

The Carillon



January 2025 Edition

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921



He is Born.



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ON THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DIANE

Friends,

Temperatures may be biting and winds whipping, yet daylight still grows incrementally with each passing day.

The light of God also grows and shines brightly in this season of Epiphany.

What better time, then, to gather together and learn about our SCC Visioning for the coming year?

Please plan to join worship in-person or online this Sunday, January 12th. We will be joined by Rev. Paul Nickerson, our visioning consultant, who will preach on a "Breathtaking Vision".

We will also commission and bless our Visioning Team during worship.

After worship, join us for a "Second Hour".

There will be fellowship fare to enjoy while Rev. Nickerson presents more details of our journey ahead. The presentation will be available for both in-person and online attendees.

Church, your presence, prayers, curiosity, and questions are not only welcome but crucial as we take the first steps along our SCC visioning journey. We hope you will join us!

Guided by the Spirit,

SCC Visioning Team

Jan Castle, Sue Irvine, Wes Lang-Rodean, Chris McLean, Ellen Smith and Paul Schur

Rev. Diane Seaborn, Senior Minister

Rev. Paul Nickerson, Visioning Consultant



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The next meetings of the Governing Board will be on **Tuesday, January 21st 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 January 13th**.

2024 Annual Report

All materials for the 2024 Annual Report must be submitted no later than January 14th. According to the SCC bylaws, we must have a first printing available a week before the Annual Business Meeting (January 19th). Please submit your reports via email using the Subject line: "2024 Annual Report – (your section)"

Please do not wait until the 14th to get these reports in, gathering everything and assembling this document for the first time will be time consuming. There is a list based off of last years report, if you need a copy or you have not received a reminder email please let Katie know so she can add you to the list.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

There are open dates for Winter fellowship hosts, [click here to sign up!!](#)

Our online sign-up sheet is open and there are many dates to choose from. Can you help out with this essential, welcoming ministry? Click on the on-line form to sign up for a date. Groups of friends, or committees, are welcome. Please let [Rosemary](#) know if you have any questions.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVERS

Are you interested in volunteering to be a Sunday Morning Server?

How much of a commitment is it? As much as you want it to be. We try to space out the schedule so there are at least 3 weeks in between serving. Each schedule we send out an email request for dates you can't make it.

Do I have to get up earlier? You must arrive no later than 9:40am, if you run out of time for coffee, no worries, there is always plenty at fellowship hour!!

What do I have to do? Whatever you feel comfortable with!

The **Liturgist** reads scripture from the lectern during service. **Greeter(s)** greet church members, friends, and guests as they walk in. **Ushers** greet people with a warm welcome, give them a Bulletin, and help with any needs before or during worship. They also lead families with children to the Playground area, help with the collection of offering and attendance "count," and after the service, tidy up pews. **Welcome Table Hosts** steer new guests over the guest sign in, offer them a gift bag, and let them know about our fellowship our after church. You will receive a reminder e-mail with specific instructions on your role.

[Click Here to inquire about serving!!](#)

THE PRESENCE OF FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

Flowers are a beautiful way to honor, celebrate or memorialize a person, occasion or milestone. Members and friends of the Storrs Congregational Church provide flowers, at their own expense, for the beautification of our worship space and to share the 'intention' they have associated with the flowers. If you'd like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship, see the instructions below or on the "Flower" sign up bulletin board in the Parish House next to the courtyard doors near the elevator.

Often, throughout the year, our Deacons provide the gift of flowers to those friends and members suffering loss and in need of comfort. If you would like to participate in this ongoing ministry of thoughtful compassion, you may:

- a) choose to donate flowers you've purchased for a Sunday worship service for distribution, or
- b) provide a monetary donation to the Flower fund via check payable to 'SCC' with 'Flower fund' in the memo line or electronically using the QR code to access our webpage and 'One Time online' giving option.



Instructions for Providing Sunday Flowers

Reserve a Date. Contact the office or sign up on the dated Flower Chart across from the 'What's Happening...' bulletin board in the Parish House.

Provide the intention. The week you've signed up to provide flowers, you will receive an email asking for the intention you'd like included with the Sunday worship service. Please reply to the email with the intention to be shared and if you'd like to have the flowers distributed by the Caring Ministry or if you'd like to take them with you.

Providing your own flowers, or using a florist other than Stix 'n' Stones? Please ensure delivery to the Meeting House by 9:30 AM on Sunday. Vases are available, if necessary.

