

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

Dear Friends,

In our busy lives, where distractions abound and the pace of the world seems relentless, finding moments of true connection with each other and the divine can sometimes feel like a distant dream. Yet, within the walls of our church, we are invited into a sacred space where time seems to slow down, and our senses awaken to the presence of the Holy.

At the heart of our worship experience lies the concept of multi-sensory worship—a concept that delves into the depths of our human experience to encounter the divine in profound and transformative ways. Each week, we embark on a journey of spiritual exploration, where each encounter becomes a pathway to a deeper connection with God.

Multi-sensory worship is not merely about aesthetics or creating a visually appealing experience; rather, it is about engaging our whole being—mind, body, and soul—in the act of worship. As we gather in our sacred space, surrounded by the flickering glow of candles, the gentle strains of a variety of



music styles, and the visual liturgical art installations, we are invited to open ourselves fully to the divine presence that surrounds us.

Through the use of all of our senses, worship creates a multi-dimensional experience that speaks to our souls in ways that words alone cannot. Each element of our worship—from the vibrant hues of stained glass windows to the ways the words and music draw us into and through each part of worship—serves as a portal through which we can encounter the mystery of God in our midst.

In the words of ritual artist and seminary professor Marcia McFee, "Worship is not just something we do with our heads; it is something we do with our bodies." Indeed, as we participate in rituals such as communion, baptism, and the laying on of hands, we are reminded that our physical bodies are an integral part of our spiritual journey. Through the act of breaking bread and sharing the cup, we taste and see the

goodness of the Lord, while the touch of water in baptism symbolizes our cleansing and rebirth in Christ.

Moreover, multi-sensory worship invites us to embrace the beauty of diversity within our community. As we incorporate a variety of cultural expressions, musical styles, and artistic forms into our worship, we honor the unique gifts and experiences that each member brings to our faith community. In doing so, we create a space where all are welcome, regardless of background or identity, to fully participate in the worship of our Creator.

Ultimately, worship is a journey of transformation—a journey that invites us to encounter the sacred in the ordinary moments of life. As we open ourselves to the beauty and wonder of God's creation, we are transformed from the inside out, becoming more fully alive to the presence of God in our midst.

May our worship be a testament to the richness of God's love and grace, and may each encounter draw us ever closer to the heart of the divine.

Faithfully,

Pastor Jeff



SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Daytime Bible Study:

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room.

Our next topic for Bible Study will be the **Gospel of John**, which comes up quite often in the texts for the Easter Season. Here are the reading assignments for each Tuesday:

April 9: John 1 & 2

April 16: John 3 & 4

April 23: John 5 & 6

April 30: John 7 & 8

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*

All of the Easter Services went well including

- Children handing out Palms
- Emily O'Meara as Lay Reader & Maundy Thursday Service reader.
- Maundy Thursday Service with Soups, Salad, Bread, & Dessert before the service
- Sunrise Service @ 8:00am



- Continental breakfast
- Easter Worship @ 10:00am

Updates

- Carl gave update on organ. Part has left Holland. Jennie noticed that there is another problem . Seems tube note has failed.
- AED defibrillator Head deacon must bring it over to church then back to gathering after service.



POEM BY RUMI

ONLY BREATH

Not Christian or Jew or Muslim, not Hindu,

Buddhist, sufi, or zen. Not any religion

or cultural system. I am not from the East or the West, not out of the ocean or up from the ground, not natural or ethereal, not composed of elements at all. I do not exist, am not an entity in this world or in the next, did not descend from Adam and Eve or any origin story. My place is placeless, a trace of the traceless. Neither body or soul. I belong to the beloved, have seen the two worlds as one and that one call to and know, first, last, outer, inner, only that breath breathing human being.

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

Pop-Up Shop

Come visit the Pop-Up Shop in the Gathering Room from Sunday, April 7th- Sunday, April 14th. We have a wide selection of sizes and styles for women and men along with shoes, accessories, and purses. Most items are \$4 and we take cash only. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors as we want this to be a successful community event.



LOW PRICES **CASH ONLY**

**POP-UP
SHOP**

**Gently-used women's and men's
CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**

MON, APRIL 8 - SAT, APRIL 13
10 AM - 2 PM

ALL proceeds go to community outreach programs!

