

## Happy Birthday SCC!

It all began back in 1614 when the Dutch explorer Adriaen Block first visited this area. He was followed by fur traders from the New Netherland colony which claimed territories from Delaware, and portions of Maryland and Virginia, to southwestern Cape Cod, as well as what are now parts of the Mid-Atlantic states of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The seat of the colonial government in the New Netherland Colony was New Amsterdam, located at the southern tip of the island of Manhattan. We know it today as New York City.

These same fur traders set up shop at the confluence of the Connecticut and Park Rivers as early as 1623, and named their site "Fort Goede Hoop (Good Hope)." They stayed slightly over thirty years, abandoning the area by 1654. Today, the neighborhood near this site is known as Dutch Point.

When Reverend Thomas Hooker and Reverend Samuel Stone arrived in 1636, the settlement was called Newtown.

They renamed it Hartford to honor the English town of Hertford (pronounced "Hartford") in Hertfordshire, the ancestral home of Reverend Stone. Here in "Good Hope," "Hartford," a faithful assembly of Congregationalists covenanted together to form the First Church of Christ, Hartford. We know it today as Center Church, Hartford.



Eventually, there was a church split and on the 22nd of February, 1670, the Reverend John Whiting and thirty-one members of the Hartford Church, along with their families, formed themselves into a new and distinct church - the Second Church of Christ (South Congregational Church). Hartford now had another "House of Hope."

This February we celebrated our 349th birthday! We are so blessed to be part of a family that has been ministering to the Hartford community since before we were a country. Happy birthday SCC!

*Pastor Adam*

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## Honoring the Past - Celebrating the Future!

Dr. Gary L. McIntosh is President of the Church Growth Network and Professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. Dr. McIntosh reveals in his research that the majority of churches (70%) never reach age one hundred. Well, next year, we will be celebrating South Congregational Church's 350th anniversary! We are blessed! Praise God!

Our theme for 2020 is "Honoring the Past - Celebrating the Future!" We are planning several events throughout the year to mark this milestone beginning with a big banquet on Saturday night, February 22, 2020. Throughout the year of 2019, you will also see a number of upgrades to our facility taking place. Perhaps you have noticed the nice refinished stairs leading up to Robinson Lobby. **Gene Beaupre** is painting the Stanley Room again. There is also a beautiful newly renovated

bathroom out in the vestibule (in back of the Meeting House). Several other rooms will also be getting fresh paint, window treatments, and technology upgrades. There will be new tables and chairs for Gray Hall and the Bryant Room, and they will be comfortable! We will also be repaving our parking lots. We have a lot to do and I want to mention how blessed we are to have **Todd Case** as our Site Superintendent and **David Casiano** as our Custodian. They are both truly passionate about this church and its facility. Thank you guys!



By the time 2020 rolls around, our facility will be all spit, polished, and shining, as we thank God for the past 350 years of ministry and look forward to the next 350 years of serving Him in the City of Hartford.

*Pastor Adam*

## Interesting Puritan (Congregationalist) Facts

- Puritan women, though they did not receive a college education, were generally literate and often well-read. The only respectable female vocation in seventeenth-century Puritan America was managing a household. However, that “household” generally included large numbers of children, servants, apprentices, and even single men and women (who were required to live with families). This was truly more like managing a family business.
- American Puritans did not celebrate religious holidays such as Easter or Christmas. The weekly “Lord’s Day” was celebration enough.



*Pastor Adam*

## Holy Week 2019

As usual, Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 14. Then, for the past several years now, we have held a special “Upper Room” worship service on Holy Thursday. We will do so again this year, but with a slightly different focus. Instead of the upper room, we will experience what happened following the Last Supper on the Mount of Olives.

We begin with a meal. A “Love Feast” or “Agape Feast” was a fellowship meal eaten by Christians in the early church. There is biblical evidence for the practice of these communal meals, during which Christians gathered not just for the sake of sustenance and socializing, but also for the sake of fellowship. On Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 pm, everyone is invited to such a meal in Gray Hall. At this meal, we will also celebrate communion together.

Following the meal, we will proceed into the Meeting House for a special presentation of Jesus and the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane. It promises to be a great night of food, fellowship, music, and worship.

On Good Friday, April 19, you are invited to the Youth Center for a presentation of the film “Risen.” Risen (PG-13) is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, Lucius (Tom Felton) are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and present an uprising in Jerusalem. Join us.

Of course, on Sunday, April 21, we celebrate the risen Lord! At both our 9:30 am and 11:00 am

Easter services, expect inspiring music and an uplifting message of victory and thankfulness!

