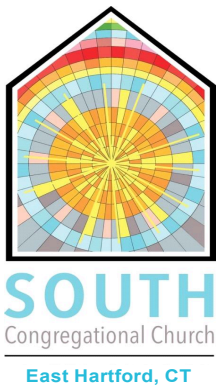


April 2025



The View

Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

As I settle into my role at South Church, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the warm welcome I have received. It's hard to believe I've already been here a month! I have truly enjoyed meeting so many of you and am working my way through the church roster, calling each member to introduce myself and connect. Alongside these conversations, I've been visiting, planning, and immersing myself in the life and spirit of this wonderful church community.

One of the highlights so far was our Ash Wednesday experience, Seven Symbols of Ash. I am deeply grateful to Lisa Griffen for envisioning and bringing this meaningful experience to us. It was a powerful way to begin Lent - inviting us into reflection, confession, and renewal.

As we continue this Lenten journey together, I'm excited to offer new opportunities for study and conversation. Beginning this month, I will lead two Bible studies:

- **First Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM**
- **Second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM**

Each session will explore the lectionary scripture for the upcoming Sunday, allowing participants to engage more deeply with both the text and the sermon. We'll meet for the next three months - April, May, and June - then take a break in July and August before evaluating these gatherings through a survey to determine what best serves our church community in the fall. A special thanks to Sue and Wayne Smith for recognizing the congregation's interest in Bible study and helping to develop this plan!

Holy Week promises to be a deeply meaningful time, thanks to the thoughtful planning of our deacons. I encourage you to fully experience this sacred week by joining us for these worship experiences and events:

- **Palm Sunday Worship** – Sunday, April 13 at 10:00 AM
After worship, join us in Charrier Hall for a special visit from Beacon, the East Hartford Police Dog!
- **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service** – Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 PM
Join us for a reflective service as we remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples.
- **Good Friday Open Sanctuary for Prayer** – Friday, April 18 from 2:00–4:00 PM
On this solemn and sacred day, the sanctuary will be open for quiet prayer and meditation. Pastor Kevin will be available for individual prayer near the stained-glass window from **2:00–2:30 PM** and again from **3:00–3:30 PM**. Jeff will offer meditative piano music from **2:30–3:00 PM** and **3:30–4:00 PM**.

Pastor's Message continued...

- **Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20**
 - **Sunrise Service** – 5:45 AM
Gather at the cross in front of the church as we welcome the dawn of Easter together.
 - **Easter Worship** – 10:00 AM
Celebrate the resurrection with a joyful service!

The Sunday after Easter will be a time of celebration and community as we gather for a **Family Brunch in Charrier Hall**. Instead of a sermon, we'll share a meal and enjoy fellowship - an exchange I suspect no one will mind! This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our bonds and enjoy one another's company.

I want to extend my deep appreciation to Peggy Schoen and Bob Handel, Co-Chairs of the Board of Deacons, for their dedication and thoughtful organization of our Lent and Easter plans.

Wishing you all a meaningful remainder of Lent and a blessed Easter. Please continue introducing yourselves to me - I look forward to getting to know each of you more deeply in the months ahead!

Peace,
Pastor Kevin

Church Council Meeting Summary – Meeting held March 17, 2025

Review of prior Minutes & Correspondence: February minutes were accepted.

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!!

Description	Date
Community Sunday – Easter Egg Coloring, With EHPD K9 Beacon	April 13 th , after Sunday worship service
Maundy Thursday Service	April 17 th , 7 p.m.
Good Friday Candle Lighting Reflection	April 18 th , 2-4 p.m.
Easter Sunday	5:45 a.m. Sunrise Service & 10 a.m. Easter Service
Family Brunch	April 27 th

Treasurer’s Report:

- Pledging at the end of February is 32%, which is higher due to pledging paid in Jan or Feb = 100% of pledge.
- Balance of \$47,583.00 at end of February

Staff Reports -

Pastor Report: April 6th – planning Baptism
 Starting Bible Study beginning in April
 Have been able to reach out to members through phone calls and a few in-person visits.

Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE) – Written report

Additional Comments:

- The Ash Wednesday quiet reflection was well received by the members who were able to attend this special service.

Board Reports -

Deacons – Written report provided

- Shout out to the Caring Ministry under the leadership of Debbi Grote, as this is an extremely important Ministry.
- Planning for Holy Week underway
- Family Brunch scheduled for April 27th

Missions:

- 40 food baskets being planned for April.
- Mother’s Day blankets and Father’s Day tools are being planned.

Trustees:

- Tile fixes in the education wing, have been completed.
- Pursuing a/c quotes for the Sanctuary
- May 3rd from 9-12 earmarked for Spring Cleanup

Church Growth:

- Linda to review Pew cards, and replenish

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Food Safety

- Bob Handel and Elly Milone discussed food safety regulations. We will add this item to next month’s agenda as we learn more about what is required.

