

The Carillon



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

JULY/AUGUST 2024

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/>



Joining Sunday, June 23rd 2024



welcoming historic progressive Christian



Open and Affirming



Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church

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SCC Mission

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,

There is certainly no moss growing on SCC!

As we enter summer months, our church has been busy navigating new seasons and upcoming plans.

Our Interim Office Administrator...



We are pleased to have welcomed Katie Duval on May 28th as our Interim Office Administrator. Katie has hit the ground running as a quick learner, with an adeptness for figuring out systems as she goes with calmness and a sense of humor. We are grateful for Katie's presence during this time. The Personnel Committee/Hiring Committee is meeting regularly to develop the search for a permanent Office Administrator. The congregation will continue to receive regular updates regarding that process.

New Membership...

On June 23rd, SCC welcomed eight new members into our faith community membership. Please see the bios of this treasured group on page 4.

Looking back over the last year, from June 2023 to June 2024, SCC has welcomed a total of sixteen new members! We are thankful to God for the many blessings provided in these beloved ones. Welcome to all our new members at SCC!

Time away...

I will be taking some vacation time this summer. In August, I will take two weeks of vacation in Acadia and the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Rev. Mike Lake will lead worship in my absence (Sundays, 8/4 and 8/11) Thank you, Mike!

Visioning Process...

The Governing Board voted in June to begin a Visioning process for SCC. More details will be forthcoming around the nature and timing of this process for our church. We will work with Reverend Paul Nickerson, an experienced visioning consultant for churches. The process will help us answer questions like:

Who are we now? How does God call us to serve now? How might staffing, resources, and ministries be shaped by our call?

May many blessings unfold along the visioning way!

With the Spirit leading us,

Diane

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Senior Minister, SCC, UCC

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The next meetings of the Governing Board will be on Tuesday, August 20th at 6:30pm 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 Kaite in the office.



Please submit Ministry Reports and Items for Governing Board consideration via email to sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org prior to **Monday August 12th**.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

On June 23rd, 2024 we, the Storrs Congregational Church, welcomed 8 new members to our faith family during worship.

Travis and John Barber-Cola

John and Travis married in 2020 and are new state residents having migrated from South Florida to Connecticut in 2023. Their desire to establish deep roots and create a loving home for their future family led them to SCC.

They are passionate about exploring the world and sharing it with others. John and Travis are eager to embark on this new chapter of their lives alongside fellow believers, as they seek to deepen their faith, build lasting relationships, and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of SCC.

Lois Demurjian

Lois has lived in Mansfield with her husband, Steve, and sons, Steven and Charlie, for 20 years. During that time, she attended SCC and participated in teaching Sunday School and VBS, along with the Service Sewing group.

She is a registered nurse and works at Union School in Union CT. She enjoys sewing for charity, reading, walking and challenging puzzles. Now an empty nester, Lois would like to further her commitment to SCC and deepen her faith as part of this special community.

Alfred (Al) Fratoni

I live with my wife, Katie, in the Rolling Hills community. We have lived here since 2014. Prior to that, we lived in Maine and then Tolland for a year.

I grew up in Taftville, CT with my parents and 4 brothers as a practicing Catholic. I attended Norwich Free Academy and then UConn, where I got a degree from the School of Business, majoring in Accounting. I eventually became a CPA. I am semi-retired as a practicing CPA, while having a later in life career change to becoming a deputy Registrar of Voters here in Mansfield. I currently serve on the Mansfield

Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate. My daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters live nearby in Willington. Hobbies include watching UConn men's and women's basketball.

Katie (Kathy) Fratoni -

I live in Rolling Hills Mobile Home Park with my husband, Al. I have a stepdaughter, son-in-law and two beautiful granddaughters that live in Willington. I love going to their activities.

I was born and raised in southern Maine. I wanted to move to CT to be next to family as I do not have any left in Maine. My husband being the oldest of 5 boys provides a huge family which is great.

I graduated from a small college (Westbrook College) in Portland, Maine with an Associate's degree in Library Science. I went on the work in school libraries for 7 years. I then went into the private sector where I was an executive assistant, bookkeeper and data entry for 30 plus years retiring shortly after I came to Ct.

