

The Carillon



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

SEPTEMBER 2023

Worship In Person or Online with SCC

Sunday at 10AM in the Meeting House or via Zoom or YouTube

Scan QR Code or Access Online Worship activities at
<http://www.storrscongchurch.org/worship-online/>.

A2A NEWS–EASEL TALK SUNDAY, SEPT. 10TH



On Sunday, September 10th following the Annual Fire Drill, Fellowship Hour will be held in the Parish House Auditorium following our special worship in the Auditorium. Starting at 11:30 the A2A workgroup will host a 'Q and A Easel Talk' to address questions or give clarification to the A2A Resource Document which seeks to provide reference links to supporting documentation related to the A2A project. The A2A Resource Document will briefly outline and link to documents explaining the process and the outcomes during the past year, plans for completion by the end of 2023 and plans for study with predicted completion in 2024 and 2025 or beyond.

Watch your email for the distribution of the A2A Resource Document later this week. When it arrives, take a moment (or two) to review it so that you can participate in a constructive conversation at next Sunday's 'Q and A Easel Talk'.

Contact any member of the committee for discussion:

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welcoming historic progressive Christian



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Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church

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SCC Mission Statement

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

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ON THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DIANE



Dear Friends,

I write this on the heels of our Sunday worship of August 20th. By my count, we had nine new people arrive (in-person) to visit and worship with SCC! Among them were two UConn students, a family of five, and a couple who joined us for the second time while “church-shopping”. What a blessing!

I am so very grateful to everyone who offers a warm welcome to our visitors, who help them to feel comfortable in our

space and our form of worship. I’m grateful to our worship leadership who offer the gift of song and music, of tech connection, of ushering and serving and overall helping to make our worship experience one of a holy welcome and praiseworthy to God! And, I’m always curious to see how God is speaking to us in new seasons.

As we enter September, I wonder, how will SCC continue to answer God’s call? How might we continue to practice and share our gratitude? What will it look like as we continue to offer radical hospitality to all, whatever one’s faith journey, whatever one’s questions, whatever one’s struggle?

The questions are more important than the answers, we know.

The questions guide us forward as beloved community, as curious seekers, and as disciples of Christ. So, as we welcome a new season of fall together, I invite you to be curious with me in the questions...

How might I help support SCC in offering a deep and broad welcome to all?

How can I share my leadership role, and welcome new members into places of leadership?

Where might I/we struggle to provide new opportunities to others, and how can I/we grow in this way?

By asking prayerfully and curiously, we invite the Holy Spirit to do her work with us in this new season.

So be it, and may it be so.

Blessings upon the journey,
Diane



Would you like to be a volunteer in our Family Room (Nursery) one Sunday a month?

Dear SCC friends,

More visitors, and even families, are dropping into Sunday worship in recent months, coming to explore who we are and how we worship at SCC.

God calls us to offer a radical welcome, and this means choices for families...such as sitting together in the pews, and playing in the Playground, as well as providing a welcoming drop-off spot for children, or a resting spot for parent and child, in our Family Room (formerly the Nursery).

We hope to have the Family Room available for families **beginning on September 10th.**



Would you like to be a volunteer??

If you are interested in volunteering one Sunday a month or just periodically, please contact Zoe Strickler: zstrickler@spectrum.net

or Rev. Diane: diane@storrscongregation.org to learn more!

Our Safe Church policy requires that we have two volunteers each Sunday, and they cannot be related to one another.

Thank you for getting curious about this question!

Peace,

Zoe and Diane

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ~ SEPTEMBER 12TH

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be on ***Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 PM*** in person in Room 201 in the Education Building and via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you'd like to receive the Zoom meeting invite and materials packet (so you can follow along with the meeting), contact Deborah in the office to be added to the distribution.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

LUNCH & LISTEN GATHERING

The newly reactivated Mental Health and Wellness Ministry will begin again by sponsoring a once a month gathering at a local restaurant after our Sunday service on the first Saturday of each month.

The first one will be on Sunday, October 1st. The next one will be Sunday, Nov. 5th. (restaurant to be announced) If you would like to participate this first time, we will meet at Chang's Garden, 1244 Storrs, CT (in the plaza where Starbuck's is...to the left) at 12:00. (They open at 12 on Sundays). Try to remember the week before to confirm that you are coming. You can call or send a text to Kathy Lindner, 201-0723-0458 or Annetta Miller 609-751-8929. We will give the restaurant a heads up of the number who are coming. If you are on zoom but cannot attend, let Kathy or Annetta know and arrangements will be made with a group member to have a "tea break" with you on google meet.

