

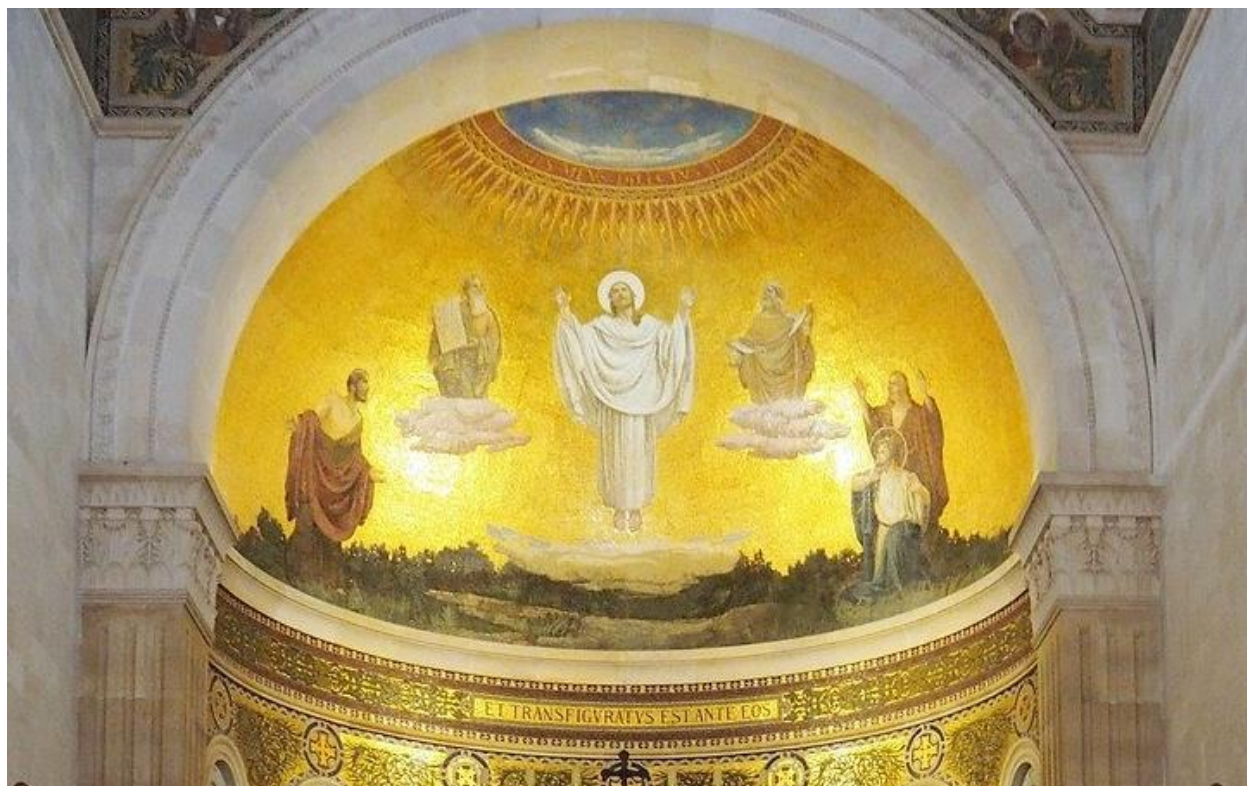


Crossroads

*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.*

February 2020



February 23 is the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ, mostly observed in the Catholic and Orthodox churches, but we will be focusing on the miraculous event in our worship that day with another unique gathering in our Great Space. Join us at 10 a.m.!

From the Bridge Pastor

Dear South,

As an outsider coming in to South for a time, I get to see dynamics that are so familiar to you as to be nearly invisible, or at least so expected as to be well *expected*. There are grooves here at South, patterns of behavior that are no longer serving the congregation, if they ever did. Anxiety, grief, and distrust are playing out in reactive grooves throughout this family system that is South Church. It is not the whole story of South; the whole story includes the presence and embrace of a wildly loving and accepting Spirit. But it is a present part of the story.

South is at a very exciting moment; your Search team of Trea, Betty Jack, Jeanne, Jill and Adam has been prayerfully listening and seeking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit; *who is the minister and pastor God is calling to us, God is calling us to they have been asking*. As Trea describes in her letter below, Search has found an *amazing candidate!* Amazing! This is amazing! They will be sharing details when they can, but let's sit here for a minute and take that in - your search team has prayerfully discerned that God has a minister for you and that they are amazing!

Search has been praying constantly with a focus. There is a lesson for you, and me with you for this time, as the wider church in this active, discerning prayer. Pray constantly, bring the consistency of prayer into your lives and into your life as church. I am borrowing this phrase about the consistency of prayer from Betty Jack. The consistency of prayer can begin to re-route the grooved patterns, at least holding off the reactive behavior long enough to let something different, possibly spirit-led in.

