

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, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
PROPER 21, 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 – “Adoration” by Florence Price

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Bringing in the Light

Welcome

Sue Irvine

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

One: We come to hear the stories of other people in another world long ago.

***Many:* We come to hear the stories that are also about us today, in this place.**

One: Holy One, give us ears to listen, eyes to see,

***Many:* and hearts to accept. Let us worship.**

***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 – “O Day of Rest and Gladness”** *Glory to God* 393

this bulletin p. 6

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

O God, we wander in the wilderness. Instead of feeling fear, give us courage to examine such desert places of the heart. May we face the wild beasts, relieve our troubles, and feel the warmth of your love in our loneliness and afflictions. Remind us of your strength that resides within our very selves. (*time of silent confession*)

Words of Assurance

One: In the name of Jesus, our teacher, brother, and savior,

***Many:* Amen.**

Children's Moment

Sue Irvine

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

Prayer of Illumination

Sue Irvine

First Scripture Reading -

Matthew 21:23-32

this bulletin p. 7

Refrain — “Open My Heart” by Ana Hernández

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

Second Scripture Reading –

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

this bulletin p. 7

Sermon – “No More Sour Grapes”

Elaine Greer

*Hymn – “Seek Ye First” *Glory to God 175*

this bulletin p. 8-9

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

Sue Irvine

OFFERTORY – “Esto les digo” by Kinley Lange

Adult Choir

*Esto les digo, si dos de ustedes si ponen en acuerdo
aquí en la tierra, para pedir algo en oración,
mi padre que esta en el cielo, se lo dará.
Por que donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre,
Allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos.
Esto les digo.*

Where two or three are gathered in My name, there will I be also.

Matthew 18: 19-20

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

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

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Sue Irvine

Giver of all gifts, may we remember your call, to be a gift of peace unto our hurting world. May these offerings remind us of your unending mission of love in our world and in our lives. Amen.

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

Elaine Greer

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

Elaine Greer

*Hymn – “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” *Glory to God* 546

this bulletin p. 11

*Benediction

Elaine Greer

Postlude – “Praeludium in A Major” 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 ...

Carillon Prelude: Christopher Dustin; **Liturgist and Worship Leader:** Sue Irvine; **Greeter:** Carolyn Holmy; **Ushers:** Paul Schur, Laurie Brookes; **Welcome Table:** Laurie Brookes; **Fellowship Host:** Diana Avarado; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: **Liturgist:** Wade Johnson; **Greeter:** Marietta Johnson; **Head Usher:** Ray Joesten; **Usher:** Jane Joesten; **Welcome Table:** Laurie Brookes; **Fellowship Host:** Duffy Brookes; **Communion:** Paul Schur, Jan Castle.

A note from the office: Emails from the office may come from sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org or katieb@storrscongchurch.org, please check to make sure that these emails are both on your safe senders list and aren't going into junk mail.

2026 all church photo



393 O Day of Rest and Gladness



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion the light first had its birth;
 3 On you, God's peo - ple, meet - ing, the Ho - ly Scrip-ture hear,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
 on you, for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and wine made near.



on you, the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious sent Spir - it forth from heaven.
 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.
 And thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was given.
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Second Scripture Reading - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**Individual Retribution**

18 The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ¹⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ¹¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

175

Seek Ye First

Descant


Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, its righ - teous - ness,
 and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday September 27, 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

Comings and Goings

Katie will be working hybrid and will be in the office until 12:30 on Friday October 2nd.

News and Notes

News of Our Life Update: Note that folks from the congregation remain invited to make needed announcements during the "News of Our Life" element of worship. If you would like to make an announcement, or you would like Diane to make an announcement for you, please make that request via email to Diane by **4pm Thursday**.

You can send out an announcement out in other ways as well: in our Tuesday "News and Notes" email (**Monday** deadline to Ellen Bradley) and in Sunday's worship bulletin (**Tuesday** deadline to Katie).

From the collectors: All personal and bank checks must have a note in the memo line indicating what the payment is for (pledge / and or other fund).

UConn Students.... Please join us for our **1st Sunday Student Luncheon Gathering** on Sunday, Oct. 4, following the worship service. We'll gather in the narthex (lobby) of the church after the service and make our way over to the Parish House Auditorium for a light lunch and fellowship. All are welcome!

C.A.F.E. Storrs will be on vacation until Sept. 30. Watch for updated information regarding the next topic, and consider joining our friendly Bible Study group led by Rev. Mike Lake. All are welcome on Wednesday mornings in the Library or on Zoom.

The SCC Lunch Bunch will be getting together on **Friday, October 2, 1:00 pm** at Lakeview Restaurant in Coventry. please contact Nancy Tomastik by Thursday, October 1, by calling 860-420-9494 or emailing etomastik@earthlink.net.

Music Ministry: Handbell Choir rehearsals are Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:20 p.m. **Adult Choir**

rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, see Trisha if you are interested in joining.