Joining with others, making friends, socializing and speaking so others are listening is a basic way to improve our own mental health.

At the lunches, after we eat and chat a bit, a facilitator will share a poem, a reading or a prayer and each person present will have the opportunity to speak and share their feelings or whatever they would like to share. You can pass if you wish. Others will listen. The only rule is there will be no "cross talk". Later when you are outside you can chat if there is other conversation you would like to have. This is called a "sharing circle". Kathy experienced it often when she used to attend programs at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, Mass. It can be very powerful.

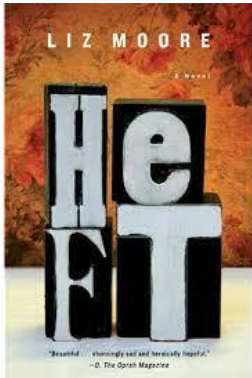
It can also help us to "listen" to others without interrupting with our own stories.

At the first session, after the sharing we will float other ideas to improve our own and others mental health. Feel free to contact Kathy or Annetta with any ideas at any time.

Kathy Lindner
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Anntta Miller
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SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our next book discussion is Sunday, September 17th, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Library and via Zoom.

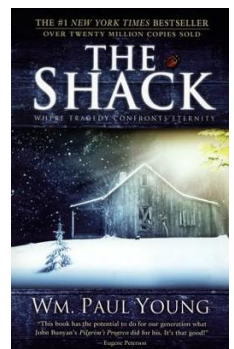
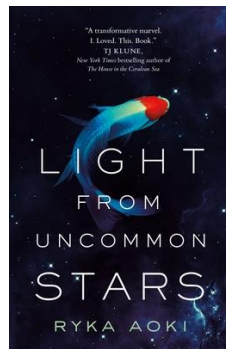
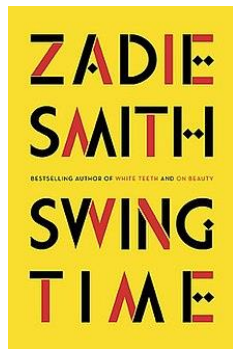
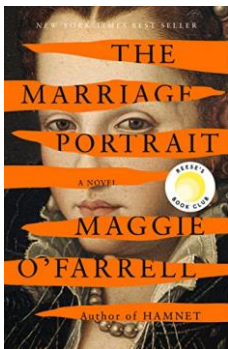
Join us as we discuss *HEFT: A Novel* by Liz Moore. It is a story of improbable heroes. Sixty-year-old academic, Arthur, is so overweight that it has limited his world. He has not been out of his house for ten years. Kel, a seventeen-year-old poor boy in a prestigious high school longs for a baseball career. Kel's mother, Arthur's former student, brings the two together and transforms both lives.

Availability: Library Connections, Local Libraries, Audio and E-book. Contact: Malta Bailey (mbailey05@snet.net)

BOOKS FOR UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS

Here is information for our next season of book discussions that includes gathering date, book title and author, genre, and name of the person who made the recommendation.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| November 19, 2023 | THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT by Maggie O'Farrell, historical fiction (<i>Pat Piatek</i>) |
| January 21, 2024 | SWING TIME by Zadie Smith, novel (<i>Nancy Rucker</i>) |
| March 17, 2024 | LIGHT FROM UNCOMMON STARS by Ryka Aoki, science fiction and fantasy (<i>Patty Tanaka</i>) |
| September 15, 2024 | THE SHACK by William P. Young, Christian novel (<i>Cindi Gilligan</i>) |



Copies of all books except "THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT" are now available in the SCC Library.

WHAT ABOUT BOB?



