



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.*

September 2019



No river can return to its source, yet all rivers must have a beginning.

– Native American Proverb

South Church faces decisions about its spiritual leadership, its financial responsibilities and its property. As we gather for a time of discernment on September 8, we acknowledge our past and look for God's will in our future.

From the Moderator

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - Romans 12:2



Mark your calendars for September 8.

We will be in community for a service, a simple lunch and a 2-hour discernment meeting.

All is being made ready.

We started this journey back in July, when we decided to move forward with a discernment process and a budget review followed by budget recommendations reflecting what God reveals regarding the future. Remember? This was “option 4” which combined the best of all of your suggestions.

All is being made ready.

We are blessed to have Rev. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor, a seasoned preacher and group facilitator, to walk with us on this path. Her gifts will guide us in discerning God’s direction and in being together in Christ as we commit to listening, sharing and forming next steps in our journey as a faith community.

All is being made ready.

Our beloved sister Nancy is gathering ingredients for a simple meal we will share between service and the afternoon’s activities. Volunteers are waiting to serve!

All is being made ready.

This is the work of God. We’ve decided and committed to this day. Our plans support the moving of the spirit. Love of South Congregational Church and of each other join us in this holy work. It is the right time and place for us to gather.

Love is the reason behind what is taking place at South. As we deepen our connection to each other through this process, we fortify our confidence in following God’s call. I’m really excited!

This is not an “optional” activity for any one of us. While I cannot require your attendance and participation, I can pray you are compelled enough to make the time. Sure, it’s a bit of a disruption in a typical Sunday afternoon - I’ll miss my chores of meal prep, ironing, and housework. But, I’ll gladly give it up for God’s work and the Kingdom building that is ahead!

All is being made ready! Hallelujah!!

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE (All services are at 10 a.m.)

September 1 (Communion)	Rev. Louis Mitchell
September 8 (Discernment session after worship)	Beverly Prestwood-Taylor
September 15	Rev. Lindsey Peterson
September 22 (Return to the sanctuary)	Rev. Louis Mitchell
September 29	Rev. Lindsey Peterson

Please Pray For... Elaine Lentino, Paul Hills, Rev. Louis Mitchell, Kelleen Weed, Bob Dowd, Jeff Johnson, Jane Closson, Rubin Reyes, Bob Stack, Beverly Lynch, Silvio Vasquez and his family in Venezuela, Peter Nelson, Renee Silva, Thomas Wright, Pastor Clemmons, Anthony Wysocki, Karen Buske, Sue Wood, Ginny McCray, Don Russell, Roland Fenton, Bert Montagna, Deborah Price, Dan Myers, Irene Rappa, Dot Strelbel, Stella Boulware, Shirley McCready, Beryl Kress, Ginny Robbins, John Burris, Jan McDonald, Steven Hodgen, Joanne Joyce, Rev. Bart and Valerie Cochran.

Benevolence Team

Would you like to be involved in deciding which agencies in our community should receive support from our church mission/grant money? If so, please come to the first Benevolence Team meeting on Sunday, September 8 immediately after the church service in the Guild Room. We will meet again in November and February after the church service. It's a small commitment to benefit our local agencies who do so much for our community. All members and friends of South Church are welcome. Please contact Nancy Montagna if you have any questions.

Happy September Birthday!



2 Kelleen Weed
4 Jayme Hannay
7 David Bowerman
7 Donna Dunn
7 James Hutchinson
13 William Conley

13 Janice Hills
22 Maryann Scussel
25 Karen Buske
30 Timothy Scussel
30 May Arvin

Director of Music

September! Talk about a month for new beginnings. The day after Labor Day has it over New Year's Day hands down. Kids starting new grades in school, graduates starting new jobs, people thinking about the fall and holiday seasons in general...oh, sorry, this is supposed to be a music article. Well then, concert and theater venues promoting their new seasons, students starting or resuming music lessons, church choirs and ensembles meeting again – it's pretty exciting, isn't it? Here at South we mark the fall season by returning to the sanctuary for worship, complete with 50-rank organ and choir. We also look forward to special events, which, in the past have included the Halloween Concert, the December noon series and other one-time events like the three-choir Bach concert we had last spring.

