

## There is a Doctor in the House

I am pleased to announce that I graduate from Luther Rice College & Seminary on May 17, 2019. The opening page of my 146-page dissertation reads:

I am so thankful for my beloved **South Congregational Church**. They have been patient and supported me throughout this endeavor. I especially want to thank the ten hearty souls who completed the evangelism training, and all of the volunteers at Sparrow Ministries. I am also profoundly grateful to Luther Rice College and Seminary, Dr. Ron Cobb, Dr. Scott Moody, Dr. Rusty Ricketson, Dr. D. Scott Henderson, Dr. Sharon K. Atkins, and particularly my advisor, Dr. Thomas Mapes, for inspiring me and preparing me for this project. Their impact was not limited to this student but has affected a congregation 1,000 miles away. Surely, this is what Jesus meant when He said, *“And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). Finally, I need to thank my wife of thirty-seven years, **Renée**. She has been on this three-year journey with me and has sacrificed so much time together so that I could complete this Doctor of Ministry degree. I am deeply grateful.

Believe me, I did not see this day coming. Take it from a man who was convinced he was never going to college. After all, I was not going to need an education, because I was going to be a world famous rock ‘n’ roll drummer! How I must have made God laugh. He, apparently, had other plans for me, and surprise, He was right. Even though I was thirty-three years old, I went back to school and earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Religious Studies at American Christian College and Seminary. I followed that with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Bangor Theological Seminary. Finally, at the prime age of fifty-six, I now have a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. As Jerry Garcia said, “It’s been a long, strange trip.”

I put this article in the newsletter not to blow my own horn. I did want to let my congregation know what I have been doing for the last three years, but more importantly, I am hoping anyone reading this who did not finish high school or college would realize it is never too late! I encourage you to go back and finish! It is worth it. Get your GED, start that degree, or finish one you began. You will not be disappointed. Hey, if I can do it at 56, anyone can! It just takes persistence and determination.

Reverend Doctor Adam Söderberg



## Summer Hours

The apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Hebrews, *“And let us not neglect our meeting together; as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near”* (Hebrews 10:25). Well, Hallelujah! This summer we will be worshiping together as one church! The Church Council has voted to go to one worship service at **10:00 am in the Meeting House from June 16 until September 1**. We will then resume our regular worship schedule on Rally Day, September 8. It will be great to meet together, worship together, and fellowship together. It is going to be an amazing summer!



## The “Oil Press”

It was a blessed Holy Week at South Congregational Church. A special thank you to all of the participants in the Holy Thursday presentation “The Garden of Gethsemane.” Gethsemane literally translates as “oil press,” and is located on a slope of the Mount of Olives just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. Gethsemane is a garden of ancient olive trees, and a place you can still visit today. Jesus frequently went to this garden with His disciples to pray, and this year, our Holy Thursday presentation focused on what took place on the night Jesus was betrayed.



We began the evening with a wonderful community meal, thanks to **Renée Söderberg** (Director of Hospitality).

Our director, **Lauren Pouliot**, was blessed to work with this year’s cast and crew. The cast included: **Phil Shattuck** (Jesus), **Jordan Hegel** (Peter), **Kyle Singerman** (Thomas), **Michael Serra-**

**no** (Andrew), **Jerry Fanfarelli** (John), **Erik Savery** (Judas), **Bob Jones** (James, son of Zebedee), **Jeremy Söderberg** (Philip), **Jeremiah Sanchez** (Nathaniel), **Kiran Uppalapati** (Matthew), **Mike Savery** (James, son of Alphaeus), **David Casiano** (Thaddeus), and **Carlos Flores** (Simon the Zealot). The Roman Soldiers were **Dido Montijo** and **Tony Casiano**, as well as **Ryan Dafgek** (High Priest), **Matt Sepko** (Pontius Pilate), and two accusers of Peter, **Yessenia Flores** and **Delano Paul**.

The night would not have been the same without the incredible talents of the South Church Chamber Choir: **Lauren Pouliot** (Choir Director), **Mary Kayan**, **Darcey Lovell**, **Ryan Dafgek**, **Frank Pascale**, and our organist/pianist **Christine Melson**.

We were especially blessed this year to have access to a talented set design crew as well. **Brit Montijo** (Set Director), **Allie Evans**, **Divya Kolluri**, **Keira Ortiz**, **Jennifer Paul**, **Jeremiah Sanchez**, **The Serrano Family**, **Bruce and Susan Taylor**, and **Madhu Uppalapati** all made Thursday holy.

