

# THE PARISHIONERS POST



South Britain Congregational Church  
693 South Britain Rd.  
Southbury, CT 06488

## OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

*"To be a dynamic, welcoming, and caring community of Christian faith by weaving the thread of Christ into the tapestry of our lives."*



## PASTORS LETTER

Beloved in Christ,

As we enter the bustling month of May, many of you may be familiar with the term "Maycember." For those who aren't, Maycember refers to the whirlwind of activity and commitments that often characterize this time of year, mirroring the hectic pace of December. It's a time when calendars fill up, events abound, and the days seem to fly by in a blur.

Yet, amidst the flurry of graduations, weddings, Mother's Day celebrations, and end-of-school-year events, there's an undeniable sense of excitement in the air. It's a time of new beginnings, of honoring achievements, and of coming together as a community to celebrate life's milestones. As we witness the beauty of nature bursting into bloom and feel the warmth of the sun on our faces, we're reminded of the abundance of blessings that surround us.

However, amid the busyness of Maycember, it's essential to carve out moments of stillness and connection with the divine. As we navigate our packed schedules, let us not forget to nourish our souls and deepen our relationship with God.

Perhaps it's through the simple act of pausing for a few moments of prayer each day, or finding solace in the beauty of nature during a brisk walk outdoors. We can also seek spiritual rejuvenation by participating in church events and services designed to foster reflection and renewal.

In the midst of Maycember's whirlwind, let us remain grounded in faith and open to the presence of God in our lives. May this month be not just a time of hectic activity, but also a season of spiritual growth, community, and joy.

See you in Church,

*Pastor Jeff*

[pastor@southbritainchurch.org](mailto:pastor@southbritainchurch.org)  
203-364-4540

Schedule a meeting with me at <https://calendly.com/therevjeff>

## Interested in joining the church? Contact Pastor Jeff. Next New Member's Sunday is May 19

### New Staff Contact Information

In an effort to professionalize and simplify the email system for our staff, we have given everyone a church email address. Going forward, please use these new email addresses for our staff:

The Rev. Jeff Lukens, Pastor:	<a href="mailto:pastor@southbritainchurch.org">pastor@southbritainchurch.org</a> (this did not change)
Dennis Li, Music Director:	<a href="mailto:music@southbritainchurch.org">music@southbritainchurch.org</a>
Jenny Li, Organist:	<a href="mailto:organ@southbritainchurch.org">organ@southbritainchurch.org</a>
Krista Judson, Dir. of Faith Formation:	<a href="mailto:ce@southbritainchurch.org">ce@southbritainchurch.org</a>
Nancy Kerely, Church Secretary:	<a href="mailto:office@southbritainchurch.org">office@southbritainchurch.org</a>

Any committee or event chairs who wish to have a church email address for their group/event, please contact Pastor Jeff, who will get you set up.

### SPIRITUAL STUDIES

#### Daytime Bible Study:

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room.

In May, we are continuing the **Gospel of John**, which comes up quite often in the texts for the Easter Season. Here are the reading assignments for each Tuesday:

May 7: John 9 & 10

May 14: John 13-17

May 21: John 18 & 19

May 28: John 20 & 21

**DEACONS** *Joseph Simpson, Francesca Sergi, Krista Judson, Carl Dunn, Cheri Fickett, John Shepherd, Tracy Watson*

- Pictures are now being taken after church to be placed in One Church. If you have a picture to be used please contact Carl Dunn, or Laurie Hornbecker.
- Psst. Don't forget tomorrow May 5<sup>th</sup> is Mothers Day.
- We have bad news, a repair was attempted Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> on the organ when further problems developed with reprogramming. The processor has been shipped out (overseas) for further analysis and repair.
- We are looking for drivers to help families in need due to limitations in getting transportation to church on Sunday's. We want to thank those currently assisting and ask, if others can check in with someone you know it would be so appreciated. Of course you may contact the office were we might have someone in need.
- Come, give me a call, send me a text if you have interest in becoming a Deacon. It's a rewarding committee, we serve the religious needs of the church assisting the pastor, reach out to the congregation, comfort those in need, and we are a great group.

