



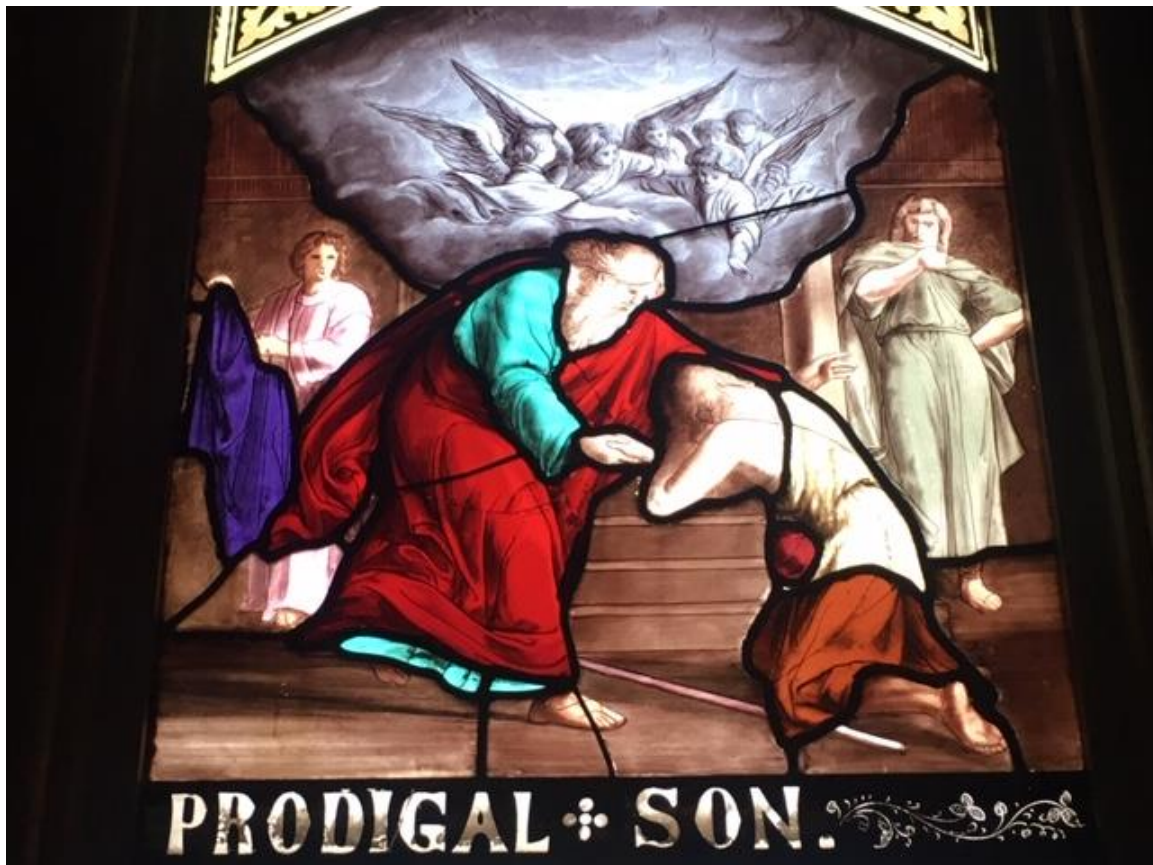
Crossroads

*News from South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

*45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 732-0117 www.sococh.org*

*We are an inclusive community of faith; courageously following Christ;
serving our neighbors in love.*

March 2019



We begin our observance of Lent starting on Ash Wednesday, March 6, with a service of imposition of ashes at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel. Like the Prodigal Son, we seek to return to our home in God. The picture shown above is a detail from the stained glass windows in our Great Space.

From the Moderator

Welcome, Reverend Peter!

I cannot tell you how pleased I am that Reverend Peter Wells has accepted our invitation to join us as a Bridge Pastor until we have a new Designated Term minister in place. Peter's career as a settled Minister spans a number of churches, two Bridge Pastors roles and 11 years as the Associate Conference Minister for the Central Association of the UCC.

Lent begins next Wednesday, March 6th!

Plans are underway for an Ash Wednesday service next week followed by a Lenten Series during the weeks preceding Easter that Reverend Peter will lead. See next page for more details!

Let's talk Membership Team! Meeting planned for Sunday March 10th following service!

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
Hebrews 13:12

I think an angel came to church last week. In fact, could be two. Did you notice? Two new visitors – a man and a woman, in their late twenties, came for service and stayed for coffee hour and our wonderful open house.