It's quite probable that over the last ten or so years you've seen Bob Berube working on projects around SCC. His first connection with our Church was when he was hired to help in set construction in the production of Scrooge. While I don't recall his first assignment for our Buildings and Grounds Committee, it was immediately apparent that he is a very handy individual. His most recent works of art involve the reconstruction of the slate patios and walkways of our buildings. His fees are very reasonable and he has almost always been the lowest bid on

major undertakings. His list of accomplishments is too extensive to list but highlights include the building of our two sheds, roof and gutter repairs, correcting damage to the office area from an auto accident and reconstruction and painting of areas in all of our buildings. Like Antonio, Bob is a pleasure to work with. He doesn't let me forget that I was his eighth grade science teacher and by his own admission (and mine), he was not a good student. However, Bob's work ethic, skills, work experiences and mechanical aptitude make him a blessing for SCC. If truth be told, I find myself learning far more from him than he learned from me as a former student.



Front steps of the Waggoner Chapel

WELCOME BACK UCONN!

Loaded with signs, brochures, flyers, postcards, flags, banners, cookies and smiles, Cindy Felkel, Trisha Sndyer, Pastor Diane & Leo headed out to greet the incoming students on Fairfield Way.



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY LOFT

By the time you are reading this choir and bells will have just begun. We are always welcoming new singers and ringers! Weekly rehearsals are on Thursday evenings for both ensembles: 6:30 bells, 7:30 choir. If you are interested in joining either ensemble, now is a good time to email or talk to Trisha. (trisha@storrscongchurch.org)

Choir is for anyone who enjoys singing. We explore many types and eras of sacred music and aim for an inclusive mix of composers including women and minorities. Our choral scholars keep us on our toes and provide solid support to each vocal part. We usually start preparing music six weeks in advance depending on the level of difficulty. Listening links and scores help singers practice individually if they prefer. This Fall we'll be preparing special music for Heritage Sunday, All Saints and for an ecumenical service of Lessons and Carols on December 10 in addition to regular Sunday morning services. Don't wait to jump in! We are supportive and we have fun even when we're working hard.

SCC Ringers also rehearse weekly. We are a devoted and diverse group of bell players. You do not need to 'read' music to participate although a basic concept of rhythmic notation helps (we can also teach you). Players are usually assigned two main bells and often one or more secondary bells. Those for the right hand are circled in red and those for the left in blue. Each person plays their assigned bells in time according to the music. We learn all different kinds of bell playing techniques: shakes, marts, lifts, thumb damps and more. I'm always happy to answer questions!

Soli Deo gloria!

Trisha Snyder

Director of Music Ministry

REMEMBERING

Monday, September 11th marks the 22nd anniversary of the terror attacks that took the lives of 2,977 men, women and children in New York City, Arlington, VA and near Shanksville, PA.



To commemorate this solemn anniversary, Christopher Dustin will play 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' on the carillon bells at 8:46 AM. At that time he will toll the 'Bourdon' (lowest sounding bell) twenty times at the end.

A SEPTEMBER REFLECTION

by Ellen Bradley

Beach plums aren't typically found in supermarkets. Maybe at farmers markets near Cape Cod or in Rhode Island, but around here, miles from the ocean, it's not something you see every day, if ever. That's why when I saw the ad on the Stafford Springs Facebook page last year for beach plums free for the picking, I was curious enough to actually go and check it out. I make a lot of jams and jellies and this was a fruit that I have seen at the Cape growing on low shrubs all along pathways, fences, and sandy dunes, but never here.

The beach plums were at someone's house right across from the Staffordville Reservoir, so the water proximity was right. There was a whole row of bushes across the yard that were hanging heavy with an abundant harvest of dark purple, red, and yellow plums, the size of cherries. The fruit was low so it was going to require a lot of bending down to pick. At my age I generally don't get all the way down unless I know exactly how I am going to get back up, but before I made much effort at all, I had filled up my little container. That afternoon I made a small batch of beach plum jam that was tart and tasty, and I was glad to have had the experience of trying an unfamiliar fruit and making something delicious out of it.

Beach plums were on my mind again last week as I realized that around Labor Day was the same time that they were ripe last year. We had rationed last year's jam and just recently scraped out the last jar to make a gingery plum sauce to eat with Indian food which it pairs with very well. I know that that beach plums, like many fruits, have bumper crops some years, and other years nothing, so I wasn't sure if there was going to be more this year. But then, on Saturday evening, I saw this year's announcement - the beach plums were ready for picking!

