

ISSUE NO. 46

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The Next Great Awakening!

There is a New Wind blowing across New England. God is up to something! In response to it, **Rev. Audrey Church McIntyre** of the Hartford House of Prayer is inviting us all to join together at Wellspring Church, 222 Lincoln Street, Berlin CT, for a half-day of prayer for our region; to cry out for the next Great Awakening. We will be focusing on a few upcoming strategic events such as:

UNITED CRY DC 2016. Thirty thousand plus pastors and Christian leaders are coming together in prayer and repentance for America on April 9, 2016, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. (www.unitedcry.com)



GO Conference. Remember what it was like to join countless other believers from across New England for Congress? After nearly a decade we will gather together again with new vision and renewed energy. On May 20-21, join us for the GO Conference in Hartford, CT. GO is focused on inspiring, equipping, and uniting the body of Christ in our region behind the challenge found in Micah 6:8.



What does it look like to Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly? Doing justice and loving mercy require action on behalf of the innocent and the guilty. Walking humbly and making disciples are inseparable. Engaging

communities, our region, and our world requires our combined efforts rooted in love and humility. (www.goconf.org)

Decision America Tour 2016. **Franklin Graham** is traveling to all 50 states in 2016 to hold prayer rallies, to preach the Gospel, and to challenge believers to take a stand and take action. Rev. Graham will be urging Christians to vote, to live out their faith in every part of their lives, and to pray for our nation just as Nehemiah cried out to God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore hope to His people. (www.decisionamericatour.com)



Please join us from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on March 12, at Wellspring Church.

Cooking With Christ

Are you looking for menu ideas for your family with how to's for shopping lists, budget planning, etc.? We are looking into creating a new cooking class. If this is something you are interested in either participating, or helping to lead, please let me know at renee.soderberg@gmail.com or see me at church. This may be a weekly class, or once a month. We are looking to see what the interest in this might be.

If you just want to learn some new cookie recipes, join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm for scripture, baking, and fellowship!



Renée Söderberg

Holy Week

This year Holy Week begins on the first day of Spring with **Palm Sunday** on March 20. Then on March 24, you are invited to our **Holy Thursday** service at 7:00 pm in the Meeting House as we recreate the Last Supper. On **Good Friday** there will be a special film shown down in the Youth Center beginning at 6:30 pm followed by prayer out front at the cross. Then, on **Holy Saturday**, is our **Family Easter Celebration!** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (see page 2). **Easter Sunday** is March 27 and we will celebrate the resurrection at both our 9:30 am and 11:00 am worship services.

Invite family and friends to join you this year and celebrate at South Congregational Church as we proclaim, **"He is risen! He is risen indeed!"**

Eli! Eli! Lema sabachthani?

In Matthew 27 there is a powerful moment when, from the cross, Jesus cries out, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* which is Greek for, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” For a long time I wondered, “Is this right? How could God abandon His own Son?” Eventually, I understood that God cannot; He will not have anything to do with sin. Sin is not allowed to “live” in His presence and, as such, this was the moment when Jesus “became” sin - our sin - and was therefore abandoned, rejected by God. It had to have been unspeakably painful. I can’t even imagine. I’m sure we’ve all been abandoned at some point in our lives by friends, family, or co-workers and it hurt but rejected by God? I can’t fathom it.

Luckily, we don’t have to. We won’t ever have to. That was the whole purpose of the cross - to put our sin to death so that we can be with God one day. That’s what Easter is all about. We will never cry out, “My God! My God! Why have you abandoned me?” A better question may be, “My God! My God! After what I’ve done and said and thought, why would you even care about me?” But He does. He loves us. Far beyond our ability to understand. He loves us more than life itself.

As we journey through the Lenten season, and more particularly Holy Week, I pray we remember that Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph on Palm Sunday knowing full well what was ahead for Him and who it was all for - you and me - and He did it anyway. Because He loves us.

You know how the story goes, *“Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.’”* (Matthew 28:1-6)

Thank you Lord. Thank you that I can walk through every day, every mistake, every failure, every blunder, every misstep and still You will never leave me, nor forsake me, reject me or abandon me. I love you Lord. You are an awesome God!

Happy Easter!
Pastor Adam

Family Easter Celebration!

All South Church members and friends are invited to the **Family Easter Celebration** on Saturday, March 26 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

There will be crafts for all ages, an egg hunt for children, snacks and a lesson on the real meaning of Easter!

Don’t miss this fun event, and be sure to invite friends, especially those who don’t have a church home. The warmth and love of this South Church event is sure to touch hearts.

Please let us know you are coming so we can plan for snacks and craft supplies. The sign up sheet is on the new **“Blue Board.”** Contact **Vicki Huffman** if you can help with planning, set-up or clean-up. Thanks in advance!

Come to the Garden

This **Easter Sunday** morning, March 27 everyone is invited to bring in a plant or flower of any kind which we will then use to create an “Easter Garden” in our worship spaces.

After the service, you are welcome to take your plant home with you or perhaps offer it to someone as an Easter gift. If we all bring something in it will be beautiful!

לחיים!

“L’chaim!” or לחיים is a Hebrew toast meaning, “to life!” We are blessed here at South Church to again celebrate God’s gift of life! Congratulations to **Chris and Madison Hammond** who welcomed **Malina Grace** on January 16.



We also want to celebrate with **Kevin and Melissa Petuzielo** who dedicated their son **Benjamin Bruce** on February 21.

L’chaim! To life! May God continue to bless you and your precious children. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Be a Part of the Family!