I am honored to get to be with South in this time of preparation. The vague transition has shifted into a space of readying. Noticing, naming and prayerfully shifting some of the long-worn grooves is a part of this readying time. As South shifts into beginning the process of readying itself - yourself - to fully welcome the new minister whom God is calling to you, take up the invitation from Trea with Philippians about not being anxious but about being in prayer, in a space of thanksgiving and of faithfulness to the promise of God's peace.

Another image and feeling that is useful to me in my own efforts to break bad habits and worn grooves, is that of spaciousness. How can I/we change our behaviors, how can I/we move differently in those moments when anxiety or grief or distrust shows up and would take me/us over? How can I/we create some space between us and the feeling, and pray inside that space for God's spirit to lead me/us? When we feel tight, how can we move/speak/pray differently to create a loosening and a release?

I pray for South. I pray for the Search Team. I pray for the minister who will come and be yours and you theirs because of the Spirit and in the presence and company of Christ. I pray for you strength, courage and humility; I pray for you joy and that aliveness that comes when you are inside the working of God's love.

Be brave,

Rev. Lindsey



Search Committee Update

Dear Church:

I am happy to share some news from Search. We have completed our neutral pulpit visits! We have been doing these visits since early December and are now finally finished. I have to say it was quite a blessing to visit different churches and also to see how different congregations worship. We are grateful that we and the candidates benefited from the exceptional hospitality of three churches across the state. I know that South has hosted neutral pulpits in the past and it really is an important way to support the greater Christian body.

As for where we are in our process now: we are in deep spiritual reflection about these three candidates. We are praying constantly. This is where the real hard work of the process begins. We believe that each one of these candidates is amazing and we feel blessed to have gotten to know them. We are LISTENING to what God needs us to hear about His choice for South.

As soon as we are ready to present a candidate to the congregation, you can bet I will announce that. In the meantime, please pray for us and give us the space we need to finish up the tasks related to search. We are still in this process but as I have said in the past, we are each showing up and doing our part. We are faithful and hopeful and even energized.

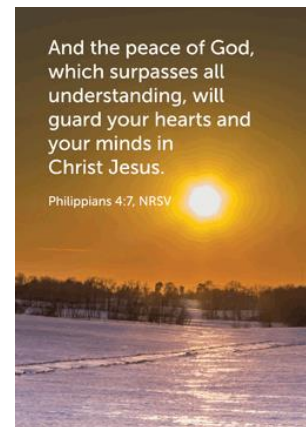
I want to thank the love and hard work of the search team: Betty (who holds us in prayer always without me asking); Jill (whose institutional knowledge and perspective has been invaluable); Jeanne (whose tenacity and practicality keep us moving forward); and Adam (who has always been ready to ease the stresses of the process with humor and hugs).

I am currently reflecting on these words that also bring me comfort: "[Do not be anxious about anything](#), but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:6-7*

We are told here not to be anxious. We are told to instead pray and petition, with thanksgiving. My favorite part of this passage is idea of peace. In my experience it would be helpful for us to reflect on the peace that is available to us as we continue to move through this process. We are promised here that God's peace is transcendent. We are assured that God has peace for us that stretches beyond our imaginations, beyond what we as ordinary people are able to understand. To me this means that God's peace has the power to calm everything: every anxiety, every uncertainty about the future, every conflict over big issues and small, everything.

What does it mean for the search team and for the congregation as a whole to reflect and pray for God's peace in this moment? I know that having this entire congregation pray for us and pray for PEACE would help me tremendously as search chair and also as a follower of Christ who seeks His will.

Best, **Trea Russworm**



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

February 2 (Communion)	Rev. Lindsey Peterson
February 9	Rev. Dr. Gregory Dawson
February 16	Rev. Lindsey Peterson
February 23 (Transfiguration Sunday – service in Great Space)	Rev. Lindsey Peterson

Please Pray For... Gordon Dodge, Dick White, Tim Scussel, MaryAnn Scussel, Mike Wright, 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, Ginny McCray, Don Russell, Roland Fenton, Bert Montagna, Deborah Price, Dan Myers, Irene Rappa, Stella Boulware, Shirley McCready, Beryl Kress, Ginny Robbins, John Burriss, Rev. Bart, Valerie Cochran, Jose Medina.

MICAH Award Recipient for 2020: Nick Lentino!



South Congregational Church is proud to nominate Nick Lentino for the 2020 MICAH Award! Nick's devotion to South Congregational Church spans over 4 decades. In over 43 years, Nick has served in numerous leadership roles and continues to serve as Treasurer and a Deacon. Nick's frequent presence in the pulpit as Liturgist and occasional preacher are always moments of joy for all of us. His leadership helped to establish South's Deacon Fund which provides needed funding for those facing financial hardship.

