

Join SCC on our Lenten Journey,
“Seeking Honest Questions for
Deeper Faith”



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
10am, March 26, 2023

Welcome to the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ!

As we say at nearly every worship service, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey God welcomes you... and so do we."

We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God's kingdom. We don't all look or act alike; God knows we don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather as the Body of Christ.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ. Some of the songs we sing are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. Yet, in our preaching and prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of everyday living. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

Mission statement of the Storrs Congregational Church:

We share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.

These May Help During the Service... If you would like a **large-print** copy of the bulletin and hymns, would like seat or back cushions, or are looking for a wheelchair or accessible seating, please ask an usher. **The restroom in this building** is at the front of the church behind the doors to the right of the chancel (in the northeast corner of the building).

Children, too, are welcome at all services. It is important for families to worship together. We are glad to have children—and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles—as part of our community and worship life! Families are welcome to visit our PRAYGROUND toward the front pews, on the right side of the meeting house. There are books and quiet activities available for little ones. Whenever worship is blessed with the presence of children, the liturgy will include a "Time for All God's Children". Welcome!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: All are welcome, including children, to share in the feast at Christ's table. Communion is shared the first Sunday of each month.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: We gladly offer the sign and seal of God's grace in the waters of baptism, both to children and adults of any age. *For more information, contact the pastor.*

The language of worship is rich and diverse, and yet always inadequate to express the fullness of the divine. In our worship life, we strive to use inclusive language for humanity and expansive imagery for the divine, while respecting the poetry and imagery of texts handed down to us from the ages. Honoring our diversity, in those places where we speak or sing together, worshippers may use language with which they are comfortable or familiar.

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.*
Please know that our services are recorded on Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube.

GATHERING

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace church.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, God welcomes you and so do we.

Prelude — “Suite de 2^e Ton, *Tierce en Taille*” by Guilain

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Call to Worship (responsive)

Duffy Brookes

One: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

Many: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

One: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Many: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

One: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God’s house. Hope lives here.

Many: So, come. Rest your weary bones. Let us worship Holy God. Amen

***Hymn** — “O Come to Me, You Weary”

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Call to Confession

Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace. So let us not hold back. Let us bring our full selves to this prayer, knowing that God is already running to meet us. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Jesus of Nazareth,

We confess: we forget that you know this feeling.

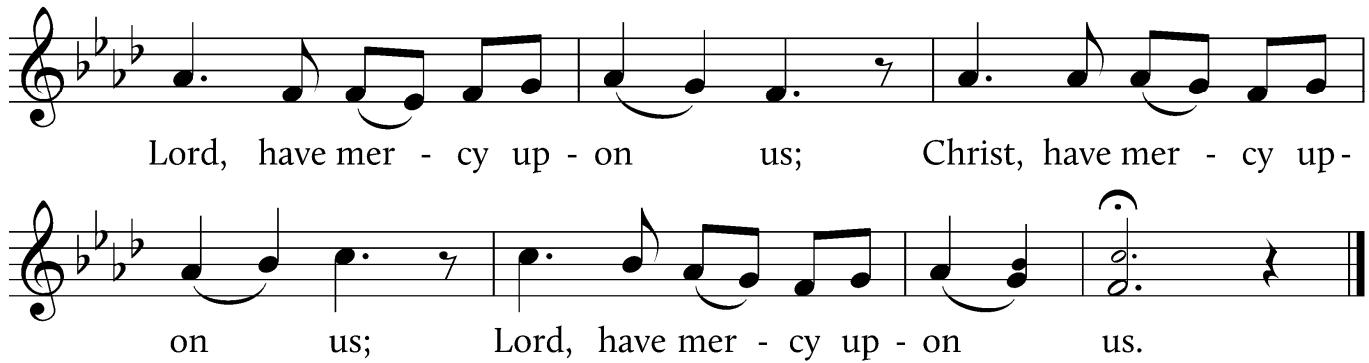
We forget that you, too, have wept.

We forget that you, too, have lost.

We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive us for the times we place blame on you, for the ways we create distance, imagining that you could never feel what we feel. Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts. Bring these bones back to life. Bring us closer to you. With gratitude we pray, amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY: KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same. Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved. So join me as we hear and believe this good news:

Many: We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.
Amen!

**When worship is blessed with the presence of children, the liturgy will include
'Time for All God's Children'**

WORD

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

Anthem — “Prayer” from *Nightsongs* by H. Leslie Adams

Sarah Marze, soloist

I ask you this:
Which way to go?
I ask you this:
Which sin to bear?
Which crown to put
Upon my hair?
I do not know,
Lord God,
I do not know.