We had plans all day on Sunday, but if I waited, there might not be any left by Monday! So I got up early on Sunday and went before 7:30 a.m. I was alone there, and did my picking quietly, reverently. It was a beautiful day, that slice of time between summer and fall. Even the beach across the street was empty and silent at that time, awaiting the crowds sure to arrive a little later. I felt like I had this glorious quiet beach, and beautiful harvest all to myself while most people haven't even started their day yet. On the way home on a winding wooded road I passed a waterfall and pulled my car over and got out and stood in front of it. It was about ten degrees cooler right there. The water was cascading over the outcrop, and the cooling spray was refreshing, sending negatively charged ions in the air which felt invigorating as I breathed deep. Beneath the bridge on the other side of the road, the water was wide and lazy, shaded under a lush canopy of trees. It looked like an old fashioned

swimming hole and in my mind I could almost see see Huck Finn twirling on a rope swing high above the water.

When driving somewhere, I usually don't notice these things. I'm always in a hurry or distracted. In fact, my plan that morning had been to pick fast and hurry back. But, God had other plans for me. It felt so good to actually take the time to experience the sacred beauty of the early Sunday morning outside, taking my time picking the plums and then visiting the waterfall in the woods. I brought my beach plum bounty home, and although I already felt blessed, got to my church in time for Ted's prelude, and made ten pints of beach plum jam the next day, a benediction.

May we embrace the power of pausing in moments of joy, discovering and noticing unexpected gifts of beauty. Help us find time and make the most of opportunities to experience sanctified times of solitude while enjoying the peacefulness of nature. And let us remember that the earth is a sacred gift given to us by our Parent God, which we are called to care for and nurture. Amen.

GARDENING NEEDS

Increasingly more individuals and couples have been devoting time to beautifying our grounds and the results are obvious. We appreciate the efforts of fourteen others in planting new trees and the pollinator garden, as well as the support of the Just Peace Ministry Team.

We welcome your help at any time as your schedule permits.



Do you have weekday time for an occasional short-term project? This current heat wave will soon be giving way to cooler days when it will be more pleasant to work outdoors.

While there will be another workday weekend in October for inside and outdoor projects, September is a great time for lawn seeding and new plantings being considered.

Contact Duffy Brookes (thebrookes@aol.com) if you wish to get involved in some way.

SERVICE SEWING, REACHING OUT

School Supply sales have already begun! There are reports that with the students returning in person learning the need for school supplies will exceed the demand from last year. Our Service Sewing team depends upon the savvy shoppers of this community to gather the needed items for the school kits to pack into hand sewn bags for delivery around our nation or where the need is greatest.

Supplies needed for **School Kits** are:

- One pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10-1/2" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets.
No loose-leaf/filler paper.
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One eraser, 2-1/2"
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- \$2 for mailing



Supplies needed for **Health/Hygiene Kits** are:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber towel)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper, removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap, in the original package
- One toothbrush, in the original package
- 10 standard size Band-aids
- \$2.00 for mailing cost

If you'd rather not shop but want to participate you can send in a check to SCC with "Health & School" kits on the memo line and we'll do the shopping for you. Please bring your donations to Worship on Sunday and leave in the Narthex or drop by the Parish House anytime during the week. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry, we couldn't do it without all of you!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations:

- Sue & Paul Schur 9/4
- Harry & Lynn Johnson 9/12
- Janmarie & Tom Weston 9/17
- Jayne Hollows & Allan Korkala 9/21



Birthday Celebrations:

- Mike Lake 9/2
- Robert Kimenyi 9/3
- Ali McLaren 9/6
- Sterling Brandt 9/7
- Ken Hanson 9/7
- Katie Kapinos 9/9
- Melissa Mason 9/9
- Priscilla Pike 9/9
- Mary Lake 9/10
- Pam Roberts 9/11
- Elliot Smith 9/11
- Ray Joesten 9/12
- Bob Malecki 9/12
- William Huey 9/13
- Rich Cowles 9/14

- Selena Kapinos 9/18
- Jeffrey Villar 9/18
- Ed Tomastik 9/21
- Samuel Baldwin 9/22
- Janmarie Weston 9/23
- Steven Demurjian 9/25
- Jane Ann Bobbitt 9/26
- Lynn Brown 9/26
- Wendy Hamlin 9/28
- Betsy Mochel 9/28
- Alyssa Blachez 9/29
- Robin Blomstrann 9/29
- Corey Dione 9/29

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN A HURTING WORLD

We offer prayers for all who seek safe harbors in war-torn places. We hold in tender prayer all those whose dedicated military service aspires to bring peace to a hurting world.



