

The View

Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT

A letter from Paul. . .

The other day I was in front of our condominium watering the planters. In the bushes immediately in front of our unit, an industrious spider had spun an enormous web, easily three feet wide, stretching from the bushes to the railing and wall that frame our entryway. It was quite beautiful in its symmetry and the way that it glistened in the sun. A flying insect of some sort flew into the web, causing a vibration and instantaneously from the bushes raced a 2-inch spider and within seconds had pounced upon the prey. I was both repelled and attracted at the same time.

Later that day I was watching a news report, and I saw a report of some children in Bridgeport who were collecting school materials for children in parts of Connecticut who were victims of the recent flooding, whose families had suffered damage to or loss of homes and property. I thought back on the spider web and those children. We are all connected in a web of life. What happened on one side of the structure has impact all across. The struggling fly tells the spider it's dinnertime. The pictures of washed-out homes tell children that there are peers who may not have the necessities to begin school.

We know that what happens here – matters there. John Donne famously said, “No man (sic) is an island unto himself (sic).” When an athlete wins an Olympic gold, we cheer and feel good along with them. When there is a school shooting, we weep, hearts break, and we mourn along with the victims. By our having received the breath of God at our births we are woven into the web of life. Moses, in his last words to the wandering Hebrew nation, pointing out the land of milk and honey on the other side of the Jordan reminded them of their responsibility. “Choose today the way of life, or the way of death.” What we do is felt all around the world in the web that unites all creation.

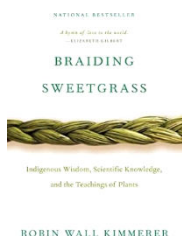
Choose well because we and others matter to God.
Shalom



"If everything around you seems dark, look again. You may be the light." ~Rumi

Community Sunday: September 8 @ 11:00 AM-12:00 PM. Come for the **Godspotting Photo Exhibition** but stay for the mini-ice cream sundaes! You are invited to celebrate both the artists and pictures that were provided by this community and are displayed with love outside Charrier Hall. God invites us to share our gifts and talents, and photography and fellowship offer windows into the Divine. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bike Rodeo: Saturday, September 14. 10 AM-2 PM. Please consider joining CEFE, Church Growth and the East Hartford Police Department as we host a community Bike Rodeo for children in grades K-5. Come visit with our neighbors, share a cup of cider, and support our youngest citizens as they engage in fun and challenging bike activities, learn bike safety and more!



Tuesdays at Two: September 17 @ 2 PM. Join Lisa G and friends as they explore *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The description of the book provided by *Legendary Reads* states "This revolutionary book combines the rich strands of indigenous wisdom, scientific research, and the deep teachings of nature. It's a journey that teaches us about our relationship with the earth and the responsibilities that come with it." Contact Lisa G if you would like her to order you a book off Amazon. The books will cost \$13, 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.**

Save the Date: Reverend Thomas Carr. Sunday, October 6 at 11 AM. Join CEFE as they welcome Tom Carr to South Church. A retired American Baptist Churches, USA pastor, Reverend Carr has spent nearly 40 years elevating the issues of ecology, environmental justice and spirituality with local congregations. A co-founder of the Connecticut Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Tom will focus on the importance of caring for God's Creation, reasons for hope and the steps we can all take to live more harmoniously on this beautiful planet.



Help Support Connecticut's Migrating Birds: Millions of birds pass through Connecticut every spring and fall on their way to and from their summer nesting grounds up north. Because our state is located along the Atlantic Flyway, many birds use our shorelines and green spaces to rest and refuel during their trip. Some also stay for the summer. By supporting **Lights Out Connecticut**, a local organization, you help limit the impacts of light pollution on migratory birds by pledging to turn off unnecessary nighttime lights during peak bird migration. **(August 15-November 15. 11 PM-6 AM.)** Let's do our part to help keep our avian friends safe!

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 ☺

Supporting Our Schools



On Friday, August 9, 2024, members of the South Church family spent the morning filling backpacks with school supplies for children that will be attending East Hartford Public Schools in the fall. Special thanks to Felix and Bea Piersa, Debbie McNamara, Debbi Grote, Lisa Griffen and Pat Zendzian for their support of this important community effort.