Ordering flowers from, Stix 'n' Stones? Call 860-878-8597 or visit the shop located at 1029 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT by the Wednesday before your Sunday date. Identify yourself as calling for a Sunday arrangement for Storrs Congregational Church. We have entrusted this local florist with a key to the church for a stress free delivery option. The minimum order amount for delivery is \$50 (remind Kelly at Stix 'n' Stones that this is an 'SCC' delivery). If you choose to pick the flowers up from Stix 'n' Stones yourself, you would avoid the delivery fee, but are responsible for getting the flowers to the church on time as noted above.

If you are ordering unusual or out of season flowers, please call at least a week to 10 days ahead to be sure they can fulfill your request.

Please note that you will pay for the flowers with your own credit card, check or cash.

SENIORS CONNECT!

See you on Zoom on January 9th at 11am!



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.**

LUNCH AND LISTEN

The next meeting of the Mental Health Ministry Lunch and Listen group will be in February. Contact [Eileen Metzgar](mailto:Eileen@Metzgars.com) with any questions. 869-423-3163
Eileen@Metzgars.com

STUDENT OUTREACH

Chillin' and Cooking on December 6th



QCRR

Volunteers for QCRR were busy bees over the last few weeks planning for the arrival of a family.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Lessons and Carols



2024 All Church Caroling



Christmas bells are ringing!..."

Many, many thanks to our robust group of carolers who gathered this past Sunday to spread music and good cheer. WOW! We were sustained by yummy soups provided by Rosemary M., Diane, and Liz C. Thank you Rosemary for setting things up! Girl Scout Troop 65007, headed up by Heather and Bella F. made plates of delicious cookies to hand out. We were able to serenade some of our members who don't get a chance to come to church in person and entertain a few eager participants at Juniper Hill. We were sad to miss a few folks who weren't feeling well. I am so appreciative of this community's spirit.

It was a wonderful time. THANK YOU!

-Trisha

P.S. And gratitude as well to Cathy J who stepped in on 30 minutes notice to sing "Come Unto Him" from Messiah due to Emily H being ill!



LIBRARY NEWS

New Year's Resolution:

Explore the Church Library at least once this year!

Turn off the TV News, all the analysis, and go merrily to your relaxing time with a book. It's as easy as selecting a book in the church library after attending church and on your way to friendship and coffee in the lounge.

Selected books this month will feature winter activities, Martin Luther King Day, and you will find one just for you on nearly any subject.

Your library is definitely a social library! You are always welcome!

See you in the library in January!!

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

Happy New Year! What a generous and caring church we are, giving our time, talents and treasure to the various charities and causes in our local community. Here is a brief recap of how this year was spent. Thank you for your continued generosity and care for our fellow neighbors.

Donations given to organizations:

Feb- 500.00 to Covenant Soup Kitchen supporting community member for Plunge for Hunger

April- 500.00 to Bread for the world (annual membership)

April-119.00 to SCC food pantry for eco-friendly laundry detergent

April- 500.00 to Habitat for Humanity Eastern CT

June- 300.00 to Heifer International

June-100.00 to Mansfield Downtown Partnership

July- 500.00 to WAIM for school uniform vouchers

November- Almost 1500.00 between individual and budget donations for WAIM Walk for Warmth (fuel assistance fund)

December- 1100.00 Covenant Soup Kitchen

We are a member of the 5 for 5 special donations of the SNEUCC, participating in: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, Christmas Fund and Membership tithe to the conference throughout the year.

Special Activities

Walk Against Hunger, Until Help Arrives workshop, Mansfield Celebration, WOW Day on UCONN campus, Walk for Warmth, Toys for Tots and a few other ones as well.

Let us make 2025 another great year for outreach to the community.

2024 Christmas Bazaar



Wickham Park's Santa Workshop

Wickham Park's Santa Workshop collected 594 pounds of non-perishable food items for our Food Pantry and delivered it to us on Thursday, the 2nd!



Food Pantry Requests

The request for the month of January is RICE. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Food Pantry Highlights

The pantry continues to be busy serving the needs of food insecure students and community members. A full report on the year will be included in the annual report.

The generous donations received from the community, church members and friends, and organizations in the area have enabled us to operate effectively beyond the funds provided in our online budget. Some examples of significant donations: The Lions Club received hundreds of dollars' worth of Amazon returned items. They shared two car loads with us. Santa's workshop at Wickham Park received nonperishable food items when children visited Santa. They shared a pickup truck load with our pantry. The PEO group that meets in our church, collected food items on two occasions for us. Altrusa, thanks to Malta Bailey, keeps us supplied with new children's books, which are so important to the children of families where English is not their native language. A generous financial donation was received from NICABM, a business operating out of Storrs Center. Our boxes outside the pantry door continue to be filled by all of you generous people who pass through the hallway.

