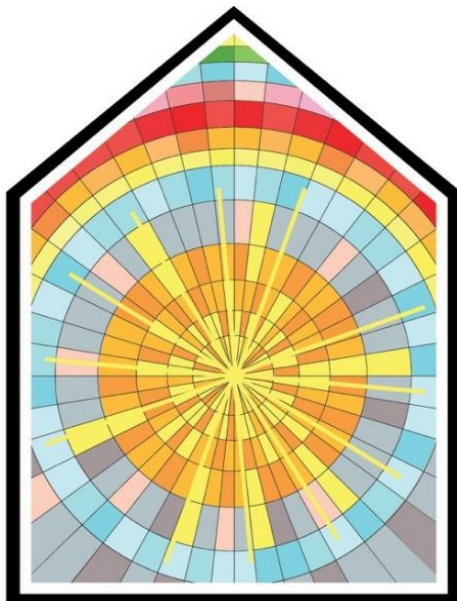


**Welcome to**  
**South Congregational Church, UCC**  
1301 Forbes St. East Hartford, CT 06118



**SOUTH**  
Congregational Church

**East Hartford, CT**

**February 2, 2025**

Guest Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Coordinator of CEFE

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

The Reverend Nina Barlow Schmid  
Jeff Cregeur  
Lisa Griffen

Meditation

“find an experience fully God-centered, asking of God no gift more urgently than His presence, the gift of Himself, joyous to the highest degree, and unmistakably real. What I see (so to speak) in the faces of these old poets tells me more about the God whom they and we adore.” — C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*

Prelude

Jeff Cregeur, Minister of Music

Welcome and Announcements

Peggy Schoen

† Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

Jean Foisey

Lay Reader: We greet this new day to worship our God who is, and who has been, and who will be forever with us.

**People: We are blessed to have our Loving God to worship and praise.**

Lay Reader: The Old Testament Poets and Prophets have shown us how to lift up our hearts in Praise for the Lord our God.

**People: We humbly delight in the privilege of being together in this holy place to worship our God.**

Lay Reader: The New Testament writers have testified to how God has given us Jesus, who has shown us the depth of God’s Love.

**People: The Lord God be praised with joy and thanksgiving for all we have been given.**

† Gathering Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision*

Chalice Hymn #595

Prayer of Invocation

Unison

**Like the Prophets and Poets of old, our hearts are full of praise and thanksgiving for You our amazing God, our Creator. We come in gratitude for You have made Yourself known to us, and have given us our savior Jesus Christ. We are a fickle people who sometimes lose our way. But we are so blessed to have You, who loves us even in our absences; and for Jesus our guide, who teaches us how to live and pray. Amen**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid

Offertory Sentences

Jean Foisey

We thank you, Blessed Lord, for the abundance of life, and riches that sustain us. We are mindful that so many of your children have barely enough to live on, and are in much darker places where each day can be a struggle even to survive. And so we give freely of what is in our ability to give. Our offerings will now be taken.

Offertory Anthem

*In All Things God Works for Our Good*

by Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

† 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

**We dedicate these offerings to those in need, in thanksgiving for all we have, and in praise of Jesus Christ whom we serve and adore. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

Pew Bible Page 861

Sermon

Peace is the Word

Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid

(and the Word Includes the Psalms!)

Communion Hymn

*Break Thou the Bread of Life*

Chalice Hymn #321

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer of Dedication and Lord's Prayer

**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 communion on Jesus' behalf. Jesus welcomed all regardless of the categories we use to exclude. Therefore, this table is open to all people regardless of age, sex, nationality, sexuality, belief, or background. No matter where you are on the life-long journey of faith, you are invited to join us at His table. Trays will be passed with the bread, take for yourself*

*and then serve your neighbor. Please hold the bread so that we may eat together – a symbol of our oneness in Jesus. Trays with un-fermented grape juice will then be passed, again take for yourself and serve your neighbor. Drink as the spirit moves you – a symbol of our unique relationship with God through Jesus.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

In Unison

**We give you thanks, eternal God, for the gifts of life and love we have received in Your presence. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung Your praises may speak kindly to all we encounter, our eyes which have seen Your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this bread and cup may be active in Your service, gently embracing the earth and pronouncing shalom to all of creation. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

† Sending Hymn

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Chalice Hymn #586

Benediction

Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid

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.

