



# *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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## **THE SUNDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

May 1, 2022, at ten o'clock

*Confirmation Sunday*

*Communion Sunday*

PRELUDE

**“Prayer”** *Mascagni*

**“Adoration”** *Borowski*

*Elaine DeGrood, Piano*

*Darwin Shen, violin*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

***“The Voice Of God Is Calling”***

**The voice of God is calling, a summons unto all.**

**As once they heard in Zion, so now we hear the call,**

**Whom shall I send to succor, my people in their need?**

**Whom shall I send to loosen, the bonds of shame and greed?**

**I hear my people crying, in cot and mine and slum;**

**No field or mart is silent, no city street is dumb.**

**I see my people falling, in darkness and despair.**

**Whom shall I send to shatter, the fetters which they bear?**

**We heed, O God, thy summons, and answer: “Here are we!”**

**Send us upon thine errand, let us thy servants be.**

**Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour;**

**But thou canst use our weakness, to magnify thy power.**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*Jeff Provost, Deacon*

Leader: Come, hear what God has done, for God's promises are true.

**People:** *We have come here today, to seek and feel and find God's presence.*

Leader: God is transforming all of humankind,

**People:** *And we celebrate God's transformation in the lives of others.*

Leader: God is transforming you and me,

**People:** *And we have come to celebrate God's transforming love for us!*

\*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 *Rev. Paul Whitmore*

*(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.)*

SCRIPTURE

*Rev. Laura Whitmore*

*Colossians 3:12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## STATEMENTS OF FAITH

*Ella Schott   Thomas Wright*  
*Jonathan Stekloff   Kaela Cohen*

## ANTHEM

“True Colors”   *Tom Kelly and Billy Steinberg*   *Teen Choir*  
*Directed by Phillip Bettencourt*

You with the sad eyes, don't be discouraged  
Oh I realize, it's hard to take courage  
In a world full of people you can lose sight of it all  
The darkness inside you can make you feel so small

(refrain) But I see your true colors shining through  
I see your true colors and that's why I love you  
So don't be afraid to let them show  
Your true colors  
True colors are beautiful, like a rainbow

Show me a smile then, don't be unhappy, can't remember when  
I last saw you laughing if this world makes you crazy  
And you've taken all you can bear just call me up  
Because you know I'll be there  
(refrain)

If this world makes you crazy and you've taken all you can bear  
You call me up because you know I'll be there  
(refrain)

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## 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 by **Venmo**, use @southport\_congregational

To give **online**, please visit our website at 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 for your kindness and loving support!*

OFFERTORY

**“Speak To Me In Silence”** Nolan

*Senior Choir  
Nancy Long, handbells*

Speak to me in silence. Speak to me in peace.  
Whisper to the silence in my soul.  
Lord, I wait in stillness, ready now to hear.  
Speak to me in silence and in peace.

Speak to me in silence. Speak to me Your peace.  
Touch my heart and still my troubled mind.  
Words of calm assurance, all my fears release.  
Speak to me in silence. Give me peace.

Lord, speak to me.  
My heart is open to receive Your grace.  
Lord, speak to me.  
Here in these shadows, let me feel your sure embrace.

Speak to me with mercy. Speak to me in love.  
By your Word, my spirit it is reborn.  
Echoes of compassion sounding from above.  
Speak to me with mercy and in love.  
Speak to me in mercy and in love.

**\*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**

***Dear God, accept these gifts as offerings of our thanks and praise, and as a witness  
to the refreshment and renewal that we find in you and in one another. Amen.***

**THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

*Hanna Bacso   Kaela Cohen   Scott Conopask\*   Jack Nickell*

*Hadley Rosow\*   Emma Ryan   Alyssa Santa\*   Ella Schott\**

*Jonathan Stekloff   Thomas Wright*

*\*Denotes baptized here at Southport Congregational Church*

INVITATION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

WORDS OF WELCOME FROM THE CONGREGATION

*We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers, as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together, in the knowledge and love of God, as made known to us through Jesus.*

COMMUNION

*(Please take the elements in unison with the Ministers after all have been served.)*

**Communion is gluten-free and non-alcoholic so that all may be included.**

\*HYMN

***“Here I Am, Lord”***

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.**

**I have wept for love of them, they turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.**

**I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.**

**I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.**

**I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. 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

**“Jerusalem”** *Parry*

*Darwin Shen, violin  
Elaine DeGrood, organ*

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## **Our 2022 Confirmation Class**

### **Hanna Bacso**

Hi, I’m Hanna Bacso. I go to Fairfield Warde High School and I am 14 years old. I like playing soccer and drawing. I have two younger siblings, Sophia and Lukas, that I love very much. My parents are Erika and Erno Bacso. I also have two dogs, Rosie and Morzsa, that love going on walks. Have a great day!

