

# STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)



*We are an Open and Affirming congregation of the UCC: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to all. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person. Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey of life and faith, you are welcome here! We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community.*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026  
OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) SUNDAY  
PROPER 5**



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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.**

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## 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** – “There Is a Spirit…” from *A Quaker Reader* by Rorem

*Dr. Patricia Snyder*

### Bringing in the Light

**Welcome**

*Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

**Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

*Carolyn Holmy*

**One:** In a world that presses us to confirm or blend in, we hold instead to God’s promise of hope and lean into our community of love and acceptance.

**Many:** We are called to resist pressure to abandon our beliefs and values. We stand firm in our commitment to be a welcoming, affirming congregation. We are called to stand with our rainbow of siblings against all forms of hate. Let us worship God in hope and praise. Amen.

### \*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** – “Guide Us to Openness”

*Sung to “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Tune:*

*FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 with refrain.  
Words © by The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III*

Guide us to openness, Spirit of mercy,  
Aid us in seeking God’s justice and grace.  
Move us to show Christ’s compassion through witness,  
Love first to offer and hate to erase.  
Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!  
Let no one ever be shunned or denied.  
Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,  
That all who seek You may come and abide.

Spirit of tenderness, impart Your presence,  
Fill both our hearts and our hands with Your care.  
Let no one suffer or grieve unattended,  
Grant us Your kindness and warmth here to share.  
Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!  
Let no one ever be shunned or denied.  
Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,  
That all who seek You may come and abide.

Though there are those who  
would limit Christ's graces,  
Still we refuse to believe in such lies,  
For in this time we have made a commitment  
Never to limit love's power or size.  
Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!  
Let no one ever be shunned or denied.  
Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,  
That all who seek You may come and abide.

## Call to Confession

*Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

### Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Loving God, when fear and doubt overshadow our faith, when we fail to create safe and brave spaces needed by all our siblings, forgive us. Renew our hearts, and transform us into beacons of persistence, resilience, and resistance. (*time of silent confession*)**

### Words of Assurance

*One:* God's love and forgiveness are ever-present. Let us rejoice in the knowledge that we are renewed through God.

*Many:* **May we forgive as we are forgiven, living in the hope and peace of God's unending love. 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

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*God Speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### Prayer of Illumination

*Carolyn Holmy*

### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 100

*pew Bibles p. 481*

## Refrain — “Spirit of the Living God”

IVERSON

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

## Second Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-8

Elaine Greer

pew Bibles p. 917

Sermon — “After a Hurricane Comes a Rainbow 🌈”

Elaine Greer

\*Hymn — “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)”

this bulletin p. 7

## 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 Solo — “Walk Together Children” arr. by Hogan

Elaine Chague, soloist

Walk together children, don't you get weary,  
There's a great camp meetin' in the promised lan'.  
Gonna walk (sing, shout) and never tire...

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*)

God of diversity, we pray these offerings bring your hope, justice and healing to those who are suffering. Bless and multiply these gifts, reaching beyond our expectation and bringing your light to the 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 – “We Are Dancing Sarah’s Circle” *sung to “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”*

We are danc-ing Sar-ah’s cir-cle, ...sis-ters, broth-ers, all.  
Here we seek and find our sto-ry...sis-ters, broth-ers, all.  
We will all do our own naming, ...sis-ters, broth-ers, all.  
Ev-ery round a gen-er-a-tion, ...sis-ters, broth-ers, all.  
On and on the cir-cle’s mov-ing, ...sis-ters, broth-ers, all.

\*Benediction

Postlude – “Toccata in 7” by Rutter

*Dr. Patricia Snyder*

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## 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! **We need fellowship hosts for the summer!!!**

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## 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.

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## Thank You Sunday Morning Servers for Assisting in today's service ...

**Liturgist:** Carolyn Holmy; **Greeter:** Marsha Creese; **Ushers:** Paul Schur, Rosemary Marcellino; **Welcome Table:** Sue Schur; **Fellowship:** Ray and Jane Joesten; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

**Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week:** **Liturgist:** Chris McLean; **Greeter:** Jane Joesten; **Head Usher:** Ray Joesten; **Usher:** Lyle Yorks; **Welcome Table:** xxx **Fellowship Host:** NEEDED.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Today, Sunday June 14, 2026

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

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### Comings and Goings

**Katie** will be attending the Church Secretary's conference on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, the office will have limited coverage from 9:30 until noontime.

**Trisha** will be out from June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SCC offices** will be closed on 6/19 for Juneteenth.

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### News and Notes

**The Tag Sale Group Brainstorming Session after worship today!:** We invite

anyone who might be interested in helping us discuss and decide what we might do in place of the tag sale to attend. Grab a beverage and a snack and join us in Room 201 for discussion and hopefully some decisions! Questions? Contact Jamie Lang-Rodean or Lisa Gregus.

**Summer Music!!** Singers and instrumentalists are warmly welcomed to contribute their talents year-round, but especially during the summer months. Time to dust off that trombone, guitar, or even your hurdy-gurdy if you are moved by the Holy Spirit to share your gift of music with the congregation! Please speak to Trisha with any questions.

## 69

## I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

## Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D

*Leader or All*

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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## 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 – “Spirit of the Living God”. Refrain from New Century Hymnal #283. Text and Music by Daniel Iverson, 1926.
- 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 PAUGUSETT, 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/>



Elaine has been a member of the SCC church since 2006. After graduating from the UConn School of Pharmacy in 1976, Elaine worked for 19 years as a retail pharmacist. Finding Retail Pharmacy not challenging enough, Elaine joined Pfizer Inc as a Research Scientist in 1982, retiring after 28 years in 2009. Inspired by the SCC community, Elaine started taking classes at Andover Newton Theological School in 2008. She received a Master of Arts in Spiritual and Pastoral Studies in 2015.

## 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!**

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### STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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<i>Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn – <a href="mailto:diane@storrscongchurch.org">diane@storrscongchurch.org</a>   Ext. 23
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