



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.*

November 2019



From the Moderator

Building from the Inside-Out

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”

- **Hebrews 4:12**

What has your time spent with the word of God in prayer revealed to you about South Church? Where have you felt the Spirit active in your meditations? What prayers, ideas and thoughts will you bring to our next Discernment Session?

Please mark your calendars. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor returns to South Church on **Sunday, November 10** to preach and guide us in another opportunity to pray, listen, share and envision something new for South Church.

In our first discernment session, we learned *how* to discern. To use a set of actions and ways of communicating that allow us to listen and prayerfully respond to the movement of Spirit. We shared hopes and dreams for the future of South Church. And, we left that afternoon feeling hopeful. At least I did!

Since that September afternoon, we’ve continued to discern and listen for God’s voice. We made a difficult decision about the funding for the parking lot. As I write, the “joints and marrow” of our beloved building are undergoing transformation. Soon, a stronger foundation, an accessible entrance and new front steps and a smooth surface for our vehicles will emerge from the rubble outside. Sure, it’s messy. Of course, it costs more than we’d like. And despite this, we said YES because we believe a transformation is also happening inside, in our spirits and in our vision of what South will be in the near and distant future.



4 HOPES came from our first session:

1. **RESOURCES:** *We want to work together to find creative ways to develop more resources to support our ministries.*
2. **OUTREACH:** *We want to reach out in meaningful, Christ-centered ways to our neighbors and others who need our support, both near and far. We believe that vital outreach will also grow our church.*
3. **SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY:** *We want to grow the Spirit of God in us and in our corporate community (this means as the faith family of South), which will bring us together and help us reach others.*
4. **MUSIC:** *We want to continue to be inspired by the music of the church, and to use it to reach out to the community.*

Join me in taking the next step on **Sunday, November 10 following the worship service**. Beverly will “coach” us through deciding which of these **4 HOPES** we will “discern” on. We will work together through the process, using the actions she taught us in September as a way to instill the confidence that we may continue this work *without* her.

Until then, pray daily for South. Pray the “Weekly Prayer for South.” (Prayer from October 27 below) Listen to what you hear. Gather these words from the Spirit. And bring your “*thoughts and intentions of the heart*” to this day. These are the “joints and marrow” of South, the materials God will work with to lead us in building, from the inside-out.

- **Kimberly Figueroa**

Dear Holy Spirit, the body of Christ that is here in South Church joins in communal prayer during this period of transition. We pray for our faithful brothers and sisters who live in your spirit and bring their talents and gifts to our community. We pray for our leaders and for those on the Search committee working to hear your call for a designated term pastor. We bless our staff that keeps us knit together and for their steadfast service. Our church is more than a building, Lord. We are a group that lifts one another up, and I ask that you give us the heart to continue in that way. Lord, I ask you to bless us with the desire to do more for the world around us and for one another. I ask that those in need are identified by the church and are given a [helping hand](#). I ask that we reach out to the community where you see fit to help. Bless us with powers of discernment as we work to focus our mission and bravely brighten South as a Beacon of Hope for the community. We ask that you bless us with the resources to fulfill your mission for our church. We ask that you give us the ability to be great [stewards](#) over those resources and that you guide our hand in using them. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

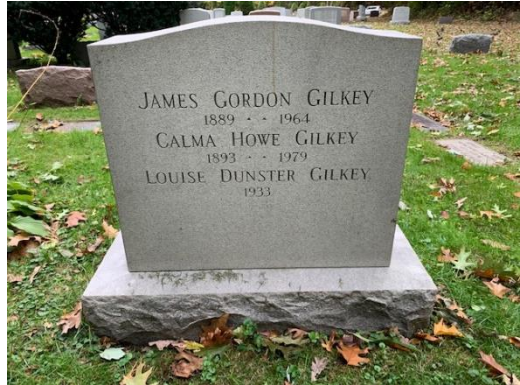
NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE (All services are at 10 a.m.)

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| November 3 (Communion) | Rev. Louis Mitchell |
| November 10 | Beverly Prestwood-Taylor |
| November 17 | Rev. Lindsey Peterson |
| November 24 (Thanksgiving Sunday) | Rev. Louis Mitchell |

Please Pray For...Mike Wright, 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, Pastor Clemmons, Anthony Wysocki, Karen Buske, Sue Wood, Ginny McCray, Don Russell, Roland Fenton, Bert Montagna, Deborah Price, Dan Myers, Irene Rappa, Dot Strebel, Stella Boulware, Shirley McCready, Beryl Kress, Ginny Robbins, John Burris, Joanne Joyce, Sue Fay, Carter Pharo, Rev. Bart, Valerie Cochran, Migdalia Vasquez and Jose Medina.