Text: Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

Prayer of Illumination

Creator God,
Why is bad news so loud?
In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps,
and anxiety, it often feels like suffering has a microphone.
How do we hear you? How do we find you?
How do we know that these bones can live?
Today we bring our raw selves into this space

asking that once more you would
 rush through this room like a mighty wind.
 Remind us that these bones can live.
 Speak to us in your still, small voice
 and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day.
 We know that good news rests in you, and we know that you are here.
 So help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone,
 but to the hope that you breathe into every word.
 With open hearts we pray, amen.

Scripture Readings —

John 11:1-45 *pew bibles, p. 873*
 Ezekiel 37:1-14 *pew bibles, p. 704*

RESPONSE — “Nothing Can Trouble” NADA TE TURBE

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in 4/4 time, treble clef, and bass clef. The bottom staff is also in 4/4 time, treble clef, and bass clef. The lyrics are in Spanish and English, with some words underlined. The chords are indicated above the staff.

Chords:

- Top Staff: Am, Dm7, G, CM7, F, Dm6
- Bottom Staff: Esus4, E, Am, F, Dm6, E, Am

Lyrics:

Na - da te tur - be, na - da tees-pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne
 Noth-ing can trou - ble, noth-ing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall

na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
 nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.

Sermon — “Can these bones live?”

[preacher]

***Hymn — “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

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RESPONSE

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

Responding with our Gifts

As the morning 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.

Call to Offering

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Out of the Deep” from *Requiem* by Rutter

Adult Choir
Vivian Hudson, cello

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice
O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?
For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared
I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him:
In his word is my trust
My soul fleeth unto the Lord:
Before the morning watch
I say, before the morning watch
O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:
And with him is plenteous redemption
And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.
Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:
Lord, hear my voice.

* **PRESENTING OUR GIFTS:**

*Embodying the more-simplified mood of Lent, there is no Song of Praise (Doxology).
As you are able, in body or in spirit, please rise when invited as the offering is brought forward.*

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Holy God,
May this offering remind us of your enlivening Spirit, helping us to share in your love
by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Pastoral Prayer, ending with The Lord’s Prayer

Many: Our 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

Affirmation of Baptism: The Reception of New Members

Joining Members: Diane Peterson Seaborn and Eric Seaborn

Invitation and Sentences of Scripture

Profession of Faith

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,

Who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

* Covenant with this Congregation

Leader (to joining members)

+ Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in our worship of God and enlisting in the work of our local church as it serves this community and the world? "We do."

Leader (to the congregation):

+ Friends, do we, as people of Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, covenant with our siblings in Christ as part of our family of faith, and promise to encourage, support, and walk alongside them as we together seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Leader: Having affirmed the faith of our baptism, now let us all unite in affirming the covenant that binds us together as this particular congregation of God's people:

All: We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human fellowship. Depending, as did our ancestors, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

(the congregation may be seated)

Welcome and Reception

Leader:

Let us, as members and friends of Storrs Congregational Church, UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ, as written in your bulletin.

All:

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. Thanks be to God!

Prayer

Leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Storrs Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian fellowship, warmly welcoming you into the company of our church!

Sharing the Peace of Christ

***Hymn** — “You Are the Way”

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***Benediction**

Postlude — “Suite de 2^e Ton, *Dialogue*” by Guilain

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Be Our Guest for Fellowship! Come on over to the **Parish House Auditorium** and share in a special Church Potluck luncheon, a beverage 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! Masks are strongly encouraged for everyone.

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.
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Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:35-40; 11:25-26

William C. Dix, 1867; alt.

1 "O come to me, you weary, and I will give you rest."
 2 "O come to me, you wan-derers, and I will give you light."
 3 "O come to me, you faint-ing, and I will give you life!"
 4 "All you who come and seek me will nev-er be cast out."

The bless-ed voice of Je - sus, which comes to hearts op - pressed!
 The lov - ing voice of Je - sus, which comes to cheer the night!
 The cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, which stills our in - ner strife!
 The wel - come voice of Je - sus, which drives a - way our doubt!

It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, of par - don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, and we had lost our way;
 The e - vil one sur - rounds us and would our faith sub - due,
 And though we are un - wor - thy of love so free and true,

of joy that has no end - ing, of love which does not cease.
 but morn-ing brings us glad - ness and songs for each new day.
 but you are strong with - in us, our cour-age brave and true.
 we hear your call to sin - ners; in trust we come to you.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

You Are the Way

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*George W. Doane, 1824; alt.**John 14:6*

1 You are the way; through you a - lone
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone
3 You are the life; the o - pen tomb
4 You are the way, the truth, the life;

can we the true God find;
true wis - dom can im - part;
pro-claims God's love a - new;
grant us that way to know,



In you, O Christ, is now re-vealed
You on - ly can in - form the mind
And God will ne'er for - sake the one
That truth to keep, that life to win,

God's heart and will and mind.
and pur - i - fy the heart.
who trusts, O Christ, in you.
whose joys e - ter - nal flow.