This is the perfect time to use invite cards! Hand them out to family and friends, and invite them to any or all of our Holy Week opportunities.

# HOLY WEEK

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship ~ 9:30 am  
Contemporary Worship ~ 11:00 am

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Salvation	Sexuality	Suffering	Science	Trinity	Truth



## Upcoming Sermons

### March Sermons



#### **“Jeremy the Alien”**

March 03

Romans 8:35-37

All babies are cute, right? Right? No? We do not love them any less though, do we? God’s love is similar. Regardless of the ugly things we might do, say, or think, He loves us anyway.

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#### **“We Musht Feed Them”**

March 10

John 6:1-13

Who was this little boy? Who were his parents? Their names remain unknown to history, but their actions taught us that Christians should always remember that their problems are never too large for God to handle. Why is it that we read these stories and yet still tend to doubt that God will want to meet our needs?

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#### **“Mr. & Mrs...?”**

March 17

Luke 19:28-38

Who were the owners of the donkey that the disciples asked for? Why would they let “strangers” take it without compensation? Did they know they were fulfilling prophecy? Would we give whatever Jesus asked for, no matter what it was?

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#### **“The Chosen Lady”**

March 24

2 John 1:1-13

Parents, share with your children the truth. There is only one God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus died for our sins so that we would be forgiven and enter into heaven when the end of time comes. Your children’s eternal salvation depends on the seeds you plant.

### April Sermons



#### **“Who Do You Say I Am?”**

April 07

Luke 9:43b-49

The disciples did not grasp the need for Jesus to die. Were they not sure who He really was? Are you? How might our lives change if we believe Jesus is God?

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#### **“Long Live the King!” - (Palm Sunday)**

April 14

John 12:12-16

Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph! Now, everything will change! Or will it? When we recognize who He is, and welcome Him into our hearts everything changes as well, right?

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#### **“The Mount of Olives” - (Maundy Thursday)**

April 18

Tonight we celebrate the Passover Meal together and then stand witness to Jesus’ betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. Join us.

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#### **“He Isn’t Here!” - (Easter Sunday)**

April 21

Mark 16:1-8

The tomb is empty! Mary thinks He is the gardener. The two men from Emmaus thought He was a fellow traveler. If you look with your heart, you will find Jesus in places you never expected.

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#### **“Do You Love Me?”**

April 28

John 21:15-17

Why did Jesus ask Peter three times, “Do you love me?” How would you respond if Jesus asked you, “Do you love me?” Do you really love Jesus? Is there any evidence you could point to that could confirm that?

### Another Successful Project

The vestibule bathroom has been completed! Big thank you to Shane Mackiewicz of Mackiewicz Home Remodeling for an outstanding final product. We would also like to thank Shane for donating the vanity, mirror, and sconces. I hope that you are pleased with the new look. Keep an eye out for more projects to improve and modernize our church, while continuing to celebrate and appreciate the historic beauty of this incredible building. Here's to honoring the past, and celebrating the future!

*Todd Case*



### Spring Ahead!

Remember to turn all of your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 09. I am certain you do not want to miss church on Sunday!



### Jazz Hands!



What a night of fellowship, fun, and fundraising for the South Congregational Church Scholarship program we had on Saturday, January 26! **Bobby T's Latin Jazz Quintet** performed in the Meeting House and it was amazing! We hope to have them back again. Thank you to all who came and supported this event.

### Super!

Congratulations to the New York Jets - winners of this year's Super Bowl!

Someday... someday I will be able to write that headline. For now, congratulations to the New England Patriots, and to all those who enjoyed the Super Bowl party we had in the Youth Center here at South Congregational Church. I know not everyone was pleased with the final score, but the chicken wings were amazing nonetheless!



**Perpetual Spires Lit  
in Loving Memory of...**

**March 4**

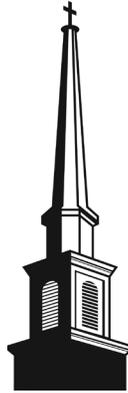
*Kenneth E. Roberts, Sr.*  
by his family

**March 10**

*Angelo & Josephine Santangelo*  
by their family

**April 26**

*Mrs. Warren S. Archibald*  
by the nurses who cared for her



**April 26**

*Elinor W. Brown &  
Frances Brown Gorman*  
by their family  
on the anniversary of their births

**April 29**

*Elsa B. Robertson*  
by her family  
on the anniversary of her birth

**From the Desk of Mrs. Moneca**

It's a New Year, and I'm excited to see what amazing things God is going to do in this church and through you and your children! As most of you already know, this New Year is also my transition into the new role of Director of Children and Family Ministry! I am already working with the staff to create an environment that welcomes both the children and you, their families, with wonderful events and activities!

