

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 SCC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

PROPER 24, ORDINARY TIME

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 – “Humble Yourselves” from *Symphony 3* by Carson Cooman *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

Bringing in the Light

Welcome *Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Call to Worship (*responsive*) *Marsha Creese*

One: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings and queens, God is the Lord of all life.

***Many:* In God we live and move and have our being.**

One: God requires our faithfulness and our service, to reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God has touched our lives.

***Many:* Let us worship the God who is with us. Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. 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, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” *Glory to God* 716 *this bulletin p. 8*

Call to Confession *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of mercy, we place our trust in tangible things—what we can see and touch—and we question whether you are really there. Forgive us when we fail to see that you are always nearby. Help us when we lose our way, when we forget to whom we truly belong. Love of justice, open our eyes to see you; open our ears to hear you, open our hearts to love you; and open our hands to serve you. (*time of silent confession*)

Words of Assurance

One: God reminds us, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Many: **In the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. We will rest in God’s mercy. Amen.**

Children’s Moment

Our Family Room is not staffed; however, it is open and available to interested children and their grownups as desired/needed. Children of all ages are, naturally, always welcome to remain in worship.

WORD

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

ANTHEM – “Be the Change” by Marc Kaplan and Colin Britt

Everyone!

Be the **change** you want to **see** in this world...and change will come to you.

Be the **voice** you want to **hear** in this world...and change will come to you.

Be the **light** you want to **shine** in this world...and change will come to you.

Prayer of Illumination

Marsha Creese

First Scripture Reading -

Isaiah 45:1-7

this bulletin p. 9

Refrain — “Open My Heart” by Ana Hernández

*The congregation sings: **Open my heart. Open my heart.***

Second Scripture Reading –

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Matthew 22:15-22

this bulletin p. 9

Sermon – “The Things that are God’s”

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

***Hymn** – “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” *New Century* 543

this bulletin p. 10

RESPONSE

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

A Time of Offering

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 also be made electronically through our online ‘Give Now’ option. Scan the QR code for easy access.



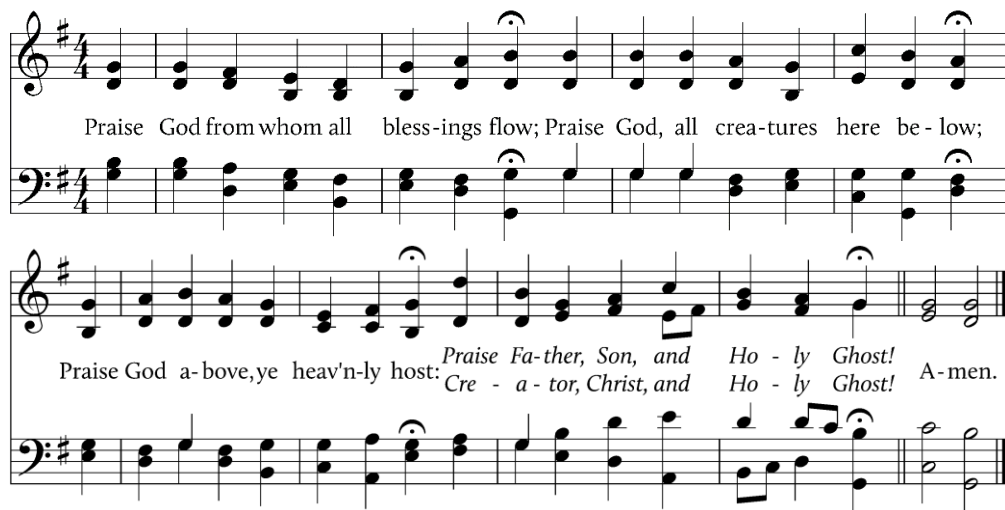
Call to Offering

ORGAN OFFERTORY – “Voluntary in G” by Stanley

Dr. Patricia Snyder

* **PRESENTING OUR GIFTS: *The Doxology***

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be-low;

Praise God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost!
Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Ho-ly Ghost! A-men.

