

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, OCTOBER 25, 2026

HERITAGE SUNDAY

PROPER 25, 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.

Today’s flowers on the chancel are given in honor of our Heritage Sunday members, in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the mission of our church.

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 – “The Peace May Be Exchanged” from *Rubrics* by Dan Locklair *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

Bringing in the Light

Welcome

Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn

Gathering Music – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” verse 1 *Glory to God Hymnal [purple] p. 306*

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love,
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Liz Cowles

One: The voice of God calls, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Many: **The Spirit moves among us to acts of compassion and justice.**

One: We know the love of Jesus because Christ first loved us.

Many: **Together, let us worship and serve our God. Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: 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** – “Gather Us In” *Glory to God* 401

this bulletin p. 8

Call to Confession

Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God, we confess that we have taken your commandments and turned them into rules. We criticize those who fall short and proclaim ourselves righteous. Forgive us for turning your law into burdens for others and for ourselves, instead of a Way to love and have freedom in you. In the name of Christ, who has given us the Way and leads us on, we pray. Amen. (*time of silent confession*)

Words of Assurance

One: Beloved, you are loved. Love is the Way. When we love God, we love others. When we truly lay down our lives for others, we lay down our lives for God.

Many: As we serve others, we serve God, knowing that in God's love there is forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Recognition of 40 year + Members and Prayer

Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn

WORD

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

ANTHEM – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” by Kyle Pederson

Adult Choir

Taj McGlamery, electric guitar; Ramsey Scott, piano

A Mighty Fortress is our God, a refuge never failing.
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal winds prevailing.
For still our spirit's foes doth seek to work us woe;
They lure with pow'r so great, with judgment and with hate;
Shield us e'er, guard us as Thy own.

If we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing.
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who this may be? Christ Jesus it is He.
Emmanuel His name, from age to age the same;
Who was, Who is, Who e'er shall be.

Thy Word above all earthly pow'r; Thy Love above all earthly pow'r;
Thy Hope above all earthly pow'r; My God above all earthly pow'r.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still.
The Kingdom is forever.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Adapted by Kyle Pederson

Prayer of Illumination

Liz Cowles

First Scripture Reading -

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

pew Bibles p. 93, bulletin insert

Refrain — “Open My Heart” by Ana Hernández

*The congregation sings: **Open my heart. Open my heart.***

Second Scripture Reading –

Matthew 22:34-46

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

pew Bibles p. 804, bulletin insert

Sermon – “The Foundation of Love”

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

***Hymn** – “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” Glory to God 729

this bulletin p. 9

RESPONSE

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

A Time of Offering

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 also be made electronically through our online ‘Give Now’ option. Scan the QR code for easy access.



Call to Offering

OFFERTORY – “Adoro te devote” arr. by Ann Krentz Organ see: NCH# 339

SCC Ringers

Quartet: Annetta Miller, Linda Ferreira, Marsha Creese, Chris McLean

***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! A-men.
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost!

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

God of the ages, we pray that you receive these offerings and receive our very hearts as your servants of peace in our community and in our world. In the name of our Savior and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEAST OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please hold your bread and cup until all are served. We will then partake of the elements together; first the bread, then the cup.).

The Invitation

Hymn – “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” Glory to God Hymnal 509 *this bulletin p. 10*

Please remain seated during the communion hymn as a time of reflection.

Litany

One: God be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

***Many:* We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

***Many:* It is right to give our thanks and praise. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Holy God, our loving Creator... Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

***Many:* Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Sharing the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Giver of all gifts, you nourish us through your bread of life and cup of forgiveness. May we always return to you the praise that is yours alone, and may your glory be reflected through us, into a hurting world in need of peace. In Jesus' name, 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 – “O God Our Help in Ages Past” *Glory to God* 687

this bulletin p. 11

*Benediction

Postlude – “Toccata in Seven” by John Rutter

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Heritage Sunday Honoree Picture

The picture of our attendees will be taken on the chancel directly after worship.

Be Our Guest for Potluck Fellowship!

Today we will celebrate our Heritage Sunday members with a community luncheon. Thank you to those who signed up in advance, but if you didn’t get a chance, please plan to stay for the event! Everyone is welcome to come-on over to the Parish House Auditorium where we will share a lite luncheon and fellowship! 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!

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 for Assisting in today’s service ...

Carillon: Christopher Dustin; **Liturgist:** Liz Cowles; **Greeter:** Katie Bienvenue; **Ushers:** Dana Gregus, Bruce Bergen; **Welcome Table:** Lisa Gregus; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine. **Communion:** Carolyn Holmy, Wade Johnson, Annetta Miller, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: **Liturgist:** Janice Castle; **Greeter:** Malta Bailey; **Head Usher:** Rosemary Marcellnio; **Usher:** Dana Gregus; **Welcome Table:** Heather Famularo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday October 25, 2026

8:45-9:45 am	Student Breakfast	
9:00-10:00 am	Adult Choir	
10:00-11:00 am	Worship	Thank you to Jamie Lang-Rodean, Marsha Creese, and Laurie Brookes for your continued dedication to making Heritage Sunday special for the Congregation.
11:00-12 pm	Luncheon	
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open	
11:30-12:30 pm	Food Pantry Open	
2:30-5 pm	Consonare	

