

The View

Publication of South Congregational Church, UCC East Hartford, CT

Pastor's Message

Dear friends and members of South Church,

It is hard to believe September is upon us. "New Year's" may be officially celebrated from December 31 to January 1, but for many of us the real new year often feels like this: When August turns to September, when summer gives way to fall, when the long days of vacation and lighter schedules give way to school, more focused work, and the rhythm of Labor Day.

It is a time when we take stock of our routines and commitments. The good news is, unlike January 1, nobody will be asking you to make a list of resolutions you will abandon in three weeks. Or maybe they will, but if summer or life has drawn you away from the habit of being here on Sundays, I want to invite you to renew your commitment to the rhythms of worship, prayer, study, choir (if you sing), and care that can nurture your faith and deepen your connection to this community.

There is already so much happening at South Church this fall, from our weekly worship, to Tuesdays at Two, to the Chicken BBQ on September 20, to the many meetings and gatherings that keep our life together moving forward. But I want to take a moment to highlight something new. We are trying out a regular Wednesday morning rhythm. This gives us space for things that have long been important here, like Bible Study and caring for one another through the Caring Committee, while also making room to try something new: a monthly Prayer Gathering.

We will gather on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for three distinct but connected opportunities:

First and Third Wednesdays – Bible Study

- I will take the lead for these studies. In reflecting with Wayne and Sue Smith on the content and approach, we agreed that last spring's focus on only the week ahead was too narrow. Their suggestion, which I support, is to broaden the scope. These gatherings will now include time to reflect on the sermon and scripture from the previous Sunday, while also looking forward not just to the coming week but even one week beyond, so that no Sunday is missed. I am also mindful of people's work schedules and hope to add a Bible study outside of work hours in the future, though nothing is yet solidified. These Wednesday morning studies are open to all.

Second Wednesdays – Caring Committee

- This is an official committee of the church, chaired by Debbi Grote, that meets to discuss members who are homebound, in the hospital, or in need of care, and to coordinate visits and support. I like to attend these meetings because they help me keep a pulse on the needs of the congregation and often point me toward top priorities for pastoral visits. While this group is not an open invitation, know that your needs and the needs of loved ones are represented here and passed along with care. If you feel called to this ministry, please let Debbi or me know, and we will nominate you to be considered for the committee in the next ministry year.

continued...

Pastor's Message...

Fourth Wednesdays – Prayer Gathering (monthly, new this fall)

- This monthly gathering, inspired by Nimmi Baker's suggestion, is open to anyone. I am looking for leadership to help guide this group in collaboration with me. My hope is for a circle that prays for our own needs, for the concerns of members, for those on our prayer list, and for the wider world. Over time, this gathering will not only pray through the prayer list but also help shape it. We will also hold silence together for those prayers too deep for words.

If there is a fifth Wednesday in a month, we will take a rest week with no formal gathering. To keep things simple, we will share just the first two months here, as November and December get complicated with holiday weeks.

Wednesday Morning Schedule, 10 am in the Church Library

September

Sept. 3 – Bible Study
Sept. 10 – Caring Committee
Sept. 17 – Bible Study
Sept. 24 – Prayer Gathering (monthly)

October

Oct. 1 – Bible Study
Oct. 8 – Caring Committee
Oct. 15 – Bible Study
Oct. 22 – Prayer Gathering (monthly)

A note about my weekly schedule

To make communication easier, here is my weekly rhythm:

- **Mondays** – working from home
- **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays** – in the office. To schedule a non-emergency visit or meeting, please email me at pastor@southucc.org or call the church office at 860-568-5150.
- **Fridays** – Sabbath/Day off
- **Emergencies** – please text or call my cell at 860-324-5630

Prayer requests are always welcome. You can reach me by email, text, or phone, and I will be sure your concerns are lifted in worship and at the Prayer Gathering on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

September Sermon Series:

I am excited to announce our September sermon series: *A Godspotting September*. This grows out of Lisa Griffen's summer initiative encouraging folks to notice and share the places they have experienced God — on vacation, on the front porch, or in the grocery store. On September 14 we will dedicate a service to sharing these Godspotting moments in worship, complete with images and short reflections from members.

Friends, fall is a season of gathering and re-centering. My hope is that these opportunities, whether through care, study, or prayer, will help you step into this "new year" with joy, connection, and a renewed sense of God's presence in your everyday life.

See you in worship!

