

The Parishioner's Post

South Britain Congregational Church

693 South Britain Rd.
Southbury, CT 06488

Pastor Jeffrey Lukens



OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

"To be a dynamic, welcoming, and caring community of Christian faith by weaving the thread of Christ into the tapestry of our lives."

*"Like a shepherd you feed your flock,
gathering the lambs and holding them close,
and leading mother ewes with gentleness."*

— Isaiah 40:11, The Inclusive Bible



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried — often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is “the Holy Living One is with you.” Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

Our Advent series begins on Sunday, December 3 at 10:00 AM and will continue each Sunday through Christmas.

Christmas Eve will feature two services, 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Glory to the newborn King!

Pastor Jeff



Christmas Eve
in South Britain

10:00 am
Simple Service of Carols & Christmas Message

5:00 pm
Family Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

 **South Britain Congregational Church**
an Open & Affirming Congregation
693 S. Britain Rd (RT 172), Southbury, CT
southbritainchurch.org

SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Daytime Bible Study:

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room

Beginning **November 28** and continuing through Advent, we will be reading ***Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness*** by Amy G. Oden. Our discussions will connect with what we are doing in worship during the season of Advent & Christmas. You can order the book in paperback or for your Kindle at <https://a.co/d/cga48kl>.

We will not be meeting December 26, or January 2.

Starting **January 9**, we will be revisiting our childhood Sunday School lessons and those stories we may have learned on the flannelgraph (remember those?). Using the book, ***Bible Stories for Grown-ups*** by Josh Scott, we will read these stories again with new eyes. Purchase this book (digital or paperback) at <https://a.co/d/4gi2rzl>.

DEACONS *Joseph Simpson, Francesca Sergi, Krista Judson, Carl Dunn, Cheri Fickett, Judy Pierpont, John Shepherd, Tracy Watson*

- We are beginning to take pictures, and populate your One-Church profile. Look for the kiosk that will be located in the gathering room soon.
- We continue to look for volunteers to join us as a Deacon.
- Winter will be upon us very shortly, so look for church closings or delays in the event of inclement weather via your local TV Station. We will also try and populate FaceBook.
- A Joint Blue Christmas service will be held on Dec 20 at UCC Southbury starting 7pm
- Reverend Sharon Midyette will be our supply minister on 12/31 while Pastor Jeff takes some time off during the holidays.
- The installation of Pastor Jeff Lukens will take place January 21st at 3pm.
- Our congregation continues to grow, several families are planning on joining in January.
- As we look to expand prayer, comfort, and spiritual wellness please remember to contact Pastor Jeff, your Deacon, or Nancy. We need your help by providing the information of those individuals located in our local nursing facilities, wellness centers etc so that we can reach out to them.

OUTREACH *Chris Dreton, Jean Mitchell, JoAnn Bolin, Lillian Groody, Lynn Plourde, Pam Hein, Cathy Somers, Jodi Mitchell (chair)*

The Outreach Offering for December is the UCC Xmas Fund. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over one hundred years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. We thank you for your support.

All 20 Angel Tree children have been chosen! However, if you would still like to contribute, we would be happy to purchase some extra gift cards to give to our social worker to distribute. This Sunday, Dec. 3rd is the deadline for bringing back your Angel gifts.

We need creamy peanut butter and jam to restock our supplies. Sandwich Brigades will resume in January.

Southbury Food Bank is so appreciative of SBCC 'S continuing support. We are welcomed with open arms and smiles as we arrive at the food bank to load our shelf. This past month sixty-three individual containers of Jello or pudding were delivered. The "Jello, Jello pudding and puddings" fly off the shelves. All age groups seek them out. Thank You

As of 10/31 the Southbury Food bank has provided over 7,000 bags of groceries as well as about 35,000 meals to our neighbors in need. How nice to feel we are helping.

FAITH FORMATION *Krista Judson (director), Jodi Mitchell (chair), Tracy Watson, JoAnn Bolin*



Advent is close by, and the church is preparing for the gift of Jesus. We in faith formation will be sharing some gifts with you.

Come and join us on December 3rd in the gathering room following the service for an inter-generational craft. Reversible Advent Calendars are back this year. Let's give the gift of food to those in need. There will be a box for your gifts in the gathering room.

On the 17th the children will join the choir with their musical gifts. A special treat will await you at fellowship hour.

Handmade Christmas cards, made by Alex, Charlotte, Olivia, and Emily will be available during fellowship hour.