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING** *Judy Grimes, Francesca Sergi, Joe Simpson, Cathy Somers*

God of amazing and unconditional love, teach us to love everyone, encourage everyone, cherish everyone as you love, encourage and cherish us all, even when we are unloving, unkind and judgmental! You, Holy One are what love looks like!

- **May** is National Mental Health Awareness month.  
Mental Health Awareness Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. For more than 20 years, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recognized **Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM)** every May to increase awareness about the vital role mental health plays in our overall health and well-being and provide resources and information to support individuals and communities who may need mental health support.
- **Since June is PRIDE** month we are listing a few events being held in our area at the beginning of June. More to come next month.



## Bethel CT Pride Parade & Celebration 2024

June 1, 2024

Municipal Center  
1 School Street, Bethel, CT



**12:30 Sidewalk Parade**

**1:00 – 5:00 - Vendors!**



### Ridgefield's Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

June 1

Kick off Pride Month with Ridgefield CT Pride along with Ridgefield's First Selectman, Rudy Marconi, who will raise the Pride Progress flag which will fly high in front of Town Hall for the month of June. Attendees will be treated to an original poem read by Ridgefield Poet Laureate Emerita, Barb Jenness which she wrote for the occasion.



### Ridgefield's 4th Annual Pride in the Park

June 3

Enjoy a parade around the park plus a variety of activities, crafts, entertainment and informational tables geared towards all ages.

**OUTREACH** *Chris Dreton, Jean Mitchell, JoAnn Bolin, Lillian Groody, Lynn Plourde, Pam Hein, Cathy Somers, Jodi Mitchell (chair)*

- We're kicking off May with our annual Diaper Drive and monetary collection for GWIM. Diapers are in demand because the food stamp program does not cover them. Any monetary donations will be earmarked for GWIM to purchase diapers. The greatest need is for sizes 3 and larger, as well as pull-ups. There will be a bin in the Gathering Room for your donations.
- Our POP-UP shop was a smashing success. We made \$1000 for future Outreach projects. Thanks to everyone who donated, to those who spread the word and to those who made a purchase.

**FAITH FORMATION** *Krista Judson (director), Jodi Mitchell (chair), Tracy Watson, JoAnn Bolin*

- May is "May I serve you?" month. We're encouraging everyone to participate in our bingo card with 30 easy activities to serve others. Pick up a copy today. Do as many acts as you can and return it at the end of the month for a small prize.



During the month of May, complete as many boxes below as possible. For empty boxes, write in your own idea or duplicate another. There will be prize drawings for those who complete the whole sheet, get a BINGO by completing a straight or diagonal line, or get a "postage stamp" by completing any 3 x 3 box!

Send a thank you card to your police or fire department	Send a card to a friend	Send an encouraging text message	Say a prayer for a lost loved one that you haven't prayed for before	Find a place in your community to volunteer weekly or monthly	Bring items to a donation center
Thank a teacher for their tireless effort & care	Pay for the person behind you in the drive thru	Say a prayer for the salvation of your neighbors	Share coffee or tea with a friend or family member	Write a positive review for a business, service or contractor	Write a letter to a friend
Share a favorite recipe with a friend or neighbor	Pick up trash in your neighborhood	Bring flowers to someone	Write a letter to a friend	Send a card in the mail	Drive near a school or government building and pray
Write a letter to a friend	Do an act of service for your spouse, roommate or friend	Sell something and donate the proceeds	Bring a baked good to a neighbor or friend	Donate to an important cause	Call a family member you haven't talked to recently
Donate food to your local food shelf	Invite someone over for dinner or a potluck	Share a positive thought, story or meme on social media	Send a "just thinking about you" (or praying for you) text message	Write a letter to a friend	Make a cup of tea & drink it <i>This one's for you!</i> Enjoy! 

Take a photo and send your completed card to [diana@dianakokku.com](mailto:diana@dianakokku.com) by June 3, 2024!

