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*

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

PROPER 28, 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.

The flowers on the chancel are placed in loving memory of Jane, Ronnie, and Leslie, beloved siblings of Duffy and Laurie Brookes.

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 – "Amazing Grace" by David Maxwell *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

Bringing in the Light

Welcome *Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Call to Worship *(responsive)* *Christopher Dustin*

One: Let us gather in Christ, who showed us how to share love,
Many: **and who calls us to be a part of God's work in the world.**
One: We give thanks for the countless blessings and gifts from God.
Many: **Let us worship this God of goodness! 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** – "Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve" *NCH [black] p.* ***491 *this bulletin p.* **10**

Call to Confession *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Holy Creator, we confess that we have squandered your gifts and used them as if they had been given for us alone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ. Amen. *(time of silent confession)*

Words of Assurance

One: Beloved, we have not been faithful in all things, yet God welcomes us with patience and kindness. Let us receive forgiveness, embrace hope, and faithfully respond.

Many: **Glory to God! We are forgiven. We have hope. We will respond. Amen.**

Children's Moment

Our Family Room is not staffed; however, it is open and available to interested children and their grownups 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

Prayer of Illumination *Liturgist*

First Scripture Reading -

Psalm 90:1-12 *this bulletin p.***8**

Refrain — "Open My Heart" by Ana Hernández

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

Second Scripture Reading – *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Matthew 25:14-30 *this bulletin p.* **8-9**

Sermon – "Talents" *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Hymn** – "O Day of God, Draw Near" *NCH [black] p.* ***611 *this bulletin p.* **9**

RESPONSE

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

Stewardship Witness *Joanne Yorks*

A Time of Offering

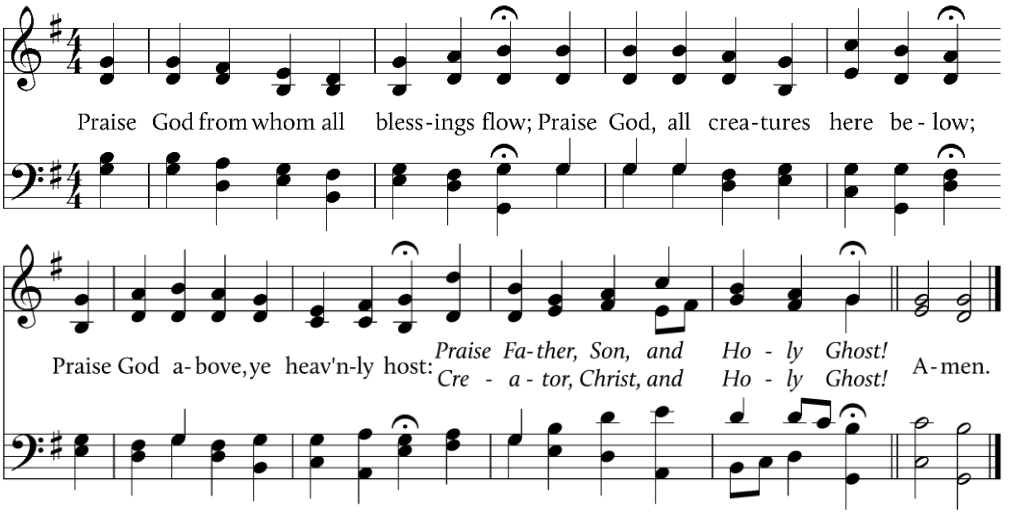
As the offering is collected, prayers of either joy or concern may be written on the purple prayer request cards found in the pew rack and placed in the offering plates as they are passed. Offerings may also be made electronically through our online 'Give Now' option. Scan the QR code for easy access.

Call to Offering

Offertory – "My Lord, What a Mornin'" by H. T. Burleigh *Adult Choir*

My Lord, what a mornin', my Lord, what a mornin,
O my Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways, joined that heavenly band.
O my Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall.