The gratitude posters in the hall outside the pantry, the thank you notes on the bulletin board, and all the words of gratitude our volunteers hear, are evidence of the impact that this ministry has on the lives of our guests. They thank you. The volunteers working in the pantry thank you. Together we are making an impact.

Through your generosity, we provided Thanksgiving dinner fixin's, including a turkey or roaster chicken, to 100 families. It was especially rewarding to be able to provide many of our Muslim guests with a chicken prepared in accordance with Islamic dietary laws. In December, we provided the equivalent of 5500 meals to the 153 families who made a total of 340 visits to the pantry.

Food Pantry Advisory Board

January 27, 2025, 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.

Toys for Tots

Thank you for your outpouring of gifts to families in need. We sent 53 main toys and a few smaller items to Megan's Place in Windham Area Interfaith Ministries as part of the Toys for Tots program. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and helped to make the holidays special. – Linda

OUR SCC VISIONING PROCESS: THE BEGINNING

SAVE-THE-DATE: JANUARY 12, 2025

What does the “Visioning process” mean?

What does it mean for our church?

How do we participate?

Who is on the Visioning Team and what will they do?

Come learn about our SCC Visioning Process and how we will begin.

Bring your questions and let’s learn together!

When? Sunday, January 12th, 2025 - *Childcare will be provided.*

What? SCC’s Visioning Process: The Beginning!

Who? The Rev. Paul Nickerson, our guide along this path, will preach on “A Breath-Taking Vision”. We will also bless our Visioning Team during our worship service. Rev. Paul will stay a “2nd hour” to share about the process and answer questions. The SCC Visioning Team will be hosting Fellowship Hour so there will be delicious snacks to enjoy during the presentation.

Why? Our SCC Mission reminds us: “We share in God’s love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.” How is God calling us to this mission in this new season together?

May the Visioning Process guide our way.

Yours in the Journey,

The Visioning Team:

Jan Castle, Sue Irvine, Wes Lang-Rodean, Chris McLean, Paul Schur, and Ellen Smith

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn, Senior Minister

Rev. Paul Nickerson, consultant



REFLECTION

A Reflection by Ellen Bradley

Here at SCC we've had several years now when Epiphany Star Words were offered to us: first from Lisa, our former Faith Formation Director, and last year by Rev. Diane.

I've always liked getting one. Just as we heard about the Three Wise Men who were guided to the Christ Child by a brilliant star, now, at Epiphany, we had a chance to be led by a star, too.

The words were each tucked into in a little envelope, and from a basket you take the envelope you felt nudged to take. The revealed word was supposed to be a symbol of the Holy Spirit's guidance and where one might focus their attention in the new year, providing direction as well as a chance to ponder a deeper meaning of what that word might mean in our lives. It was also an invitation to spend time in meditation that might help bring intentionality to our spiritual journeys.

One might recognize an immediate association of their word, such as the word "Quiet" while you are in a time of chaos; or, "health" if you have been unwell. But more likely, the word might be a complete mystery until the year unfolds more, making you wonder why you got a certain word! Several times in the past I looked at my word and wanted to put it back and take another one because in my impatience I wanted a word that was easier to understand right away. But, the Holy Spirit doesn't always work like that! The word just might challenge you to see something in ways you didn't expect, and in God's perfect timing!

I still have my last 3 star words propped up on the shelf in my office. They don't expire at the end of a year, or ever. Lisa has moved across the country and is enjoying her new grandson; Diane was on vacation on Epiphany Sunday, and I found myself thinking about and missing the tradition this year. So, I looked online and found a website that generates a star word just for you. My word for 2025 is "Delight". I didn't feel it instantly because Ted and I are both sick, my eyeglasses have snapped in half and are being held together with Superglue, and the check engine light just came on in my car. All of this has happened since Christmas and it's only January 2! Hardly a delightful time, and the last thing I feel right now!

But our God is a good God, and perhaps the delight is something deeper than anything a few misfortunes can defeat. Maybe it is something that I will receive and feel in my heart in a more profound way. Maybe it is something I can offer to others to help them.

I brought this up to both Lisa and Diane when I talked to them each this week, and found out that we have some extras from previous years. I looked around a little and found a basket of them! So, if you would like your own Star Word for Epiphany, stop by the Parish House, near Katie's office, to get one!