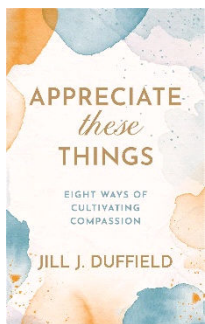
Grace and peace,
Kevin

C.E.F.E. News

Christian Education & Faith Enrichment

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." ~ Marcel Proust

Godspotting Photo Celebration: September 14 @ 10 AM. 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. **Besides the opportunity to observe the photo submissions up close, participants are invited to share the story behind their Godspotting picture, and the congregation is welcome to ask our photographers specific questions about their work.** (Please feel free to enter a photograph even if you are uncomfortable speaking in front of a group. Sharing where you experienced God is a deeply personal experience, and we will be mindful of who may or who may not be interested in sharing.) **Please contact Pastor Kevin by Sunday, September 7, if you are interested in talking about your photo during Sunday worship.**



Tuesdays at Two: September 16 @ 2 PM. 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.**

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!



Save the Date: Pumpkin Painting at South Church. October 12 from 11:00 AM-12 PM. Join us as we celebrate the arrival of fall with pumpkin painting, apple cider and donut holes!

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.

More from C.E.F.E....



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!

- 185 glue sticks
- 125 regular pencils
- 85 boxes of crayons
- 75 pencil boxes
- 65 boxes of markers
- 60 dry erase markers
- 43 containers of play dough
- 24 pairs of scissors
- boxes of colored pencils
- And so much more!



A Moment for Mother Earth. 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. **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.

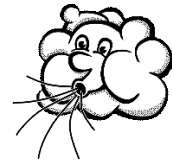
CEFE contact information: To sign up for an initiative, ministry or to simply ask a question, we can be reached at cefe@southucc.org or 860.568.5150. We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in laughter, love, and peace: Lisa ☺



Church Council meetings will resume this month, but will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend either in person or through Zoom, with links to be shared in the Agenda. We hope to see you on September 16th!

Chuck's Final Cool Moment



The Sanctuary is now as COOL as the sermons.

Installation of the HVAC System has been completed, and the Sanctuary is a cool/dry 72-74 degrees, perfect for the numerous heatwaves we had this summer.

I stood before the congregation on a warm Sunday morning and reviewed the proposed HVAC project. The only thing the Trustees needed was money to get this project off the ground. We started with two initial giving's, and to challenged the congregation to meet our financial goal.

You accepted the challenge and before I knew it, this portion of the project was 100% paid for without disrupting the church's investments. Additional funds collected will be set aside to expand the HVAC System to the next phase of the AC Project. Our South Church family is AWESOME!!

If you haven't had a chance to give something and would still like to participate, we are still accepting donations. The Air Conditioning envelopes are still at the entrance of the Narthex.

I would like to give my heartfelt THANKS to everyone who selflessly donated to this project.

VERY COOL,

Chuck Pelletier
Board of Trustees



Chicken BBQ

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 20th at 6 p.m.**

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. We will be selling tickets 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, 860-670-1549 or
Maureen Miller, 860-918-8038.

We hope to see you there!



The board of Trustees is hoping to enlist a few helping hands to keep up with different maintenance projects, which include the following:

1. Landscape maintenance: weeding, edging, trimming (we currently have certain areas to be “adopted” for future periodic maintenance)
2. Outdoor railings: sanding, painting
3. Exterior doors: sanding and painting (possible replacements if necessary)
4. Kitchen improvements: sanding and refinishing butcher block, install replacement window covers
5. Miscellaneous small repairs: clogged drain, etc.
6. Large projects: brick, concrete repair, window washing

We are seeking a contact list of our church family members with skills, equipment and a little time to spare to keep our beautiful church in excellent shape. If you or someone you know is interested in lending a helping hand, please email/call the church office at office@southucc.org or 860.568.5150. Whether it’s a single project, or a continuing routine, we would love to have you join us!

TRUSTEES PROJECTS

LANDSCAPING

Edge along pathway

Repair/replace window box in front**

Remove tree next to shed

Replace lilac/maple tree with boxwood from along pathway

Dying tree at back of building

CONCRETE

Repair concrete under kitchen window

Repair/replace window box in front of church**

OUTDOOR

Window washing

Sand and paint exterior doors

Check outdoor light fixtures

Level back pathway

Repair/replace outer door near garbage bins

INDOOR

Kitchen butcher block, sand and treat with oil

Window coverings

Seeds of Hope: A Preaching Gathering for All



Join siblings from across the Southern New England Conference and beyond Sept. 5 & 6 in downtown Hartford for a two-day gathering of storytelling, preaching, live music, and workshops.