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
693 South Britain Rd | Southbury, CT 06488
(203) 264-5890



Sandwich Brigade

We still need a few more sandwich makers for the brigade on the 21st. The supplies will be ready after noon on April 16th. This will be our last until September. Please email Jodi at jamsouth@aol.com if you can help this month.



HomeFront

We are pleased to announce that the Outreach Offering for April is specifically dedicated to supporting **HomeFront Day**, which will be taking place on May 4th in Southbury. As you may already know, HomeFront is a reputable volunteer organization that selects a local home each year that is in dire need of renovations, repairs, and yard work. Our donations will help to purchase the necessary supplies for the project to be a huge success.

We encourage you to get involved in this meaningful initiative. Whether you're a skilled craftsman or simply enjoy lending a helping hand, your contribution will make a difference. They aim to complete the project in just one day, which means that they desperately need all the help they can get. So, please reach out to homefrontsofia@gmail.com to learn more about how you can volunteer and help make a positive difference in our community.



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

Sunday School

The kids enjoyed making PB and Jam sandwiches for the March Brigade. We had a good discussion about food insecurity and how it even occurs in our own town. We loaded up the Little Free Pantry and will make that a practice every Sunday school class.

Helping Hands

On April 21st and 28th there will be Sunday school class to enjoy more community-based activities. We will be making PB&J sandwiches along with baking a small dessert for GWIM in Waterbury.

Also on the 21st: “A short bible lesson on growing and feeding many people lacking food and more”. The children will help in planting flowers outside at the Parish Hall.



The Garden



The 28th we will be preparing to start our SBCC vegetable garden at Settlers Park. Last year we had beautiful tomatoes, some squash and different colored peppers to name a few. All ripe veggies are donated to the Southbury Food Bank and handed out to our food pantry. The starting date is by the last week of this month or the 1st weekend of May. Stay turned for what and who will be needed to help with planting, watering, and weeding. Krista will be getting our plot #16 in the next two weeks.

Blessing from all of us at Faith Formation

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

Scholarship Applications will be available on [SBCC's website home page](#), and hard copies in the church office and the Gathering Room, beginning Sunday, March 3, 2024. **Applications are due in the church office by Sunday, April 7, 2024.** Awards will be presented in church on Sunday, May 12, 2024. THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



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

From our Property Meeting

Water Damage

Knit Wits have someone donating a love seat for the library downstairs to replace current from damage caused by leak of upstairs dishwasher. Cathy Somers and Chris Dreton are donating the cost to have love seat delivered and have the old one removed and disposed.

Mitchell Fund - Approved for the 4 Projects planned for 2024/2025.

- Parsonage bathroom remodel/upgrade
- Parsonage drainage improvements
- Parish House Water Heater replacement
- Parish ADA Bathroom Renovation

Thanks go out for the help

- Bud and June spruced up the Memorial Garden before the sunrise service.
- Rob, Carl, Joe and Curt were able to get rid of the tree trunk that fell.

Maintenance

- Normal scheduling, septic pumping for the Parish House and Parsonage.
- Curt was able to fix the toilet in the Ladies Room at the Parish House.
- Heat pumps will be changed over in the next week or two depending on the weather.
- Joe will check the plug in the Gathering Room that has tape on it to see if it is good or if there is a problem with it.
- Reviewing contract with cleaning company to ensure requirements are met.

- Cathy Somers will be looking into contacting an exterminator to address ladybug issues.
- Additional lights will be added on the Parsonage barn to improve visibility
- Krista is working hard to ensure use of Facilities
- Eagle Project – Troop 1607 – Gavin Lynch

Looking to do a project in the Prayer Garden and looking for ideas on what needs to be done. Ideas so far are - new steps and railings, possibly redoing the Book Box on the food pantry or putting a new one in the Prayer Garden, solar lighting.

- Tag Sale/Barn Sale at the Parsonage (Possible 4/20) – Carl and Jeff will be looking for volunteers to help out.
- Storage ideas for the backroom in the Gathering Room – looking for ideas on better storage solutions and getting all the tables in the back room. Possibly put stuff besides the tables and chairs downstairs since we have the space downstairs.
- Church Sign on the corner of RT172 and Main Street – Joe will be putting the sign back together. Curt had the sign in front of the church welded and fixed after the most recent windstorm.