If you did not get to “The Garden of Gethsemane” this year, you missed an anointed event. Be sure to make plans and join us next year.

## Invite a Friend

We celebrated our risen Lord on Easter Sunday, April 21, with two great services at 9:30 and 11:00 am! The music was especially anointed this year with the addition of our new Children’s Choir, and violinist **René Liz**.

We all know South Congregational Church is a great place to worship. Please consider giving out some of our invite cards, so other people might discover that too!



**southchurch**  
An imperfect Christian community;  
loving, serving, and equipping an imperfect world.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
Traditional Worship ~ 9:30 am  
Contemporary Worship ~ 11:00 am

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Salvation	Sexuality	Suffering	Science	Trinity	Truth

## Upcoming Sermons

### May Sermons



#### Sermon Series: What Do We Do Now?

##### “Just Do It!”

May 05

Acts 1:6-11

The disciples did not grasp the need for Jesus to die. They struggled to comprehend His resurrection. Now they are wondering what to do. After we accept Christ -- what are we supposed to do next?

##### “Seeking Justus” (Mother’s Day)

May 12

Acts 1:21-26

The twelve apostles were now eleven and needed to choose a replacement for Judas. You never know when God has an opening you are supposed to fill. Are you ready? Will you answer His call or will you tell God, “No?” Really?

##### “Simeon Says”

May 19

Acts 2:36-41

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly preaches to a crowd in Jerusalem and 3,000 people join the church. What did he say? Honesty, they say, is the best policy. Peter did not sugar coat his message. That’s for sure. Neither should we.

##### “Community or Cloister?”

May 26

Acts 2:42-47

Is the church supposed to be a country club or a soup kitchen? If we know the answer to that question, perhaps the next thing we should ask ourselves is, “What answers would others give about my church?”

### June Sermons

#### “The Turtle and the Rabbit”

June 02

Matthew 13:33-35

We all remember Aesop’s story “The Tortoise and the Hare,” which teaches us slow and steady wins the race. Jesus uses stories effectively as well. His stories are called parables, like this one about yeast. Yeast? Yes, yeast.

#### “The Resolution” (Generation Sunday)

June 09

Proverbs 22:1-6

All fathers should pledge, “I will love my family, protect them, serve them, and teach them the Word of God as the spiritual leader of my home. I will bless my children and teach them to love God with all of their hearts, all of their minds, and all of their strength.” Are you men of God?

#### “The Longest Journey” (Father’s Day)

June 16

Mark 1:21-28

If we are continually surprised at what God is able to do, does that not reveal how skeptical we remain about who He is? Are you skeptical?

#### Dido Montijo is Preaching

June 23

#### “Use a Pencil”

June 30

2 Corinthians 1:15-20

Sometimes we feel so certain about where we are headed and what we need to do, when suddenly, things completely change. Are we okay with change or uncomfortable? What if the change is God’s doing? Does that somehow make us less uncomfortable?

### Spring is Here!

Our Lord is risen and our children are busy learning about God and all the miracles and relationships that are a part of being God's children. In the past month, the children were allowed to experience God's love for our friends and family through events such as an Easter Breakfast, Family Skate, and Movie Night. These events provided a great opportunity to learn about the importance of seeking like-minded friends with whom they can learn about the ways God can be seen wherever they go.

Children were, and continue to be, an important part of Jesus' ministry. Children sat in Jesus' lap. Jesus healed a little boy. He used another boy's lunch to feed 5,000 people. Jesus told adults they needed faith like that of little children. He even raised one little girl from the dead! All of these things were wonderful, but most importantly, Jesus wanted all the children to ultimately have a personal relationship with Him. That's right! The desire of Jesus' heart is to see all children become Christians so they can live with Him forever. So, I thank you for bringing your children to church on Sunday, to family events, and to Kids Klub. Everyone knows you can't be best friends with someone if you never spend time with them, so let's keep showing our kids how important it is to have a relationship with their Father, Lord, and Savior.

We have exciting events coming up this summer. Mark your calendar now for the upcoming **The Incredible Race Vacation**

**Bible School**, July 22 to 26 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. VBS is for children Pre-K through 5th grade (completed). Middle school and high school students are also needed for volunteering! During their time at church, they will explore God's love for the nations as we travel around the world. We'll uncover fun clues, attempt fascinating challenges, and discover how the events that happened before, during, and after the Tower of Babel have impacted the human race today. Registration is open! Go to our church website, [www.scchartford.org](http://www.scchartford.org), the South Church, Hartford Facebook page, or the Garden-Children's Ministry page to register online; or you can call Ms. Moneca directly to get your children registered. Transportation will be available.

