

# The View

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

## *Pastor's Message*

Dear South Church Family,

There's something sacred about summer. The rhythm slows just enough for us to breathe a little deeper, linger a little longer, and notice beauty that might pass us by in other seasons. Whether you're heading to the beach, staying close to home, traveling across the country, or simply enjoying your own backyard, I hope you're finding pockets of peace and wonder along the way.

This summer, the Board of Christian Education and Faith Enrichment is offering two creative and meaningful ways to help us stay spiritually connected while we're out in the world.

The first is a practice called **Godspotting**. Think of it as a way to slow down and notice where God shows up in your life. Maybe it's in the quiet hush of the woods, the crash of waves at the beach, the smile of a stranger, or the peace that comes with a morning cup of coffee. When a moment stirs something in you - peace, inspiration, connection - consider capturing it in a photo. If it feels meaningful, we hope you'll share it with the church. These images will become part of a **fall photo exhibit** that reflects the many ways God is present among us. Photos (at least 5x7) can be given to Lisa Griffen by August 31.

The second opportunity is all about having fun and staying connected. **Where in the World is South Church?** invites us to take our **You. Are. Loved.** sign along on our summer adventures. Whether you're hiking a mountain, visiting family, dining out, or relaxing on your front porch, snap a photo with the sign and send it to Lisa Griffen or Krista Goh. Once you've returned home safely, they'll post your photo on Facebook for the whole South Church family to enjoy. Let's see just how far our church can go!

Right here at 1301 Forbes Street, I've already felt the Spirit's movement in our shared life this summer. My very first **Strawberry Fair** was a joy to attend. I arrived at 8 a.m. thinking I'd be early to help, only to discover many of you had already been working for hours. The energy was electric. Pies were baked with love, shortcake was scooped with laughter, hot dogs were served with care, and neighbors were greeted with warmth and joy. I had to leave around noon and I did so with a full heart, grateful to be part of a community that lives out its faith so generously.

We also shared a more bittersweet milestone: the **closing of South Church Preschool**. For more than sixty years, that preschool nurtured children with compassion, creativity, and care. We give thanks for every teacher, every parent, every volunteer, and every child who helped shape its sacred legacy. Though the doors have closed, the seeds planted there will continue to grow in ways we may never fully see.

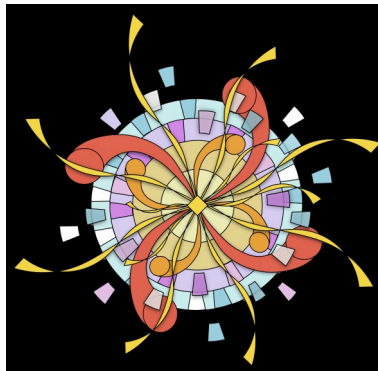
*continued...*

## *Pastor's Message...*

As we move through these summer months, whether you're traveling, resting, celebrating, or grieving, I hope you will pause now and then to notice how God might be meeting you in ordinary places. Scripture reminds us that God is not confined to sanctuaries. God shows up on dusty roads, beside still waters, in unexpected conversations, and even in the quiet corners of our everyday lives.

Dear friends, wherever this summer takes you, may you be reminded again and again that you are held in love beyond measure.

With peace and gratitude,  
~Pastor Kevin



**MOSAICS CONCERTS 2025** present a summer of bluegrass music! Get your friends together and come down to South Church on July 19th and August 16th for 2 evenings of toe-tapping, handclapping, dancing-in-the-aisle music by local bluegrass bands. There will also be a chance to win one of Charlotte Turner's beautiful paintings! What's not to love? The concert schedule is as follows:

Saturday, July 19th, 7:00 pm. SEAT OF OUR PANTS. This band from Marlborough, affectionately known as SOOP to its many followers, features a unique mix of instruments and impeccable, intricate harmonies. The combination of folk instruments and rock-infused songwriting results in a fun experience for audiences.

Saturday, August 16th, 7:00 pm. ON THE TRAIL. Back for the third year in a row, this 4-piece bluegrass band explores everything from bluegrass to contemporary pop, from stunning instrumentals to beautiful traditional songs. Lead vocalist Charlie Widner and his band have many fans here at South Church.

All concert tickets are \$20.00 each, and will be available at the door or online at [mosaicconcerts.com](https://mosaicconcerts.com).

