



Southport Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

524 Pequot Avenue

Southport, Connecticut 06890

office@southportucc.org

Rev. Paul Whitmore, Senior Minister

Rev. Laura Whitmore, Associate Minister

SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

May 19, 2024, at ten o'clock

Pentecost

New Member Sunday

PRELUDE

“Lord Speak To Me” *Schumann*
“This Is My Father’s World” *arr. Todd*

Elaine DeGrood, piano

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Rejoice You Pure At Heart”

345

Elaine DeGrood, organ

Rejoice you pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks and sing;

Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King!

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow crowned age, strong men and maidens meek,

Raise high your free, exulting song, God’s wondrous praises speak.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

With voice as full and strong, as ocean’s surging praise,

Send forth the hymns our fathers loved, the psalms of ancient days.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing. Amen.

Leader: Thank you, God, for the gift of life and love that you give us, and that we are able to share together today!

People: *And thank you, for our ever-renewing gifts of hope, encouragement, strength, and fresh possibilities - the tools for our life!*

Leader: With the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, may we take these gifts and use them to their fullest potential!

People: *And in our worship and in our life, we ask for you to be with us every step on our journey - and to guide us in our actions, to speak to us the words we need to hear, and to let your spirit change us, charge us, and empower us to be your people - of bold courage, faith and love. It is with this spirit that we come to worship and rejoice together today!*

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (*Trespases*)

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Register Pads, found at the ends of the pews. If you are a visitor, please give us your address.)

Rev. Laura Whitmore

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Chloe Elizabeth Kelly, *born on June 17, 2023*
Daughter of Kailen and Brian Kelly

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

*As the living and loving spirit of Christ, we as this family of faith,
receive Chloe Elizabeth Kelly into our love and care. We promise to support
her and her parents, in their effort to guide her in the way of life and faith, and
will provide, through our own example, the knowledge and love of God.*

Donnel Louis Graham

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

As the living and loving spirit of Christ, we as this family of faith, receive Donnel Louis Graham into our love and care. We promise to support him in his effort to live in the way of life and faith, and will provide, through our own example, the knowledge and love of God.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

WORDS OF WELCOME

Congregation: *We believe God calls us to recognize the Spirit of the living Christ as the most real and important thing in the universe. Will you join us in our striving to grow in this faith?*

New Members: We will try to trust and celebrate God's love with you.

Congregation: *We believe we are called to a daily commitment of letting God's spirit remold our lives from within. Will you join us in our struggle to become more Christ-like in all areas of our lives?*

New Members: We will try with you to be open to the transforming spirit of God.

Congregation: *We believe we are called to be one family, bound together by love and, therefore, by practicing forgiveness and mercy, to seek in every way to make that love believable for each other. Will you join us in seeking to fulfill this mutual ministry?*

New Members: We will try to build a community of love with you.

Congregation: *Whether together or apart, we believe God calls us to embrace all people as brothers and sisters of the body of Christ and to embody God's love for them. Will you join us in our striving to carry out this mission?*

New Members: We will try with you to be Christ's body in the Southport Congregational Church.

*HYMN

"I Would Be True"

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Infants to PreK are invited to Room 5 for childcare. All other children will go to the Chapel.

**I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
 I would be pure, for there are those who care;
 I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
 I would be brave for there is much to dare.
 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
 I would be giving, and forget the gift;
 I would be humble for I know my weakness;
 I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift,
 I would look up and love, and lift. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dave Stuart, Seminarian

CALL TO OFFERING

To give, **you may:****Place your check or cash in the Offering Plate,****Text: 860-854-1995**\$ *amt* Pledge\$ *amt* PlateOr, give by **Venmo**, use @southport_congregational***Thank you for your kindness and loving support!***OFFERTORY ANTHEM "You Raise Me Up" with "Be Still My Soul" *arr. Fetke**Senior Choir*

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
 Leave to your God to order and provide;
 In every change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul! The waves and the winds still know
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary;
When troubles come and my heart burdened be;
Then I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

refrain You raise me up so I can stand on mountains.
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on Your shoulders.
You raise me up to more than I can be.