In Maine I took an interest in the community as I do here. I am a Commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Commission here in Mansfield and take part in community activities of my park.

I love to read, garden and help out wherever I can.

Andrew Gütt

Andy, a passionate local business owner (Cafemantic, Stone Row) with 15 years of experience earning rave reviews in the hospitality industry, fosters a strong sense of community by collaborating with organizations, businesses, farms, and tradespeople, creating opportunities for others to thrive and learning from those with different backgrounds.

Beyond his business endeavors, Andy finds deep satisfaction in the challenge of restoring his Victorian home in Willimantic, learning new skills, and appreciating its history. He prioritizes his well-being through fitness, many friendships, and quiet moments on his porch. Recently, he took on the exciting challenge of running the hospitality program at a 500-acre farm in Brooklyn, the former site of the Golden Lamb Buttery.

A 2010 graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University, Andy has embraced the area as his home. He views his time at SCC as a chance to "get away" in the best way possible – a chance to center himself and deepen his roots within our faith community.

Jim and Ellen Smith

Jim and Ellen moved to Ashford in 2023 from Central New York. They have 2 kids- Patrick is often at church with Jim and Ellen, and Erik lives in south- central Pennsylvania. Jim teaches physical therapy at UConn, and Ellen is a nurse currently working in home care.

They are thrilled to become part of such an open, active and welcoming faith community at SCC!

BUILDING & GROUNDS PROJECTS & THANKS

This year's properties workdays involved 19 volunteers and a wide range of accomplishments, including tree and shrub pruning, treating areas with herbicides and insecticides, weeding gardens and planting annuals and bulbs. The new Peace Pole and fire lane signs were installed. Antonio's "closet" as well as fabric storage cabinets were cleaned out and rearranged. The Chapel windows were washed and the building's eaves were prepped for painting. The Deacon's kitchen was straightened. Junk and brush were removed from the property. Other significant projects completed in May include railings on each side of the Pollinator Garden walkway that were erected and painted and the lock mechanism (that works with the Allen wrench) for the main entry door to the Parish House was replaced at minimal cost with a DIY kit. Also, Dana and Lisa Gregus donated a freezer to replace the refrigerator/freezer that failed in Room 201. This will supplement the storage space for frozen goods used for the Food Pantry. Thank you to Dana for delivering the freezer from his home and removing the broken unit.

The following were involved in one or more of our properties projects: Antonio Aguilera, Linda Blum, Duffy & Laurie Brookes, Liz & Rich Cowles, Betty Hanson, Sue Irvine, Caroline Jeffers, Ray Joesten, Armand Johnson, Jamie & Wes Lang-Rodean, Peter Latincsics, Herb & Kris Ridyard, Pam Roberts, Nancy Rucker, Eric Seaborn and Paul Schur. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers.

Work has continued on preparing and painting exterior areas of the Chapel. Special recognition must go to Herb Ridyard. Since the workday, he has shown up multiple times to work on the Chapel. Once the old plexiglass was removed, Herb reglazed the stained-glass window and prepped and painted the trim. A new plexiglass sheet was cut to size and will soon be installed.

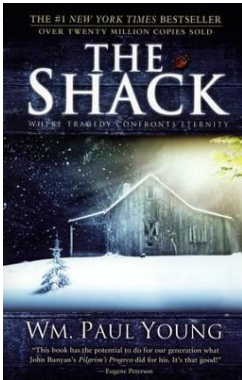
Another opportunity for members to become involved in the beautification of our buildings and grounds comes in October or whenever you might wish to volunteer for a project of your own.



Antonio, Herb, & Duffy prepare the stained glass window of the Chapel for Plexiglas cover installation.

SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our next book discussion will be held on **September 15, 2024 at 4:00 pm** via Zoom only.



THE SHACK BY William P. Young was written by a Christian father who wanted to help his children understand his relationship with God. In the story Mackenzie's daughter is kidnapped during a family outing and never found. Years later, Mack receives an invitation from God to meet him in the shack where the daughter's clothing had been found. When Mack finally decides to go to the shack in the woods, he finds the environment transformed into an idyllic setting by the presence of God. After spending a few days in conversation with God, Mack too is transformed. He begins to understand how God's love provides the basis of forgiveness and the power to change human lives.