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

As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment, may we become imitators of you, gracious God, who holds nothing back from us, but is generous and gracious with all that is yours. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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

* **Hymn** – “God of Grace and Glory of Glory” *Glory to God* **307**

this bulletin p. 11

* **Benediction**

Postlude – “Fantasy in G minor, BWV 542” by J. S. Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Be Our Guest for Potluck Fellowship!

Come on over to the Parish House Lounge and share a beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! The Parish House is 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 for Assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Marsha Creese; **Greeter:** Lisa Gregus; **Ushers:** Wesley Lang-Rodean, Jamie Lang-Rodean; **Welcome Table:** Carolyn Holmy **Fellowship Host:** Diana Alvarado; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week (Heritage Sunday!!): **Liturgist:** Liz Cowles; **Greeter:** Katie Bienvenue; **Head Usher:** Cass Crewdson; **Usher:** Bruce Burgen; **Welcome Table:** Needed **Communion:** Annetta Miller, Susan Irvine; **Fellowship Host:** Heritage Sunday Luncheon;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday October 18, 2026

8:45-9:45 am	Student Breakfast
9:00-10:00 am	Adult Choir
10:00-11:00 am	Worship
11:00-12 pm	Fellowship
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
11:30-12:30 pm	Food Pantry Open
2:30-5 pm	Consonare

News and Notes

Café Storrs: will be on hiatus until November 4th.

Noon Hour Organ Recital: Our next recital is Oct. 21 at 12:15 p.m. at St. Mark's just down the street.

Our free Noon Hour recitals feature incredible organists and a diverse repertoire of classical masterworks, offering the perfect midday escape.

Remaining recitals are:

October 21: Charles Houmard, St. Mark's Chapel

November 18: Patricia Snyder, at SCC

Plan on coming and bring a friend, to enjoy beautiful music in stunning acoustic spaces.

Heritage Sunday is next Sunday and everyone is invited to our Heritage Sunday Luncheon for a wonderful time of food and fellowship!

The luncheon will take place in the Auditorium immediately following worship and group photos of our honorees on **Sunday, October 25th**.

For the kids: Chicken tenders and french fries will be served.

RSVP Deadline: Please sign up by **October 19th** so we can plan accurately.

How to sign up: Use the sheets at Fellowship, check the bulletin board by the office, or contact Marsha Creese directly (860-550-4308 / arscreese@aol.com).

We are also thrilled to celebrate **Joining Sunday** on this day, when new members will be joining our community of faith during the worship service, giving us all the more reason to come together in celebration! We look forward to seeing you on this joyful day!

The SCC Lunch Bunch will hold their next get-together at the Asian Bistro, Eastbrook Mall, Mansfield on **Friday, November 6 at 1:00 pm**. We hope you can join us for this casual gathering that includes anyone who's interested and available for a meal and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us - singles, couples, men, women, all ages - whenever you can. Please let Nancy Tomastik know by Thursday, November 5 if you can be there to save a seat, etomastik@earthlink.net or 860-420-9494.

All are cordially invited to the next SCC Social, which will take place at **6:30 pm in the lounge on Saturday, November 7**. This will be a game night dessert party. Everyone is invited to bring a game to play and a dessert to share. There is a sign up sheet in the lounge. Next to the sign up sheet is a second sheet to nominate a movie for an

upcoming SCC Social movie night. We will vote on the movie at the November 7 Social. Any questions please contact Robert Jeffers at jeffersjrr@aol.com. See you at the social

Monday Movement Meetings, held at **Mansfield Middle School** 5:30-6:30 pm, All are welcome! 10/26, 11/9, 11/23.

Storrs Congregational Church PECAN FUNDRAISER October 12 - November 1, 2026



SCHERMER
PECANS



STORRS
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
2 North Eagleville Rd
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

See order form insert if you'd prefer to place your order in person, look for Lois, Dwightr, or place it in the office drop box!