### **Whitney Burton**

Whitney Burton goes to Greens Farms Academy and is enjoying her freshman year. She is on the GFA sailing team. She sails in all seasons. She loves to spend time with her siblings Kenly and David, both of whom were confirmed at SCC. Her parents are Don and Tish Burton. Whitney has really enjoyed attending confirmation and writing her faith statement.

### **Kaela Cohen**

Kaela goes to Staples High School and she is a freshman with two younger brothers, Connor and Cooper. Her parents are Jill Cohen and Sefton Cohen. She is on the track and soccer teams, and Kaela enjoys being in the presence of her family and friends. Kaela loves to paint and create sculptures. along with taking photos. Kaela’s passions are sports and reading, and she is so excited for the Mission Trip coming up this Summer!

### **Scott Conopask\***

Scottie attends Fairfield Ludlowe High School and is finishing up his 9<sup>th</sup> Grade year. Scottie plays basketball for the Ludlowe team and enjoys spending time with friends and family. Scottie has enjoyed confirmation class this year and has learned a lot about religion and strengthened his faith. He lives with his mother, Tamberlyn Chapman, and his siblings Quentin and Ella, both of whom were confirmed here. Scottie is excited to become a member of SCC!

### **Jack Nickell**

Jack Nickell is a freshman in Fairfield Ludlowe High School. He plays football, wrestling and does boxing. In his free time enjoys watching tv, movies in the theater with his dad, Jeff, who is a Deacon at Southport Congregational Church. Jack's mother is Jenn, and his sister Ellie was confirmed here 2 years ago. Jack also loves all kinds of music like rap, rock, pop and hip hop.

### **Scarlett Rex**

Scarlett is a freshman at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. She is on the FLHS Dance Team and also competes with Flash Pointe Dance. She also enjoys the Operation Hope and Pencil of Promise Clubs at her school. Scarlett loves being a part of Southport Congregational Church and is looking forward to being able to go on the Mission Trip to South Dakota when she gets a chance some summer. She lives with her mom and dad, Wren and Nathaniel Rex.

### **Hadley Rosow\***

Hadley Rosow is in eighth grade at Greens Farms Academy. She enjoys rowing and field hockey. Every summer she goes to sleep away camp in Vermont where she spends a month diving, swimming and waterskiing. Hadley has two older sisters, Grace and Cambell Rosow, both of whom were confirmed here, her parents, David and Ginny, and a dog named Brady. Confirmation has really opened her eyes to the true meaning of faith.

### **Emma Ryan**

Emma Ryan is in eighth grade at St. Luke's School. Her parents are Alisa and Joe Ryan, and she has one brother, William, a sixth grader at Fairfield Country Day School. She plays on the varsity tennis team and likes to play field hockey and skis in the winter. She also loves to bake and spend time at the beach. Emma has been going to SCC for as long as she can remember and has loved her time at Confirmation Class this past year and can't wait to join the church as a member!

### **Alyssa Santa\***

Alyssa is the daughter of Beth and Devin Santa and has one sister, Heidi. Her grandparents are John and Irene Santa. Alyssa is a freshman at Fairfield Ludlowe High School and enjoys her classes in addition to playing soccer and basketball for the school. Alyssa also plays club soccer year-round and skis and sails with her family in the winter and summer. Alyssa has been attending Southport Congregational Church since she was five years old and has greatly enjoyed her time at the church and attending Confirmation classes.

### **Ella Schott\***

Ella is a freshman at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. She loves to read and draw. Ella also loves to foster cats and has adopted two of her own, Rosie and Soot. She has two brothers, Henry (18) and Torin (16), who were confirmed here. She is looking forward to becoming a member of the church. Ella also enjoys hiking and exploring the woods.

### **Jonathan Stekloff**

Jonathan is a freshman at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. He loves playing football and hanging out with friends. He enjoys going on trips and spending time with his family. He likes to help people by making food with his mom and giving it to Operation Hope through an organization called SASO, Students & Athletes Serving Others.

### **Thomas Wright**

Tommy is a freshman at Staples High School. He lives with his mom, Erika, and his brother Will, and he has two half siblings named Michael and Lea. He rows crew for Saugatuck Rowing Club. Every summer he goes to Romania to spend time with his mother's family. He loves playing sports and playing board games with family. He recently adopted a small dog named Nina.

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**WELCOME TO TODAY'S CONFIRMATION SERVICE** Join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments in honor our Confirmands, provided by the Board of Deacons and presented by Katie Traynor and Ann Lillis, members of both the Board of Deacons and the Fellowship Committee. **Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for future Sundays.** If you would like to volunteer, the Fellowship Committee 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!

**CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS "GODSPELL"** We are excited to announce that the Church School will perform "Godspell" on **Children's Sunday, June 12**, during worship. Rehearsals resume next Sunday. Children in Grade 5 and above are invited to stay in worship for Confirmation today. Children in Kindergarten through Grade 4 will go to church school in the Chapel with guest teacher, Audra Whitmore, where she will talk about the Easter story. Childcare for infants through 3 years old will be in Room 5 this morning with Alina Bogatikova and Sienna Jaramillo.

**THE ALL CHURCH PICNIC IS BACK! SUNDAY, JUNE 12, FOLLOWING WORSHIP**  
Join us at the Parsonage for burgers and hot dogs, cotton candy, games, and inflatable slide and more. Dress casually to worship and enjoy the fun - all are invited to attend!

**2<sup>ND</sup> HOUR PROGRAMING IN MAY - A TWO PART SERIES ON PLANNING FOR LIFE!**  
**On Sunday, May 15 at 11:20 a.m.**, Rev. Paul Whitmore will present Part 1 of this 2-part series. **A Final Gift** is a presentation with an accompanying handbook compiled by Laura which can greatly aid your family in dealing with the myriad details at the time of death, such as services, legal matters, etc. Many church members and friends who have used this handbook recommend it! Join Paul and learn all about this resource and the issues you want to consider before your family has to. **On Sunday May 22, at 11:20 a.m.**, **Preparing Your Life Financially and Legally**, the second part of the series, will have guests who are experts in the legal and financial fields to discuss the hows of implementing the practical elements of preparing your life's final gift as they pertain to wills, bequests, estate planning, and other financial vehicles that help ensure your assets are distributed per your intention upon passing. The objective is to help attendees understand the latest on the legal and financial elements of life planning.

**MOTHER'S DAY ROSES** On Sunday May 8, our beautiful pink heart, created by Paul Whitmore, and covered with roses donated by Hedy Mosier, will be on the front lawn for all to enjoy! Please remember to stop by and pick up a rose for the mother in your life. If you can, please take a picture with you and your family by the heart and [send it to the church office](#) - thanks!

***THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER RETURNS! MAY 21, 6 P.M.*** Join fellow church members and friends for our annual Spring Progressive Dinner! The cost is \$20 per person. You will enjoy cocktails at the seaside home of Tim and Tracy Stuart, followed by dinner at the home of one of our “hosts,” and then re-gather at the Parsonage for dessert and coffee. Contact the church office to add your name to the guest or host list by emailing Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org) by May 8. Don't miss this fabulous event!!!

***WE THANK OUR SENIOR CHOIR SOLOISTS, THE SENIOR CHOIR, OUR TEEN CHOIR, NANCY LONG AND DARWIN SHEN*** for today's beautiful music.

***USHERING AND GREETING YOU TODAY*** are Deacons Oladele Ogunsuyi, Ann Lillis, Katie Traynor and Joe Pezzimenti, under the direction of Deacon Jeff Provost. ***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 Ella Conopask and Austin Rasmussen, directed by Trevor Uhl and Parker Whitmore.

***TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS*** are given by the Congregation in honor of the Confirmation Class. If you would like to donate an arrangement for upcoming Sundays, please contact Pam at [ppoling@southportucc.org](mailto:ppoling@southportucc.org).

***HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP*** will meet tonight at 7 p.m.

***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. To be put on the list to receive the email blast about the weekly topic, contact Laura at [lwhitmore@southportucc.org](mailto:lwhitmore@southportucc.org).

***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.

***WE ARE REPOINTING THE EXTERIOR OF OUR CHURCH! PATIENCE WILL CERTAINLY BE A VIRTUE!***

On Tuesday, May 10, our contractor will start repointing the exterior stone of our historical church building. Repointing is the removal and replacement of the joint mortar that binds the stones together. About 50% of our church exterior is compromised and needs this work. The project has been in the planning stages with Buildings & Grounds and Trustees for several years. Our hope is the repointing will help keep our beautiful church building structurally sound for many generations to come! The work will take about three months to complete and will impact driveway and parking lot flow at times, especially along the exit driveway. When work is being done on the back and driveway exit sides of the building, there will be periods when we will need to block off the exit driveway and create two lane traffic for the entrance driveway. We will try to coordinate this work for times when there is the least amount of church activity (services, Preschool, Broadway Boot Camp, The Carousel), but there will be periods when logistically it is not feasible. Your understanding and patience with changing driveway and parking lot traffic patterns will be most appreciated! Should you have any questions about traffic or the project itself, contact Tim O'Neill, Facilities and Grounds Manager, at [toneill@southportucc.org](mailto:toneill@southportucc.org), or Paul DiPrato, Director of Administration at [pdiprato@southportucc.org](mailto:pdiprato@southportucc.org). They are always happy to discuss SCC projects of all kinds!