

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, OCTOBER 19, 2025
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

See an usher to receive **large-print** copies of the bulletin and hymns, or if you are looking for a wheelchair or accessible seating.

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

Please know that 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 – “Awake, Awake to Love and Work (Morning Song)” by Wilbur Held *Janice Castle*
guest organist

Welcome *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Introit – “Seek Ye First” by Karen Lafferty *Adult Choir*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Call to Worship (*responsive*) *Armand Johnson*

One: We lift up our eyes to the hills—from where will our help come?

Many: **Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth, who will not let our feet be moved; the LORD who keeps us will not slumber.**

One: The LORD is our keeper.

Many: **The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore. We joyfully worship our God! Amen.**

***Hymn** – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *New Century Hymnal [black] p. 1*
this bulletin p. 9

Call to Confession *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy One, you have set before us the path. O, but how we wander! We confess we are like toddlers, straying away until we hear you call and we return. Like teenagers, we test boundaries. We demand to be cut loose, not knowing how much we still need your wisdom and guidance. Like most adults, we think we’ve got it figured out, only to

stumble over and over again. Even when we wrestle with you, God, thank you for remembering that we remain, always, your children. (time of silent confession)

Words of Assurance

One: We can wrestle with God, and we certainly do. Yet God, like a parent at their best, shows patience and unconditional love to us, even when we fight God--or turn away from God. God stays with us through it all.

Many: Thanks be to 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

Armand Johnson

Scripture Readings

First Reading -

Genesis 32:22-31

pew Bibles p. 32

Refrain - "Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me"

FIRST SONG

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the notes: C^{All}, G, Am, F, Dm7, Gsus, G7, Em7, Am, C7, F, G7, Em7, Am, Dm, Gsus, C, F, C (F) Fine. The lyrics are: Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be a -
fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de -
fense, and God will be my Sav - ior.

Second Reading -

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Luke 18:1-8

pew Bibles p. 853

Sermon - "Prayer and Justice"

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC - “Total Praise” by Keith Hampton arr. Doreen Rao

Adult Choir

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills,
Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace, You give me in the time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to You.
Amen

***PRESENTING OUR GIFTS:** “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

SCHUMANN



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

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

God of grace,

Holy is your presence among us: shaping us and connecting us. We are witness to your love incarnate, from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ--to our very lives as the Body of Christ in the world. We pray that these offerings continue to serve your mission of peace in our beautiful, broken world. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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

Many: Our 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

*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 – "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

*New Century Hymnal [black] p.506
this bulletin p. 11*

*Benediction

Postlude – "How Firm a Foundation" by Edward Broughton

Janice Castle, organist

Be Our Guest for Fellowship!

Come on over to the Parish House Lounge and share a beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! The Parish House 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: Armand Johnson; **Greeter:** Marsha Creese; **Ushers:** Ray Joesten, Jane Joesten; **Welcome Table:** Jeri Hepworth; **Fellowship Host:** Lisa & Dana Gregus; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine;

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: *Liturgist:* Wesley Lang-Rodean; *Greeter:* Heather Famularo; *Head Usher:* Dana Gregus; *Usher:* Ron Cotterill; *Welcome Table Host:* Lisa Gregus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday October 15th

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

Staff Comings and Goings

Antonio will be on vacation 10/20, 20/21. He returns on 10/22.

Trisha will be on vacation Wednesday 10/15 - Wednesday 10/22, returning Thursday 10/23.

News and Notes

The Heritage Sunday Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, October 26th**, immediately following worship, in the auditorium. We will honor & celebrate our 40 year members. Please register, if you plan to attend. There are sign-up sheets on bulletin boards. There will also be one on the Welcome Table when you come into or leave church. All food will be provided. This is always a joyful time of Fellowship and we are looking forward to a great gathering.

Student Ministries: Breakfast Sunday mornings at 8:45 am in the Auditorium. **Student Lunch the first Sunday of each month.** All students are welcome. Bring a friend!