Not sitting in the choir area has its benefits – I'm grateful for the "off week" Larry gives us. Because I was sitting in the pews and passed the peace with these two visitors, I was also able to invite/nudge/encourage them to come upstairs. Along the way to the Great Space, I learned that he was on a "journey" to find a faith home where he felt safe and welcomed. He teared up sharing his story with me – clearly one of rejection and pain. His friend was there to support him as, I learned, she had been doing for many years. They joined us for a few sweet treats, talked to several people and learned about the rooms on the second floor. They both seemed to enjoy the company and by the end of their stay, *he was smiling*, appearing much more comfortable than when he arrived.

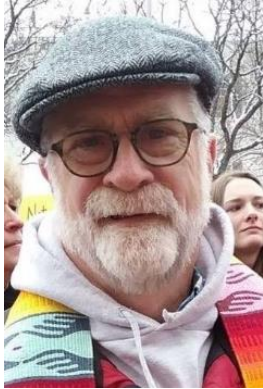
Angels? Maybe. New friends, for sure! Soon-to-be new members? We'll see. I didn't want to ask for their contact information too soon...I didn't want to be too "pushy". I can only pray that our extravagant welcome will bring them back next Sunday and the next, etc. Should you see them during service, please say "hello", and invite them back to coffee hour to get to know them a bit more. I'll be in the choir keeping my eye out for them and other new visitors. The choir loft is a great vantage point.

There could have been more visitors – I was focused on them and hopefully not in a creepy way! South Church is really good at welcoming and I've learned how to welcome others better because of YOU! Let's get together to talk about how a Membership Team could advance our efforts to make way for visitors to South. I doubt we will struggle to come up with a lot of ideas.



Leadership Circle will be hosting a 45 minute "brain storm to action plan" session on Sunday, March 10th after service. Please stay and be part of the conversation!

- ***Kimberly Figueroa***



Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to spending time with you as your Bridge Pastor. South is an exciting congregation. I am grateful for to be offered this opportunity to be a part of your vital and important ministry.

Don't hesitate to contact me should have any concerns or questions or simply want to say hi. I can be reached at 413 244 6079 or peterwells730@gmail.com.

Shalom - *Peter*

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE (All services except Ash Wednesday are at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary)

March 3 (Communion)	Rev. Peter Wells
March 6 at 5:30 p.m. (Ash Wednesday)	Rev. Peter Wells
March 10 (Lent 1)	Rev. Peter Wells
March 17 (Lent 2)	Rev. Peter Wells
March 24 (Lent 3)	Rev. Peter Wells
March 31 (Lent 4)	Rev. Peter Wells

“Take nothing with you for your journey: no staff, no bag, no bread or money, not even an extra tunic.” (Luke 9:3)

**A Lenten Dinner and Study
5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 13, 20, 27, & April 3**

Friends we hope you can join us for a Wednesday evening Lenten gathering. The program will begin on March 13 and end on April 10. We will start with a simple meal at 5:30 followed by a brief Lenten study. We promise to finish no later than 7:00. We will use the UCC Lenten devotional “Take Nothing with You.” Copies will be available.

As noted in the promotion for the guide, when we enter the spiritual journey of Lent, we often take things with us: our past experiences, our interpretations of Scripture, our questions about the world, our struggles in faith. What does an unencumbered journey look like? Let’s find out together.

Please Pray For... Peter Nelson, Renee Silva, Thomas Wright, Pastor Clemmons, Anthony Wysocki, Karen Buske, Sue Wood, Jan Zeigler, Ginny McCray, Don Russell, Roland Fenton, Bert Montagna, Deborah Price, Dan Myers, Irene Rappa, Bob Dowd, Jeff Weed, Dot Strebel, Stella Boulware, Shirley McCready, Beryl Kress, Ginny Robbins, John Burris, Marybeth Marlow, Jan McDonald and her friend, Cathy Wesson, Rev. Bart and Valerie Cochran.

Director of Music

I've been telling you for the past two months about a joint downtown concert coming up in March, and, well, it's March! In case you missed the previous notices, the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be sponsoring a concert presented by St. Michael's Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral and South Congregational Church. The choirs of all three churches will join forces to present Cantata 182 by Johann Sebastian Bach as well as his well-known chorale "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." Additionally, the music directors of all three churches will play organ solos. The vocal soloists will include Tabor Fisher and George Eisenhauer, both of the South Church choir, as well as Tabor's wife, Rachael Fisher. The event will happen on the afternoon of Sunday, March 24, at 4 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut Street. There will be no admission charge, although a free-will offering will likely be taken.

Kantate Nr. 182
am Palmsonntage
„Himmelskönig, sei willkommen!“

Concerto
Joh. Seb. Bach (BWV 182)

Sonata
Grave. Adagio (d. m.)