Looking forward to seeing you at the concerts this summer!

## Church Council Meeting Summary – Meeting held June 17, 2025

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

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

Event	Date
Mosaics Concert	Saturday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m.
Mosaics Concert	Saturday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Pledging at 49.5% at end of May vs. target of 41.6% - key driver continues to be those who paid full year pledge
- \$23,911 balance at May month end

**Staff Reports:**

**Pastor Report:**

**Comments:**

- Services for Jean Foisey and Barbara Hooker were held
- Multiple Pastoral visits completed
- Baptism of Bryce Snyder held
- Working with Administrative Committee in support of revising Lisa Griffen's job description

**Hartford East/SNECUCC Report:** Written Annual Report submitted by Wayne Smith

**Additional Comments:**

- 3 Members in Discernment – Council reviewed request for equivalency degrees as path to ordination
- Area Conference Minister Isaac Lawson will be leaving Southern New England Conference at end of June to act as settled pastor of First Congregational Church UDD of Fort Worth Texas
- Adnrew Wicks will be leaving First Congregational in Glastonbury
- Rev. James Mercurio to be installed as Pastor of Second Congregational Church in Manchester June 26th

**Christian Education and Faith Enrichment (CEFE)**

- Car seat safety and bike rodeo went well with 5 families in attendance!
- "Godspotting" will commence this summer!
- Tuesdays at 2:00 going well!

**Board Reports:**

**Deacons:** Written Report

**Additional Comments:**

- Pulpit coverage for Pastor Kevin the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks of July is in place.
- Administrative Committee working to determine optimal ongoing software to be used

**Missions:**

- \$65 sales of Father's Day tools were received. These funds will be combined with Mother's Day blanket sales of \$45 to go to Church World Services to be used as needed.
- O'Connell school students donated over 2000 boxes of cereal to the South Church Foodbank!
- Missions is working with a Syrian family that is new in town to attain needed support and services

**Trustees:**

- Air conditioning installation is planned for July
- New furnace exhaust pipe replaced in support of inspection findings.
- John Duffy sealing and caulking windows as needed

**Church Growth:**

- 10 individuals from South Church marched in Memorial Day parade!
- Games planned for Strawberry Fair!

**Old Business:**

- Preschool honorary service planned for Sunday, June 22nd

**New Business:**

- Maureen presented information from Hartford Wolfpack regarding a South Church family game
  - Cost of \$20 per person with a minimum of 10 people
  - Council agreed to pursue game planning

**Next Meeting planned for September in Church Library and via Google Meet – date and time to be confirmed**

# C.E.F.E. News

Christian Education & Faith Enrichment

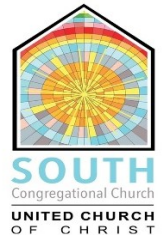
**"Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time."**

~ Maya Angelou



**Godspotting 2025:** With the summer season upon us, CEFE would like to explore where you experience the presence of God during this glorious season of color, travel, traditions, and rejuvenation. Do you feel the closeness of God at the beach? On a mountaintop? In the woods? Visiting with a friend? Birdwatching? We would like to encourage you to be mindful about where God is speaking to you this summer, where you feel most at peace or perhaps where you are inspired by a new thought or idea. If it feels appropriate and meaningful, please **consider taking a picture of this sacred space to be shared in a community photography exhibition this fall.** If interested in participating, please give your photographs to Lisa G no later than August 31. To ensure clarity and visibility, pictures that are at **least five-by-seven** in size would be appreciated.

**Where in the World is South Church?** Besides packing your cameras for the Godspotting opportunity, we'd also like to remind you to bring along your South Church You. Are. Loved. sign! Why? So that you can share your travel adventures with your SCC family! Text or email Lisa G or Krista a picture of you or your family holding the fabulous South Church sign and then we will post your photograph to Facebook. I mean, just think of how many places that special sign might go! The beach, the woods, across the ocean, on a plane, in a boat, to a treasured restaurant, in your very own backyard! Let's have fun with this and spend some time exploring and sharing God's glorious playground. Please see Lisa G for your South Church travel sign. **Additionally, for security purposes, pictures will not be posted online until we know you have returned home safely from vacation.**



**You. Are. Loved.  
East Hartford**

**Tuesdays at Two: Summer Edition. July 8, 15, 22 and 29 @ 2 PM.** Struggling to beat the heat? Join Lisa G and friends for a refreshing time of engaging discussions, joyful fellowship, friendship, and lots of laughter! Each week will find us focused on a different, spirit-filled topic. Come for the conversation but stay for the fun! Participants are welcome to attend one or all Tuesday sessions.