Finally, ponder on this verse in Psalm 127:3-5: *Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.*

Your sister in Christ,

*Ms. Moneca*

860-920-8154



## Be On Guard

God has been sharing with me a lot about what it means to be a man of God but also what it means to stand firm in the faith. God brought to me 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 from the study in Iron Men (men's study for 18+) which states *Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.*

You see I take my passion for ministry very serious and my desire is never for my glory, for my praise or to have people pat me on the back saying, "You are doing great..." It is all about seeing youth, adults and the church family grow, transform and see God with new eyes. The battle is that Satan and his minions are seeking to destroy us and keep us from what God wants from us as individuals and as a church.

This verse begins with **BE ON GUARD**, and **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH**. We will end up getting those darts flying at us because the Enemy hates when we serve the will of their enemy, God our Father. That is why we need to **BE COURAGEOUS** and **BE STRONG** because it will be hard, and you may have to fight or in most cases... step back and let HIM fight.

Lastly, do it all in **LOVE**. We cannot do anything God wants us to do without doing it with love. This is all about being humble, putting others first and protecting your foundation in Christ. We often forget to defend our foundation when we stand firm. Loving others

sometimes means standing up to them, losing friends or family or even taking blows that come from doing what is right in God's eyes. So will you be on guard and stand firm?

The devotional above fits a lot into what the youth get as a daily dose from me. They have been challenged in their faith to not only hear but to own it. On Sunday mornings, we have a Christian Education class for youth. Right now I have been creating my own Curriculum for Sunday Mornings: Three Parts 1) Questions for the day's Bible Verse Memorization, 2) Small Story Devotional and questions 3) they memorize. Every few Sundays we go over a Bible Story so they can soak it in. As for Saturdays, well it is Youth Group, The Orchard. That day is a mix of many different things: 1) Bible Studies 2) Service projects 3) Events or 4) games. The best part is just being able to fill their minds with truth while

having fun being a part of their life.

The future for youth group is all about getting them ready to become adults. My hope is for them to own their faith, to discover their identity in Christ, discover how they can belong and impact their culture for Christ. If you are curious about who they are, why not ask them out for lunch or just talk to them about their life.

*Dido Montijo*



## 2019 Great Strides Walk

There are approximately 30,000 Americans living with Cystic Fibrosis. They are moms, dads, sisters, brothers, daughters, friends, and co-workers who struggle every day just to breathe. We walk for them. Will you join us?

Caryn's Team will be walking again this year, and they are looking for your help! You can sign up to become a member of their team and raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis foundation on behalf of Caryn Pascale, or you can make a donation to the cause. By becoming a member or making a donation, you are joining a group of growing people committed to finding a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. Together, we are adding tomorrows to the lives of people living with CF by supporting the search for the cure.

The walk is taking place on May 18, 2019 at Wickham Park in Manchester, CT. Check-in begins at 9:00 am and the walk begins at 10:00 am. It is a 5 kilometer walk. If you would like to join us in walking, or if you would like to donate to Caryn's team, please see Caryn Pascale.

# GREAT STRIDES

## CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION



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

**May 01**

*Mary Jane Stewart*  
by her granddaughters,  
Janis and Cathy Bryant  
on the anniversary of her birth

**May 08**

*Dorothy Dunphy*  
by Len Diamond  
on the anniversary of her birth

**May 16**

*Dr. Warren S. Archibald*

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*Louise Daniels*

by the late Cynthia Anderson and family  
on the anniversary of her death

-----

*Susan D. Diamond*

by her husband, Len Diamond  
on the anniversary of her birth

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*Susan Dunphy Diamond*

by her brothers, Steve, Tom, and Bob  
Dunphy  
on the anniversary of her birth

**May 19**

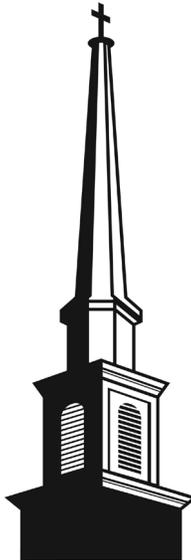
*James Wallace*  
by the late Mrs. James A.S. Wallace

