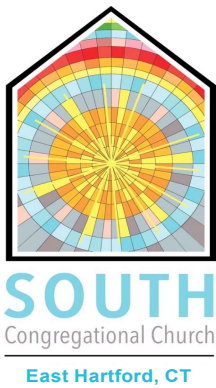


April 2024



# The View

*Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT*

## A Letter from Paul . . .

Greetings to the church in East Hartford and grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling) I will begin a three month term as your bridge minister and so I would like to give you some ways that our time will be most fruitful for both you and me. Though I retired two years ago determining that I was “done” with ministry, I am fully aware of how my best plans today can take a hard right turn tomorrow and I’m off in on a different track. We have agreed to three months subject to extension depending upon the needs of the church and my own path. I do look forward to working with your great staff of Jeff, Lisa and Krista. I have met with them all and am excited to do ministry with them and the membership.

Aware that life forces and rhythms of each congregation are unique I propose starting with the following basics. Once I have been able to sense the flow hours may be subject to change so that our needs are better served. But for now. . .

- ✠ **Do I call you** “Pastor Paul”, “Rev. Paul”, “Rev. Goodman”, “Paul” or something else? The answer is Yes. Congregational customs vary and I am fine with whatever you like. (I am fine with “Paul” as I have been that for 71+ years and the others for only 35!)
- ✠ **Contact information:** Call/text **203-507-0006** and email : **skirev52@sbcglobal.net or skirev@gmail.com.**
- ✠ My **address** is 101 Cedar Knolls Drive, Branford, CT 06405
- ✠ **Office hours:** Regular in person hours Monday and Thursday from 10-2:30
- ✠ **Other hours** can be arranged and I also am available for Zoom calls/consults
- ✠ **When texting/emailing** me there are a few things I ask. First that you always start with whatever name you have chosen for me as a start. I have in the past gotten communications which were NOT intended for me but because they didn’t start with a salutation I didn’t understand that until I had been further into it – often reading confidential information not intended for my eyes! If it doesn’t say “Paul” then I don’t read it. Second, close with your name. I don’t automatically know who (860) 555-0030 or sewinggal@msn.com is and don’t like having to say “Who is this?” as a response – if I respond to an unknown author at all. So “Dear Paul, -- blah, blah, blah --Thanks Betty” is best way to get a response.
- ✠ **TITDOE** - short for “Too involved to discuss on email” -- is occasionally a response to complex issues that cannot be adequately handled via email or text. When something is TITDOE it means let’s talk in person, via Zoom or phone.
- ✠ **Name tags** are really helpful in my learning names. I am pretty good at that and with the aid of name tags actually great! So if you have name tags please wear them and if not, be sure to say your name when we meet. For those who watch worship streamed to them please text/email/call to say you participated via the stream so that I know you were part of the worship.
- ✠ **About humor.** I take my faith and role as a pastor very seriously, but that doesn't mean that they and I must be somber. Laughter and joy are biblical concepts – you may have heard about the “joy of the Lord.” So please don’t misinterpret my love of humor and laughter as indicative of my lack of seriousness in worship, church, ministry or faith.
- ✠ **Experience has taught me** that successful ministry is a give and take, push and pull, ebb and flow between congregation, staff and pastor. Fruitful ministry in the name of Jesus Christ is best accomplished and feedback and critique is best offered and received when all parties remain: *patient, flexible and kind.* So please keep those in mind when dealing with me, staff and one another. It’s the best way to be like Jesus!

Stay tuned – more to come!  
Shalom  
Paul

**Church Council Meeting Summary – Meeting held March 19, 2023**

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

**Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!!**

Description	Date
Silver Lake Presentation	April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour
Church Spring Cleanup	April 27 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00am-noon Rain Date: May 4 <sup>th</sup>
Strawberry Fair	Saturday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>

**Treasurer’s Report:** Written Report

- Balance at end of 2/28/24 was \$20,147.31.

**Staff Reports:**

**Pastor Report:**

- None

**Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE) – Written Report**

- CEFE will have someone come on April 24<sup>th</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour presentation on Silver Lake.

**Board Reports:**

**Deacons:**

- Written Report

**Missions:**

- Looking to help raise funds for World Central Kitchen
- Food Bank is now open every other Tuesday, the same week Trader Joe’s donates food.

**Trustees:**

- Renewed Lawn Service at a 5% discount.
- Researching a new sign for the front, along with a welcome sign in the back of the church.

**Church Growth:**

- The Cribbage Tournament went well – looking for another date.
- Passed out egg decorations for all the people who attended the easter egg event.
- Easter treats are prepared to be passed out to visitors.

**Old Business:**

- The Search committee met with Rev. Isaac Lawson. Profile is planned to be posted on the National UCC Ministerial Opportunities website this week.

**New Business:**

- Strawberry Fair is being planned for June 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope to rent tables to vendors this year, to try and draw in more people.
- Peggy reviewed By-Laws and Personal Handbook changes – all revisions were approved.
  - Senior Pastor has been changed to Pastor throughout the document.
  - Pet Memorial Garden Committee has been eliminated.
  - The personnel handbook had changes to Senior Pastor – renamed to Pastor throughout document.
  - The Minister of Visitation has been removed on the Supervision chart.
  - Job Descriptions are an appendix to the handbook.