COMMUNITY SUNDAYS AT SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL

A heartfelt thank you to those individuals who wrote **300 notes of encouragement and affirmation** to the children that will be attending O'Connell Elementary School in the fall. It is our prayer that both your artwork and creativity will embrace our young friends with love as they arrive for another school year. Transitions can often feel uncomfortable and scary, and this simple act of kindness is meant to elevate and inspire.

Speaking of inspiring, check out the **school supplies** that South Church collected for the O'Connell Community!

- 34 packages of glue sticks
- 50 pencil boxes
- 64 boxes of markers and 400 loose markers
- 111 boxes of colored pencils and 16 boxes of regular pencils
- 122 boxes of crayons and 108 containers of play dough!

Habitat – Burnside Hope Build

I recently updated the Burnside Hope bulletin board to include the latest information regarding this build which includes a construction progress report. Stop by the bulletin board if you are curious about what is happening on-site. One of those exhibits showing the site plan, home design and floor plan for this new neighborhood is included below. Summarized below are some of the key points in the dark green area:

- Ten high performance zero energy homes with solar panels; making these units affordable and sustainable
- These homes will share a large community garden, recreation area & fenced dog park

Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to be part of the Habitat Build in East Hartford on the first Saturday in October. We are looking for 10 volunteers and still have some slots available on a first come first serve basis.

If you are interested in working on this build and giving back to the community, please contact me and sign-up by Sunday, September 8th. I will get back to you with the details for the work day and the information needed to register with Habitat.

Thanks,

Felix Piersa



A new neighborhood in the heart of Burnside Center located between the East Hartford Housing Authority and the old Burnside movie theater.

Date: Saturday, October 5

Time: 7:45 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: 550 Burnside Avenue

No construction experience required; bagged lunch will be provided.





Circle the date on your calendars or send reminders to your phones! You don't want to miss the **Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, September 14, at 6:00 PM.**

Besides chicken, the menu includes can't-be-beat Handel Family Farm corn on the cob, homemade pasta salads, garden salad, rolls, dessert and beverage.

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and under, and will be sold in the Crossroads after church or at the door. Looking forward to seeing you there for a great evening of food and fellowship.

Questions? Please call Erin Pelletier at 860-870-0297
or Bea Piersa at 860-569-6778.

Search Committee Updates

Over the past few months, the Search Committee has been busy reviewing 9 profiles we received for the pastor position. We have held 5 zoom interviews and have brought in 3 potential candidates to have a more in-depth interview in person. In early September, we plan to interview 3 more candidates. Although the Search process remains confidential in that we are not allowed to share names of individuals profiles we receive, if you have questions or would like to understand the process we are following, please feel free to talk to me or one of the Search Committee members.

I ask that you continue to pray with the Search Committee and for our church as we continue with this process.

Erin Pelletier



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 months of **September & October** is posted on the bulletin board directly across from the church library.

You may also contact Krista Goh to sign up. We are all set with hosts for September. Thank you to those who have volunteered. We are still in need of hosts for **10/6 & 10/20**. Please consider hosting if you are available.

Front Window History Continued

In the July View, I provided a summary of the Front window and the history behind the top part of the window. This September 21st marks the 27th year of the window's dedication. I hope you enjoy the remaining summary.

Left Bottom Window section:

- Beginning at the bottom are the tablets the **Ten Commandments**.
- Next is the **Old Church** which was formerly located on Main Street. Look closely at the window, variegated pink represents its stained-glass windows similar to those now lighted in the Narthex.
- The **Lamp of Knowledge** represents the importance of learning both in the Old Testament and in our Congregational heritage which emphasized education so that each believer would be able to read the Bible individually.
- The **Lyre** is mentioned in the Psalms and other books of the Old Testament. When the evil spirit came upon Saul, David played the lyre and Saul would become tranquil. In honor of the South Church choir's special gifts, this symbol was chosen.
- Noah sent the top symbol out to see if flood waters had receded. The 2nd time Noah sent the **Dove** out it returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf.

Right Bottom Window section:

- The bottom panel is the Christ child and **Nativity**, the glass cutters noted that they had to begin the panel just as Jesus' birth began the New Testament.
- The **Lamb** represents one member of the congregation who supported the stained-glass window project. The lamb was mentioned from the Twenty-third Psalm, sheep representing the flock so carefully and lovingly tended by the Good Shepard.
- The middle symbol represents our Dore and Totley relationship, the **World** being carefully held in two hands is the symbol of the church.
- The four white **Lilies** represent Easter and the journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. Their full, white trumpet blossoms herald "Christ the Lord is Risen today".
- The purple **Butterfly** was everyone's favorite. Pauline Lane's design which represents resurrection – from a distant past to a new future. (II Corinthians 5.17).