Nick and his wife Elaine have provided a consistent, faithful presence in South's faith family, always cheerful, always welcoming and never flagging in enthusiasm. We could not be more proud of this opportunity to share this special night with Nick and his family.

South Church has purchased several tables so if you would like to attend please contact the church office. The event happens on Saturday, February 8 at 5 p.m. at the Cedars Banquet Hall, 375 Island Pond Road in Springfield.

Happy February Birthday!



3 Nancy Urbschat
4 Tarji Brathwaite-Duggins
7 James Guevin
9 Thomas Gallagher
10 Nadia Woodman

17 Alexa Gallagher
22 Justin Buske
22 Alice Lee
23 Elaine Lentino
25 Karen Kress

Sharing Our Stories

Rev. Lindsey observed that South Church member Cathy Rossi seemed involved in justice and equality work. She asked Cathy about what that justice work looks like for her and where the motivation comes from. Here is some of Cathy's story:

I was asked to write about my relationship with justice including what kind of work, movements, relationships I have chosen to be engaged in and why. I was raised in a small working-class town in the industrial Naugatuck Valley in Connecticut, the 5th of 10 surviving children by a sociable and popular couple. About 80% of the people in the town were both Catholic and Democrats and the grandparents of most my fellow students were immigrants. There was little if any racial diversity in the town. My parents and their friends professed to be liberal democrats which at that time probably meant being pro-union. I remember the struggle for civil rights by African Americans throughout the 1960's and the appalling sight of adults yelling at black children who were trying to go to school with white children. Listening to the March on Washington on my transistor radio, I longed to be marching with them. My first exposure to hearing about income inequality was when family friend and Maryknoll Missionary Father Ron Potter visited our home around the summer of 1964 and told us about his experiences in Guatemala and about the extreme poverty of the people there while a small minority were very wealthy. Hearing him talk made me want to become a Maryknoll Missionary or join the Peace Corps. Instead, I got married to Glen at the age of 19. I was not politically active in high school, but in 1972 when I was about 21, my father and I ran the McGovern for President campaign in our little town. After I graduated from college, we moved to Monson, MA, where Glen's parents lived, and obtained jobs at Monson Developmental. I have worked with people with disabilities since that time. In the early 1980's I became involved with a reproductive rights group in Springfield and participated in rallies and marches. Through that group, I met woman law students which inspired me to apply to law school myself. I attended Western New England Law School part-time and graduated in 1986. While there, I participated in the Disability Law clinic and did an internship at Belchertown State School where I later obtained a job as a lawyer. After, BSS closed, I continued to work as an attorney for the Department of Developmental Services and left that position in 1998. I have been in private practice since 1998 mostly working on adult guardianship matters. I represent individuals who are the subject to guardianship petitions including petitions to authorize antipsychotic medication treatment plans. I have also served as legal guardian for hundreds of disabled adults since 1998 and currently legal guardian for about 73 adults. Around 1996, I joined the board of an organization called Service Providers, Inc which ran a house for pregnant and parenting women. That program was taken over by the Children's Study Home in 1998 and I then joined that board of directors. CSH was started over 150 years ago at South Church by members of various churches in response to needs of women and children after the civil war. The first director of CSH was a woman from South Church and I believe an ancestor of Polly Southworth. I have also served on the Human Rights Committee of the Mental Health Association since 1998.



A Thank-you from Benevolence

The Benevolence Team is happy to announce that your generous donations to our Advent Offering will be much appreciated by our neighbors in need. We are donating \$522.50 to the Loaves and Fishes program of Open Pantry and the same amount to The Catholic Charities Emergency Fuel fund.

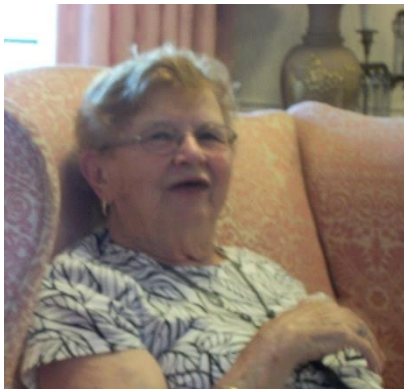
In Memoriam



Long time South Church member, Dorothy Strebel, known as Dot, died on Friday, January 3. A graveside memorial service was held for her on January 10. Dawn Fitzgerald, another South Church member, had been helping to take care of Dot during the last year of her life. Dawn offers a little bit on Dot's story here:

Dot's great-uncle, General Nathaniel Lyon, was the first Northern General killed in the Revolutionary War. When she was born in 1920, Woodrow Wilson was president. He was the 28th president. So she lived through 17 presidents. She lived through The Great Depression and

The Holocaust, and so many more milestones in our history. She was a very proud person and rarely talked about herself or about her past. She was a tough person and one got the sense she lived through many hardships. She was smart, hardworking and was anchored in her Protestant faith. She read her bible daily and wore a small golden cross to the day she died.