As we await Jesus' birth, let us remember to spread Love, Hope, Joy and Peace. Let the Light shine for all.

"God Bless us everyone."



PUBLIC RELATIONS *Lissa Pine, Francesca Sergi, Gary Tolin, Krista Judson, Judy Grimes*

A big thanks goes to those who participated and helped at our karaoke night! It was a huge success! Pastor Jeff and family attended, and they all sang! Jeff and the SBCC crew sang "Celebration" (Guess what we were celebrating). Last count was fifty people in attendance, ranging from a young toddler to seniors. We laughed, sang, danced, and had a blast! Cannot wait until the next one!

CAPTIONS:

1. Terry, our DJ, and participant
2. Jim Pine doing his thing.
3. Sal, after encouraging to sing!
4. "Under the Sea" by Pastor Jeff, Meghan, and Alex
5. Charlotte and Alex with mom
6. Our own Sue Torrey
7. Some of the crowd
8. PR and company!









Do you need a night out Christmas shopping, kids free, or enjoy a Christmas party without trying to find a Babysitter? We have you covered for the busy holiday time. Babysitting for kids 4 years old and up, is scheduled for Dec 16th at South Britain Congregational Church from 5-8pm. Pre-register by Dec 13th, 2023. Pizza, crafts, and a movie with popcorn will be provided. There will be a \$5 registration fee per child.

[Click HERE](#) or Scan the Code with your smartphone to register:



FLOWER COMMITTEE *Cathy Crowdis, Linda Long, Cathy Somers*

Poinsettias will grace our sanctuary again this Christmas. Anyone who would like to contribute toward their purchase may donate by using the little brown envelopes located in the pews. There is no specific amount; give whatever you can. Be sure to note who or what the donation is in honor or memory of so Nancy can compile the list for the Christmas bulletins. You may take your poinsettia AFTER the Christmas service. Any left will be distributed by the Deacons to members and friends who are home-bound or in assisted living.



MEMORIAL GARDEN *Lainie Jedlinsky, Krista Judson, Bud Bennett, Ralph Kubista & Sharon Stiles and John Shepard.*

The Garden is "wrapped for the winter" and from the hungry mouths of deer.

The benches by the Wall and the benches in Sarah's Garden on the hill are both welcoming spots to relax.

Reservations for a plot on the wall or for more information please contact the Office or a committee member.

BULLETIN BOARD



December		
	Jacon Lowell	1
	Krystna Isbell	2
	Natalie Dahl	4
	Sara Locke	9
	Judy Simpson	9
	Mary Sullivan	10
	Joan Kubista	11
	Joan McAleer	14
	Sara Blersch	17
	Amy Crowdus	17
	Jen Troy	19
	Sue Torrey	20
	Isabella Watson	22
	Francesca Sergi (Graziano)	24
	Cathy Somers	28
	Amy Smith	31

Please help us to keep the birthday list current by calling the church office and letting Nancy know any corrections or additions that need to be made. (203-264-5890)

Tomorrow December 2, 2023
10:00am-2:00pm

The 20th Annual Victorian Tea and Sale



The 20th Annual Victorian Tea will be held on **Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the church Gathering Room. The SBCC Knit Wits welcome all to this festive and very popular event.

Twenty years ago, it was described as the beginning of the holiday season where all could come, eat, shop, and relax in an un-hurried atmosphere, unlike the shopping malls. Nothing has changed.

This year our ever- delicious luncheon will be served beginning at 10:30 am. Cost: \$18.00 per adult and \$10 for children twelve and under. Included will be delicate tea sandwiches, desserts, punch, wassail, tea, and coffee.

The Christmas store will include hand-knitting, ornaments by Hughie, decorated fresh sprays and the always-favorite baked goods booth.



Christmas music will be provided by Jenny Li, with vocals by Jim Pine.

The proceeds from “Victorian Tea” have always supported those in need as well as special SBCC projects. We welcome you all!

SBCC
WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, December 13

6:00PM

Parish House Gathering Room

\$20pp

RSVP by 12/3

a sign-up table will be at Fellowship Hours beginning 11/5

Questions or to sign up, please see/email:

Jodi Mitchell (jamsouth@aol.com)

or Chris Dreton (holly422@gmail.com)



Not to be outdone, a men's group luncheon is tentatively planned December 13th 3:00pm at Sal Graziano's home.