**May 20**

*Mrs. Robert Higgins*  
by her sister-in-law, nieces, and nephew

**May 24**

*Our mother, Ethel M. Smith*  
by her daughters, Jean and Ethel



**June 10**

*Helen M. Clark & Fred H. Clark, Sr.*  
on the anniversary of their wedding  
by Ted, Kathy, Cynthia, Christopher, and  
Jeremy

**June 17**

*Rev. Dr. Warren Seymour Archibald*  
by the late Mrs. Archibald

**June 21**

*Howard F. Grady, Sr.*  
by his family  
on the anniversary of his birth

**June 23**

*Louise and Henry Valentine*  
in recognition of the years of service  
they gave to South Church,  
by their children

**June 27**

*Rev. Dr. Warren Seymour Archibald*

## Thank You, Chamber Choir!

It is with immense gratitude and much love that I bid our Chamber Choir “adieu” for their summer break. Ryan, Mary, Frank, Darcey, and our organist/pianist Christine work so hard to perfect the Sunday morning music for the 9:30 am service. Their dedication to glorifying the Lord with their gifts and talents is much appreciated, and they will be missed! We can’t wait to see you in September. Enjoy your much-deserved time off!

*Lauren Pouliot*



## Cooking With Christ

Our church cooking group has been busy making sweet and savory dishes this year. We still have a few more weeks before our summer break, so if you want to join our cooking class, you still have time!

Cooking with Christ is a fellowship group that doubles as a cooking class. We often get into discussions of Biblical topics that interest us or that we have questions about. Someone in the group

is often able to add their take on the topic, or we save it for when we can ask Pastor Adam.

If you would like to learn how to cook, offer some recipes or techniques that you would like to share, or just come for some fellowship and discussion, we meet in the kitchen at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. Anyone over the age of 13, male or female, is welcome. Bon Appetit!

*Renée Söderberg*

## There's an App for That!

Have you downloaded the (absolutely free) South Congregational Church app yet? It is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to keep up-to-date on the “goings-on” here at South. There are several features on the app that are well worth the download.

### The Bible

You can have the Bible in the palm of your hand, any time you need a quick fix! The app provides a digital version of the NLT right at your fingertips.

### Daily Devotionals

Each day, a new devotional is uploaded from Our Daily Bread. It is an easy way to take a few minutes to be with the Lord, even on the busiest of days.

### Message Board

This is a place where anyone can post an announcement about upcoming events or reminders about deadlines, requests, or fundraisers.

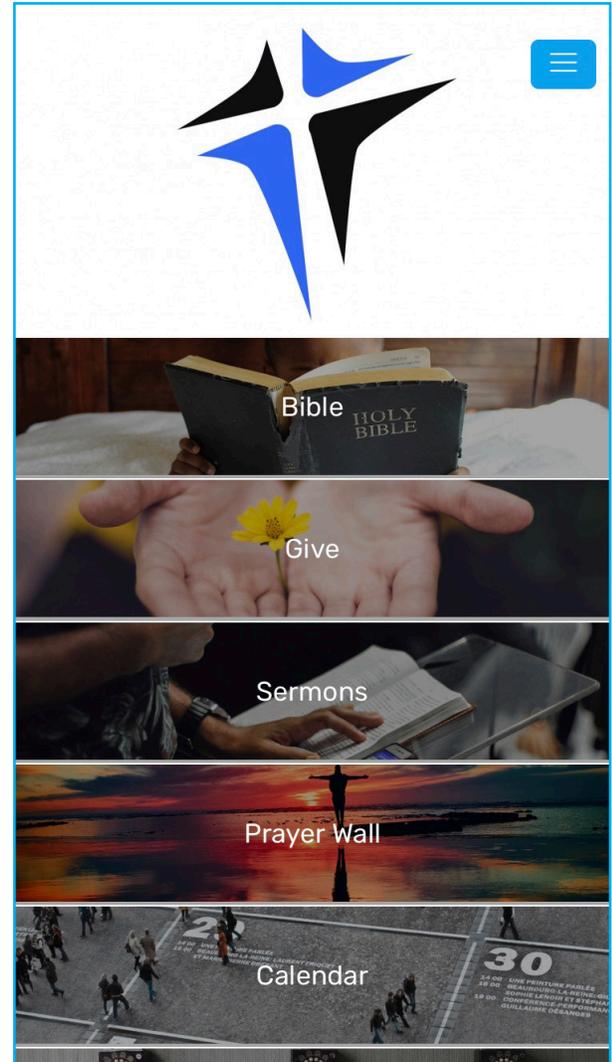
### Sermon Notes

Do you take notes during Pastor's sermons? There are weekly outlines available, specific to Pastor Adam's message, to which you can add your own highlights or personal notes.