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

~

*The lighting of the steeple for the month of February is provided by Bob and Lisa Handel in loving memory of Erin Handel who had a February birthday.*

**The Rev. Nina Barlow Schmid** was raised on the Connecticut shoreline and loves all things sea and shore. She is an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ having earned her MDiv at Eden Theological Seminary. St. Louis, MO. A grateful beneficiary of all God's creation, she relishes bird-watching, reading, cycling, walking, writing, traveling and spending time studying at the Toddler School of Theology with her two year-old grandson, Wesley. Thanks be to God!

**This Sunday's Service Volunteers:**

**-Ushers:** Celia Collins and Linda Russell

**-Lay Reader:** Jean Foisey

**-Deacons** for the month of **February:** Jean Foisey and Linda Russell

**-Audio Visual:** Chuck Pelletier and Bob Handel

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

**American Red Cross**

**TODAY at 11:00 a.m.**

Join CEFE as we welcome Rebecca Johnson from the **American Red Cross**. Becky will share some history about the organization, volunteer opportunities, and tips about disaster preparedness. This gathering will be held in the library and light refreshments will be served.

## **Lenten Devotional Reminder**

For all of you who are contributing to our 2025 Lenten Devotional, please submit your entries to me by February 16, if you are submitting them in handwritten form.

If you can send them electronically, to *pgaschoen179@yahoo.com* then February 23 should be okay.

In any case, the sooner you can get them to me the better.

The devotional will be distributed Sunday, March 2 so that it is ready for you by Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Thank you all so very much for your contributions. Blessings, Peggy Schoen



## **Chili Cookoff**

**Sunday, February 9, 11:00 a.m.**

The South Church Chili Cook Off is back! Whether you have a treasured family recipe to share or have a hankering to experiment with a new one, this is your opportunity to shine and claim the coveted chili pepper necklace prize. Please sign up in the Crossroads if you are interested in participating in this exciting South Church tradition.

## **Valentine Fun**

**Sunday, February 9**

After you have voted on your favorite chili recipe of the season, please consider joining CEFE as we decorate Valentine's Day cards for our South Church neighbors and friends. We will provide greeting cards, construction paper and stickers, while you provide inspiration and creativity! This Valentine's Day event 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.

# *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

## **Hospitalized...**

*Bev Saunders was recently hospitalized and needs our prayers.*

## **Of Special Concern...**

*Barbara Benson has been experiencing serious health issues and needs our prayers.*

## **Continued Prayers are Needed for...**

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

*Andrew, grandson of Margie Articulo*

*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*

*Kim McMenamain, 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*

*Richard Shonti, husband of a friend of Jean Foisey*

*Liam Sticklely, mother is a close friend of Sue Gammie*

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

## This Week at South Church

### **SUNDAY, February 2**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service/Communion  
11:00am – Guest Speaker/Library

### **MONDAY, February 3**

No Events

### **TUESDAY, February 4**

2:00pm - Tuesdays at Two/Library  
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
7:30pm – AA/Rms 9&10

### **WEDNESDAY, February 5**

10:00am – Caring Ministry/Library  
6:30pm – Cub Scouts/Rms 2, 9&10, and  
Charrier

### **THURSDAY, February 6**

9:00am – DDNCS/Library  
6:00pm – Martial Arts/Basement  
7:00pm – Choir/Library

### **FRIDAY, February 7**

6:00pm – Candlelight Concert/Sanctuary  
8:30pm – Candlelight Concert/Sanctuary

### **SATURDAY, February 8**

Chili Cook-off Setup

### **SUNDAY, February 9**

8:00am – Martial Arts/Basement  
8:45am – Choir/Sanctuary  
10:00am – Worship Service  
11:00am- Community Sunday/Charrier Hall

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



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office@southucc.org