

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Open and Affirming † Intergenerational † A Just Peace Church

“We share in God’s love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.”

~ Our Mission at Storrs Congregational Church



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Please stand as you are able **:.

Please remember to **silence cell phones** and other devices and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation, and preparation for worship.

Accessibility: See an usher for **large-print** bulletins and **wheelchair** or **accessible seating**.
Devices necessary to access worship fully are welcome.

The restroom in this building is at the front of the church behind the doors to the right of the chancel. A **PRAYGROUND** is also located in the northeast corner of the building and available for children and families.

Our services are recorded on Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube.

GATHERING

Whatever your faith tradition, doubts or questions about God; whatever your color skin, gender identity or expression, wherever you find yourself on life's journey, you are welcome here. You matter to God, and you matter to us. Welcome!

Prelude – “Prelude on BROTHER JAMES’ AIR” by Wright

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Introit –

SCC Ringers

Welcome

Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Heather Elliott-Famularo

One: In the darkest valley, at the banquet table;

***Many:* in the hard work of life, at the moments of ease;**

One: in our day-to-day reality, at times set aside--

***Many:* like this time, now—for worship, for listening,**

One: for paying attention; with every step we take:

***Many:* goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow. Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: Friends, we invite you to rise in body or in spirit and offer one another a sign of God's peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

***Many:* And also with you!**

***Hymn** – “God Is Calling Through the Whisper”

this bulletin p. 9

Call to Confession

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Creator God,

You called us from the beginning to be in community. You formed a covenant with our ancestors to be our God. You promised to be faithful in steadfast love. You have remained true to us, Lord, but all the while we have strayed from you. Have we forgotten that your covenant is written upon our hearts? O Maker of the unbreakable

Covenant, we pray you will continue to extend forgiveness, healing, and peace to our weary hearts. (time of silent confession)

Words of Assurance

One: Friends, God is our Shepherd—leading us in safety and assurance. God will continue to pull us from the thickets, carefully remove the burrs and the nettles, then set us back upon God’s paths of righteousness.

Many: **Thanks be to the Lord our God. Amen.**

Children’s Moment

*Our Family Room is staffed and available to children and families as desired or needed.
Children of all ages are, naturally, always welcome to remain in worship.*

WORD

God Speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Prayer of Illumination

Heather Elliott-Famularo

Scripture Readings

First Reading -

Psalm 23

pew Bibles p. 435

Refrain — “Alleluia”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Second Reading -

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

John 10:1-10

pew Bibles p. 872

Sermon - “The Good Shepherd”

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

***Hymn - “Lead Me, Guide Me”**

this bulletin p. 10

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

As the offering is collected, prayers of either joy or concern may be written on the purple prayer request cards found in the pew rack and placed in the offering plates as they are passed. Offerings may be made electronically through our online 'Give Now' option. Scan the QR code for easy access.



Call to Offering

Susan Irvine

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Brother James’ Air” arr. by Gordon Jacob

Adult Choir

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,

the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;

And me to walk doth make

Within the paths of righteousness,

Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Within the paths of righteousness,

Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I pass through shadows death,

Yet will I fear no ill;

For Thou art with me; and Thy rod

And staff me comfort still.

Thy rod and staff they comfort still

They comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishd

In presence of my foes;

My head with oil thou dost anoint,

And my cup overflows.

My head thou dost with oil anoint,

And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days

Will surely follow me;

And in my father's heart always

My dwelling place shall be

*PRESENTING OUR GIFTS: *The Festival Doxology*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be - low:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

We pray these offerings help to heal our hurting world. Sent out as your Easter people, may we continue sharing in your love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people. Amen.

Prayers of the People, ending with **The Lord's Prayer**

Many: Creator/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 glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God Blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

News from our Life Together

Recognition of Dr. Patricia Snyder in her 20th anniversary as Director of Music Ministry with the Storrs Congregational Church

***Hymn** – “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

this bulletin p. 11

***Benediction**

Postlude – “Praeludium in G, BWV 541” by J. S. Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder



Thank you, Trisha, for 20 years of dedicated service as Director of Music Ministry. Your leadership and talent have blessed SCC with beautiful choral, bell, and organ music, enriching worship and bringing so much meaning to our congregation and community.

Call to Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Following 10:00 am Worship in the Meeting House and on Zoom

Pursuant to Section 47 (Article XI) of the Bylaws of our congregation...

The Members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to a special meeting of the congregation to be held on Sunday May 3, 2026 following the Sunday morning worship service. The meeting will be held in the same format as worship, in -person and/or online via Zoom Meetings . The business of said meeting shall be to vote on the following two motions:

Motion 1: To expand the current Playground by removing a section of the front panel wall and the first two pews on the Route 195 side, cutting them at the mid-pew divider wall.

