



# *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*

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## **SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

February 27, 2022, at ten o'clock

*Annual Meeting Sunday*

### **PRELUDE**

“Prelude in C” *Bach/Gounod*

*Elaine DeGrood, piano*

“Romance” *Sibelius*

*Darwin Shen, violin*

“Cantabile in D Major” *Paganini*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN **“Our God, Our Help In Ages Past”** *(vv. 1-4)*

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### **THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Katie Traynor, Deacon*

**Leader:** We gather together this day to value our life, to value our love, and to value the many ways we can contribute to healing and caring for the world around us.

**People:** **We gather together to feel and to seek God's presence in our lives.**

**Leader:** We gather this day to listen for God's voice;

**People:** **To open our ears to hear, and our hearts to sense God's intention.**

**Leader:** Immersed in this community of faith, we are blessed by God's presence, made manifest through our love, and through the love of our neighbors and friends.

**People:** **In thankfulness and joy, let us worship and pray, committing all that God has given to us for the celebration of life, and for the care of all God's people.**

\*THE INVOCATION & 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

*Julianne Center, Student Minister*

SONG

“I Whistle A Happy Tune” *Rogers & Hammerstein*  
*Music Directed by Marnie Kruse and Phillip Bettencourt*

*Youth Choir*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

\*HYMN

*“I Would Be True”*

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PASTORAL PRAYER

*Rev. Laura Whitmore*

CALL TO OFFERING

To give towards your **2022 Stewardship Pledge Contribution** or make a **plate donation**,  
please text as follows:

**Text: 860-854-1995**

\$ *amt* Pledge

\$ *amt* Plate

To give **online**, please visit our website at [southportucc.org](http://southportucc.org)

To **mail** us your offering or pledge, please send a check to:  
Southport Congregational Church, PO Box 366, Southport, CT 06890

*Thank you!*

OFFERTORY

“Assurance” *arr. John Ness Beck*  
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” *J.S. Bach*

*Senior Choir*  
*Darwin Shen, violin*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in his blood!

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

\*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

*Our loving God, you who have guided, comforted, encouraged, and inspired us  
to offer hope and tangible help to others, we offer you these gifts for your  
blessing, that they, and we, may be instruments of your will, bringing your light  
and love to those in need. With our love and gratitude, this we pray. Amen.*

*No one puts new wine into old wineskins; if they do, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins.”* Mark 2:22

No one who puts their hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.  
*Luke 9:62*

One thing I do: *forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.*  
*Philippians 3:13*

*Remember Lot's wife.* [She looked back!] *Luke 17:32*

Say not, “*Why were the former days better than these?*” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this. *Ecclesiastes 7:10*

Let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and *let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...* *Hebrews 12:1-2a*

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*  
*Philippians 3:14*

Jesus said, “*unless one is born anew that person cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”  
*John 3:3*

What do you profit if you gain the whole world, but forfeit your soul? *Matthew 16:26*

If there is any good thing I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it,  
for I may never pass this way again.

I expect to pass through this life but once.

If, therefore there can be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do for any fellow being let me do it now...

Let me not defer it, or neglect it,  
For I shall not pass this way again.

*Stephen Grellet*

SERMON

“Looking Ahead. To God. With Faith”

Rev. Paul Whitmore

\*HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (vv. 1-3)

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\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Surely The Presence Of The Lord”

Senior Choir

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of the angels’ wings,

I see the glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

POSTLUDE

“Jerusalem” C. Hubert, H. Parry

Elaine DeGrood, piano

Darwin Shen, violin

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**OUR 178<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY**

We encourage you to join us as we review the past year’s activities, celebrate the election of new officers of the Church and adopt the annual budget, so together we can make plans for the year ahead. Please select your refreshments in Fellowship Hall and return to the Sanctuary so that the meeting can begin promptly as it will be livestreamed from the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service, without interruption. This is an informative meeting, please join us to celebrate this past year and plan for 2022! Childcare will be available in the Chapel, where the children can enjoy pizza, drinks and a movie.

**THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2** – Join Julianne and Laura in the Chapel that evening at 7 p.m. for a candlelit service of reflection, repentance, and renewal as we begin our journey into the season of Lent.

**OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN’S RETREAT “Whatever Is True”** will be held on **March 11** (6 p.m. - 10 p.m.) and **March 12** (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.), with the option of attending one or both days. In order to participate, you must **pre-register by, or on, Sunday, March 6** by emailing Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**THE 2022 STEWARDSHIP GIVING CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP – Our current pledges are at \$672,000 - compared to our goal of \$750,000.** If you have not pledged yet, please consider making one today by going to our website giving page at [southportucc.org](https://southportucc.org). Thank you to all who have already pledged!

If not, please make it today! You can do so in 3 ways:

- **ONLINE.** Scan the **QR code** (right) with your phone’s camera and a notification will pop up. Tap on the notification and it will bring you to SCC’s Stewardship Giving Form on our website. You can also navigate to the form from our website [southportucc.org](https://southportucc.org) where it is found under the “Giving” tab.
- **Paper Form.** Mail or drop off the paper form included in your 2022 Stewardship Giving Packet.
- **Email.** Send an email to Paul DiPrato at [pdiprato@southportucc.org](mailto:pdiprato@southportucc.org) with your pledge information.