- **Matt Allen**, submitted by Pam & Dick Roberts
- **Joseph Tanaka**, submitted by Patty Tanaka
- **Joshua & Dakota Conner**, submitted by Charlene Dickenson

To request a prayer or to have a name added to this list and/or provide an update, please contact Pastor Diane at diane@storrscongchurch.org.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Long-time member of our faith community, **Elizabeth Hanks** has relocated from the Storrs Mansfield area to Mystic Connecticut and now resides at:

Pendleton Rehab & Nursing
44 Maritime Drive
Mystic, CT 06355

Keeping In Touch



Elizabeth would sincerely appreciate cards and letters as well as phone calls keeping her connected to her beloved church family. Thank you for keeping Elizabeth in your prayers as she transitions to this new neighborhood.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- *WAIM Workday*
- *Neighbors in Need Offering*
- *Accessibility Sunday*
- *Building & Grounds Workday Weekend*
- *Concinity Performance*
- *Heritage Sunday Celebration*

Watch for information about these events and more in upcoming Tuesday eNews & Notes and Friday All Church Weekly emails. If you are not receiving these emails, or important news, and feel that you should, please contact Deborah in the office at sccoffice@storrsconchurch.org to be added to the distribution list.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Our monthly newsletter contains material about what's happening in the ministries of the Church; Governing Board actions; Church Family news; information about upcoming meetings, events and celebrations. Articles to be included in the next monthly newsletter should be received in the office by the 22nd of the current month.

We've transitioned from the bulk mailing of the monthly *Carillon*, to the convenience and efficiency of electronic distribution, but if you'd like a copy mailed to you, please contact Deborah in the office. Copies of the *Carillon* are also available in the Parish House entryway if you'd like to stop in and pick one up.

GATHERINGS @ SCC

- Mondays**Service Sewing, 9:30 am (Room 207)
Food Pantry Open, 12:00 pm (Room 102)
- Tuesdays**Library Open, 9:30 am (Ed. Building – Library)
- Wednesdays**.....Parish Piecers, 10:00 am (Ed. Bldg. 2nd Floor)
C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (PH – Lounge & Zoom)
- Thursdays**.....Food Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (Room 102)
Handbell Choir, 6:30 pm (Meeting House)
Adult Choir, 7:30 pm (Meeting House)
- Sundays**.....Student Breakfast, 8:45 am (Auditorium)
Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (Room 102)
Consonare Choirs, 2:30 pm (Auditorium)
Sunday Night Speaker Meeting, 7:30 pm (Auditorium)
-

MEETINGS @ SCC

- Sept. 71st Thursday Book Club, 1:00 pm (Library)
- Sept. 10A2A Easel Talk, 11:30 am (Courtyard)
- Sept. 12Chapter S PEO Meeting, 10:00 am (Lounge)
- Sept. 12Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (Room 201 & Zoom)
- Sept. 17.....Sp. Congregational Meeting, following Worship
- Sept. 17.....Book Discussion Group, 4:00 pm (Library/Zoom)
- Sept. 25Food Pantry Advisory Board Meeting, 4:00 pm (Library)
- Sept. 28.....Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00 am (Library & Zoom)
- Sept. 29.....A Cappella New Member Invitational, CDN, 6:00 pm (MH)
-

MOBILE COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

- Sept. 7 & 21 Mobile Food Share, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)
-

GROUPS MEETING @ SCC

- Ballroom Dance:** Monday 7–11 pm (Auditorium)
- Lego Robotics:** Monday 5-8 pm, Wed. 4-7 pm, Fri. 5-8 pm (Rooms 201 & 207)
- UConn Dance Company:** Tues. 4-6 pm, Thurs. 6:30 – 8:30 pm (Auditorium)
- University Ballet Company:** Wed. 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Sun. 5–7 pm (Auditorium)
- Swing & Blues Dance:** Tuesday 7–11 pm (Auditorium)
- Buddhist Meditation Group:** Wednesday 7:00 – 8:30 pm (Room 106)
- Table Tennis Club:** Mon. 2:30-6:30, Fri. 4-8, Sat. 11:30 – 3:30 pm (Auditorium)