*** *Presenting our Gifts: The Doxology*** OLD HUNDREDTH



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

God whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the time and talents that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Consecrate, multiply, and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in 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** – "God of Grace and God of Glory" NCH *[black] p.* ***436 *this bulletin p.* ***11***

***Benediction**

God's blessing be upon you, as we leave and return changed to our homes and communities. May we be strengthened and encouraged as we follow God's vision. May the blessing of our adventurous Creator God travel with us. May the blessing of Christ, who showed us how to live, re-shape us. And may the blessing of the dancing Spirit joyfully enable us in turn to be a blessing to others through our renewed living. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude – "Fugue in G Major, BWV 541" by Bach *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

CALL TO A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Pursuant to the By Laws of the Storrs Congregational Church:

The members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to a Special Meeting to be held Sunday, November 22, 2026. The meeting will be held following the Sunday morning worship service in the Meeting House. The meeting will be in the same format as worship, in-person and/or online via Zoom Meetings.

The business of said meeting shall be to:

1. to receive information and discuss the 2027 annual budget for the Storrs Congregational Church (SCC)
2. the meeting is for discussion purposes only.

In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed due to weather or other emergency, it shall be held on the following Sunday.

Rationale: The meeting is called by the Governing Board to provide an opportunity for members of the Congregation to receive information about and comment on the proposed budget for 2027.

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 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 for Assisting in today's service ...

Carillon: Christopher Dustin; ***Liturgist:*** Christopher Dustin; ***Greeter***: Marsha Creese; ***Ushers:*** Jamie Lang-Rodean, Wes Lang-Rodean; ***Welcome Table:*** Laurie Brookes; ***Fellowship Host:*** Diana Alvarado; ***Tech Team:*** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: ***Liturgist:*** Armand Johnson; ***Greeter:*** Vicki Magley; ***Head Usher:*** Carolyn Holmy; ***Usher:*** Needed; ***Welcome Table:*** Mary Lake ***Fellowship Host:*** Needed;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday November 15, 2026

8:45-9:45 am	Student Breakfast
9:00-10:00 am	Adult Choir
10:00-11:00 am	Worship
11:00-12 pm	Fellowship
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
11:30-12:30 pm	Food Pantry Open
2:30-5 pm	Consonare

Comings and Goings

SCC Offices are closed Thursday and Friday November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving.

News and Notes

A message for the SCC community from the Vision Team: Thank you for showing up with thoughtfulness and energy! We are so grateful for all that you did through the vision process to help us discern where God is leading us. We appreciate everyone who was able to join us on November 8th and November 12 to review the vision narrative and the implementation plan. Our Governing Board Chair Erin Scholes has declared that this plan should be called our Action Plan. We are putting this plan into action! Many of you have indicated your interest in one (or more) of the initiatives in the plan. Please reach out to Vision Team or Governing Board members if you would like to join in this work.

At this point, the Vision Team is stepping back and the Governing Board is taking up the plan. There will be a "passing the baton" moment during our worship service on November 22nd. We hope you can join us.

Toys for Tots: The box is ready for toys, it can be found in the entryway near the coat rack outside Katie's office. For questions contact Lois Demurjian.

Noon Day Organ Recital: We hope you will join us for the third and final Noon Hour Recital of the Fall '26 series, to be held on **Nov. 18th at 12:15 p.m. here at SCC**, featuring our own Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Patricia Snyder.

The Final gathering of the MM-MMM Group will be **November 23** at Mansfield Middle School from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Thanksgiving Food Distribution at SCC Food Pantry: Wednesday November 18th and Thursday, November 19th. We expect

to serve 100 families. We need: stuffing mix, gravy or gravy mix, cranberry sauce, canned yams, pumpkin pie mix and pie shells and the fixings for that Turkey Day favorite, green bean casserole: canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, and French fried onions. Thank you for making it a happy Thanksgiving for our guests.