My ultimate goal is to provide a sound spiritual foundation for your children - one that will take them through those difficult upcoming teen years. And with God's help, that same foundation will be theirs for the rest of their lives! Current statistics show that children do much better in school when their parents are involved. Since that is true, it would only make sense that parent participation at church would have an even greater impact on their children's spiritual growth!

To make this happen, I *really* need your help! I'm asking that you consider bringing your children to Sunday school. At the same time, you can go to the church service. Just imagine how special it would be for your children to share with you all that they learned in Sunday school on your way home! That would create a bond with them that they will never forget!



At the moment, our only means of bringing children to church is picking them up in the van. As a result, we are extremely limited to the number of children who can actually benefit from all that the church has to offer. How sad it would be for this community - with South Church right at the center - to only be able to include the number of children who can fit in the church van! I know that you can't bring them all the time, but it would be great to see a commitment to bring them as often as you can. Everyone here at the church knows that bringing your children to church (1) will change their lives, (2) will benefit you by growing you closer to God and your children, and (3) will grow the church and allow us to have an even greater impact on the city of Hartford! To me, that's a win-win-win situation!

You will see all events and upcoming Children & Family activities for 2019 posted on our Facebook page, on the bulletin board at church, or during the in-service announcements.

In His service always -

*Mrs. Moneca Liz*





860.249.8627 | Fax: 860.293.0532  
 277 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[scchartford.org](http://scchartford.org)  
 Email: [info@scchartford.org](mailto:info@scchartford.org)  
 Torchbearer online: [scchartford.org/torchbearer](http://scchartford.org/torchbearer)

**Worship Times:**

Traditional Service: 9:30 am  
 Solid Ground Service: 11:00 am

Food and Fellowship  
 Sunday mornings at 10:30 am  
 Gray Hall

[facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford](https://facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford)

- Ryan Dafgek** ~ *Worship Arts Director*
- Moneca Liz** ~ *Director of Children & Family Ministry*
- Darlene Lisella, Lynn Robertson** ~ *Greeters*
- Christine Melson** ~ *Organist*
- Candido Montijo** ~ *Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*
- Lauren Pouliot** ~ *Choir Director*
- Rev. Adam Söderberg** ~ *Senior Pastor*

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**There is No Shadow**

The enemy is out there! He casts his shadow over this world in hopes to take those God loves away from Him. The enemy wants each of us to think that there is no hope in this world other than what this world can offer. The shadow is deceptive, and it appears to be beautiful enough to capture the hearts and minds of humanity. The enemy will do their best to get you alone. Understand, if you only see the shadow, we cannot see God moving or working around us. Do not let your eyes only see what is in front of you, understand that God is reaching out to you through the shadow as a light in the darkness.

This year the youth continue to study God’s truth through small devotionals at Cultivate. It has been awesome to see them memorize God’s word, in hopes that they will have it hidden in their hearts (Psalm 119:11). My hope is as they memorize it will be hidden so they may remember it later. The Orchard (Youth Group) will be going back to Saturday mornings (10am-12:30pm). We are still continuing to grow in Biblical foundation. We will have special events as we go for the youth. Last month, we had a Galentines Day (Girls night for Valentines weekend). The direction we are heading is for them to be a light in the shadow of this world and culture.

Start praying for the summer, as many things will be going on. The youth have a few opportunities for them to grow even more. I am also part of the Love Wins team for South End and Discipleship team for the Hartford Project. The youth are looking forward to THP week. It is full of growth, opportunities to serve and

spiritual eye opening for youth. Summer camp at Lakeside will still be in July. This is another week where many youth get to experience Nature of God, have some fun, meet friends, grow in their faith, experience God’s presence and more.



*Dido Montijo*



- 05 - Sally Keating
- 07 - Frank Diamond
- 10 - Michael Serrano
- 12 - Lomar Brown
- 16 - Erik Savery

- 17 - Beulah Williams
- 18 - Renée Söderberg
- 22 - Dave Ford
- 26 - Maureen Gainey
- 27 - Sharon Howes

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



- 02 - Delano Paul
- 06 - Carol Navarrete

- 15 - Caryn Pascale
- 21 - Kathleen Simon