Rationale: In order to create a more spacious, functional, and welcoming space for our children and families with children to engage in developmentally appropriate activities and learning while still being a part of the worshipping community, a larger, more permanent home for our Playground is proposed by:

- Removing a section of the front panel wall and the first two pews on the Route 195 side, cutting them at the mid-pew divider wall.
 - This would open up a roughly 8'x8' space for the Playground, thus more comfortable for kids and better stocked with faith formation tools.
 - It would leave pew #3 open with available seating for children's parents and/or caregivers.
 - Playground materials could also be moved from the front and side aisles making for better passage (particularly to the restroom). It would add an open space in the front corner that could be useful for any special events or uses (photographers at weddings, for example).
- Discussion by the congregation will result in either a vote on Motion 1 or a return of the plan to the Governing Board for further review.

Motion 2: The Governing Board asks the congregation to authorize the cost of approximately \$50,000 for an improved audio system for the Meeting House. It will be paid for by a fundraising effort of the A2A Committee May through September with the balance (up to \$50,000) to be covered by the Major Projects Fund.

Rationale: At its meetings of March 17 and April 21, 2026, the Governing Board reviewed the SCC Audio Proposal for the Meeting House, an initiative of the Accessibility To All (A2A) workgroup appointed by the Board. See insert for project purpose, scope and timeline.

PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN INSERT WITH DETAILED INFORMATION.

Be Our Guest for Trisha's 20th Anniversary Luncheon!

Come on over to the Parish House Auditorium and share a beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! The Parish House Auditorium is located in the buildings to the west of the Meeting House. Follow the others on over, or ask an usher to guide you... We look forward to seeing you! Remember to wear your Name Tag!

Worship

Every Sunday, 10:00 am, in the Meeting House and on Zoom & YouTube. Expressive, participatory liturgy; thoughtful preaching; and a soul-stirring blend of new and traditional music are some of the elements you can expect to encounter each Sunday.

Thank You Sunday Morning Servers for Assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Heather Elliott-Famularo; **Greeter:** Jane Joesten; **Ushers:** Ray Joesten, Laurie Brookes; **Welcome Table:** Mary Lake; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: **Liturgist:** Desiree Duda; **Greeter:** Janis Hoyle; **Head Usher:** Cass Crewdson; **Usher:** Wes Lang-Rodean; **Welcome Table:** Jamie Lang-Rodean **Fellowship Host:** Robert Jeffers; **Communion:** Annetta Miller, Erin Scholes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday April 26, 2026

8:45-9:45am	Student Breakfast
9:00-10:00am	Adult Choir
10:00-11:00am	Worship
11:00-12pm	Luncheon
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
2:30-5 pm	<i>Consonare</i>
7:30-8:30 pm	<i>Speaker Meeting</i>

Comings and Goings

Katie will be on vacation from May 4th – 8th, and working a half day May 14th, and out the 15th for a scheduled dental procedure.

News and Notes

Final Noon Day Recital Alert! 🎹 Stop by the Meeting House on **April 29th at 12:15** p.m. to hear Trisha's recital. Take a break from your busy day and enjoy some beautiful organ music. All are invited!

**Emergency Trainings – Sign up Now!**

Wednesday April 29th at 6pm – First Aid and Stop the Bleed email Linda at lblum0598@gmail.com, please sign up to ensure there are enough supplies.

Your Vision Team invites you to a final "DREAMING WITH GOD!" ZOOM gathering: Tuesday April 28 at 11am

Pastor Diane will host the gathering. (Technical difficulties prevented our Zoom gathering from occurring on Th 4/23)

If you were unable to attend in-person on 4/12, nor able to join on Zoom on the evening of 4/20, we hope you'll join us at this Zoom gathering to dream into God's vision for SCC for the next 2-3 years! Your SCC Vision Team

The SCC Lunch Bunch: will meet the first Friday of each month. Our first lunch will be on **Friday, May 1, 1:00 pm** at **Fenton River Grill** on Storrs Road near Mansfield Big Y. It's a social gathering that includes anyone who's interested and available for a meal and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! RSVP: Nancy Tomastik at 860-429-3593 or etomastik@earthlink.net by Thursday, April 30. Hope to see you there!

New C.A.F.É. Storrs Topic: We have started a new topic of discussion this week: "Islam from a Christian Perspective."

This will be aimed at understanding Islam through the lens of our Christian faith. We will be exploring Islam with the goal of understanding it better, and seeing where our faiths overlap and where they differ.

Join Rev. Mike and Ray, discussion leaders, in the library or on Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon. All are welcome!

Memorial Service – Anne Usher: The Celebration of Life Service for Anne Usher will be held on **Saturday 5/2 at 11am** in the Meeting House with a reception in the Auditorium. Please join us as we honor Anne's life together.

Another year, another Spring Workdays Weekend. There are numerous opportunities for individuals who want to spend a few hours enhancing our buildings and grounds. Our main event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 16**, with **Sunday, May 17** available for extra time or those who prefer that day. Many of the available projects do not require specialized skills.

If you believe you would like to be involved in any way, please contact me, and I will endeavor to assign you a task suited to your interests. In the weeks ahead, you will be hearing of specific tasks that are planned. Please consider making a commitment to assist our Buildings and Grounds Ministry. You can reach me at (860)872-4477 or text (860)734-6300.

