

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."

Happy New Year!

As I am writing this, the snow is falling outside and I am hoping it does not turn to sleet. Days like today make me want to cozy up with a cup of tea and a good book by a fireplace. They also remind me of days gathered with friends and family and good conversations.

This winter, with help from church leadership, I am facilitating a series of "Cozy Conversations." The purpose of these gatherings is for me to better get to know you and how you came to be a part of our community, as well as your hopes and dreams for our church.

These gatherings aim to create a space for a small group of 10-15 to meet for open and honest dialogue, fostering deeper connections and understanding among our community members. They will not only strengthen our relationships but also guide our leadership in supporting and nurturing the growth of our members, as well as guiding us as we develop a vision for this next season of ministry.

More information on these "Cozy Conversations" will be coming soon via email and announcements in church. I hope you will sign up for one of these conversations.

In the meantime, enjoy the snow and I hope you find time to cozy up with that good book you've been waiting to read.

See you in church,

Pastor Jeff

SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Daytime Bible Study:

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room

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/4gi2rzI>.

HOT OFF THE PRESS:

The Reverend Jeff Lukins is officially our 35th settled pastor. The Installation was held Sunday January 21st at 3:00pm followed by a TACO Party in the Parish house with food provided by Senor Panchos Mexican Restaurant in Southbury. Hospitality as usual did a tremendous job with set-up, service, and clean-up after the event concluded. Hats off to Hospitality. The actual video will be provided as available and a link sent out..









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

- February, and March will be busy so keep an eye on Facebook, The Post, Instagram, and our Website.
 - Ash Wed. planning on outside blessing 2/14
 - Maundy Thursday 3/28
 - Good Friday 3/29
 - Easter Service 3/31
- We will continue to provide up to date closings/delays with the local TV stations WTNH, WFSB, WVIT as well as post on our Facebook page, leave a message with our voice services. We will also be sending out email blasts.
- This year we are asking for additional people to fill the role as lay reader. It wasn't too long ago I stepped in and became a lay reader, I was nervous, yet became rewarding as I looked about the sanctuary. We are looking for new faces!
- Greeters are needed, it gives you a chance to welcome old faces and the first face someone new visiting our church is welcomed by.

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

We will kick off 2024 with our annual Outreach Offering for the Southbury Fuel Bank. Although it seems like it's been a mild winter so far, unfortunately, the need is still great for many of our Southbury neighbors. Please give generously, it is appreciated.

Thanks for all who helped with the sandwich making on the 14th! It was a fun way to kick off the year. For February, we will be returning to the make at home model. The sandwiches will be due on Sunday, Feb. 25th. Details to follow next month. If you'd like to participate, please contact Jodi at jamsouth@aol.com

On February 11th, in honor of the Super Bowl we will be having a "SUPER PANTRY" event. As soon as the teams are announced, we'll set up the usual spot in the sanctuary for you to vote for your favorite team. This year, we'll put the collected foods into the Little Free Pantry. Any and all non-perishable items as well as toiletries will be collected.

A great big THANK YOU to all who supported Outreach in 2023. Whether it be by donating a coat, bringing Jello for our Adopt a Shelf, giving money for our Outreach Offerings or in any other way, please know that we appreciate you!

Southbury Food Bank is so appreciative of SBCC's support.

Are the Jello or puddings we now donate as important to a family as the soups and chowders we previously provided? Absolutely! They may be a tasty end to a meal, they are a snack or a special treat when needed, they provide a sense of normalcy to a home. They are NEEDED!

A limited number are given to each family. The Jello gelatin and puddings, both cups and box mixes fly off the shelves. All age groups seek them out. Please think about picking up some each time you shop.

Thank You



SOUTHBURY FOOD BANK URGENT NEEDS FOR JANUARY!

Personal Needs Items:

Women's Deodorant	Poise #2 Pads
Razors (Men and Women)	Shaving Cream

Critical Needs Food Items:

Ramen Noodles	Spam
Corned Beef Hash	Beef Stew
Mayo (small-med jars)	Strawberry Jelly

SBCC's "Stock The Shelf" Obligation:

Jello and Pudding

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

Advent was a very busy time for us. All were invited to pick up and assemble their own daily based scripture Advent Calendar. Our very talented Alex, Olivia, Charlotte and Emily designed beautiful Christmas cards. These cards were available for purchase \$1 per card or 6 for \$5. We received \$60. Thank you to everyone who sent these cards to friends and family.

Christmas Eve service was extra special with all the girls reading our Advent scriptures. Charlotte sang with the choir and is now a member.

Lastly, a Big Thank You to all who donated food, personal hygiene items and more to our little food pantry and food bank via this year's Reserve Advent Calendar.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Book club will be meeting February 7th at 6pm to discuss our latest read, "*The Gunkle*" by Steven Rowley. Come join us for snacks, laughter and sharing. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome.

Church school will meet February 12th and 26th. Pancake supper on the 13th, we will help as servers.

Valentine's Day is coming!!!

A day of kindness
A day for smiles
A day for friendship
Across the miles

A day for sharing
A day for hugs
But most of all
A day for love. By Sara Fox



Let's make Valentine's Day EVERYDAY!

Blessings,

MUSIC *Dennis Li*

The choir was busy this advent season and made some great music during all the services. Some highlights to point out include singing “Waiting” with some of the youth playing percussion instruments, and the two Christmas Eve services which included the bell choir’s performance of “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee,” and our guest trumpet player accompanying the choir in the evening service.