Life at SCC...Today...

8:45 am	Student Breakfast (Auditorium)
9:00 am	Adult Choir (MH)
10:00 am	Worship (MH & Online)
11:00 am	Church Potluck & Fellowship (Auditorium)
11:00 am	Food Pantry Open (Room 102)
11:00 am	Library open (CE - Library)
2:30 pm	Consonare Rehearsal (Lounge/Auditorium)
5:15 pm	University Ballet Co. (Auditorium)
7:00 pm	CDN Rehearsal (MH)
7:30 pm	Speaker Group (Auditorium)
MH = Meeting House CE = Christian Education Bldg.	
PH = Parish House	

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.

Assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Duffy Brookes

Greeter: Jane Joesten

Ushers: Pam Roberts, Anne Usher

Welcome Table: Marsha Creese

Fellowship Host: Janis Hoyle

Tech Team: Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine

This morning's flowers are in celebration of Patrick Barton and Diane & Eric Seaborn. Welcome Home!

What's in a Name?: Your name identifies you to others allowing those around you to comfortably address you as you engage in conversation or task. Name tags are available for everyone, even guests and visitors at the Greeter's stand in the Narthex. **Please be sure to wear your Name Tag over to the Fellowship time to continue our ongoing ministry of Hospitality during the Potluck**

luncheon. If your permanent name tag is lost, misplaced or you just want another one, contact Deborah in the office for assistance.

Our New Members... Diane Peterson

Seaborn and Eric Seaborn moved to Storrs from Wellesley MA in August 2022. Shortly afterwards, Rev. Diane began serving as SCC's Senior Minister! If you haven't gotten to know Eric yet, Diane describes him as "her rock: a gentle giant, a great mind and a wonderful laugh." Eric works as an arborist and as Director of Natural Resources for the Massachusetts DCR agency. Diane and Eric are proud parents to Graham (23), Grace (21) and Rudy (18), their three wonderful kids. The youngest and hairiest child, however, is 6 year old Leo, the family's beloved Australian Labradoodle! Diane and Eric love exploring hiking trails, state parks, and new bookstores. They join SCC today with grateful hearts for the warm welcome of this congregation!

Meet

"Seeking Series" Come join the conversation!

Please join Pastor Diane for the final Lenten "Seeking" session. **Choose a time to join:**

- Monday, March 27th **online only**, 12-1 pm, or
- Wed., March 29th, **in the Library**, 5-6pm

We will spend a little time each week with honest questions for deeper faith:

Questions like: "Who inspires your faith?"... "Where in your life would you like to say yes?" ... "Who in your life is an excellent listener?" What makes them so?" Hope you will join us! <https://www.storrscongchurch.org/connecting/pastor-al-care-pastors/> and select the zoom link to join the gathering.

Quiet Reflection in the Chapel: Join Lisa Haupt on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Waggoner Chapel for Quiet Reflection and Spiritual Centering. Everyone is welcome.

C.A.F.E. Storrs Studies: *Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the Library or via Zoom.* Consider expanding your weekly *Bible* study to include C.A.F.E. Storrs with your SCC faith family. Join the group to discuss upcoming Sunday Scriptures and discover how “God is still speaking”. Everyone is welcome! Visit <https://www.storrscongchurch.org/forming-faith/faith-formation-adult/> and select the zoom link to be let into the discussion.

Lenten Book Study: *Wednesdays: March 29 & April 5, 4:00-5:00pm, Room 106.* Henri Nouwen, *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit.* For more information and to sign up to attend, please contact Lisa Haupt, lisa@storrscongchurch.org.

Serve

Progress continues for the Accessibility Workgroup: Have you provided input yet? today, during Fellowship, be sure to check out the new photo tri-fold A2A display that illustrates the last 5 months of our facilities walkthrough. Ask questions! Provide comments! Offer feedback! We’re listening! Beginning on March 27th the Workgroup will focus on the 4 sections of the Audit & Checklist for the application to be considered by the Congregation in May and Room 201 will hold developing storyboards to illustrate the direction of the project. Your input is important! Please contact a member of the Working Group or visit Room 201 and add a sticky note with a question or comment where applicable.

Other news & notes...

Sign up by Monday, March 27th to attend the Scrumptious Southern Brunch, Palm Sunday, April 2nd: This event has been a wonderful time for great food and fellowship for many years! **Registration is required for this event to help with portion planning.** Please register by Monday, March 27th. Everyone is welcome! ***UConn students please be our guests.*** There are three ways to make your reservations: 1) register easily online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aadae2ca3fbc34-scrumptious>, 2) contact the church office, or 3) sign up at Fellowship Hour **today**. With the higher cost of food, a suggested donation is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. It is a free will offering. Contact: Marsha Creese

CT Foodshare Walk Against Hunger: Jan Hoyle has registered our pantry for the CT Foodshare Walk against Hunger scheduled for May 20th, 2023 at Dunkin Park in Hartford. Our Pantry will receive 100% of what we raise through donations. Registrations and donations are most easily completed online at www.ctfoodsharewalk.org. If you’d rather send your donation through the church, make checks payable to “SCC” with “Walk For Hunger” in the memo line. Donations will be accepted until May 20th.