**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS LUNCHEON** – All friends of SCC who are considering membership are **invited to attend a luncheon** hosted by the Board of Deacons, on **Sunday, March 13**, (*note this is the new date*) immediately following worship. This is a special opportunity for those on their faith journey to meet with others doing the same, as well as members of SCC. **New Members will be received into the Congregation on Sunday, March 20, during worship.** If you are interested in becoming a member of SCC, would like to attend the luncheon, or need more information, please contact Pam in the Church Office at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**CHURCH SCHOOL** – will meet today in the Chapel with Julianne Center to learn about “The Fruits Of The Spirit” with this week’s focus on Joy. *How do you have joy in your life?* Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning with Scarlett Rex and Alyssa Santa.

**FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO RED SHIRT TABLE - JULY 3 TO JULY 9.** Due to the Senior High Youth Group’s Mission Week being pushed back by a week because of public schools now not finishing until June 20, the Family Mission Trip has been rescheduled to the first full week of July. Join us for a family vacation you won’t forget! We now have a long-term lease in a building in Hermosa, South Dakota about 25 minutes north of the Reservation. Let’s spend a week together sharing your joy and love with the children of Red Shirt Table (Native America Indian Reservation). Play games, help them learn, become a friend, and bring hope to those who struggle. In addition, you will learn about Native American culture

and visit some of the country's historic sites including Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse monument and the site of the massacre at Wounded Knee. *Due to the sensitive nature of the Rez, the minimum age is 7.* The cost is \$900 per person and is due February 27. You will be responsible for your airfare. Please contact Laura at [lwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:lwhitmore@southportucc.org) for more information. **Registration is due by March 6!**

***CAROUSEL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED*** Our beloved Carousel Thrift Shop is short on inventory because the goods have been flying out the door! As a result, decorative items, select furniture and artwork are needed. The Shop has new donation hours: Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. until noon. If these times are not suitable, please contact Store Manager Susan Kunkel at [carousel@southportucc.org](mailto:carousel@southportucc.org), for an appointment.

***LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER!*** The Fellowship Committee invites you to attend three very fun events and we would love to see you at each one:

**March 18: Trivia Night for Everyone!**

Adults will compete in teams of 1-4 people in Fellowship Hall and children and youth will compete in teams of 1-4 in the Chapel. \$10/Team Entry Fee Beer, Wine, Beverages, and Pizza will be served. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by March 13.

**April 29: Pickleball Social Event**

Adults can sign-up to play on the Whitmore's Pickleball Court or choose to hang out with friends, drinking a cool beverage, while watching the fun! Food will be available through Food Trucks and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by April 17. The rain date is May 6.

**May 21: The Progressive Dinner Returns!**

This very popular event will return, and we hope you will be there! We will begin with cocktails at the home of one of our members, and then break into smaller groups for dinner at assorted homes, and then gather back together for dessert at the Parsonage. RSVP to Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by May 2.

***ST. GEORGE'S COMMUNITY SUPPER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!*** On the third Monday of every month, SCC volunteers provide a bagged dinner meal for a community supper hosted by St. George's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport. Our volunteers prepare the meals in advance and deliver to St. George's in the afternoon. SCC provides condiments, cutlery, napkins, juices, snacks, desserts and bags, we need volunteers to provide the sandwiches and fresh fruit, and your meal prep expenses will be reimbursed. If you would like to volunteer for this greatly needed program, please contact our SCC coordinator Hedy Mosier [himosey@yahoo.com](mailto:himosey@yahoo.com) for more information.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** is hosted today in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship, Ann Lillis and Betsy Gillespie. **Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for future Sundays.** If you would like to volunteer, would be more than happy to lend a hand. Please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) to sign up or to answer any questions - thank you!

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** were given by Doug and Katie Goodman to thank Paul, Laura, Julianne, Elaine, Pam and all who serve our congregation. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

**USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY** are Deacon Leah Davis and Usher Irene Santa, under the direction of Deacon Katie Traynor. **USHERS ARE NEEDED** every Sunday - please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) if you would like to volunteer!

**THANKS TO THIS WEEK'S LIVESTREAM "DREAM TEAM"** Techs Jack Waiksnis and Ella Conopask, directed by Mike Messina.

**WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR AND DARWIN SHEN** for today's beautiful music.

**THE MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets every Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Paul Whitmore. All men are welcome to come and grow in faith and fellowship. Email Paul at [pwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:pwhitmore@southportucc.org) to be put on the list to receive the email blast about the weekly topic.

**THE WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room, led by Rev. Laura Whitmore. Join Laura to discuss current events, spirituality, and new psychological ideas and much more. The curriculum runs parallel to the Men's Group, allowing for conversation during the week. Contact Laura at [lwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:lwhitmore@southportucc.org) to be put on the list.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:**

- \***SENIOR CHOIR** rehearses in Sanctuary, Sundays, 9:00 a.m., and in Music Room, 11:15 a.m.
- \***THE HANDBELL CHOIR** rehearses on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.
- \***THE CHERUB CHOIR** rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Chapel
- \***THE JUNIOR & TEEN CHOIRS** rehearse on Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 6