Love Knows No Borders postcards: Make out an orange postcard (they are in Narthex

and near the lobby office) TODAY and leave it in the basket near Katie's office. Postcards will be delivered tomorrow, MONDAY 10/20, to SNEUCC headquarters so that they can be taken to Washington DC by Rev. Darrell Goodwin and other pastors. The postcards will be presented to our congressmen and congresswomen.

GIVING TOGETHER: Treasure, Time and Talent: Friends, Stewardship Season is beginning! Please watch for a letter coming soon to your mailbox. We are a faith community of givers at SCC. We give of our treasure, our time and our talent, all in service of God's mission. Will you prayerfully discern to renew and increase your pledge? Perhaps this is the season you will initiate a first-time pledge. Together, we "grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of the treasure, time and talents that God has entrusted to us." We will celebrate pledges on Consecration Sunday, November 9th. Thank you, Church! ~Your Stewardship Team:

J.S. Bach Organ Noontime Recital Series: As part of the 340th Birthday Celebration of Bach., join us October 29th at noon, Dr. Patricia Snyder will be playing.

Sunday Scripture Study with Vision Team: Join Vision Team members Ellen Smith and Sue Irvine to read and discuss scripture as part of our visioning process. We will meet after church on **Sunday, October 19** in our lovely memorial room (upstairs, above the church office). We will discuss The

Transfiguration from Matthew. All are welcome! We'd love to hear your thoughts on this passage and where you think God is leading us at this time.

Food Pantry Donations: The October request is **cooking oil, canned fruit and fruit juices**. Food donations can be dropped off at any time.

Member Directory: We are aiming to get an updated member directory out before the holiday season. **Please be sure to update names and phone numbers by emailing or calling the office by October 24, 2025.**

Please do not call or email the office with directory copy requests, watch the announcements for further information on distribution.

They're Baaaaaack - again! No, not a creepy ghost or goblin for Halloween, but our Mystery Health Kits!!! They're back this month - for you to help us complete!

Why are they a mystery? Because there are a few items missing from each one and our Sewing Group is having a simple challenge for you to help complete them before they are sent out to Church World Services. We are filling each bag with items that we have available now and letting you finish the

incomplete bag and return it to us. As usual the full list of what is needed will be in each Ziploc bag.

The "mystery" Health kit bags can be found in the Parish House Lounge or the Narthex for you to take as you are passing through, and can be returned to the Lounge when finished. Thank you for helping us to complete our mission. We couldn't do it without all of you!

Don't Get Boxed In! A Notice about Parking on Tuesdays until 1:00 p.m: The Food Share truck comes on Tuesdays so we ask that you leave the three parking spots near the Parish House Door free as well as the spots immediately to the left of the door, until 1:00 p.m. The truck needs the space to park, and anyone who is parked there may not be able to leave until the truck leaves. Many thanks for your cooperation! Please see Katie if you need additional clarification.

In Memoriam

A Celebration of Life Service will be held in memory of **Leon Bailey** on November 1st at 1:00pm here at Storrs Congregational Church. A reception in the auditorium will follow after the service.

We Welcome All!

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

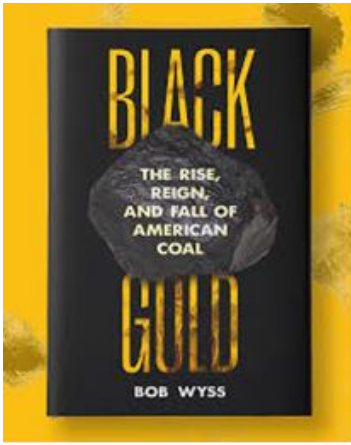
Questions about our life together are always welcome. Ask any one of us!

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.



Upcoming Event....