- Our community service on Sunday!  
We made PB&J sandwiches, Chocolate Chip and Sugar Cookies to go to GWIM. Our next meeting service was discussed, planting flowers in the 4 planters outside the parish hall. On April 28th the group again worked together, sharing the plants, preparing the soil, and more. Each picked their plants and placed them in their planter. Watering and cleaning up followed. The outside food pantry was also filled. Thank you to all: Ms. JoAnn, Ms. Cindy, and Ms. Jodi for your help and ideas. A special thank you to the young ladies: Emily, Olivia, Charlotte, and Alex for the beautiful planting.
- The SBCC community garden has begun. The garden plot is now waiting for the vegetable plants. Looking forward to the middle of May to begin. Look for more info and sign-up sheets on Sunday, May 4th. Any questions, contact Ms Krista.

Blessings,

The Faith Formation Team



**SCHOLARSHIP** *Lissa Pine, Francesca Sergi, Gary Tolin, Krista Judson, Judy Grimes, Jeanne Crane-Shepherd*

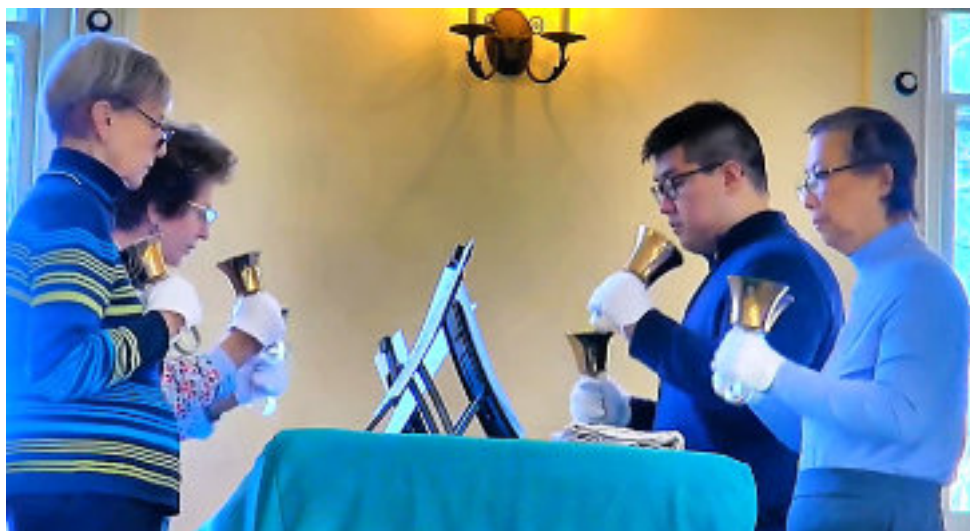
## HEADS UP – SCHOLARSHIP TIME IS HERE...



Awards will be presented in church on Sunday, May 12, 2024.  
THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**MUSIC** *Dennis Li, Jenny Li*

- This Lent Season the choir and bell choir were hard at work with making great music. The bell choir played during the Palm Sunday service and the choir has been singing all throughout Lent and Easter. As has become tradition, the choir also sang during the Maundy Thursday service this year which greatly helped set the tone. For Easter, we brought back Kirk Dulaney to play the trumpet and help elevate the music even further.





**PROPERTY** *Curt Perry, Krista Judson, Jeanne Crane-Shepherd, Rob Quinn, Joseph Simpson, Bud Bennett, Laura Bennett*

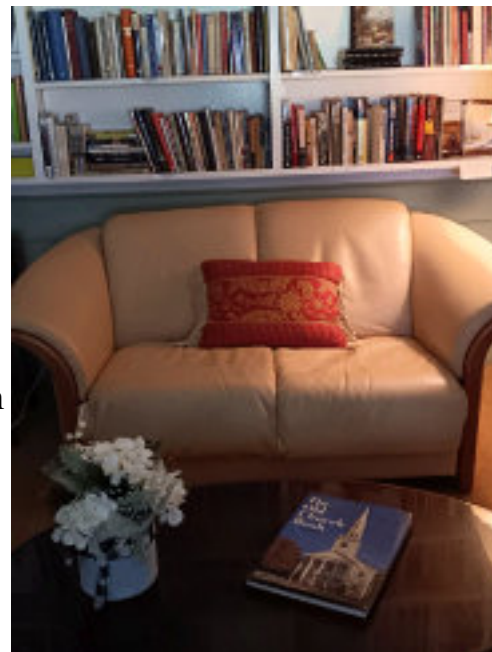
Our regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> covered the following.