Our next Council meeting TBD, possibly at the end of April or early May after we discuss with council leads.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Pelletier, Moderator

C.E.F.E. News

Christian Education & Faith Enrichment

“Nothing has ever been said about God that hasn't already been said better by the wind in the pine trees.”
~Thomas Merton



The Tradition Continues. Thanks South Church Chili Makers! On Sunday, March 23, South Church celebrated their beloved Chili Cook-off. CEFE would like to offer a special thank you to all our chefs for taking the time to prepare their special recipes! We had strong competitors, including Gary Armentrout, Kim Beaver, Debbi Grote, Bob Handel, Becky Jack, Eddie Lackard, Janet Lynch, Liz O'Donnell, Bea Piersa, Nathan Vann and Pat Zendzian, but at the end of the day the coveted chili necklace was awarded to Becky Jack once again! **Congratulations to Becky for successfully defending her chili title!** This exciting time of tasty food and warm fellowship raised \$347.00 for the South Church Faith Challenge. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2026...



Save the Date: April 13, 2025, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM. Egg Coloring Extravaganza.

Please join us for this intergenerational time of artistry, color, and fellowship. Whether you are three or one hundred and three, you are welcome here! Additionally, South Church is excited to announce that **Beacon, the new EHPD Community Engagement Dog**, and his handler, Officer Marc Caruso, will be in attendance as well! Come and share time with Beacon, meet Officer Caruso and color an egg. This event is **free** and open to the public and is supported by the **South Church Community 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.



April 22, 2025, is Earth Day. Please consider doing something today that showers love and appreciation on God's stunning creation. Plant a butterfly garden. Buy organic. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Avoid using pesticides on your lawn. Save a spider. Say a prayer for the earth. Go outside and play. Open a window. Practice gratitude. Hug a tree. Stop buying plastic. **Remember that you have the power to change the world.**

Community Bike Rodeo and Car Seat Safety Check: May 17, 10 AM-2 PM. Please consider joining CEFE, Church Growth and the East Hartford Police Department as we host a community Bike Rodeo and car seat safety check. Bring your friends to the bike rodeo to engage in activities designed to teach children the skills and precautions needed for safe bike riding. Stay for the car seat safety check to ensure your children are buckled in appropriately. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 59 % of child safety seats are installed incorrectly. Come visit with our neighbors, share a cup of coffee, and participate in family friendly games and activities. Let's do our part to ensure that all of God's children are enveloped in both community and love!

More Good News from CEFE...

South Church Second Hour: May 18, 11 AM-12 PM. South Church welcomes EHPD's Marc Caruso, and his **Community Engagement Dog, Beacon**. Join us for this informational time of fellowship and canine therapy! We look forward to hearing about Beacon's history, job responsibilities and the ways that he has impacted the town of East Hartford to date. Bring your questions, curiosity, and most importantly, an open hand and heart. Some of God's greatest gifts are wrapped in fur! We look forward to seeing you there.



Two friends explore the magic and wonder of Sunday School on March 23, 2025. Thanks, Lisa Davis, for lovingly volunteering to be our special helper!

All children are invited and encouraged to attend the Family Brunch on Sunday, April 27.

CEFE contact information: To sign up for an initiative, ministry or to simply ask a question, we can be reached at cefe@southucc.org or 860.568.5150. We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in love, laughter, and peace: Lisa ☺



The Board of Missions will soon be collecting donations to purchase warm blankets from Church World Service. The blankets will go to those in need around the globe. Donations may be given in honor or memory of our mothers and grandmothers for Mother's Day.

Board of Deacons Notice
Dates to Remember

Worship Opportunities

- Palm Sunday, April 13 – 10:00 a.m. Worship
- Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Tenebrae service, 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 18 – Candle lighting reflection, 2-4 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 20 –
 - Sunrise Service – 5:45 a.m., with Pastor Kevin
 - Easter Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.
- Family Brunch Worship Service, April 27 – 10:00 a.m.

Bible Studies Opportunities

- April 1, Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.
- April 14, Monday – 6:00 p.m.
- May 6, Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.
- May 12, Monday – 6:00 p.m.
- June 3, Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.
- June 9, Monday – 6:00 p.m.

Save-the-Date

SPRING CLEANUP

Our annual Spring Cleanup is scheduled for
Saturday, May 3, 9:00am-noon.

Rain date will be Saturday, May 10.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



1 Jenna Snyder	14 Carolyn Pilkin	25 Debora Reid
3 Beth McGinnis	23 Amira Hampton	26 Kathy Werkheiser
7 Becky Jack	Stuart Harris	27 Judith Vann
13 Laura Malin	25 Debbie McNamara	29 Sara Benigni
Betsy Rodrigue	Beverly Ouellette	30 Mary Pellett



Our Sympathy Goes to:

- The family of Iwan Kurniawan who entered eternal rest on February 27th. A memorial service was held in Lakeland, FL on March 15th.
- The family of Veona Cashman who entered eternal rest on March 8th. A wake will be held on May 5th, 4-6pm at Mulryan Funeral Home in Glastonbury.
- The family of Louise Ryan-Perrine who entered eternal rest on March 13th. A memorial service will be held at South Congregational Church on April 16th at 11:00am.