We’ll continue to lift our voices in 2024 and make some more wonderful music.



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

We are excited to announce Karaoke is scheduled for Feb 2 at 6:00-8:00pm. There will be a \$5 charge to cover costs for pizza and snacks. Come and sing your hearts out! If you don't sing then dance and eat!!



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

The 2024 Flower Chart is up in the Gathering Room. Flowers add so much to our worship service each week; please consider signing up to provide them one week during the year. "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land." (Song of Solomon 2:12) Flowers do not need to be formal arrangements or even cut flowers. A blooming plant adds just as much beauty to our service.

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

The Garden is resting for the winter though it is still a calm place to visit.

A couple of new plaques have been affixed to the wall in the past month. The presence of the Wall with its Memorial Plaques gives some of us the comfort of knowing our family members are remembered.

It is interesting to visit the Wall, read the names and remember our interactions with those we knew well or even as acquaintances.

This may be the time for you to reserve a plot for yourself or for a loved one.

Call or email us through the SBCC Office if not directly.

INSPIRATION FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

“It is impossible to know, in the moment, how a small act of goodness will reverberate through time. The notion is empowering, and it is frightening—because it means that we’re all capable of changing the world and responsible for finding those opportunities to protect, feed, grow and guide Love.”

Bishop Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church (Submitted by KathySue)

“Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves...What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment’s hesitation.”

— *Catherine Doherty*

Joe Simpson

SBCC CARD MINISTRY *Marge Mitchell, KathySue Roberts, Chris Dreton, Megan Lukens, Cindy Tolin, Gary Tolin, Barbara Ryner, Judy Pierpont, Lynn Plorde, Sal*

A group of us have started a card ministry. We will be writing cards to individuals within the SBCC community and ANYONE in the U.S. who could use some cheering up. They range from Holiday cards, Get Well cards, Miss You cards, Thinking of you cards, Birthday cards etc.

We need your help to make this worthwhile project meaningful. Please send us the names, addresses and reasons (sickness, loneliness, grief etc.) for the card(s) you want sent. Please send this information to Nancy, our church secretary, at SBCC_secretary@yahoo.com or call her at (203)264-5890.

In addition, if any of you have any cards, cards from charities or stickers that you are not going to use, please consider bringing them to church to give to Nancy or one of our members. Thanks for your help.

Our next meeting will be after Fellowship Hour Sunday February 4 at 12PM. All are welcome to assist in this outreach ministry.

**Prayer Requests:**

Rita E.	Lillian G.	Bob. W.	Frank G.	Evelyn V.
Harrison Family	Geils Family	Anne D.	Janet H.	Winnie
Richard	Paula	Bob P.	Larrie K.	Bob Petersen

Krista Judson is at Danbury Hospital due to a fall, prayers please.

BULLETIN BOARD



January	Faith Kuehn (Josephine Blersch daughter)	2
	Jeffrey Thomas	3
	Jodi Mitchell	6
	Lainie Jedlinsky	7
	Betty Presnell	8
	Joseph Naylor	13
	John Potz, Jr.	13
	Phil Valenti	16
	Olivia Cody	16
	Michelle Dahl	19
	Jared Isbell	19
	Andrew Dahl	20
	Ann Walters	22
	Linda Long	25
	Susan Mahoney	28
	Jillian Cody (Ralph Kubista's granddaughter)	29

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)

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH 4:30pm-6:30pm

Once again, SBCC will open its doors and kitchen and welcome our community to share in our Shrove Tuesday tradition. We will be serving up a free Pancake Supper, including the renowned Laurel Diner hash and some fancy fixin's. Free will donations will be accepted for the benefit of the Southbury Food Bank/Little Free Pantry. The buffet will open at 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm or until our supply runs out.



We are recruiting volunteers to make this event a true success. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Parish House hallway or feel free to contact any of the planning crew.

Laurie Hornbecker, Krista Judson, Cathy Somers, Francesca Sergi, & Jodi Mitchell

SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Dinner



LIFE LINE SCREENING is returning to South Britain on February 16, 2024.

The screenings include Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease, and Atrial Fibrillation. If you are interested in setting up an appointment please pre-register by calling **1-800-640-6307** or visit **LLSA.SOCIAL/HC**.

We have been hosting this event twice a year for several years. Many of the screenings are not routinely done by your primary doctor. I have three complimentary screening packages. Please contact Krista Judson @203-231-4176, email kljudson@charter.net or speak to me at church if you are interested in a complimentary discount package or with any questions. Flyers are available on the bulletin board.

CALENDAR

Every Week

Sundays:	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesdays:	Knit-Wits, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Holy Moments Group, 1:00 p.m.
Fridays:	AA Meeting, 6 - 9 p.m. Dance, 4 - 6 p.m.

Every Month

1st Sunday	Deacons (following services)
1st Sunday	Outreach Committee, 9 a.m.
2nd Sunday	Finance Committee, 9 a.m.
1st Wednesday	Faith Formation 5:30p.m.
1st Wednesday	Stewardship 7 p.m.
3 rd Wednesday	Trustee's Meeting
4th Wednesday	Church Council, 7:00 p.m.
1 st Thursday	Property, 7 p.m.
2 nd Thursday	ONA, 10 a.m.
2 nd Thursday	Public Relations, 5:30 p.m.
1st Friday	Parishioner's Post published