WAIM Walk for Warmth





First Scripture Reading - Psalm 90:1-12 *pew Bibles p.***476**

God's Eternity and Human Frailty,

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.2 Before the mountains were
brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting
you are God. 3 You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." 4 For a thousand
years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night. 5 You sweep
them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; 6 in the morning
it flourishes and is renewed;in the evening it fades and withers. 7 For we are consumed by your
anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. 8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret
sins in the light of your countenance. 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years
come to an endlike a sigh. 10 The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are
strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. 11
Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. 12 So
teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Here ends the Reading.

Second Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:14-30 *pew Bibles p.* **807**

The Parable of the Talents

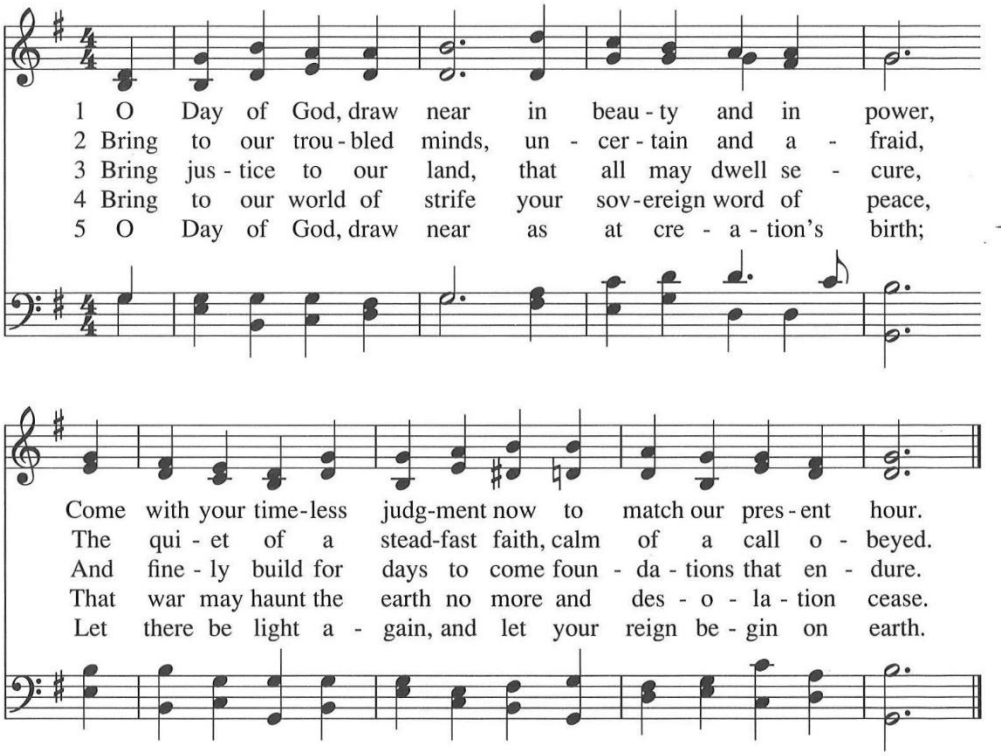
14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to
them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and
traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two
talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and
dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those
slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents
came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents;
see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.'

(continues on next page→)

[24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew
that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not
scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with
interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all
those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who
have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him
into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

O Day of God, Draw Near 611

R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt. *Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8–15*



Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve 491

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751); alt. *2 Tim. 4:7–8; Phil. 3:12–14*



God of Grace and God of Glory 436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.



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 prayer on www.warrentonumc.org **Prayer of Confession:** adapted from the Pacific Pilgrim website. https://pacificpilgrim.com/ **Benediction:** ~ from Hope in God's Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change Report & Study Guide, Methodist Publishing 2009. Posted on the Third Space website. http://third-space.org.uk/blog **Prayer of Dedication:** written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog. http://spaciousfaith.com/ **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 pseaumes 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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