You are invited to a talk at the UConn Barnes and Noble in downtown Storrs given by Bob Wyss, on his book "Black Gold: The Rise, Reign, and Fall of American Coal". The talk will be on **Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

In addition to being a former member of our church, **Bob Wyss** was a reporter and editor at the Providence Journal for thirty years, a journalism professor at UConn for fifteen years, and is currently Professor Emeritus.

If anyone is interested in forming a group for an early dinner (4:45 p.m.) at Fenton River Grille beforehand, please contact Pam Roberts.

Pecan Fundraiser

Pecan Fundraising Team: Cass Crewdson, Eileen Metzgar

PECANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS! ORDER FORMS COMING OUT SOON!

We are offering the following traditional favorites of delicious Schermer Pecans for sale this year:

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves
Cinnamon Glazed Pecans
Milk Chocolate Covered Pecans
Dark Chocolate Covered Pecans
Chocolate Caramel Pecan Clusters

Eileen Metzgar and Cass Crewdson have taken on the sales this year! Orders will also be taken after worship on Sundays in the library. Early ordering will help guarantee receiving the varieties you want!

If you have friends who are interested in purchasing pecans feel free to order on their behalf, provided you are willing to collect payment from them and deliver to them.

Payment can be made by cash or check payable to "Storrs Congregational Church" with "Pecans" noted on the memo line to Katie at the church office OR on delivery. Pecans can be picked up at the church office or delivered to your door at your convenience.

Thanks for your support!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

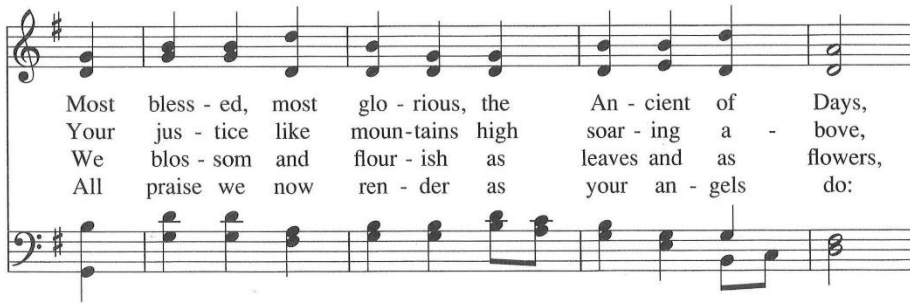
1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



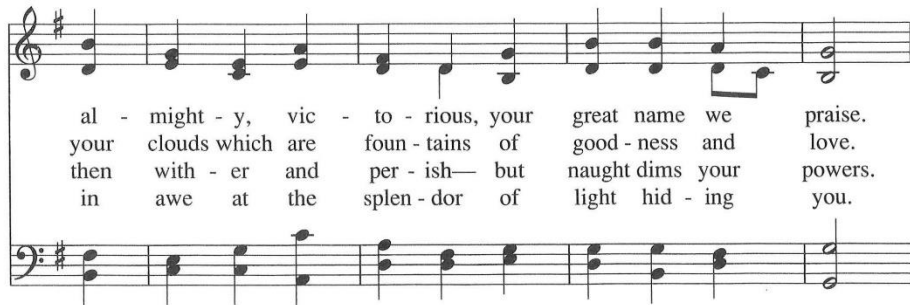
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your

Spir-it in this place. Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren

pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.

TEXT and MUSIC: Ken Medema, 1970
Text and Music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

CHILDREN PRAYING
Irregular

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

506

*Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.**Phil. 4:6-7*


1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

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.
- Response – *Refrain*: “Surely It Is God Who Saves Me”: Text: The Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer, 1976, alt. Music: Jack Noble White, 1976. *Music* ©1977 Charles Mortimer Guilbert (admin. Church Publishing, Inc.) Reprinted from Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #71. Presentation of our gifts – “We Give Thee but Thine Own”. Text: William Walsham How, c. 1858. Music: Mason and Webb's Cantica Laudis, 1850. Reprinted from Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #708.

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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/>

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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