

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, JULY 19, 2026
SUMMERTIME WORSHIP
PROPER 11, 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 – "Aria" by Flor Peeters

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn

Call to Worship (responsive)

Sue Irvine

One: We’ve come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born.

***Many:* Who knows us even better than we know ourselves,**

One: Whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases.

***Many:* This is our God. 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 – “Touch the Earth Lightly”**

*New Century Hymnal [black] p. 569
this bulletin p. 9*

Call to Confession

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy Gardener, you know better than us. Which of us are weeds? Who’s the grain? How can you tell the difference, God? Even worse, might we all have in us part bittersweet, part garlic mustard, part Japanese knotweed? We know what happens to the weeds, God. Will you save us from the furnace of fire? (time of silent confession)

Words of Assurance

One: Beloved, know this. God sees in us all a holy image and likeness. Even in our weedy ways.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Moment

Our Family Room is not staffed during summer months. It is open and available to interested families 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

SPECIAL MUSIC – "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth)" by George Harrison *Chris McLean*

Prayer of Illumination

Sue Irvine

First Scripture Reading -

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

*pew Bibles p. 503-4
this bulletin p. 8*

Refrain — "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!

Second Scripture Reading -

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

*pew Bibles p. 794-5
this bulletin p. 8*

Sermon – "Weedy"

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

***Hymn** – "Nearer, My God, to You"

*New Century Hymnal [black] p. 606
this bulletin p. 10*

RESPONSE

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

A Time of Offering and Prayer Stations

During this time of offering, you are invited to remain at your pew for a time of reflection or visit the prayer stations located around the sanctuary. You are also welcome to make an offering from the pew by scanning the QR code for easy access.



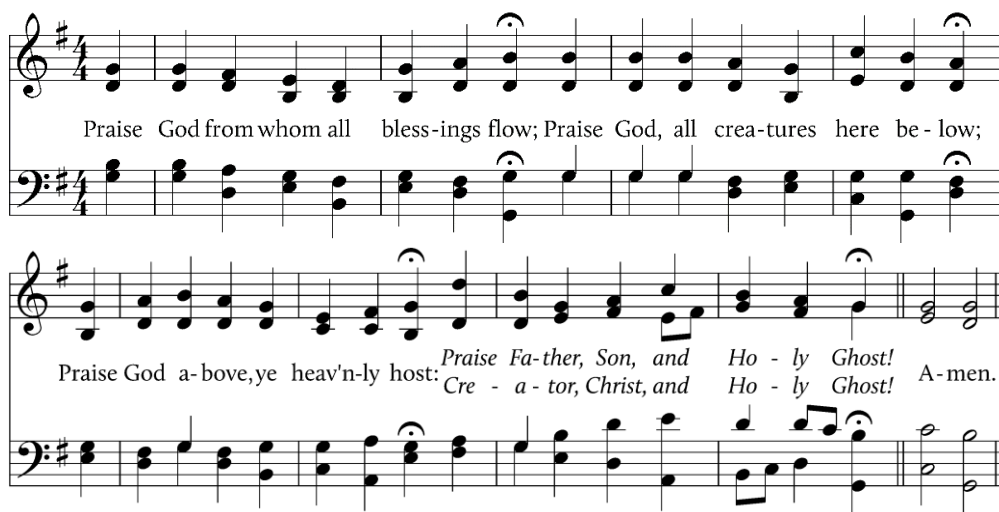
Call to Offering

OFFERTORY MEDITATION – "Passacaglia" by Buxtehude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

*** PRESENTING OUR GIFTS: The Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures 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*)

Holy One, may these offerings serve as agents of healing, in places of wheat and weeds.
For need is everywhere in our beautiful and hurting world. 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** – “For the Healing of the Nations”

*New Century Hymnal [black] p.576
this bulletin p.11*

***Benediction**

Postlude – “Praeludia in G minor (excerpt)” by Buxtehude

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 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: Sue Irvine; **Greeter:** Marietta Johnson; **Ushers:** Carolyn Holmy, Dana Gregus; **Welcome Table:** Mary Lake; **Fellowship Host:** Dana & Lisa Gregus; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: **Liturgist:** Duffy Brookes; **Greeter:** Linda Blum; **Head Usher:** Cass Crewdson; **Usher:** Bruce Bergen; **Welcome Table:** Laurie Brookes **Fellowship Host:** Needed;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday July 19, 2026

10:00-11:00 am	Worship
11:00-12 pm	Fellowship
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
7:30-8:30 pm	<i>Speaker Meeting</i>

Comings and Goings

Office Hybrid Summer Hours: Katie will be in Monday through Friday 9:30-12:30 during the summer. The rest of the day will be remote. If you need to get in touch you can reach her at sccoffice@storrsconchurch.org or call and leave a voicemail.