- **July 8: The Happiness Project.** Please come with a list of ten things that make you happy. Not the usual things like family, friends, or the gift of good health, but things that might be a little bit silly, quirky, or out of the ordinary. (For example, someone I know is enamored with squirrels. And maybe broccoli.)
- **July 15: Random Acts of Kindness.** Join us as we share the things that people have done for us that have been a balm for our soul. Who or what has God put on your path that has moved you?
- **July 22: Hidden Treasures:** Is there something in your home or your life that you treasure above all other things? A gift, a poem, a card, or trinket that holds special meaning or value? Bring it along with you. We look forward to hearing your story.
- **July 29: Tuesday Potluck.** That's right. Just wait and see.



**School Supplies Wanted:** As part of our **Community Sundays at South** programming, we will once again be collecting school supplies for the students at O'Connell Elementary School in EH. Requested donations include **dry erase markers, glue sticks, play doh, washable Crayola markers and crayons.** Donations will be received throughout the month of July before and after the 10 AM service on Sundays. Donations can also be dropped off at the church Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 AM-2:30 PM.

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

Saturday, June 7, 2025, found South Church hosting a **Bike Rodeo and Car Seat Safety Check** with the East Hartford Police Department. Highlights of the event include, but are not limited to, one child learning to ride a bike for the first time, one child attempting to ride without training wheels, two families having their car seats installed correctly and one family being connected with a new booster seat for their preschooler! We appreciate this opportunity to connect and educate the public and extend a special thanks to the EHPD for their time, commitment to community engagement and sharing of bicycle and car seat safety tips. You. Are. Loved.



**A Moment for Mother Earth. Commit to reducing your use of plastics this summer.** According to Earth.org, single-use plastic is one of the greatest threats to the environment. Approximately 300 million tons of plastic is produced worldwide every year, with more than 90 % ending up in landfills, the ocean or simply dumped. When ordering takeout, consider using your own reusable food containers. Going for coffee? Bring your own portable mug or thermos. Going grocery shopping? Bring reusable shopping bags. When possible, purchase reusable products instead of single-use plastic to limit your consumption of plastic. **Love more, consume less.** Let's do our part to protect God's beautiful planet.

**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 laughter, love, and peace: Lisa ☺

.....

### Strawberry Fair 2025



**We would like to extend a HUGE Thank you to all who helped make our annual fair a success!!**

**To all who participated in the fair in any way, through planning, set- up, work the day of the fair, clean-up, and donations for shortcake supplies and dollars to defray to the cost of berries as well as joining in the festivities!**

**It is always amazing to see our Church community come together each year in support of this event!**

***Thank you for your continued support!!***

**Erin and Maureen – Fair Coordinators**



## In Celebration:

- We celebrate with the Snyder & Rodrigue families upon the sacrament of baptism for Bryce Xander Snyder on June 8<sup>th</sup> during Sunday worship service.
- We give thanks for the staff of O’Connell School who reached out and coordinated with Lisa Handel and our Board of Missions to partner with our Tuesday Food Bank. The students collected an extraordinary amount of cereal for the Food Bank surpassing their goal. Bless every child who gave, every adult who helped, and every neighbor who will be nourished.
- We are thankful for The East Hartford Police Department after another successful Bike Rodeo and Car Seat Safety Check held on June 7<sup>th</sup> in the church parking lot.

**In Sympathy:**

- For the family of Lynn Ratzell, Pastor Kevin’s uncle, who passed away after a brief illness on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hold Pastor Kevin, his family, and all who loved Lynn in our prayers. May God’s comfort and peace be with them as they continue to grieve.
- Pam Scheinfeldt passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup> after a long and challenging battle with MS. Keep Jerry (husband and former organist at First Church, East Hartford) in your prayers.
- For Robin & Barbara Guthrie and family as they grieve the loss of their brother-in-law, Ardith Gregory, who entered God’s eternal care on June 9<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with Alzheimer’s.
- For the family and friends of Barbara Abbott who has entered eternal rest. Calling hours will be held at South Congregational Church on Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00am followed by a service at 10:00am.

