:1–6 Pew Bible Pages 1-2  
Genesis 1:1–2:3

 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 “The Sky Is Talking” Rev. Kevin Weikel

 †Sermon Response ***Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*** Chalice Hymn #335

 Celebrations, Concerns, and Pastoral Prayer Rev. Kevin Weikel

 Song of Response and Reflection ***Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*** Chalice Hymn #305



## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Invitation

Prayer of Consecration and 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.**

### Words of Institution

#### Sharing of The Bread and The Cup

*(We offer Holy Communion on behalf of Jesus, who welcomed all, regardless of the human-made categories used to exclude. Therefore, this table is open to everyone—regardless of age, gender, nationality, sexuality, belief, or background. No matter where you are on your lifelong journey of faith, you are invited to partake. Trays will be passed with the bread; you are encouraged to take a piece for yourself and then serve your neighbor. Please hold the bread until all have been served so that we may eat together as a sign of our unity in Christ. Next, trays of unfermented grape juice will be passed. Again, take for yourself and serve your neighbor. Drink as the Spirit moves you, as a symbol of your personal relationship with God through Jesus and the unique gifts you bring to ministry. All are welcome at Christ's table.)*



### †Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



### †Closing Hymn

***How Great Thou Art***

Chalice Hymn #33



### †Benediction

Rev. Kevin Weikel



### Postlude (*Instrumental*)

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

### **This Sunday's Service Volunteers:**

**Ushers:** Celia Collins and Linda Russell

**Lay Reader:** Debbie McNamara

**Deacons** for the month of **September:** Gary Armentrout and Liz O'Donnell

**Audio Visual:** Chuck Pelletier, Bob Handel and Elly Milone

**Flower Contacts:** Lisa Handel and Gayle Juliani

**Coffee Hour:** Janet Lynch

# Church Prayer List

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

---

## This Week, We Pray For...

- Barbara Guthrie, receiving care at a local hospital.

## 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; Barbara Guthrie; Mary Ann Higgins; the family of Keith Hodder; Macarah and Patrick Lynch; Liz Costa Mayerson; Beth McGinnis; Kim McMenamin; Gene Pellett; Chris Rataic; 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; Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall; Steve Miller, Matt's brother; 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; Bill West, brother of Kathy Werkheiser

- **Our Community and the Wider 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 the people of Minneapolis, Minnesota, after a terrible act of gun violence at a school and church left families grieving and many feeling afraid. We pray for those who were hurt, for the families who lost loved ones, and for the whole community as they seek healing and peace.
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, where ongoing violence has taken more lives, including those trying to offer care and help. We pray for safety for children and families, for those who bring aid, and for leaders to choose peace instead of war.



### **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](mailto: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.

### **A Note About Sunday School**

South Church has transitioned from a traditional Sunday School model, where children are offered instruction outside of the sanctuary, to an inclusive family centered service for all. A Children's Shelf in the narthex has quiet activities available for younger children, while the worship bulletin offers engaging opportunities for older children and the young at heart. This decision has been made prayerfully and with intentionality, with the focus on creating a Sunday worship experience that promotes fellowship, inclusivity and celebrates all of God's beloved people.

### **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.

**Volunteer Opportunity at O'Connell Elementary School:** O'Connell Elementary School, located at 301 May Road in East Hartford, is looking for classroom volunteers to work with students in grades K through 2 this fall. If you are interested in reading to young children or supporting a small group of learners, please see Lisa G for a volunteer participation sheet that will be reviewed by the school district. This is a wonderful way to support our shared community and to celebrate the littlest among us!

## **Godspotting 2025 September 14 | 10:00am**

Join us for a special worship service centered on the photographs this community has taken over the summer. Come observe the framed prints placed throughout the sanctuary and enjoy the pictures as they are displayed on a large screen in front of the church.

## **Tuesdays at Two Resumes September 16**

Join Lisa G and friends as they journey through Jill Duffield's *Appreciate These Things: Eight Ways of Cultivating Compassion*. This eight-week unit of study is grounded in the words of Paul found in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Come celebrate the gift of hope in the midst of challenging times. Contact Lisa G if you would like her to order you a book from Amazon. The books cost \$18, but please ask Lisa if you would like a donated copy. All are welcome to attend, whether you have a copy of the book or not.

## **Chicken BBQ September 20 | 6:00pm**

Please join us for the Annual Chicken BBQ.  
Tickets will be on sale on Sundays after church in the crossroads.  
\$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under.



### **This Week at South Church**

#### **SUNDAY, September 7**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement

10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary

#### **MONDAY, September 8**

No Events

#### **TUESDAY, September 9**

12:00pm – Food Bank/Charrier Hall

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

6:30pm – CEFE/Zoom

7:00pm – Trustees/Library

7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

#### **WEDNESDAY, September 10**

10:00am – Caring Ministry/Library

7:00pm – Choir/Library

#### **THURSDAY, September 11**

6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement

#### **FRIDAY, September 12**

5:30pm – Hayes/Rms 9&10

#### **SATURDAY, September 13**

No Events

#### **SUNDAY, September 14**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement

9:00am – Choir/Sanctuary

10:00am – Worship Service/Sanctuary

*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/](https://facebook.com/SouthUCC/)  
[youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863](https://youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863)  
[southucc.org](https://southucc.org)  
[office@southucc.org](mailto:office@southucc.org)  
860.568.5150