**Please note our next council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.**



**“Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.” ~ Lao Tzu**



**Service Sunday: April 14 @ 10:30-11:30 AM. Family Paint Party!** Have you even painted with a sponge, dropped a paint-soaked cotton ball on a piece of paper or experimented with puffy paint? When was the last time you painted with your fingers? Join South Church as we celebrate the arrival of springtime with a splash of color and creativity. All ages and abilities are welcome but be sure to wear your “play clothes” in case we get a little messy! 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 at [cefe@southucc.org](mailto:cefe@southucc.org) if you are planning to attend.**

**Save the Date: Guest speaker from Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center! Sunday, April 21 at 11 AM.** Join Aila Brennan, Program Director from the Silver Lake Conference and Retreat Center, as she shares exciting updates and opportunities offered at the lake. Established in 1957, Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center (SLCRC) is a year-round ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. The 60-acre campus is situated in the rolling hills of Litchfield County and bordered by the peaceful shores of Mudge Pond in Sharon, Connecticut. Silver Lake offers many opportunities to take risks, try new things, experience nature, make new friends, and explore your faith with the support of an intentional progressive Christian community. Silver Lake welcomes and affirms campers, staff, volunteers, and guests of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, and sexual orientations. Come and see what Silver Lake might have in store for you!



**April 22, 2024, 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. Remember that you have the power to change the world.

**Lenten Love Project Success:** A heartfelt thank you to the following South Church members and friends for their support of the Lenten Love Project. Whether you made a sign, honked at our Lenten Love greeters on your way to work, took photographs for Facebook or held a sign in some pretty unsavory weather conditions, we are proud of you! Thank you for showing up, for 40 days, to share messages of hope and affirmation with this community. Prayers of thanksgiving for Gary Armentrout, Kim Beaver and Marlee, Keith Benson, Krista Goh, Lisa Griffen, Debbi Grote, Janet Lynch, Debbie McNamara, Elly Milone, Liz O’Donnell, Erin Pellitier, Felix and Bea Piersa, Kent Rhodehamel, Linda Russell, Jerri Sayers, George and Peggy Schoen, Jim and Jana Sime, Charlotte Turner, and Carol Vann. We look forward to seeing you next year! You. Are. Loved.

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

Yours in love, laughter, and peace: Lisa ☺

## **†From Your Deacons Board†**

- **Easter Sunday -- March 31, 2024**
  - There will **NOT** be an Easter Sunrise Service this Year.
  - This is Pastor Kent's last day with us. Please wish him well as he journeys on.
- **Rev. Paul Goodman**
  - He will begin his ministry with us on April 1 (Monday)
  - On April 7 we will hold a "meet & greet" reception, directly after worship, where he will be leading a Q&A "get to know one-another" opportunity.
  - In addition to Sunday worship, Rev. Goodman plans to be at South Church on Mondays and Thursdays.

### **Search Committee Updates**

We posted our Pastor position to the National UCC Ministerial Opportunities website on 3/20. You can use the address below and enter in your Web browser to search on our Pastor position.

<https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastsearch.aspx>

If you are interested in learning more about the Search and Call process, you can type the https address on your web browser and look for The Search & Call Journey for Congregations. We are following the Southern New England UCC Search & Call process and are currently on Phase 3: Discerning Through the Search.

<https://www.sneucc.org/changeagents>

If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Erin Pelletier, Search Committee chair.



A mitzvah is a decisive act that **embodies empathy and kindness while bringing us closer to others**. Positive thoughts and wishes, while always welcome, are not mitzvot. Mitzvot are more than a creed—they're about doing deeds.

*Holy Week, Ramadan, Starvation, Action.*

We are called to an active faith, not a passive one. As such, our thoughts and prayers are not sufficient action on their own.

**World Central Kitchen** presents us with a meaningful opportunity to act!

Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world—and it is more important than ever in a crisis. Not only is a thoughtful, freshly prepared meal one less thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that you are not alone, someone is thinking about you, and someone cares. Food has the power to be the nourishment and hope we need to pick ourselves back up in the darkest times.

In 2010, Chef José Andrés, ready to use his culinary knowledge and talent to help, headed to Haiti following a devastating earthquake. Cooking alongside displaced families in a camp, he was guided on the proper way to cook black beans the way Haitians like to eat them: mashed and sieved into a creamy sauce. It wasn't just about feeding people in need—it was about listening, learning, and cooking side by side with the people impacted by the crisis. This is the real meaning of comfort food, and it's the core value that José, along with his wife Patricia, used at the center of founding World Central Kitchen.

In Ramadan, World Central Kitchen is committed to feeding the most vulnerable people in Gaza. WCK has served more than 30 million meals to families in the region, and in Ramadan our efforts will only intensify. The principles of compassion and solidarity will lead our way, putting humanity first, always.