The outer border continues with the Vine and Leaves, the unifying element which will emanate from the center two panes, climbing along the exterior edges. Interspersed are bunches of purple grapes and crystals representing the dew of early morning.

Erin Pelletier





Our Sympathy goes to:

- The family of Judy Dunn, neighbor of Debbi Grote, who passed away on Monday, July 29th, after a heroic fight against pancreatic cancer.
- The Clark family upon the passing of Mayland Clark, Jr. and Mayland Clark, Sr, both of whom were friends of Barbara McNamara. Mayland Jr. passed away on August 1st at the age of 52 with his family by his side. Mayland Sr. passed away peacefully on August 20th with his daughter, Sandy, by his side.

Of Special Concern:

- Sandy Hodge, sister of a friend of Jean Foisey and Debbie Rataic, needs our prayers.
–Richard Shonti, husband of a friend of Jean Foisey, needs our prayers.

Please keep in your prayers.....

Barbara Abbott

Eugenia Dansinghani

Barbara Hooker

Henry Millan

Nimmi Baker

Bill Fagan

Ivy Lehmann

Gene Pellett

Georgi Beers

Charlie Goding

Liz Costa Maverson

Barbara Slocum

John & Phyllis Carella

Barbara Guthrie

Beth McGinnis

Rev. Will Thayer

Veona Cashman

Marv Ann Higgins

Jill McNamara

Russell Turner

Andrew, grandson of Margie Articolo

Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman

Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson

Krista Clark, Gail Lopez, friends of Barbara McNamara

Allison Cornelius, stepdaughter of Gary Fowler

Barbara Hitchcock, mother of Bryan Denman

Maureen Kosha, friend of Margie Articulo

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 Severson, friend of South Church

*Deborah Lambert Sevelson, friend of
Ruth Sheehan, friend of Celia Collins*

Liam Stickley, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie

Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall's brother-in-law

Rejoice in hope
Be patient in affliction
Be faithful in prayer
Romans 12:12

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	2 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	3 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	4 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	5 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	6 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	7 9am - CitySingers
8 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 10:45am - Community	9	10 12pm - Food Bank 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	11 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Deacons	12 9am - DDNCS 9am - Floor Wash 5:30pm - Girl Scout 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	13 BBQ Setup	14 10am - Bike Rodeo 6pm - Chicken BBQ
15 First Day of Hispanic 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	16	17 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	18 6:30pm - Council 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	19 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	20 5:30pm - Hayes 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	21
22 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	23	24 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	25 2pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	26 9am - Floor Wash 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	27	28
29 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	30	1 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

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

Church Staff & Positions

Interim Pastor.....*Rev. Paul Goodman*
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.....*Rick Rodrigue*
Board of Church Growth.....*Linda Russell*

Emails

Rev. Paul Goodman.....skirev52@sbcglobal.net
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

Bulletin and View Deadlines

Bulletin:

All announcements are due by Wednesday.

View:

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Cheryl Rappolt	8 Erica D'Attilio	18 Tyler Gammie
Nathan Vann	Bob DeCrescenzo	19 Kim Beaver
4 Jean Foisey	Lydia Griffin	Debbie Wall
Chickie Amberg	10 Debbi Grote	24 Patrick McNamara
5 Lois Talbot	11 Garrett Goh	27 Emily Grote
Bryan Denman	12 Janet Lynch	Linda Russell
7 Robert Handel	17 George Schoen	Jason Pellett
		28 Betsy Mace



The office will be closed
Monday, September 2nd
in observance of Labor Day.



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southucc.org
office@southucc.org

THE VIEW

South Congregational Church

1301 Forbes Street

East Hartford, CT 06118-2898

Telephone (860) 568-5150; Fax (860) 568-5152

office@southucc.org

southucc.org

www.facebook.com/SouthUCC/

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

September 2024

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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 (\$50 for 15 copies)

My Name: _____ Telephone Number _____

I wish to honor/remember: _____

Reason/note for bulletin: _____



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