Availability: SCC Library, Library Connection. Local Libraries, Audio and E-book.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES NEWS

Because of your generous pledges, donations were recently given to WAIM, our area Habitat for Humanity and Silver Lake UCC camp for administrative expenses and the scholarship fund. Also, money was sent to Bread for the World, which is lobbying for the Farm Bill that has not yet passed in congress. This bill sets funding for many food commodities and programs such as SNAP.

June 9th was designated as Mental Health Sunday with a speaker from NAMI. Thanks to Kathy Lindner, Josh and Annetta Miller for their leadership in this area. Becoming a WISE church is on the agenda.

Jan Hoyle attended a "Second Chance Rally," sponsored by the Windham Area Reentry Council, to make connections with groups in the area who are helping inmates return to the community. A group, as part of the Just Peace emphasis of our congregational, is currently communicating with an inmate at his request.

Food Pantry Highlights



Attendance at the Food Pantry remains high with new persons joining weekly. We have said goodbye to five excellent volunteers. Alice, who is transferring to Cornell University; Ethan, who has been accepted at UConn School of Dentistry; Gabi who is going on to graduate work in nutrition at Simmons, and Nikhail, who will return to campus in the Fall. A special thank you and recognition to Julie

Menard from the First Church of Christ in Mansfield, UCC, who has been a steady volunteer this year. (We are in need of two regular volunteers on Sunday morning.)

We now have volunteers picking up products weekly from six locations: BigY in Tolland; Cumberland Farms in Coventry; Cumberland Farms at Storrs Four Corners; Dollar General on Middle Turnpike in Storrs; Connecticut Foodshare in Bloomfield, as well as our monthly pickup at Midwest Food Bank in Manchester. This is providing a much wider selection for our pantry guests.

Carolyn Holmy, Jan Hoyle, Jane Joesten, Christine Koskozski and her grandson Cole walked in the Walk Against Hunger: May 4th from Dunkin Donut Park to the Capitol Building and back in Hartford.

We far surpassed our \$1000 goal, receiving over \$1500 for our own food pantry.

Spotlight on the Volunteer of the Month

Jan Castle might be described as the Energizer Bunny. Her energy and talents are unending.

Every Sunday Jan is working on the “Tech Team” during the morning worship. But did you know that before that she has helped to cook, serve and cleanup breakfast for our college students? And she is relaxed as she makes each one feel welcome. Some Sundays she will leave the tech team and accompany the choir on the piano. Or she could be the organist when Trisha is on vacation.

After church, if you don’t see her at fellowship hour, it is probably because she stopped in the pantry to help out. That’s not all she does in the pantry. Every week she places an order with Connecticut Foodshare which requires many online check-ins to make sure we can access the items we need as they become available. Of course, she then goes to Bloomfield each week to pick up the 600 to 900 pounds of food that she has ordered, brings it back to the pantry and stocks the shelves and freezers. She also prepares the required reports for CT Foodshare and submits the invoices for payment. You probably know that she teaches music in the Willington Schools Tuesday through Thursday, so her Bloomfield trip is on Monday or Friday.

On Sunday afternoon, Jan is back at church to accompany the choral groups that meet in our buildings. Then on Tuesday, you may find her teaching how to decorate Ukrainian Easter Eggs or meeting with students for conversation. She was a member of the search committee that called Pastor Diane, and is a deacon, our University Student Ministries Coordinator, volleyball coach at EO Smith, a 4-H leader, a wife, mother and grandmother.

Thank you, Jan Castle, for being a leader at Storrs Congregational Church, as “We share in God’s love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.”

Food Pantry Request

The designated donation request for June is peanut butter and jelly. July is canned fruit. Thank you for your generosity.

Next meeting of the Food Pantry Advisory Board

July 22nd, August 26th, 2024, 2:15 PM in the SCC Library

The Pantry Advisory Board, which meets at 2:15 on the fourth Monday, is in the process of evaluating our ministry and is writing a mission statement. You are always welcome to attend and give input.