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)

F Dm B $\flat$

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)
B $\flat$ F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)

Dm Am Dm B^b C F



to you, of-fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)
 Dm B $\flat$ F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Cyrus, God's Instrument

45 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him — and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Second Scripture Reading – Matthew 22:15-22*pew Bibles p. 803-804***The Question about Paying Taxes**

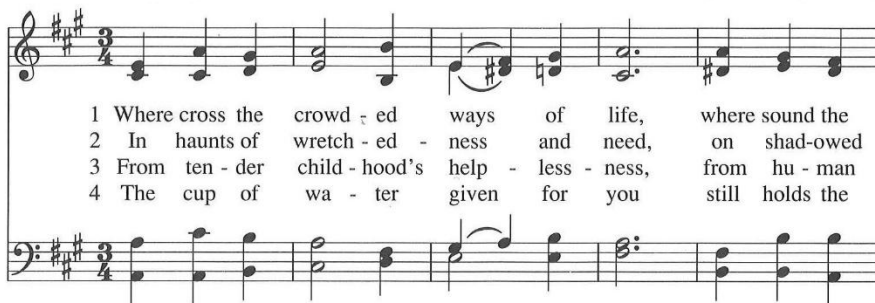
¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

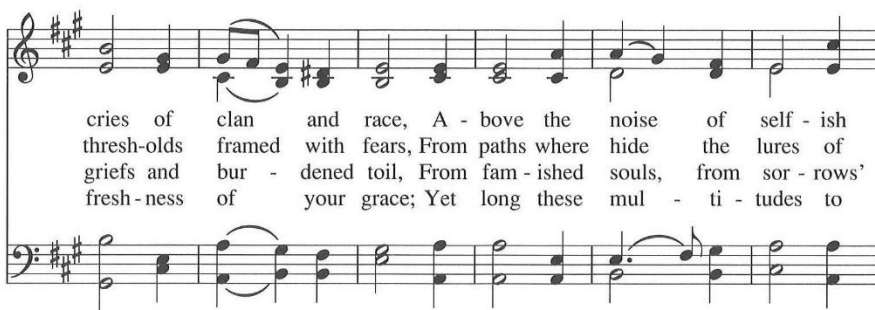
543

Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

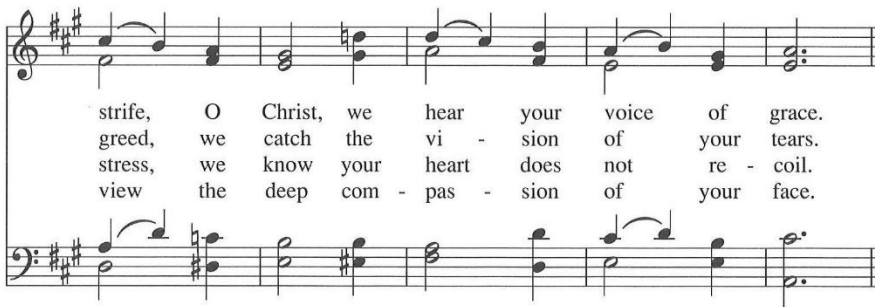
Luke 19:41; Matt. 10:42; Rev. 22:20



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the



cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh - ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to



strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from
 the moun-tain-side,
 Make haste to heal
 these hearts of pain;
 A-mong these rest-less
 throngs a-bide,
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn
 com-pas-sion's might,
 And fol-low where
 your feet have trod,
 Till glo-rious from
 your realm of light,
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

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.
- Words of Assurance: adapted from: <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>
- Prayer of Dedication: adapted from Thom Schuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>
- Refrain – “Open My Heart” Text: Chinese mantra. Music: Ana Hernández. ©2013 Ana Hernández.
- Presenting Our Gifts: Doxology: Text by Thomas Ken, 1674, alt. Music attrib. Louis Bourgeois; from Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551.

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STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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