May a star word journey bring added understanding of God's presence in and around our lives in the New Year.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations

Holly & Junius Hunter 1/4

Leslie Kennard & Douglas Pease 1/24

Birthday Celebrations

Jason Gould 1/2

Josh Miller 1/8

Allison Burchell-Robinson 1/9

Rosemary Marcellino 1/10

Henri Duval 1/11

Barbara Larson 1/12

David Stone 1/12

Joan Webster 1/13

John Blomstrann 1/14

Thomas Morrison 1/15

Tom Weston 1/15

Charlie Demurjian 1/16

Maxim Soroka 1/18

Alicia Kapinos 1/18

Madeline Malloy 1/21

Mark Brand 1/22

Mark Roy 1/22

Carol Toomey 1/22

Jenna Mitchell 1/24

Robert Jeffers 1/26

Cheryl Mitchell 1/27

Dwight Codr 1/28

William Aho 1/29

A special Happy Birthday to Bill Aho, a 67-year church member, who is turning 107 this month!!



It would take more than 4 boxes of birthday candles to adorn his cake, and if you placed the candles on the cake at the recommended interval you would need pretty large cake to fit them all (The 7 year old in me is not even going to get into the logistics of lighting them). Lucky for Bill, he has a network of family and friends to help him blow out those candles, make his birthday wish, and eat all that cake!

Thank you for sharing your time with us!

Church Directory / Realm

The Church Directory will be updated this spring, if you have the April 2024 copy you have the latest version. We will have a “rough” updated edition available at the Annual Meeting on January 28th. Please look it over and make sure that your information is accurate and up to date.

If you’ve had any changes to the following contact information in the last year, please send an email to Katie to make updates as needed.

Name (first or last)	eMail Address	Photo
Address	Birth Date (w/ Year)	
Phone Number	Anniversary Date	

This is also a great time to consider whether you want to receive our weekly emails if your not already and whether you want your birthday / anniversary published in the Carillon.

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, 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 ♥

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@storrscongchurch.org.

SCC CALENDARS

Weekly Gatherings at SCC

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Mondays | Service Sewing 9:30 am (Rm 207)
Food Pantry Open, 12:00 pm (Rm 102) |
| Tuesdays | Library Open, 9:30 am (Library) |
| Wednesdays | Parish Piecers, 10:00 am (Ed. Bldg. 2 nd Floor)
C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (Library & Zoom) |
| Thursdays | Food Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (Rm 102)
Handbells 6:30 (Meeting House)
Choir 7:30 (Meeting House) |
| Sundays | Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (Rm 102)
Library Open, 11:00 am (Library) |

Monthly Meetings at SCC

Jan 2 1st Thursday Book Club 1pm (*Library*)

Jan 11 PEO Chapter S, 10am (*Library*)

PEO Meeting Saturday, Jan. 11

The congregation is invited to attend a PEO meeting in the Library this coming Saturday, at which time Kimberley Clark, Director of The Soup Kitchen in Willimantic, will present a program about this very active volunteer effort to help those in need. The presentation will be 20 to 30 minutes.

PEO is a Professional Educational Organization which actively pursues furthering education for women.

If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Metzgar. 860-423-3163

Jan 12th Visioning Meeting 11:00am (Lounge) *See pg. 11 for details*

Jan 14th Midwest Food Bank Delivery, 11:00am

Jan 21st Governing Board Meeting, 6:30pm (*Room 201 & Zoom*)

Jan 26th Annual Meeting of the Storrs Congregational Church, 11am
(Meeting House, Zoom)

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2023

following 10:00 am Worship in the Meeting House and on Zoom

Pursuant to Section 47 (Article XI) of the Bylaws of our congregation...

The Members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to the **Annual Business Meeting** of the congregation, to be held **January 29, 2023, following the Sunday morning worship service**. The meeting will be held in the same format as worship, **in-person and/or online via Zoom Meetings**. The business of said meeting shall be to receive yearly reports, fill elective offices, transact business, discuss plans for the ensuing year, and other items of interest to the congregation concerning the Storrs Congregational Church.

The presence and participation of all members is requested; a minimum of thirty is required to transact business. In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed due to weather or other emergency, it shall be held on the following Sunday.

Jan 27th Food Pantry Advisory Board Meeting, 2:15pm (*Library*)

OUTSIDE GROUP MEETINGS AT SCC

The Storrs Congregational Church (SCC) affirms its historical presence in the Storrs/Mansfield community in providing space for meetings, services and celebratory events. Community groups are encouraged to use the rooms for events appropriate to the spaces requested.

Ballroom Dance (Auditorium):

Monday 7:00-11:00pm

UConn Dance Co. (Auditorium):

Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm,

Thursday 4:30-8:30pm

University Ballet Co. (Auditorium):

Sunday 5:00-7:00pm

Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm

Table Tennis Club (Auditorium):

Wednesday 2:30-6:30pm,

Friday 4:00-8:00pm,

Sat 11:30-3:30pm

Consonare (Auditorium):

Sunday 2:30-5:00pm

Speaker Meeting (Auditorium):

Sunday 7:30-8:30

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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