Interested in helping keep an SCC tradition going? We're looking for someone to take the lead on this year's Pecan Fundraiser! If you're interested in helping keep this favorite SCC tradition going, please contact the office!

Monday Movement Meetings, held at **Mansfield Middle School** 5:30-6:30 pm, All are welcome! 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/23.

SCC Social on **Saturday, October 3** in the SCC lounge beginning at **5:30 pm**. We will be enjoying each other's company and pizza. There is a sign up sheet in the lounge to help with planning. Any questions, please contact Robert Jeffers at jeffersjrr@aol.com or ask him in church. See you at the Social!

Dick Roberts is healing from his surgery, though visits and phone calls are not possible at this time, your cards are deeply appreciated. You may send a card for Dick to the Roberts' home address. Healing prayers of comfort for Dick and Pam in this time.

Lynn Brown celebrated his 98th birthday yesterday! If you haven't yet, please take a moment to send him a birthday card, a little note, or even just a few words to let him know he is remembered and held close in our hearts. There will be a birthday cake in honor of him at fellowship today.

If you need Dick or Lynn's address please contact Katie at sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org.



A new round of scam emails has been circulating!

SCC will never email you to request that you send money virtually.

If you ever have question the validity of an email, please call the office.

Do not ever send money through an email exchange.

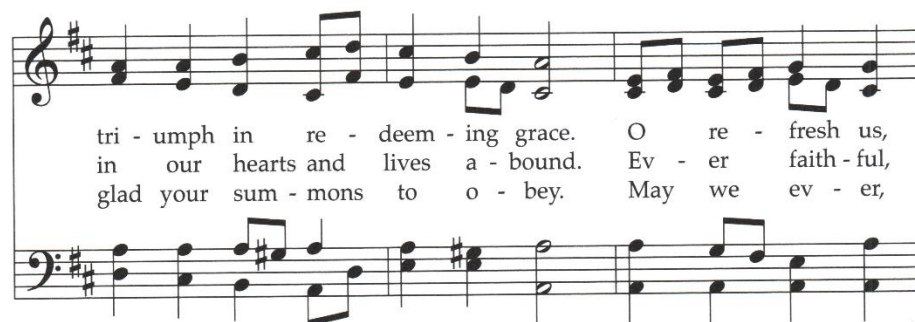
546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling



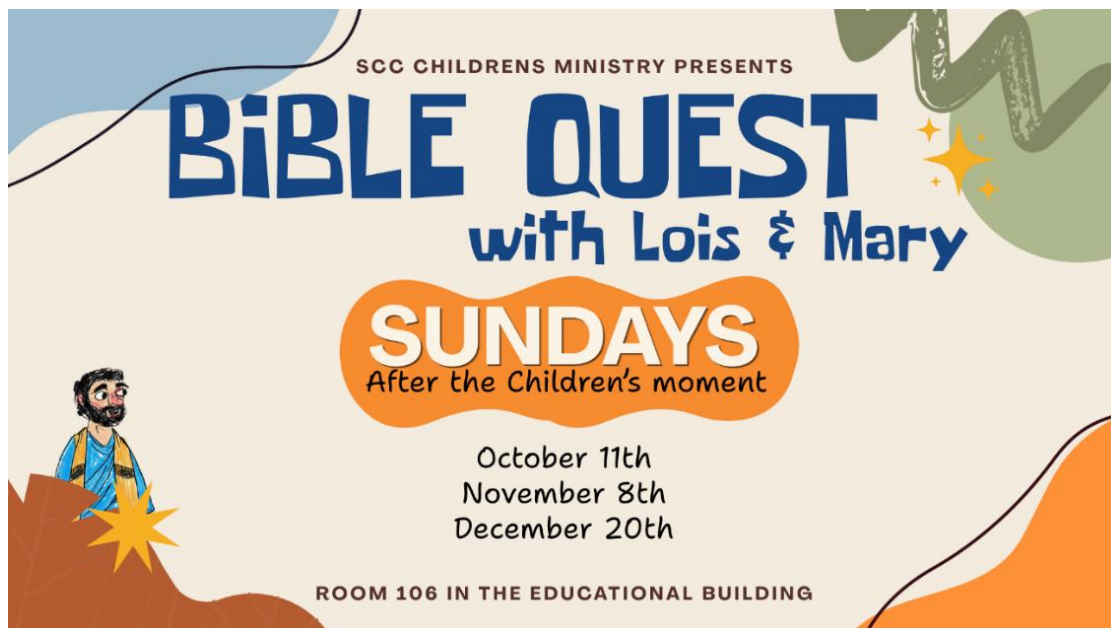
joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.



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/>

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 Joanna Harader on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>
- Prayer of confession excerpted from a longer prayer by Rev Karla on <http://revgalblogpals.org/category/revgalblogpals/>
- 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.

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

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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