For Ramadan, we're humbled to announce a generous match for donations received, doubling the impact of every contribution made up to \$100,000 towards feeding the most vulnerable communities in Gaza.

100% of your donation will go directly to our food program in Gaza.

With a donation of \$70, you can provide one vital food box that serves 51 meals to individuals and families in need. Our teams stand ready to deliver 92,000 food boxes, serving more than 4.7 million meals.

Together, we can make a difference one meal at a time and uphold the principle that shared humanity transcends crisis.

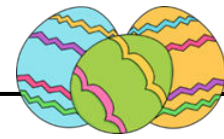
Our Board of Missions, with the agreement of our Church Council, has decided that this presents us with a great opportunity to help! A goal of supporting this effort by helping to send 5 boxes to Gaza has been established. That translates to 255 meals to combat starvation and famine.

Ramadan ends on April 9th. Look for the donation soup pot on the table in the crossroads through that date. Cash and check contributions are welcome. Please make checks payable to South Congregational Church and write WCK in the Memo line. Contributions of any amount are welcome.

Let's turn our faith into action and our prayers into deeds. Starvation and Famine are certainly places where loving our neighbors matters!

Blessings and Thanksgiving to you all.

Bryan T. Denman



**Egg Coloring Extravaganza Update:**

On Sunday, March 10, 2024, South Church welcomed 61 people, including 39 visitors, to the egg coloring extravaganza! It was clearly a community building event, and the love of God was shining brightly in



**Strawberry Fair – Save the Date**

This year we will be holding our Strawberry Fair on June 1<sup>st</sup> and look to invite local vendors to rent tables for a small fee. We will post details on Facebook and through email communications in the near future.

Maureen Miller & Erin Pelletier



**SPRING CLEANUP**

Our annual Spring Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-noon.** Rain date will be Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Many hands are needed to keep South Church looking beautiful. Please bring your rakes, tarps, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, chainsaws, pruners, rags, cleaner, etc. to assist with the cleanup. Even if you can only spare an hour, your help would be greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity to complete community service hours for high school graduation, Boy Scout/Girl Scout merit badge requirements, or volunteer work. All are welcome to participate.



**We Celebrate with:**

–Molly Caruso and Joshua Richards upon their engagement. A fall wedding is planned.  
 –Becky and Brett Jack upon the birth of their son, Bennett Aaron, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He joins big brother Cameron. Proud grandparents are Bob and Lisa Handel.

**Hospitalized/Convalescing:**

–Judy Dunn, neighbor of Debbi Grote, is recovering from a recent surgery.

**Of Special Concern:**

–Gail Lopez, friend of Barbara McNamara

<b>Please keep in your prayers.....</b>			
Barbara Abbott	Eugenia Dansinghani	Ivy Lehmann	Barbara Slocum
Nimmi Baker	Bill Fagan	Liz Costa Mayerson	Rev. Will Thayer
Georgi Beers	Charlie Goding	Beth McGinnis	Russell Turner
John & Phyllis Carella	Mary Ann Higgins	Jill McNamara	
Veona Cashman	Barbara Hooker	Gene Pellett	
Andrew, grandson of Margie Articolo			
Linda Bandecchi, aunt of Bryan Denman			
Mary Anne Barrett, sister of Liz Costa Mayerson			
Krista Clark, Maylamd Clark, Mayland Clark Jr., & Bob Davivson, friends of Barbara McNamara			
Allison Cornelius, stepdaughter of Gary Fowler			
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			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Easter Sunday 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	1 Easter Monday	2 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	3 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	4 9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	5 5:30pm - Hayes 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	6 Interment
7 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Coffee Hour	8	9 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	10 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Deacons	11 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	12	13
14 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 10:30am - Service Sunday	15 Tax Day	16 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Girl Scouts 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - AA	17 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	18 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	19	20
21 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Guest Speaker	22	23 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	24 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	25 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	26 7pm - Cub Scouts	27 9am - Spring Cleanup
28 8am - Martial Arts 8:45am - Choir 10am - Baptism 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	29	30 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	1 First Day of Asian Pacific 10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	2 9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	3 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	4 9am - Cleanup Raindate



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

***Church Staff & Positions***

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.



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 to sign up. We are still in need of a host/s for **4/21**. Please consider hosting if you are available. Thank you for your help with this vital component of our Sunday worship and fellowship.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jenna Snyder    | 16 David Lewis     | 26 Kathy Werkheiser |
| 3 Beth McGinnis   | 23 Amira Hampton   | 27 Judith Vann      |
| 7 Becky Jack      | Stuart Harris      | 29 Sara Benigni     |
| 13 Laura Malin    | 25 Debbie McNamara | 30 Mary Pellett     |
|                   | Betsy Rodrigue     | Beverly Ouellette   |
| 14 Carolyn Pilkin | Debora Reid        |                     |



Liz Costa Mayerson has a piano and an organ she would like to gift to someone. If interested, please contact her at 860.918.0785



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

# THE VIEW

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*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 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*.