So, the good news is that we will return to the sanctuary and listen to the magnificent organ and the talented choir, and in all likelihood, we will also feature noon concerts again in December. The Halloween Concert, however, is taking a hiatus for this year. Our foundation and parking lot excavation project is due to begin soon, and there is a long list of variables that prevent us from knowing whether parking will be possible for a large concert crowd around the end of October. I had an opportunity to speak directly to the owner of Kelly Construction, our contractor, and as helpful and pleasant as he always is, he couldn't predict whether or not much of the parking lot might be unavailable during the last weekend of October.



So, the Halloween Concert will return in October of 2020. Meanwhile, look for a special spring event to celebrate our gleaming new parking lot and foundation. Maybe a cabaret involving our fiercely talented singers and instrumentalists?

Meanwhile, hymn enthusiasts should mark Sunday, September 29 on their calendars for the return of our hymn sessions. This series of "classes" seems to have gained enough popularity that I'm going to give it an unofficial name: "Sing Me to Heaven - the Hymns We Love and the Hymns We Didn't Know We Could Love." For short, it will just be the "Sing Me to Heaven Hymn Series." Last spring, we were investigating hymns that were modified considerably in the New Century Hymnal. We will consider such hymns again at a future date, but for this next session I'm going to take advantage of the festival that is actually observed on September 29, especially in the Roman Catholic Church: The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. This one will be a little more than just singing through hymns featuring angels because I have a lot to share with you, having already done presentations about angels in music during my long career as a church musician. The foundation for this presentation will be the hymn "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones." We'll take it from there. I hope to see you there. I promise that if you haven't attended one of these sessions thus far, you won't be disappointed by this one. - *Larry*



A Birthday Celebration...



South Church joined other friends of our beloved Dorothy Strebel for a 99th birthday celebration on Saturday, August 17, at Wingate East Longmeadow.

...and a time of transition.



We are grateful to our guest preachers during our period of transition to new pastoral leadership, including our own Rev. Louis Mitchell, Rev. Lindsey Peterson and Rev. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor.

Dear Friends and Members of South Church,

STEP (Suzuki Talented Educational Partnership) wants to thank you all for another great year at South Church. From weekly STEP classes in the Music Lounge to our concerts and master classes in the Guild Room and sanctuary, we are so blessed to have use of these spaces and the wonderful pianos in them. We are also very blessed to have all the help we receive from Jackie, Larry and Jared during the year. Thank you all so much for sharing your space with STEP and supporting our mission to make our high-quality, family-centered music program accessible to families in the Greater Springfield area!

We want to thank all of you who bought tickets or made donations to our May benefit concert. We had a great audience, the concert went well, and we all enjoyed the great food afterwards. We made a little more than last year – around \$1600 – despite having fewer families in STEP. This, plus donations and the grant from the Benevolence Team helped raise our scholarship fund to almost \$3000. We really needed this boost, because STEP had requests for more funds than ever last year; our fund ended with a negative balance because STEP never turns away a family who is willing to make the commitment to study music through our program.

Thank you all, and our prayers are with all of you as you continue to discern God's call here at the corner of Maple & High St. and beyond.

Faithfully,

Lani Bortfeld, Director



September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Sunday School (PH)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (PH) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	2 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous* (PH)	3 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	4 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS)	5 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)	6 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	7 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
8 10:00 AM Sunday School (PH)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (PH) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:15 AM Benevolence Meeting (GR) 12:00 PM Discernment Meeting (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	9 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:00 PM PVP* (ML)(APT)	10 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	11 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS)	12 10:30 AM AIC Screenings* (Nursery) 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:00 PM Bewsee Memorial* (SA) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	13 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	14 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
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22/29 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM Hymn Series (SA) (9/29) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	23/30 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (GR) 9/30	24 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	25 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS)	26 10:30 AM AIC Screenings* (Nursery) 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)	27 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	28 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)

**SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
45 MAPLE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105**

Larry Picard

Director of Music Ministries

Jacqueline Fredenburgh

Office Manager

Cynthia Lage

Bookkeeper

Jared Spencer

Custodian

Polly Southworth

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