SERVICE SEWING REQUESTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It's summertime and that means school supply sales will begin soon! 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

If you'd rather not shop but want to participate you can send in a check to SCC with "School" kits on the memo line and we'll do the shopping for you. Please bring your donations to Worship on Sundays 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!

“SENIORS CONNECT!”

Thursday, August 8th, 2024, 11:00 AM online



Zoom in with Rev. Diane for this monthly **online** gathering! Open to SCC 'seniors' and any who wish to connect online. Next month we will return to meeting via Zoom the **second Thursday of the month from 11 am-12 pm.**

Online readers:

Click on the link below to join Zoom

Meeting August 8th, 2024 @ 11:00 am

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83180484395](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83180484395)

Meeting ID: 831 8048 4395

Paper readers: Access our webpage, [Home](#) | [News](#) | **Seniors Connect! New Group!** and click on the link to join the zoom meeting.

Phone-In readers:

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY?

Summer In the Library

New titles to enjoy!

Old favorite to read again!

You are the only one who knows how often you have read it!

Planning a trip - long or short - in state or out?

Deep thoughts that need bolstering support!

Explore the Just Peace collection for thoughts on
current topics - environment, civil rights, racial issues

Suggestions for children's activities for the summer?

Many books to explore in your library here at church. Open before and after church on Sunday and on Tuesday mornings. Check with the office if you wish to browse or would like a quiet place to relax when at the church.

Happy Summer!

Janet, Marietta, and Sue

REFLECTION

"But it has Good Bones"

A Reflection by Ellen Bradley

In the cold dark winter months, when Spring was still hidden under the snow, my husband Ted answered an ad for a free vintage porch glider. "Needs work", the ad said. Now, that is not known to deter him, but - that really was an understatement! It was truly an awful sight. It was covered with rust, falling apart, and looked like something dragged up from the bottom of a lake! It looked like it should be taken straight to the dump. Who would want to take the time and effort to fix it up? But, Ted declared that it "has good bones" and took it home where he spent several weeks working on it.

He disassembled it, sanded, welded, cut new parts, painted it, reassembled it. The end result was a beautifully reconditioned vintage glider, for our porch. The metamorphosis was absolutely amazing! I guess it didn't need to go to the dump after all.



This also got me thinking. In all of our own imperfection, God never gives up on us, either. He sees our value and knows we are worthy of as many chances as we need, giving us unconditional love and embracing us in our shortcomings. God knows that we too all have good bones underneath our imperfections and doesn't abandon us when we fail at something or are broken inside or out. God draws us closer at that time so that we might embrace his love and grace and allow it to change our lives.

Just like the once sad old glider was "made new again", we too can be renewed by God's gift of unconditional and transformational love amidst our past and present struggles. All we have to do is open our hearts to accept it!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations

Susan & Reed Dione.....	7/12
Chris & Lisa McLean	7/16
Cathy & Robert Jeffers	7/24
Dick & Pam Roberts.....	7/25
Thomas & Sondra Morrison	7/27
Bryan & Tina Huey.....	7/28

Bob Wyss & Dianne Sprague	8/1
Jim & Jackie Soroka	8/5
Katie Alexander & Sarah Pressly	8/8
Armand Johnson & Desiree Duda.....	8/8
Rosemary & Alexander Marcellino.....	8/15
Laura & Kenneth Popeleski.....	8/31



Birthday Celebrations

Abigail Cotterill	7/1
Shannon Sioin	7/1
Zach Vannais	7/5
Leslie Kennard.....	7/7
Erin Enderle	7/8
Frances Woody	7/9
Evan Brand.....	7/12
Janet Atkins	7/13
Joan Rogers.....	7/13
Sondra Morrison	7/13
Alexander Bryant	7/14
Jeri Hepworth.....	7/14
Nolan Klimkeiwicz	7/16
Peter Latinsics	7/16
Garret Ballou.....	7/19
Kathy Lindner.....	7/20
Cali Harakaly.....	7/23
Charles Chester.....	7/23
Laurie Brookes.....	7/23
Peter Baldwin.....	7/25
Sarah Mallory	7/26
Karen Dellafera.....	7/27
Felicia Famularo	7/28
Katherine Pukinskis.....	7/28
Sarah Cotterill	7/28
Kelly McCabe	7/31
Marsha Creese.....	8/2
Abigail Dustin.....	8/3
Elizabeth Vaughan	8/3