### Prayer Wall

This is my favorite part of the app! If I have something to lift up, I can add it to our prayer wall -- then, anyone who is signed up for notifications through the app will get a little pop-up on their phone letting them know that I've added a prayer request or praise. It is an effective way to get the whole church praying in unity!

There are a few more fun features, but I don't want to spoil it for you... Take the tour yourself and download the app today!



## Site Superintendent's Report

Hello South Church, may the peace of the Lord be with you all. With regards to church upgrades and beautification goals, we are making steady progress in Parker Parlor and Robinson Lobby. By the end of this month, painting in Parker Parlor will be completed and the installation of the new, luxury vinyl flooring will commence. Immediately following that will be the stripping of wallpaper and painting in Robinson Lobby, with flooring to follow. By the second week of June, those project enhancements should be finished. I am looking forward to the fresh new look, and I'm confident that everyone will find it pleasant, warm, and welcoming.

We also have upgraded our security system, which was long overdue. We now have seven security cameras (as opposed to four) around the building that allow us better surveillance of the church grounds. We are making progress with the archives museum locat-

ed in the Stanley Room. Organization and set up of that room began at the end of April. Coming in May will be new wooden tables and padded chairs for Gray Hall, which gives a new look for events, dinners, and more. The new panels for the Gray Hall stage front are nearly completed and installation will begin in mid-May.

With the start of spring I am embarking on some slight serpentine changes to the flowerbeds in the memorial garden and adding new plantings within the beds. Most of the old plantings (azaleas and rhododendrons) were dried out and dying. Many were pruned in an effort to produce new growth. We'll see when they begin to flower!

Until next month, be blessed!

*Todd Case*



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#### 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*

An imperfect Christian  
community; loving, serving, and  
equipping an imperfect world.



## M<sup>25</sup> Haiti

Our team is ready to go! South Church will be sending seven missionaries to Camp Perrin Haiti this summer. We will be traveling June 22 - 29, and we'll be working to finish building the church and school that was destroyed in 2016 by Hurricane Matthew.

This year's traveling team is **Pastor Adam** and **Renée Söderberg**, **Doris Duggins**, **Linda Porter**, **Rose Hubbard**, **Jeff Savery**, and **Jordan Hegel**. **Kyle Singerman** is leading the team's prayer ministry this year, and is doing an awesome job with our Monday devotional emails. We also have many friends as part of our Mission Control -- those folks who aren't traveling with us, but help in many ways to make this trip possible. Some of our Mission Control members are **Yessenia Flores**, **Maureen Gainey**, **Kelly Travers**, and **Jenn Paul**. If I have forgotten anyone, I apologize. You are all important to this ministry!

We are still collecting hygiene supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, disposable razors, and lotion. Gift cards to Walmart, Target, and Stop and Shop are always helpful so we can purchase the supplies that we are short.

One way our church can help us while we are in Haiti is to write a letter of encouragement to the team or an individual team member to be read at our devotion time in the morning and evening. It has been so inspiring to the team to read these letters from home. Please let Kyle Singerman know if you would like to be part of the letter writing team.

Thank you so much for all the love and support from our church and its members.  
God Bless,

*Renée Söderberg*

## Children's Breakfast

We are still looking for a few people to help us feed the children breakfast on Sunday mornings before Sunday School. The children eat at 9:30 am and then head to their classes. Please see Renée Söderberg if you are able to help just once, or if you would like to be part of the regular rotation. Thank you!



May  
BIRTHDAYS

01 - Robert Avery  
Darlene Lisella  
03 - Charles Webster  
06 - Daniel Dwyer  
07 - Adriana Rotondo  
09 - Garrett Nielsen  
13 - Rose Hubbard

17 - Allison Evans  
Candido Montijo  
18 - Christopher Hammond  
23 - Jennifer Paul  
24 - Mike Savery  
26 - Louise Berardino  
Linda Porter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



June  
BIRTHDAYS

01 - Frank Pascale  
04 - David Happ  
07 - Marc Howes  
08 - Charity Chambers  
09 - Tony Casiano  
12 - Ed Grandahl  
20 - Janis Stewart

22 - Susan Clark  
23 - Mary Moffat  
Ginny Pratt  
Debbie Robertson  
25 - Carmen Berardino  
30 - Lynda Fanfarelli