Thank you, Duffy

542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

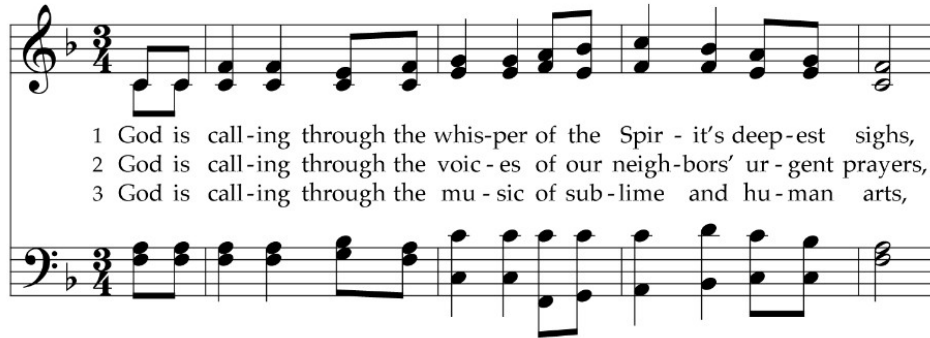


coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

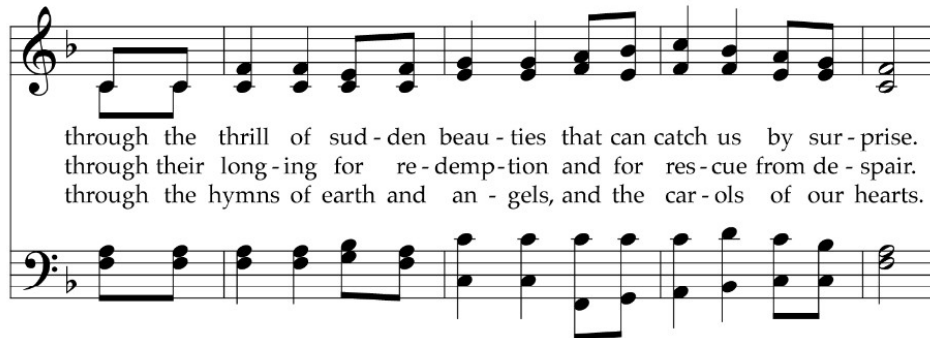


fold you:
 vide you:
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 fore you:

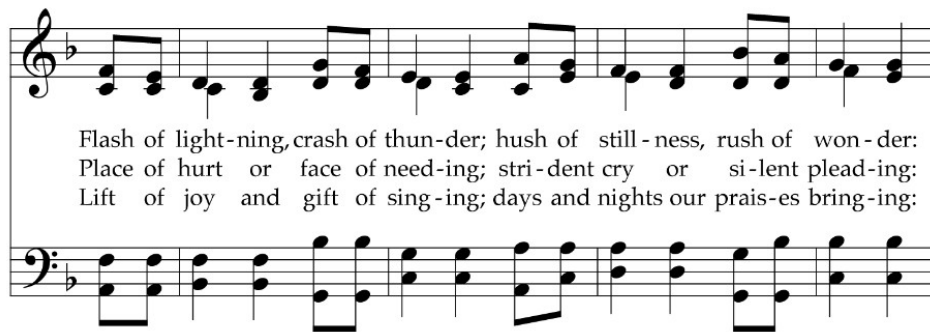
410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing;
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing;



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!

740

Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D) (A7) (Em)
 Refrain Eb Bb7 Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you
 lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
 day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me
 o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your
 face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *to Refrain*

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Scripture readings: The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
- Call to Worship: ~ adapted from prayer by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith. <https://spaciousfaith.com/>
- Refrain – “Alleluia”: Music by Fintan O’Carroll, 1981; harm Christopher Walker, 1985; ©1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker; admin. OCP. All rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #587.
- Presentation of our gifts – Festival Doxology: Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978. Adaptation ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Music: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623.

All Hymns reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under
OneLicense.net #A-719182.
All rights reserved.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER IS THE TERRITORY OF THE MOHEGAN, MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT, EASTERN PEQUOT, SCHAGHTICOKE, GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT, NIPMUC, AND LENAPE PEOPLES, WHO HAVE STEWARDED THIS LAND THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE IN PROTECTING THIS LAND, AND ASPIRE TO UPHOLD OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR EXAMPLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://nacp.uconn.edu/land-acknowledgement/>

We Welcome All!

We extend a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God.

Questions about our life together are always welcome. Ask any one of us!

If you are visiting, or looking for a church home, or simply wish to connect after worship, please introduce yourself to our pastor or any member.



We would love to meet you!

More information is also on our website, www.storrscongregation.org.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268 | 860.429.9382 | www.storrscongregation.org

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn – diane@storrscongregation.org Ext. 23
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrscongregation.org Ext. 26
<i>Communications & Digital Ministry Specialist</i>	Ellen Bradley – ellen@storrscongregation.org Ext. 22
<i>Volunteer Visitation Minister</i>	Pastor Mike Lake – mike@storrscongregation.org 785-760-4983
<i>Office Administrator</i>	Katie Bienvenue – sccoffice@storrscongregation.org Ext. 21
<i>Sexton</i>	Antonio Aguilera – antonio@storrscongregation.org Ext. 21