Jacob Mitchell	8/3
Peter Lang-Rodean.....	8/3
Jesse Rogers.....	8/4
Kenneth Doeg	8/5
Paul Schur.....	8/7
Jim Soroka	8/9
Susan Noyes	8/9
Addison Strong	8/11
Dick Roberts	8/12
Andy McCabe.....	8/15
Kate Alexander	8/15
Annika Kuhn.....	8/16
Kate Blomstrann	8/16
Brianna Coolbeth Demers.....	8/19
Wes Lang-Rodean.....	8/19
Ethan Bryant.....	8/20
Cole Sillman.....	8/21
Laura Mills	8/24
Ryan McAlenxander	8/26
Aiden Kuhn.....	8/28
Bryan Klimkeiwicz.....	8/28
Connor Occhialini	8/28
Matthew COolbeth.....	8/29
Tina Huey.....	8/30
Adrian Atkins	8/31

In Memorium

June 25, 2024

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I share news of the death of longtime church member, Patty Tanaka, on Friday, June 21st.

Patty was a pillar of our church community. In her most recent role as Caring Ministry Coordinator, she took seriously the call to care for others. She was generous, funny, dedicated, and determined. She seemed to never stop--even as physical limitations eventually led to her regular use of a wheelchair. As I mentioned in worship on Sunday, some even called her "The Energizer Bunny" for obvious reasons!

Patty will be terribly missed by our faith community; however, we root our grief in our gratitude for her legacy of love, faithfulness, and generosity that lives on here at Storrs Congregational Church.

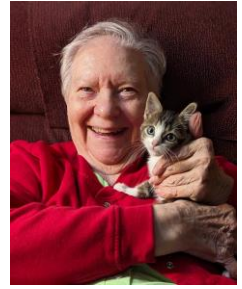
Details regarding a memorial service will be shared with the congregation as information becomes available. In this time of grief and mourning, may God's Spirit surround Patty's family and all who knew and loved Patty. May we be reminded by God's presence that in life, as in death, we belong to God.

In Christ,

Diane

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn
Senior Minister, Storrs Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

*"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord;
so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's"*



Graduations 2024

Sarah Johnson has graduated from the University of New England. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Marine Affairs with minors in Marine Biology and Art.

Sarah will be working at the Mystic Aquarium this summer.



Chelsea Pero, Ellen Bradley's daughter, has graduated from Tunxis Community College in Farmington with an Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene. She has taken her boards and is now a Registered Dental Hygienist.

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**
- **Joshua & Dakota Conner**, submitted by Charlene Dickenson
- **Daniel Felkel**, submitted by Cindy Felkel



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

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Here is the list of people who'd appreciate cards, letters and/or phone calls:

Rev. Michael Ader, Jane Ann Bobbitt, Charlene Dickenson, Bob Guttay, Juanita Hall,

Keeping In Touch



Kathy Hampton, Elizabeth Hanks, Larry Mickel, Pat Mochel,
Leslie Kennard & Doug Pease, Dianne Sprague, Annemarie
Thompson, Adam Thorson

Need contact information? Please call the office ♥

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)
- **Sundays** Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (Room 102)
Library Open, following worship (Ed. Building – Library)
Sunday Night Speaker Meeting, 7:30 pm (Auditorium)

MEETINGS @ SCC

- Aug 13** Midwest Food Bank Delivery, 11:00 am (Food Pantry)
- Aug 8** Seniors Connect! Online, 11:00 am (Zoom)
- Aug 20** Governing Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Room 201 & Zoom)
- Aug 26** Food Pantry Advisory Board Meeting, 2:15 pm (Library)

MOBILE COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

- Aug 8 & 22** Mobile Food Share, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)