**Hospitalized/Convalescing:**

- Kim (Goding) McMenamin is recovering from leg surgery performed on June 10<sup>th</sup>.*
- Mary Joe Pohl, a friend of a friend of Barbara McNamara, has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer.*

**Please keep in your prayers.....**

<i>Nimmi Baker</i>	<i>Bill Fagan</i>	<i>Liz Costa Mayerson</i>	<i>Bev Saunders</i>
<i>Georgi Beers</i>	<i>Charlie Goding</i>	<i>Beth McGinnis</i>	<i>Russell Turner</i>
<i>Barbara Benson</i>	<i>Barbara Guthrie</i>	<i>Gene Pellett</i>	
<i>John &amp; Phyllis Carella</i>	<i>Mary Ann Higgins</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*  
*Bill West, brother of Kathy Werkheiser*

*Thank you all for prayers for my grandson Anthony. He is making some progress but it takes a lot of time and prayers. We will not give up hope. -Debbie Wall*





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 **July & August** 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 **7/13, 7/27, 8/10 & 8/24**. Please consider hosting if you are available.



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Erin Pelletier	11	Lori DeCrescenzo	24	Grace Guerin
3	Shawna Hannon	12	Kayla Pelletier	25	Jeff Cregeur
5	Laura Davis		Jessica Wilds	26	Elizabeth O'Donnell
6	Robert Parks	13	Eddie Beaver	28	Deborah Rataic
8	Joann Dufresne	18	Charles Goding, Sr.	29	Alex D'Attilio
9	Chris Rataic, Jr.	21	Jillian McNamara	30	Jonathan Vann
	Peggy Schoen	22	Amanda Constantine	31	Paul Werkheiser

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Samantha Malin	8	Tom DeCrescenzo	18	Mark Davis
	Jim Trail		Chuck Pelletier	24	Eric Miller
4	Celia Collins	11	Scott Malin	28	Kathryn Simard
5	Gabriel Zaikarite	14	Dave Porowski	31	Patricia Kowalczyk
6	Haley DeCrescenzo	16	Christopher Simard		
7	Mary Catherine Mumley	17	Robin Guthrie		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service		Setup 11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Caring Ministry	9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts	Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED	9am - Calling Hours/Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA		6pm - Martial Arts		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA		6pm - Martial Arts	5:30pm - Hayes	7pm - Mosaics Concert
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Cook for Soup Kitchen	6pm - Martial Arts		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA		6pm - Martial Arts	7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA		6pm - Martial Arts	7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Caring Ministry	9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 6:30pm - CEFE Meeting 7pm - Trustees 7:30pm - AA		6pm - Martial Arts	5:30pm - Hayes	7pm - Mosaics Concert
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Baptism 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA		6pm - Martial Arts		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	OFFICE CLOSED	11am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Food Bank 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Cook for Soup Kitchen	6pm - Martial Arts		
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8am - Martial Arts 10am - Worship Service	CLOSED Labor Day	11am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Tuesdays at Two 6pm - Martial Arts 7:30pm - AA	10am - Caring Ministry 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9am - DDNCS 6pm - Martial Arts 7pm - Choir	1:15pm - EH Unity Garden 7pm - Cub Scout Leaders	

Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday-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*



**The office will be closed on Mondays  
during the months of July and August.**



**The office will be closed on  
Friday, July 4th  
in observance of Independence Day.**

### *Emails*

Rev. Kevin Weikel.....[pastor@southucc.org](mailto:pastor@southucc.org)  
Jeff Cregeur.....[music@southucc.org](mailto:music@southucc.org)  
Lisa Griffen.....[cefe@southucc.org](mailto:cefe@southucc.org)  
Krista Goh.....[office@southucc.org](mailto:office@southucc.org)  
Madeline Harris.....[accounts@southucc.org](mailto:accounts@southucc.org)  
Bill Vibert.....[sexton@southucc.org](mailto: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.



Scan QR code to visit our website



[facebook.com/SouthUCC/](https://facebook.com/SouthUCC/)  
[youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863](https://youtube.com/@southchurcheasthartford7863)  
[southucc.org](mailto:southucc.org)  
[office@southucc.org](mailto: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

**July/August 2025**

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 4088**

**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*.**