Virginia McCray left us on January 13. She loved South Church and all of the friends she had there, especially the Prayer Shawl Group, which she attended faithfully every Wednesday until she was no longer able to. She was passionate about her large family and her pets, and she made friends easily, always finding the good in anyone she met. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, she moved to Western Massachusetts after marriage and enjoyed living in her house on River Road in Agawam. She was an expert knitter and often won awards for her work at the Eastern States Exposition. She will be missed by all of us here at South Church.

Making progress...

The steps for the new front entrance have been poured along with a handicap accessible ramp coming up from the parking lot. As the weather warms toward spring, work will pick up speed on parking lot resurfacing and landscaping. Smooth riding ahead at South Church!



Director of Music

It's February, the month we have come to dedicate to the study of African-American history, and those of you who read this column regularly may remember that I usually devote this space to the music of African-American music and musicians. This time I am going to talk about one person in particular, a concert and opera singer. You might have read this far and decided you won't continue because of the words, "opera" and "history," but if you forge ahead in spite of that I promise an interesting twist at the end.

After I got my bachelor's degree at the Hartt College of Music I moved to New York to pursue graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music. Having meager resources, the school gave me some assistance in the form of work-study, and my assigned job was to go to voice studios every day and accompany the singers while their teachers coached them. One of the teachers was Adele Addison, a name I had heard before, although I wasn't sure why. Ms. Addison, I would learn, was a premiere singer in the mid-20th century, singing some opera, but mostly concerts of song literature and oratorio. Like the famous Marian Anderson, she was a pioneer in the music world making a name for herself as a black, female artist at a time when it was so difficult to do so. She performed in concert with some of the great American orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra.



She also had an important role in film, albeit behind the scenes. In 1959 a movie adaptation of "Porgy and Bess" the famous American opera by George Gershwin, was made. The all-star cast included Sidney Poitier, Dorothy Dandridge, Sammy Davis, Jr., Pearl Bailey, Brock Peters and Diahann Carroll. While most of the cast sang with their own voices, you do not hear the singing voice of Dorothy Dandridge (Bess) in the movie as the voice of Adele Addison was dubbed in.

I don't recommend you try to find clips of Ms. Addison singing in that movie because there aren't many and the sound quality is not great. On the other hand, recordings of her singing oratorio and song literature are readily available on YouTube and the first thing you notice is the exquisite beauty of her voice. She was also a superior musician and a skilled artist.

In the second half of the 20th century Ms. Addison spent less time performing and began to focus on teaching, eventually serving on the faculties of colleges and universities, including the Manhattan School of Music, where I had the honor of working under her. There was little time to get to know her very well as the voice lessons were back-to-back, but on occasion a student would be late and there would be a few minutes when we exchanged comments and pleasantries.

If you're waiting for the twist, here it is. Had it occurred to either of us to ask about our origins, we would have discovered that we were both from right here in Springfield, Mass. She was born in 1925 and grew up here. In 1958, she married Norman Berger in Springfield at the home of her aunt and uncle. Had we taken it a little further, we would have discovered that both of us had sung in the choir at Old First Church at different times in our lives.

This feels like a case of black history being just, well, history. The world would have been cheated of so much had it refused to recognize such an exceptional talent because of racial prejudice and injustice, but the beauty of her voice and her consummate artistry were not to be overlooked. Let us never forget what potential lies inside every one of us. - **Larry**

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:15 AM Benevolence Mtg (GR) 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	3 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous* (PH)	4 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	5 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 4:30 PM STEP Prep & Meal Pre-Concert* (K) (PH) 5:30 PM STEP* Solo Concert (GR)	6 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (GR) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 12:45 PM Counselling* (GR) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM STS Class* (CR and/or GS) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	7 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	8 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
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23 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)	24 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (GR)	25 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K)(PH) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting Group (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	26 ASH WEDNESDAY (Service TBA) 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS)	27 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (GR) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	28 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	29 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**

For information on cancellation of services or programs because of inclement weather, please consult the website: www.sococh.org, the Facebook page (South Congregational Church) or look for an email blast. Cancellation of a Sunday service can also be found on the listings on ABC/FOX Channel 40/6. *Be aware that you may not see it on Channel 22 - watch Channel 40.*

Rev. Lindsey Peterson	Bridge Pastor
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*