This is more than a preaching event - it's a space for storytellers, artists, community builders, preachers, lay folks, and seekers to gather in a time when the ground feels uncertain - to speak, to listen, and to plant what must come next. It is not just for preachers or clergy, but for anyone who feels the world shifting beneath their feet and still chooses to plant, to root, and to rise.

Hartford Stage will host us Friday night for a Moth-like storytelling event and again Saturday afternoon for a dynamic gathering of music, messages, and performance. Saturday morning will feature preaching workshops at nearby Christ Church Cathedral. All are welcome.

Learn more and register at: www.sneucc.org/seedsdofhope.



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 in the office to sign up. The scheduled dates we are in need of hosts are **9/7, 9/21, 10/5 & 10/19**. Please consider hosting a Sunday you are available.



We Celebrate:

- Harry Perrine as he was officially received as a new member into the life of South Church on June 29th.
- Barbara Guthrie who has been discharged from the rehab center. She and Robin have returned to New England.
- Macarah and Patrick Lynch, Janet Lynch's son and daughter-in-law, as they prepare to welcome a new baby. We pray for a healthy pregnancy and delivery!
- The baptism of Omolara Mae Caldwell on August 17th. May the Spirit continue to move in her life, guiding her with love, strength, and grace.
- With grateful hearts the opportunity to donate school supplies and notes of affirmation to the students who will be attending O'Connell Elementary School (East) in the fall.
- With the Miller family, that Steve Miller, Maureen's brother-in-law and Matt's brother, is now home and recovering after a mini-stroke and time in the ICU. We pray for his continued healing and strength.

Our Sympathy goes to:

- Bill Saunders and his family following the passing of his beloved wife, Bev, on July 20th. Calling hours and a funeral service were held at South Congregational Church on July 26th.
- The family of Avis D'Alessandro who passed away on July 23rd. A former member of South Church, Avis's life was celebrated in a prayer service at D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel on July 30th.
- The Rev. Pam Vollinger and her family following the death of her mother, Shirley Margnelli. Pam is a daughter of South Church and currently serves as Chair of the Hartford East Association Executive Committee.
- Debbie and Chris Rataic and their family as they grieve the loss of Debbie's brother, Keith Hodder, who passed into God's eternal care on August 19th.

Hospitalized/Convalescing:

- Cher Allen, a dear friend of Gary Alf, is recovering from a fall. We also pray for Gary as he supports her.*

Of Special Concern:

- Bill West, brother of Kathy Werkheiser, has entered hospice care. May he know strength, peace, and Christ's abiding love.*

Please keep in your prayers.....

<i>Nimmi Baker</i>	<i>Bill Fagan</i>	<i>Beth McGinnis</i>	<i>Russell Turner</i>
<i>Georgi Beers</i>	<i>Charlie Goding</i>	<i>Kim McMenamin</i>	
<i>Barbara Benson</i>	<i>Mary Ann Higgins</i>	<i>Gene Pellett</i>	
<i>John & Phyllis Carella</i>	<i>Liz Costa Mayerson</i>	<i>Chris Rataic</i>	

Andrew, a dear 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 Jean Foisey and Debbie Rataic
Anthony Manuel, grandson of Debbie Wall
Addyson Murphy, great-granddaughter of George and Peggy Schoen
Sam Ranno, friend of the Handel family
Roseann Russell, friend of Debbie Wall
Bill Vendetta, Debbie Wall's brother-in-law

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	CLOSED Labor Day	11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Worship Service		11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA	10am - Caring Ministry	6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	5:30pm - Hayes	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Godspotting Sunday		11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6pm - Pastor's Cabinet 7pm - Council 7:30pm - AA	10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	7pm - Cub Scouts	6pm - Chicken BBQ
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Worship Service 11am - Deacons		11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Prayer Gathering 10:30am - Cook for Soup 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8am - Martial Arts 9am - Choir 10am - Worship Service	6:30pm - CitySingers	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	5:30pm - Hayes 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	

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*
Communications & 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*

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

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



The office will be closed on
Monday, September 1st
in observance of Labor Day.



Scan QR code to visit our website



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

THE VIEW

South Congregational Church

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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

September 2025

**NON PROFIT ORG.
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**Dated Material
Deliver no later than
the 12th of the month**



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*.