- Handicap accessible bathroom project is underway with completion planned for the end of July, 2024. Bennett Sullivan Associates LLC has been chosen, the scope of work is being finalized, special conditions are being considered etc.
- The Parsonage upgrade is currently underway, bathroom floor coverings, vanity, lights. Kent Troy has stepped in to finish project (Thanks).
- Parish on demand hot water unit (electric savings), demo/construction should start soon.
- Parsonage basement drainage improvements underway.
- Received our Parish final fuel allotment for this year and agreed to new allotment for 2024-2025 season.
- Talarico will be servicing our septic systems this month.
- Look for activity in the meditation garden when Troop 1Eagle 607 – Gavin Lynch will take on upgrades and replacement of stairs as a Eagle Project.



# CHURCH LIBRARY *Cathy Somers and Chris Dreton*

- Our Church Library has a beautiful “new” leather loveseat to replace our leak-soaked previous loveseat. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Vickie Rudick for her generous donation to our church. Thank you Cathy, for making the arrangements to receive the loveseat and thank you to Chuck and Carl for the manpower to get our new furniture to the church and then down the stairs to its new home. Of course none of this would have been possible without Joe loaning us his pick-up truck!! Thank you to everybody for their support and efforts. Please stop down to the library to spend some time and enjoy the new addition.



# PUBLIC RELATIONS *Lissa Pine, Francesca Sergi, Gary Tolin, Krista Judson, Judy Grimes, Jeanne Crane-Shepherd*

- Thanks to two very generous donations from two members of our wonderful congregation, we can continue to advertise in the Heritage Village Bulletin. We are the only church that has a presence in this monthly bulletin.

**SBCC CARD MINISTRY** *Marge Mitchell, KathySue Roberts, Chris Dreton, Megan Lukens, Cindy Tolin, Gary Tolin, Barbara Ryner, Judy Pierpont, Sal Graziano*

If you would like us to send a card to someone within the USA please give us their name, address, and the reason for the card, along with your contact information.



To fill out a form use the QR code at the right, or the link below,

<https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/sbcc/forms/29> , or call the church office at 203-264-5890 .



**FLOWER COMMITTEE** *Cathy Crowdis, Linda Long, Cathy Somers*



- Flowers always enhance our services. The sign-up sheet has plenty of open Sundays on it; please consider providing flowers one Sunday. Just let Nancy know what you'd like in the bulletin.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**“It’s a paradox that God’s gifts are totally free and unearned, and yet God does not give them except to people who really want them, choose them and say “yes” to them. This is the fully symbiotic nature of grace. Divine Loving is so pure that it never manipulates, shames or forces itself on anyone. Love waits to be invited and desired, and only then rushes in.”**

**-Richard Rohr**

**Submitted by KathySue**

I always try to learn new things. Maybe not every day, but as often as I can. No harm in trying new things, whether a recipe, taking a road less traveled, or attempting some new-fangled technology. I began attending Bible Study when I first retired and had my days free. I have learned *so much* in those one hour sessions that I encourage anyone who has or has never read the bible to give it a try! Even if you only sit and listen, you will come away with some newfound perspective, knowledge, and ‘ah ha’ moments each week. “An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” (Proverbs 18:15)

Submitted by Cathy Somers

## ***EASTER AT SOUTH BRITAIN***



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SBCC's boards and committees are made up of many diverse members who generously give their time and their talent to the church. Every year prior to the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee looks to fill open positions.**

**As of now, we are seeking a Clerk, a Vice Chair of Trustees and six Deacons. There are also openings on the Board of Faith Formation and the Finance, Stewardship and Nominating committees.**

**Is God calling you to think outside the box and volunteer for something new?**

**Committees welcome long-time church members as well as those who have recently joined. New eyes, new ideas and new enthusiasm are valued and appreciated, and joining a committee is a great way to meet people and feel at home in the church.**

**If you already know where you would like to serve, feel free to let someone on Nominating know. And if Nominating reaches out to you, please consider saying "yes" to giving your time and talent to SBCC. It's so much better when everyone gets involved!**

**Laura Bennett [laemtay1@charter.net](mailto:laemtay1@charter.net)**

**Jean Dunn [jdunn463@hotmail.com](mailto:jdunn463@hotmail.com)**

**Sal Graziano [sjgraz88@gmail.com](mailto:sjgraz88@gmail.com)**



<u>NORMA C</u>	S. FINLEY	Geri D.	JOAN	DICK
JAMES	BOB P.	Erin Mck.	JAMES	JERRY
SUE	LISA	RITA	CARL	LINDSAY H.
JIM	MRS. PERRONI	CARROLL FAMILY	HUGHIE.	KENNY
GLENN				

Prayers for Bridget to have a healthy pregnancy and baby.