Pianoforte



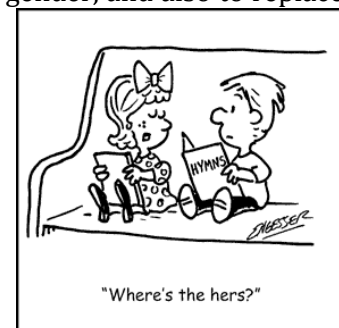
My hymn series appears to be as difficult to schedule in spite of its popularity. Two of the February sessions had to be cancelled because of church meetings after worship, so I'm thinking about a once-a-month schedule going forward. That said, plan on March 17 after church for the next session. We'll finish looking at African-American spirituals that appear in our New Century Hymnal and, if there's time, we'll sing the hymns of Irish origin in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Then on April 28 we'll dig a little into the revisions that were made to some of our best-known hymns in the New Century Hymnal. Many of you who remember the older Pilgrim Hymnal were likely dismayed by the changes in lyrics to some beloved hymns (and probably still are). For example, many of you long-time Congregationalists will remember the hymn, "Fairest Lord Jesus." In the New Century Hymnal this hymn appears as "Beautiful Jesus." Here is a comparison of the two texts:

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Jesus, head of all creation.
God and the blessed Mary's child.
I want to love you, praise and adore you,
Joy of my soul so long desired.

The changes made from the first version to the second (both translations from the original German) are to make the hymn more inclusive, particularly in regard to race and gender, and also to replace archaic language, such as the words thee and thou. Unfortunately, as a result, the poetry sounds much weaker in the newer version. Some would argue that we can sing the word "fairest" without implying that Jesus was light-skinned, or that when we say "man" we mean "humankind." That makes a lot of assumptions about what 21st century churchgoers understand, especially young people and those who did not have a church experience earlier in life. So, we'll take a look at some hymns and discuss the changes while gaining clarification from the [New Century Hymnal Companion](#).



- Larry



Jill Hartnett is honored: The Cedars banquet hall was the venue for the annual Micah Awards dinner, presented by the Pioneer Valley Project to honor individuals for service to the community. This year's recipient from South Church was Jill Hartnett, shown receiving her award. Over a dozen South Church members and friends attended the event.



South Church Family Fun Night: Saturday, Mar. 9, at 5:30 p.m.
 We will meet in the Great Space to share a meal and then proceed to the Mass Mutual Center to see the Springfield Thunderbirds vs. Hartford. Donation is \$5.00 for adults, no cost to our youth. **You must sign up on the ticket reservation sheet in the parish hall.** Any questions, please call Jeanne O'Brien at 413-209-1746. (Limited tickets available) **It will be Pink in the Rink Night, honoring cancer survivors, so wear pink if you like!**



Happy March Birthday!



- 1 Ashanta Smith
- 2 Beverly Lynch
- 5 Oboya Omot
- 10 Nancy Montagna

- 11 Jan McDonald
- 17 Stella Boulware
- 23 Charles Bowerman
- 23 Joycelyn Rennix

- 24 Peter Paul
- 29 Polly Southworth
- 30 Josephine Smith
- 31 Renee Silva



The north vestibule was recently redecorated by Elaine Lentino, Dawn Fitzgerald and Ellen Gallagher. If you don't normally enter the church that way, take a look the next time you're here and admire the great work they did. A close-up of the poster to the right of the table is shown below.



Accessibility celebrated! A special coffee hour was held after church on Sunday, February 24, in the second floor Great Space. The second floor is now available to everyone thanks to the recent installation of the elevator. Tours of the second floor offices and meeting rooms were given during the coffee hour.

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	4 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous* (PH) 7:00 PM Leadership (GR)	5 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	6 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) 5:30 PM Ash Wed. Svc (CH)	7 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	8 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K)(PH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	9 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:30 PM Family Fun Night (GS)
10 Lent 1 (Daylight Savings Begins) 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM Membership Mtg. (GR) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH) 5:00 PM PVP* (GR)	11 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	12 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	13 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM NO STEP* 5:30 PM Lenten dinner & program	14 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	15 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	16 Mass Conference Super Saturday (Wilbraham) 7:00 AM U-Mass Students* (GS) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
17 Lent 2 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM Hymn Study Series (SA) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	18 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	19 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	20 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) 5:30 PM Lenten dinner & program	21 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	22 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	23 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
24 Lent 3/ 31 Lent 4 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	25 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (GR)	26 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K)(PH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	27 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) 5:30 PM Lenten dinner & program 7:30 PM Choir (SA)	28 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	29 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	30 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)

**SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Jacqueline Fredenburgh

Cynthia Lage

Jared Spencer

Polly Southworth

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music Ministries

Office Manager

Bookkeeper

Custodian

Sunday School Superintendent

Crossroads is the newsletter of South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Stories and items of Church interest are welcome and are due by the 20th of the month for the next month's issue. Submissions should be sent to Larry Picard at lpicard@sococh.org or by post to his attention at the church address.

South Congregational Church UCC www.sococh.org

A Jesus-centered, Open & Affirming Community