We pray for God's comforting presence to surround them. May they find strength in God's love and peace in the midst of their grief.

Hospitalized/Convalescing:

Prayers for Chris Rataic as he recovers from surgery and continues his healing journey. May he find strength and comfort, and may Deb be supported as she cares for him. May they be surrounded by love and God's healing presence.

Of Special Concern:

For Sam Ranno, friend of the Handel family, as he prepares for heart valve replacement surgery next month—may he and his loved ones be granted calm and assurance in anticipation of the procedure, trusting in skilled hands and compassionate care.

Please keep in your prayers.....

Barbara Abbott	John & Phyllis Carella	Nancy Goding	Beth McGinnis
Nimmi Baker	Joann Dufresne	Barbara Guthrie	Gene Pellett
Georgi Beers	Bill Fagan	Mary Ann Higgins	Bev Saunders
Barbara Benson	Charlie Goding	Barbara Hooker	Russell Turner

Andrew, a dear friend of the Turners
 Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson
 Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Jean Foisey and Debbie Rataic
 Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall
 Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen
 Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall
 Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall's brother-in-law

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	31 7pm - CitySingers	1 10am - Bible Study 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	2 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	3 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	4 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	5
6 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Baptism 10am - Worship Service 11am - Deacons	7 7pm - CitySingers	8 11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	9 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	10 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	11 5:30pm - Hayes	12 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight
13 Palm Sunday 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Community Sunday	14 6pm - Bible Study 7pm - CitySingers	15 Tax Day 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - AA	16 11am - Memorial 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	17 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Tenebrae Service	18 Good Friday OFFICE CLOSED 2pm - Candlelighting	19
20 Easter Sunday 5:45am - Sunrise Service 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	21 Easter Monday 7pm - CitySingers	22 11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	23 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	24 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	25 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert	26 6pm - Candlelight Concert 8:30pm - Candlelight Concert
27 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11am - Family Brunch	28 7pm - CitySingers	29 11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	30 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	1 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	2 7pm - CitySingers 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	3 CitySingers 9am - Spring Cleanup

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm

Church Staff & Positions

Pastor.....*Rev. Kevin Weikel*
Minister of Music.....*Jeff Cregeur*
Coordinator of CEFE.....*Lisa Griffen*
Treasurer.....*George Schoen*
Assistant Treasurer.....*Pat Zendzian*
Office Manager.....*Krista Goh*
Accounts Manager.....*Madeline Harris*
Moderator.....*Erin Pelletier*
Clerk.....*Maureen Miller*
Sexton.....*Bill Vibert*

Chairpersons:

Board of Deacons...*Bob Handel & Peggy Schoen*
Board of CEFE.....*Felix Piersa*
Board of Missions.....*Lisa Handel*
Board of Stewardship.....
Board of Trustees.....*Chuck Pelletier*
Board of Church Growth.....*Linda Russell*



South Church has a long tradition of hosting a coffee hour after Sunday worship as a means of extending fellowship among the congregation and visitors to our church. Coffee Hour will continue to be held every other Sunday in Charrier Hall, provided we have hosts. The signup sheet for the month of **April** is posted on the bulletin board directly across from the church library. You may also contact Krista Goh in the office to sign up. We are still in need of a host/hosts for **4/13**. Please consider hosting if you are available.



GOOD FRIDAY

**The office will be closed
Friday, April 18th.**

Emails

Rev. Kevin Weikel.....pastor@southucc.org
Jeff Cregeur.....music@southucc.org
Lisa Griffen.....cefe@southucc.org
Krista Goh.....office@southucc.org
Madeline Harris.....accounts@southucc.org
Bill Vibert.....sexton@southucc.org



Scan QR code to visit our website

Bulletin and View Deadlines

Bulletin:

All announcements are due by Wednesday.

View:

All submissions are due by the 3rd Friday of the month.



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

THE VIEW

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South Congregational Church is part of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The View is published monthly with the exception of 1 issue during July and August.

The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Friday of each month. Please contact Krista Goh with any questions at 860.568.5150 or office@southucc.org

April 2025

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I wish to honor/remember a loved one or someone special by doing the following:

- Worship folders (\$10 per week)
- Lighting of the steeple (\$1 per day)
- Flowers for the altar (cost is determined by you)
- Purchase choir music (\$65 for 20 copies)

My Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

I wish to honor/remember: _____

Reason/note for bulletin: _____



Please make all checks payable to *South Congregational Church*.