Help Us Keep SCC Running Smoothly

A friendly reminder to all church members and ministry groups: **please notify the church office whenever you plan to use a room or meeting space in the building**, even if it's a regularly scheduled gathering.

Keeping the church calendar up to date helps us avoid scheduling conflicts, ensures spaces are available and prepared when needed, and allows the office, and Sexton, to know who is in the building for safety and communication purposes.

If you're planning a meeting or event, simply contact the church office so we can add it to the calendar. Katie is responsible for maintaining the SCC Calendar, Bulletin Announcements, and Lobby Display. Ellen is responsible for the Website and E-News.

To make scheduling easier, the church office has created a new online booking page for reserving meeting and event spaces. It's still in the early stages, and we're continuing to fine-tune it, so we appreciate your patience and welcome your feedback as you try it out.

If the available time slots don't exactly match your needs, simply select the closest option and include your actual requested times in the notes section of the booking form. The office will make the necessary adjustments when adding your reservation to the church calendar.



Thank you for helping us keep our calendar accurate and our building running smoothly!

News and Notes

Name Tags: Need a new name tag? Email your request to the office by Monday, July 27th. Please include your full name and your preferred name.

Prayer Stations: These hands-on meditative activities offer a quiet space to connect deeply with God through prayer, reflection, or thanksgiving. The stations will remain open for the next two weeks. We invite our online community to light a candle and keep it nearby during the service. Please type your prayers or thanksgivings in the chat so we can add them to the sanctuary window displays. Together we join our hearts and voices into one sacred space no matter the distance.

Welcome to the grand reopening of our newly expanded and reimagined Playground! We have completely transformed this special area into a much larger, vibrant environment designed specifically for your little ones to explore their faith. Featuring a comfortable kid-friendly area and an array of imaginative toys, our improved space offers children the freedom to learn and worship in a way that truly connects with them. Parents can enjoy services with complete peace of mind, knowing their kids are safely playing, making friends, and growing spiritually in an environment created just for them.

A Friendly Reminder from the Collectors: When writing your check, or if you're having a commercial check sent to the Collector's Office, **please be sure to note in the memo line what the payment is for - pledge and/or another fund.** Including this information helps us apply your payment correctly and efficiently. *Your Collectors thank you!*

CWS has updated their list of items needed for Health Kits. Please stop by the lounge or the Narthex to pick up the new list, and instructions. Please see Laurie Brookes if you have any questions.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

pew Bibles p. 503

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

pew Bibles p. 794

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field ²⁵but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Touch the Earth Lightly

Unison
Brightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

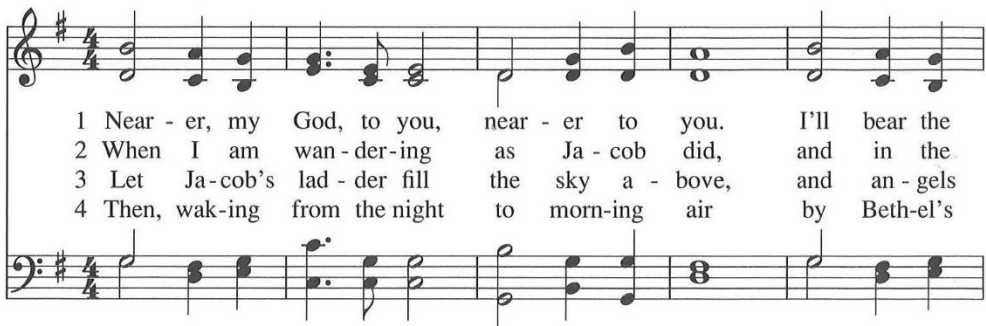
trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

606

Nearer, My God, to You

Gen. 28:10–22; Matt. 16:24

Sarah Flower Adams, 1841
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger



1 Near - er, my God, to you, near - er to you. I'll bear the
2 When I am wan - der - ing as Ja - cob did, and in the
3 Let Ja - cob's lad - der fill the sky a - bove, and an - gels
4 Then, wak - ing from the night to morn - ing air by Beth - el's



cross as Christ calls me to do and pray each day a - new:
deep - est night the path is hid, my dreams will bring me, too,
car - ry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view:
stone, I'll know you heard my prayer, and how my yearn - ing grew:



1-4 Near - er my God, to you, near - er my God, to you, near - er to you.

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

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 www.re-worship.blogspot.com
- Refrain – “Come and Fill Our Hearts. Refrain from Glory to God Hymnal #466, Tet and Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982. Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé @admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
- 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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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

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