Easter Lilies available for purchase: While it is true that the time for ordering Easter plants is passed, we still have Easter lilies available for purchase. If you are interested, the plants are \$19.80 each and can be taken home following worship on Easter Sunday. If you would like to include an intention for plant in the Easter bulletin, email the office at sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org by Thursday April 6th to ensure that the intention is printed.

Pray...

Let us pray ...

- Rev. Mike Ader as he continues to heal from hip replacement surgery.
- Joyful prayers of thanksgiving for the Browns as they celebrated their 70th anniversary
- We welcome Patrick back to our SCC community and will celebrate with a Potluck meal directly following worship. Please join us!
- In thanksgiving for Jim's successful surgery and for a good recovery with strength and perseverance.

Dear God, thank you for hearing our prayers this week; these, and the needs that remain unspoken, but in our hearts.

As we journey into the fifth week of Lent we wait and wonder, we lament and fret. We know of loved ones who are sick, injured, grieving, struggling. Let your light shine through our broken places, putting the pieces back together again and as you raised Lazarus from the dead let us put our complete faith in your restorative powers and rest in the knowledge that in your perfect timing, all will be healed.

Prayer by Ellen Bradley

This Week...

Monday

- 10:00 am Service Sewing (*Room 207*)
- 12:00 pm Seeking Series (*zoom meetings*)
- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)
- 2:30 pm Table Tennis (*Auditorium*)
- 4:00 pm Pantry Advisory Board (*Library*)
- 7:00 pm Ballroom Dance (*Auditorium*)

Tuesday

- 9:30 am Library Open (*Ed. Bldg.*)
- 12:30 pm Staff Meeting (*Lounge*)
- 3:00 pm Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)
- 4:00 pm University Dance Co. (*Auditorium*)
- 7:30 pm Swing & Blues (*Auditorium*)
- 8:00 pm Tuesday Talks (*Room 106*)

Wednesday

- 10:00 am Parish Piecers (*2nd Fl. Ed. Bldg*)
- 10:00 am Quiet Meditation (*Chapel*)
- 10:30 am C.A.F.E. Storrs (*Library/Zoom*)
- 4:00 pm Lenten Book Study (*Room 106*)
- 5:00 pm Seeking Series (*Library*)
- 6:30 pm University Ballet Co. (*Aud.*)
- 7:00 pm Buddhist Meditation (*Rm 106*)

Thursday

- 2:30 pm Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)
- 4:30 pm A2A Work Group (*Lib./Zoom*)
- 6:30 pm UConn Dance Co. (*Aud.*)
- 6:30 pm Handbells (*MH*)
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir (*MH*)

Friday

- 6:00 pm A Cappella Concert: A Minor (*Meeting House*)

Sunday

- 9:00 am Adult Choir (*MH*)
- 10:00 am **Worship (*MH & Online*)**
- 11:00 am Scrumptious Southern Brunch (*Auditorium*)
- 11:00 am Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)
- 11:00 am Library open (*CE - Library*)
- 5:15 pm UConn Dance Co. (*Aud.*)
- 7:00 pm CDN Rehearsal (*MH*)
- 7:30 pm Speaker Group (*Auditorium*)

Worship for Holy Week & Easter

at Storrs Congregational

PALM SUNDAY — April 2

10:00 am Worship

Begins in Courtyard, weather permitting, or in Meeting House;
anyone with mobility concerns may begin in Meeting House.

Our Scrumptious Southern Brunch follows worship in the Auditorium.



MAUNDY THURSDAY — April 6

7:30 pm A Service of Communion & Tenebrae

In Person or Online

GOOD FRIDAY — April 7

12:00—3:00 pm Time of Silent Vigil and Meditation

In Person Only

EASTER SUNDAY — April 9

6:00 am Sunrise Service

at Storrs Cemetery followed by breakfast in SCC Auditorium

10:00 am Festival Worship Service

In Person or Online

S T O R R S
CONGREGATIONAL
C H U R C H

UNITED CHURCH
O F C H R I S T

2 North Eagleville Road

Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

860.429.9382 | www.storrscongchurch.org



Open and Affirming



Accessible to All



A Just Peace

We envision our community as a **welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: 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.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268 | 860.429.9382 | www.storrscongchurch.org

Ministers

All of the Congregation

Senior Minister

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Director of Music Ministries

Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 26

Director of Faith Formation

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