Sue's husband, Don, having surgery.

Massicotte Family, Mom-Judy passed away recently.

Baby Liam, born with health issues.

Family of Dawn Bradley, who passed recently.

Prayers for 8-year-old Jackson, suffering from a brain disease & trauma.

Prayers for peace in our country and the world.

Family of Elizabeth Burke, on her passing.

Prayers for Donna, who is in hospice care.

# BULLETIN BOARD



May		
	Geoff Beard	3
	Bud Bennett	3
	Pam Hein	3
	Harriett Harrison	4
	Dennis Mitchell	5
	Jeanne Crane-Shepherd	7
	Kaitlin Sullivan (Sue and Kevin's daughter)	10
	Rebecca Beard	11
	Ann Ferraro	14
	Marge Mitchell	14
	Kathleen Blersch	15
	Jacob Hartman	15
	Mackenzie Hartman	17
	Zachary Hartman	17
	Greg Kuehn	17
	Cheri Fickett	18
	Ricardo Cruz	19
	Ed Naylor	19
	Todd Thompson	24
	Micah Locke	25
	Seth Warner (Rick's son, Maggie's brother)	29
	Mark Mitchell	31

**Please help us to keep the birthday list current by calling the church office and letting Nancy know any corrections or additions that need to be made. (203-264-5890)**

**CALENDAR****EVERY WEEK**

Sundays	Worship, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hour 11 a.m.
Tuesdays	Knit Wits, 10 a.m.-Noon Bible Study, 1 p.m.
Fridays	AA Meeting, 6-9 p.m.

**EVERY MONTH**

1st Sunday	Outreach, 9 a.m.
2nd Sunday	Finance, 9 a.m.
3rd Sunday	Deacons, (following church services)
1st Wednesday	Faith Formation, 5:30 p.m. Stewardship, 7 p.m.
3rd Wednesday	Trustees, 7 p.m.
4th Wednesday	Church Council, 7 p.m.
1st Thursday	Property, 7 p.m.
2nd Thursday	ONA, 10 a.m. Public Relations, 5:30 p.m.

# SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## Spring Fling

May 4th 10-3

**Come and do your Mother's Day shopping and support the  
Church!**

## Spring Fling

**“HEY THAT’S TODAY, GET ON DOWN THERE”**





**We are still looking for volunteers for our Pasta Party on Friday, May 17th**, from 5:00-7 pm. This is a fundraiser for SBCC and we hope to get many residents from the community. Sign up sheets are in the hallway across from the office. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for kids under 10. Please join us for fun, fellowship and food, and bring your family and friends!



**LABONNES' RECEIPTS** - We will continue to collect receipts from LaBonne's Market for their Cash for Charities Program in 2024 . If you shop at any of the LaBonne's markets, save your receipts and drop them off in the box in the Gathering Room . If you have friends and neighbors who also shop at LaBonne's, their receipts are just as good . It's cash for the church! We collected over 1000 receipts in 2022/23, which realized more than \$384 for the church .

-Ken Bolin

National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day is conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers (N.A.L.C.). National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day is observed on the second Saturday of May and takes place on May 11. It is the largest food drive in the country and takes place in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America. One in eight Americans face hunger every day and we want to remind everyone that they can help with this wonderful initiative. The Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive aims to feed the hungry in the U.S., and as always, with your help, we can and we will by putting a non-perishable item(s) in your mailbox, in a bag hanging from your mailbox or drop-off at the post office.



## **MAY 23RD - APPLE FESTIVAL BRAINSTORMING SESSION!**



7:00 PM in the Gathering Room  
Come share your ideas for all things Apple Festival  
New ideas welcome!

# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- The ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation will be held on June 2, 2024 immediately following service.