CHURCH LIBRARY *Cathy Somers and Chris Dreton*

Unfortunately our little library was the victim of a water leak several weeks ago, which means we'll be doing some cosmetic repairs in the next few weeks. But, the good news is that we're open for business (and small meetings). I'd like to thank our Property Committee for their quick response and help in containing any damage. Also, thank you Cathy Somers for finding us a new sofa!

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

Busy Busy Busy

- *Ping Pong event was well attended with 40 people!*
- *Thank you letter to the editor for Pancake Supper Mar 6*
- *Graphic design work completed*
 - *Large white board laminate check for press release photos*
 - *Easter ads placed in Voices Mar 20 and Mar 27*
 - *Easter coroplast sign for display*
 - *Heritage Village monthly ad*
 - *Stewardship pledge card and response sheet*
 - *Flyer for Pop-Up Clothing event*
 - *Pew insert cards updated*
 - *Save the Date card for the Apple Festival*
- *Upcoming Activities*
 - *Viewing of UP movie April 14 at Fellowship hour*
 - *Pop Up Clothing shop 4/7- 4/14*
 - *Spring Fling May 4*
 - *Ziti Dinner May 17*
 - *South Britain's Got Talent or NOT! June 29*
 - *Apple Festival Sept 28*

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter flowers that graced our altar this year. That beautiful collection of colorful Spring flowers that spoke of rebirth and renewal so eloquently!

MEMORIAL GARDEN *Lainie Jedlinsky, Krista Judson, Bud Bennett, Ralph Kubista & Sharon Stiles and John Shepard.*

Our Memorial Garden and Wall are being added to again. Think about your plans for the future and consider this “forever” tribute to your loved ones and for yourselves. Visit the Garden at the rear of the parking lot, sit a spell and reflect.

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 .



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CHURCH DIRECTORY

A NEW SBCC directory! Yes, we have heard you. We will be creating a fresh new directory of members and friends of the South Britain Congregational Church using our One Church software program. We are inviting all our members and friends to join us as we refresh our member information and photos in One Church. We can then compile a new directory in a variety of formats, electronic and print.

Photo and update sessions are scheduled for Sundays in April and by appointment. Wear your finery or come as you are. We look forward to seeing all of you.

Project Leaders: Carl Dunn and Laurie Hornbecker

ONE CHURCH HELP DESK

Want to learn how to log in to your One Church Portal?

Need to print your 2023 annual giving statement?

You have made your 2024-25 "Because of Us" annual pledge and now want to set up an automated giving schedule? You will need to bring along a check with your Bank's routing number and your account number.

I can help. Stop by to see me during Fellowship Hour any Sunday in April.

Laurie Hornbecker

Dear sweet, caring, thoughtful church family

Don and I want to thank you for the care and concern for, but also correct the record on, his shoulder surgery. Due to an insurance company snafu (how surprising, no!!? grrrr...) a mere 48 hours prior, and the ensuing cliff hanger trying to resolve it, Don's surgery was ultimately postponed for a month, to April 25.

We only made the final decision at 2pm the day before, which was after the bulletin had "gone to press." But fear not, your prayers and positive energies will (I hope!) encourage him to be more committed to the gym, to strengthen the area in preparation for the April operation.

We are humbled to have Don included in your prayers, and are honored to be even a minor part of this beautiful family!

Much love, and see you soon,

Sue and Don Torrey



GERI D.	WILLIAM & FAMILY	Francesca's brother, Bob	SUE	DICK
JAMES	BOB P.	Carl, Laurie's brother	NORMA C.	LISA
JERRY	JAMES	ISABELLA	KENNY	RITA
BOB B.	FRAN	WALTER	ARLENE L.	JUDITH M

- 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.

BULLETIN BOARD



April	Deb Morehouse	1
	Emily Hein	12
	Faye DeForest	13
	Christopher Lewis	14
	Allison Mitchell	16
	Ralph Kubista	17
	Audrey Sharpe	18
	Dean Moll	19
	Eileen Major	20
	Christopher Potz	20
	Christine Dreton	22
	Dennis Jedlinsky	22
	Andrew Beard	24
	Sal Graziano	24
	Luke Naylor	24
	Emmett Mitchell	26
	Marti Swift	29
	Ann Lowell	30
	Cathy Schade	30

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.

UpComing Events



Friday, May 17th, from 5:30-7pm, we will be holding a Ziti Dinner fundraiser for SBCC . This will be open to the public. Watch for more details to follow. Volunteer sign up sheets will be posted soon.