News and Notes

Save the Date! What: Vision Team Special Fellowship hour. **When:** November 8, after church. **Where:** Auditorium

Your Vision Team has prayed and pondered, researched and interviewed, and gathered your ideas and inspiration over the past 2 years. All of that led to collaboration with Action Teams to turn your ideas into a focused vision. Now the Vision Team is sharing the final products — a vision narrative along with a detailed implementation plan — with the Governing Board and the Congregation. Watch for the written plans to be sent out by email in early November. We invite all to join us for this special fellowship after church on 11/8 to ask questions and learn how you can get involved to help this vision come to life at SCC. Can't wait to see you there!

Hymnals for our Online Congregation: As we transition to the new *Glory to God* hymnals, we want our online members to know that we have extra undedicated copies of *Glory to God*, *New Century* and *Pilgrim*

hymnals. If you are worshipping online with us on a regular basis and would like to have a copy of any or all of these for use at home, please call the church office (860-429-9382). We will do our best to get them to you. Abundance is a blessing!

The next gathering of the MM-MMM

Group will be next Monday, October 26th at Mansfield Middle School from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Prayer Shawl: will be gathering in the library and on Zoom, on **October 29** and then NOT meeting in November and December. We will then resume in the New Year, on the 4th Thursday, which is Jan. 28th.

The SCC Lunch Bunch will hold their next get-together at the Asian Bistro, Eastbrook Mall, Mansfield on **Friday, November 6 at 1:00 pm.**

All are cordially invited to the next SCC Social, which will take place at **6:30 pm in the lounge on Saturday, November 7**. This will be a game night dessert party. Everyone is invited to bring a game to play and a dessert to share. There is a sign up sheet in the lounge.

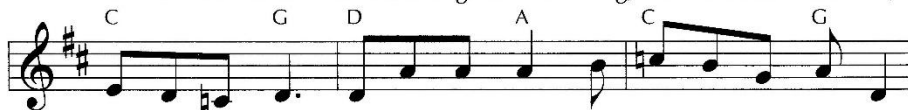
Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

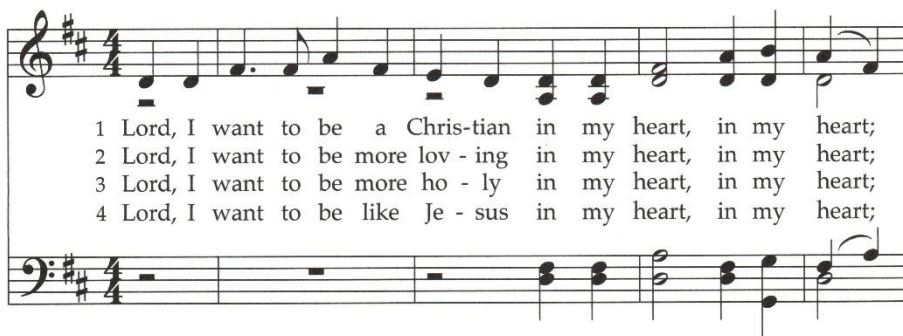


blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

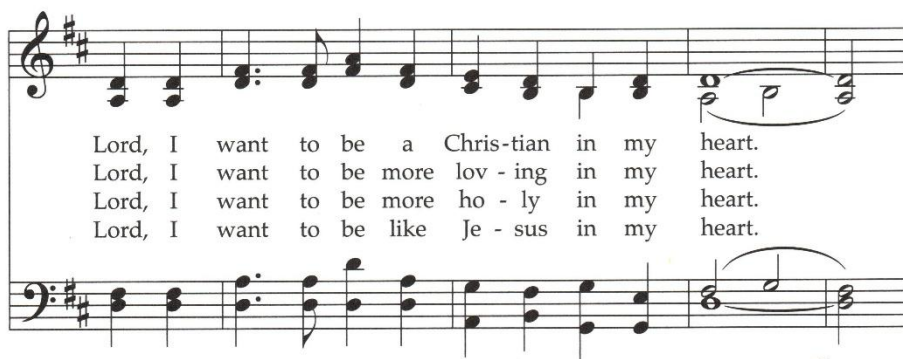


we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



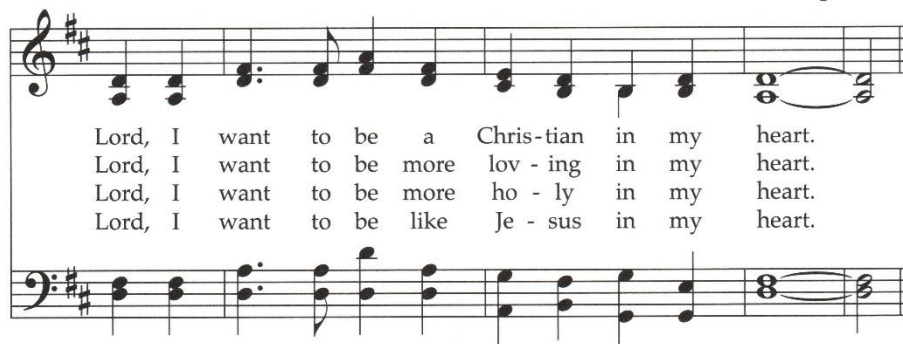
1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