There is no life, no life without its hunger.
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly.
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,
Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.
(refrain)

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Loving God of all life, all hope, all opportunity and all generosity – you give us
everything we have in this life. And with our gratitude, we share our abundant gifts
from you with your greater family in need. May you bless these gifts that they may
express your Spirit, and our love. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE

I CORINTHIANS 12:4-27 *(selected verses)*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?
If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?
But as it is, God arranged the members in the body,
each one of them, as God chose.

If all were a single member, where would the body be?
As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you,"
nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

On the contrary,
the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
and those members of the body that we think less honorable
we clothe with greater honor...

But God has so arranged the body,
giving the greater honor to the inferior member,
that there may be no dissension within the body,
but the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

REFLECTION

“ON OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER”

Rev. Paul Whitmore

*HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (vv. 1-3)

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**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, o breathe thy loving spirit, into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Go My Children”

Senior Choir, Congregation

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you;
Go my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice in the Lord” *Purcell*

Elaine DeGrood, organ

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Welcome Our New Members

Following the Congregational meeting, our New Members will be in Fellowship Hall, and look forward to meeting their new church family. Please reach out and introduce yourself to them!

Trudy Dujardin and Frank Fasanella

Trudy was born and raised part time in South Carolina on a 500-acre farm. The winter months were spent in Stamford. She was raised in three religions: Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist, and Russian Orthodox. Frank was born in Bridgeport and raised in a very loving Italian family in Trumbull. He has two sons: Richard and Nicholas, and two grandsons that live in Venezuela, Vidal and R.T. Frank is an accomplished pilot and avid fisherman, and he owns a custom window treatment business which is how he and Trudy met over 20 years ago. Trudy is an interior designer and specializes in green, non-toxic interiors. She taught the first Sustainable Design course at Fairfield University. Frank and Trudy moved to Fairfield last December and live and work most of their time on Nantucket Island. They also did a *Rooms with a View* vignette in 2015. Frank and Trudy look forward to SCC being their spiritual home.

Sam Lavalle and Ray Witte

Ray was raised in Ridgefield and Sam not far in Southbury. They now reside in Fairfield, CT together. The two met through family friends and are engaged to be married in September, 2025. Ray works in commodities, and Sam is a mental health therapist. They love to explore new places and be outside, which luckily led them on a walk one day past Southport Congregational Church, where they felt called to attend the following Sunday. They are both so grateful and excited to be part of the Southport Congregational community.

Laura and Don Graham

Laura grew up attending the First Congregational Church of Cheshire and has found solace in returning to her spiritual upbringing. Conversely, Don grew up in New Jersey without a strong religious background. While exploring Eastern philosophy, he felt a sense of incompleteness. After the passing of his parents, he turned to the Bible, seeking answers and a deeper sense of clarity. Professionally, Laura has spent most of her career in the ski and spa industries, while Don's business is in logistics: Import/Export of shipping containers. They share a love for cooking, reading, gardening, studying languages, and outdoor sports. They have one grown daughter, Ellie. Both are excited to join SCC and contribute to its mission.

Liz Shartell

Seven months ago, Liz moved back to the Connecticut area from Colorado. She used to live in Westport when she was married and her children were young. Now the mother of three adult children (and one grandchild) who live in New York, Liz is thrilled to be here, where she feels blessed to have quality time together in their family home they are creating. Having owned a Life-Enrichment center in Denver, Liz looks forward to continuing some of that work, and making new friends and ties in this amazing spiritual community!

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TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR is in honor of our New Members. Please join us immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall, where refreshments will be served by the Fellowship Committee.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS were given by Elizabeth & Tony Fera, and Jo Anne Parady, in honor of our New Members and to welcome them into the church family.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL: A TOUR WITH PAUL AND LAURA, MAY 8 - MAY 18, 2025
Join us in the **Library at 11:15 a.m. today** to learn more about this amazing trip to Greece and Turkey with Paul and Laura Whitmore. Spots are limited, so if you are interested, please join us for more information.

PRAYER PARTNERS MEETING, TODAY 11:30 A.M. IN THE YOUTH ROOM – All are welcome to join Dave Stuart for in person prayer, reflection and meditation. Feel free to bring a reading, poem or reflection to share if you wish to read, otherwise you are welcome for extemporaneous prayer together.

WALK ON - Pequot Library will host Stephen Panus, church member and Southport resident, who will be present his new book, *Walk On*, the powerful true story of a father faced with every parent's worst nightmare. Describing unbearable loss, Stephen transcends grief and offers inspiration towards leading a life filled with meaning. The event will be held at Pequot Library, 720 Pequot Avenue, Southport, on Thursday, May 23, from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Visit pequotlibrary.org - registration is required.