Our next **Membership Class** is being held on March 12 from 9:00 am to noon in the Parlor (across from the new **“Blue Board”**). If you are interested in joining or simply have questions about congregationalism or South Congregational Church you are more than welcome!

Kid’s Klub Choir

The Kid’s Klub Afterschool program was blessed this year with the addition of a children’s choir.

A big thank you goes out to **Sheila Hodges** as she begins her new adventure in Utah as a stay at home mom. She leaves our Kids Choir with many happy memories of praising God with her in song for the last few months.



We will miss you **Sheila** and again thank you for the seeds that you planted in our kids!

Support Your Church! It's Easy!

There are so many different ways to support your church. Beyond making financial gifts and volunteering your time you can make **Goodsearch** your default online web browser. If you do so, every single time you do a search, South Church gets a penny! Just register with www.goodsearch.com and choose South Congregational Church. That's it. Also, if you use **Goodshop** you sometimes can get up to 30% off your purchase. **Goodsearch** uses Yahoo so you are getting a great web browser and supporting your church at the same time.

If you shop amazon.com - I know I do! I love Amazon! - simply go to smile.amazon.com and choose South Congregational Church as your charity. When you do South Church receives .05% of your purchase.

Likewise, if you buy or sell on eBay you can support South Church as well. Just go to givingworks.ebay.com for more



choose South Congregational Church. That's it. Also, if



information and be sure to select South Congregational Church as your charity of choice.

All of these services are free! It just takes a few minutes of your time to register. After that it's all automatic. If you can't figure out how to do it ask anyone under the age of 25 to help you. That's what I did! Then, you can simply search and shop away and support your church at the same time. It's easy!

And, don't forget, you can give online and through your smartphone now too! Click the **Giving Online** tab on our new webpage (www.scchartford.org) or download the Pushpay app and give from your phone.



Support your church! It's easy!

The "Blue Board"

Our new "Blue Board" has all the latest information about South Church and community events! It's in the hallway just beyond Robinson Lobby.

Ladies 2:52

This women's life group meets Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm here at the church. Any woman 18 years or older who would like to grow in faith and friendship is invited to attend.

We share leadership within the group, studying God's word, encouraging each other and praying together.

We will be beginning a new study Monday, April 4. So, how about starting this spring off by putting God in the center, and sharing your journey with other women as we grow like Jesus did in Luke 2:52, "in mind, body, spirit, and social/emotional."

For more info contact **Vicki Huffman**. Come join us! You will be blessed!

Ministry Partnerships

God is bringing unity to our great city of Hartford and helping us to serve even more in our community. We are blessed by our partnerships with **Urban**

Alliance and World Vision. Many volunteers, resources, and training are made available through UA and WV. **Pastor Adam** and **Vicki** are heavily invested with these amazing groups and South Church is reaping the benefits from these relationships. UA has released an impact report for 2015 showing that South Church has served over 12,000 people with warm meals through our **Sparrow Ministry** and **Children/Family Ministries**. In addition, over 1,000 people have received clothing! Matthew 25:35 says, *"For I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."*



Praise God, that as we are serving the least of these, we are serving Jesus!

Worship Team

We are always looking for people to serve in our Worship Ministry. If you sing, play an instrument, dance, can help with audio/visual or computers (we will train you!); or if you feel called to join

our Prayer Team let **Ryan Dafge** know. God wants to use you! You can email Ryan at: dafgekrd@gmail.com

Safety First!

Did you know that you should...

- Avoid riding in automobiles. They are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
- Avoid staying home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
- Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
- Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
- Avoid hospitals because of the remaining 33% - 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn, however, that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! FYI - Bible study is safe too! The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, attend church and study your Bible! **It will save your life!**

Haiti Mission 2016

The M²⁵ Haiti mission team is gearing up for our next trip and there are several opportunities to help.

One of the ways we are serving the community of Camp Perrin is with reusable feminine hygiene products. We are in need of girls and ladies underwear and small bars of soap. These can be dropped off in the blue barrel by the



Bryant Room.

Another way to help is with full size bottles of shampoo or body wash. We would like to put together small hygiene bags for each family.

Also, any cash donations would be appreciated. We would like to bless each family with a bag of rice, beans, pasta etc. We purchase this food in Haiti as a way to stimulate the local economy. We also need money to purchase fabric for new uniforms for the students. Any amount of money will help.

Our 2016 Mission Team flies to Port au Prince on April 9 and returns the following Saturday. Please keep this mission and its' team members in your prayers.

Beni Swa L'eternel! That's creole for "Blessed be the name of the Lord!"

Mami Pas

Happy Birthday!

March

01 - **Meghan Siracusa**
 05 - **Sally Keating**
 06 - **Sarah Carucci**
 07 - **Joseph Diaz**
 09 - **Davie Badillo**
 12 - **Lomar Brown**
 16 - **Erik Savery**
 17 - **Beulah Williams**
 18 - **Renée Söderberg**
 19 - **Helen VanMeter**
 22 - **Dave Ford**
 26 - **Maureen Gainey**
 27 - **Sharon Howes**
 29 - **Joseph Ciarcia**

April

02 - **Delano Paul**
 06 - **Carol Navarete**
 13 - **Elaine Reid**
 15 - **Caryn Pascale**
 21 - **Kathleen Simon**

Thank You!

Thank you for all the cards and gifts wishing me a healthy and happy retirement. After 31 years it be will strange not driving to Hartford each day, but it will be great to have time to relax and also tend my garden. Thanks for the memories!

Wes Johnson