Director of Music

As many of you are reading this, Halloween just passed us by a few days ago, so I thought I would share a mildly spooky coincidence. Two weeks ago, on Jazz Sunday, I was charged with delivering the sermon, and those of you who were there will remember that I based it on a sermon done 100 years ago by the Rev. Dr. James Gordon Gilkey in the South Church pulpit. As it happened, my sister Kathie and I had tickets to the Springfield Preservation Trust annual Cemetery Tour, which this year was held at Springfield cemetery. If you haven't experienced this event yet it is well worth it. Actors in period costume stand by the grave of the person they are portraying and tell about their life. Well, as we stood listening at the second grave I happened to look over and there it was, about twenty feet away: the grave of Dr. Gilkey! Fortunately, he seemed to rest in peace in spite of whatever I may have said about him that morning.



So, with the time of spookiness behind us (despite the absence of the Halloween concert this year) we look forward to the Holiday season. As promised, the Wednesday noon concerts will happen in December even if we have only half a parking lot. Here is the lineup:

- **December 4:** I will be playing my annual recital of holiday works for organ and piano, and maybe I'll throw in another handbell solo. I always aim to astonish and delight.
- **December 11:** Our choir basses, Carey Lape and Tabor Fisher, will sing solos and duets, and I will even join them for a few a cappella trios (think The Three Tenors). They can make quite a powerful sound, so don't sit too close.
- **December 18:** I really like this one, which features our own Jayne Newirth and George David. It will feature a few entertaining holiday readings by Jayne as well as two or three songs sung by her (unless we can cajole her to sing more) and as many sax solos by George.



Sound like fun? Join us on these three Wednesdays at noon in the sanctuary. **Meanwhile, take note:** as of this writing, the annual Tuba Christmas event will happen here at South on December 7 at 2 p.m. That said, we are keeping an eye on the parking lot reconstruction. If it appears the work will not be done in time, the concert may be relocated. More as it happens!

Meanwhile, the hymn series will continue on November 17. I'm still mulling over a few ideas about a theme but I'm sure Thanksgiving and Advent will play into it somehow. Stay tuned for a date for the Christmas hymn session, although it may have to wait until after the New Year, depending on what's happening.

Happy Thanksgiving! - *Larry*

Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration!

Don't forget to make a special effort to come to South Church on Sunday morning, November 24, when we will have our annual joint Thanksgiving worship service with Little Rock Chapel, and a full Thanksgiving meal after worship in the Parish Hall. Sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall so we know how many to expect.



The Benevolence Team will meet Sunday, November 17, after worship in the Guild Room.

Set your clocks back one hour Saturday, November 2, before you go to bed.

Sue Wood wishes to thank everyone for all of their prayers. They work! She will be moving into an apartment in Hampden at the end of November. She thanks you all, so much!

Happy November Birthday!



- 6 Dawn Fitzgerald
- 8 Bob McCarroll
- 10 Beryl Kress
- 10 Carolyn Sengle
- 11 David Buske
- 11 Frederick Evans
- 12 Jeanne O'Brien
- 14 Patricia Braithwaite
- 14 John Burris
- 15 Daniel Bourdeau

Some Thanksgiving Quotes

“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”– **Oprah Winfrey**

“Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.”– **Henry Ward Beecher**

“Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.”– **Theodore Roosevelt**

“Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will.”– **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

“Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”– **Charles Dickens**

“When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup.”– **Sam Lefkowitz**

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”– **John Fitzgerald Kennedy**

“No one has ever become poor by giving.” – **Anne Frank**



November 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| 3 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) | 5 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) | 6 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) | 7 10:30 AM AIC Screenings* (N) 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) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) | 9 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) |
| 10 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM Discernment Meeting (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH) | 11 Veteran's Day – Office Closed 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) | 12 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) | 13 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) | 14 10:30 AM AIC Screenings* (N) 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 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) | 16 Memorial Service (SA) (Time TBD) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) |
| 17 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:15 AM Benevolence (GR) 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 Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) | 20 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal (SA) | 21 10:30 AM AIC Screenings* (N) 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 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 PM Thanksgiving Meal (PH) | 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) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) | 27 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) | 28 Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed No Loaves & Fishes | 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
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SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105**

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| 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*