Stephen will also be leading a Second Hour program at SCC, on Sunday, June 2, at **11:30 a.m.**

UNITED ILLUMINATING UPDATE - The next Town Hall will be held on Thursday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. at Roger Ludlowe Middle School Auditorium. All our State Representatives will be there to talk about the progress being made through legislation.

THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET, SATURDAY, JUNE 8 - Kick off summer with a pancake breakfast at Southport School at 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., followed by the Southport Street Parade beginning at SCC at 11 a.m. The Parade will feature six bands and the Governor's Horse Guard and will proceed down Main Street to Harbor Road, ending at Ye Yacht Yard. The Blessing of 50 or more boats will begin at 12:00 p.m. from the Lower Wharf. Revs. Paul and Laura Whitmore and other Fairfield clergy will be taking part in the Blessing and the Parade. Free refreshments too - hope to see you there!

THE ORCHID IN FELLOWSHIP HALL was given in loving memory by the family of Sara Lane MacAllaster, whose memorial service was held yesterday in the Sanctuary.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN – All Church School children will go to the Chapel today, with Phillip Bettencourt, Marnie Kruse and Jo Anne Parady, to rehearse for the musical, ***JONAH!*** which will be presented during worship on **June 9**. After worship on **June 9**, all are welcomed to our **All-Church Picnic**, held at the Parsonage (two doors down from the church at 612 Pequot Ave.) **Dress casually for church** to enjoy the fun day!

CHILDCARE FOR INFANTS THROUGH PRE-K will be in Room 5 with Alyssa Santa and Alina Bogatikova.

THE CAROUSEL HAS A SPECIAL SALE EACH WEEK! This week features 50% off all men's clothing, white shelf items, the kitchen room, children's books and puzzles. Shop hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR TODAY'S PARTICIPATION:

LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM" Techs Joe Stekloff and Jonathan Stekloff, directed by Lonnie Root.

DEACONS: Joe Pezzimenti and Beth Santa, along with Usher Oladele Ogunsuyi, under the direction of Deacon Sadhana Joliet

~~~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~~~

Sunday, May 26	10 a.m.	Memorial Day Sunday
Monday, May 27	<i>Office closed</i>	Memorial Day
Sunday, June 2	11:30 a.m.	2 nd Hour: Steven Panus, <i>Walk On</i>
Saturday, June 8	9 a.m. – 11 a.m. 11 a.m. 12 p.m.	Dress Rehearsal for the Children's Musical Southport Street Parade Blessing of the Fleet
Sunday, June 9	10 a.m. 11 a.m.	Celebration and Baccalaureate Sunday All Church Picnic
Sunday, June 16	10 a.m.	Father's Day Sunday
Wednesday, June 21		Early Bird Mission Trip members leave for South Dakota
Saturday, June 22		Mission Trip members leave for South Dakota
Saturday, June 29		Mission Trip members return from South Dakota
Friday, July 19	5 p.m.	Summer Cocktail Party at the Parsonage



Join Laura and Paul as they take you on a tour of the major sites that St. Paul travelled in Greece and Turkey:

WALKING TOURS IN:

Phillippi, Athens, Corinth, Galaxidi, Delphi

CRUISE THROUGH THE GREEK ISLES TO:

Mykonos, Patmos, Crete and Santorini

VISIT HOLY SITES ON THE COAST OF TURKEY:

Kusadasi and Ephesus

WHEN: May 8 - May 18, 2025

COST: The all-inclusive trip (hotels, 2 meals a day, transportation in Greece and Turkey, entrance fees to sites and gratuities) will be around \$4,800/person (not including air fare to and from the US).

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE: Meet with Laura and Paul, in the Library, following worship on May 19th to learn more about this trip!



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– Communications Specialist – Je’Nayia Patterson
Pam Poling · Bookkeeper
– Tim O’Neill

Phillip Bettencourt · Assistant Youth Choir Director

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John Traynor ◇

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Marjory Palmer ◇

Susan Kunkel ◇

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Greg Berg ◇

Traci Provost ◇

Sadhana Joliet ◇

Lisa Doocy ◇

◇ Denotes Chair

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