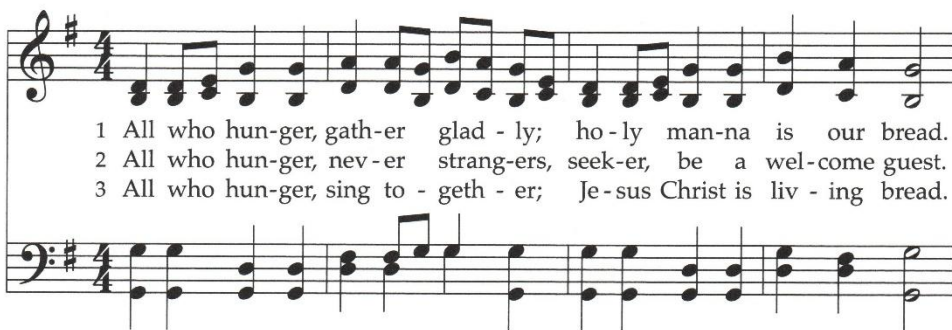


In my heart, in my heart,
 In my heart, in my heart,

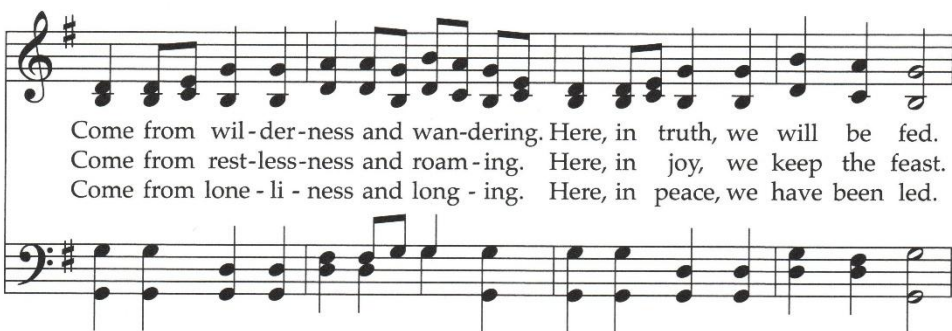


Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

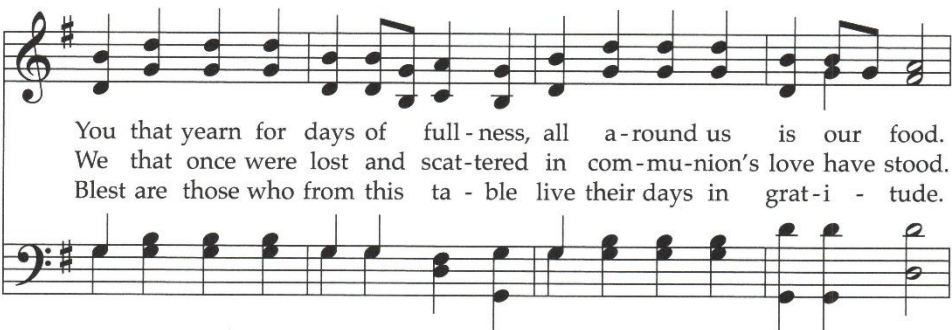
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



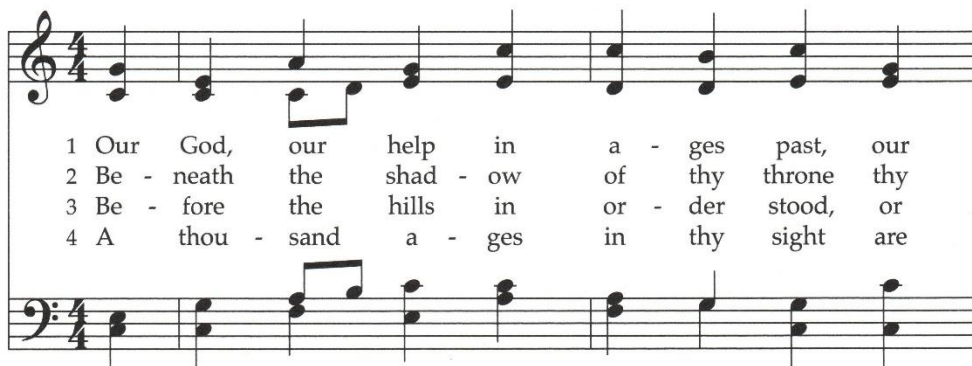
You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Notes and 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 Rev. Mindi prayers on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>
- Words of Assurance: adapted from prayers by Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>
- Refrain – “Open My Heart” Text: Chinese mantra. Music: Ana Hernández. ©2013 Ana Hernández.
- 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/>

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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