

South Parish Congregational Church UCC
Newsletter • April 16, 2026



Now on that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. (Luke 24:13-16)

Emmaus was a little-noted town. Luke doesn't say why the two disciples were going there. They may have been going home, going there on business, or going there to get away from the terrible things they had witnessed in Jerusalem. The risen Lord meets us on **our** roads to Emmauses: in the ordinary places and experiences of our lives, and in places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. The story warns us, however, that the Lord may come to us in unfamiliar guises, perhaps when we least expect him.

Tuesdays Bible Study 5:00 PM

Join us for discussion and reflection on scripture.

You may attend:

- **In person in Rev. Nate's office**
- **Online via Zoom**

The zoom link is easily available, just ask Marcel in the office, or talk with/email Kathy Petersen (dkpete04330@aol.com)

Sacred Wounds

Finding the beauty,
goodness and truth
in our pain

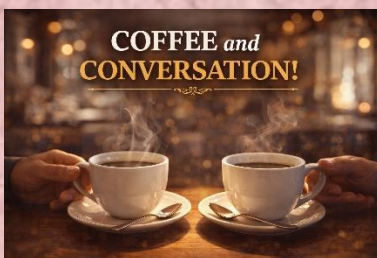
Pastor Nathan's Right now Video Choice of this week

[Click Here to watch](#)

Or click the QR Code with your camera.



Tyler Staton - The video is Scared Wounds (Finding the goodness and truth in our pain)



Join us on Sunday, April 19 after Sunday Service, for our next Coffee and Conversation!

Pastor Nathan will show a brief video from Right Now Media and will the lead us in a discussion of the Video's message. Previous conversations have been interesting and very worthwhile.



Caring for One Another

As a church family, we want to make sure no one feels overlooked or alone. If you know of any church members who may need help, would appreciate a visit from Pastor Nathan, or could use prayer, please let us know.

You can reach out to at southparish@gmail.com or call 207-622-0552 , or submit a prayer request. All information will be handled with care and confidentiality.

Thank you for helping us support and care for one another.



Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center – March 2026 Report

The Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center continues to provide vital overnight shelter and support for our neighbors experiencing housing insecurity. March was another month of steady need, meaningful impact, and compassionate care.

Throughout March, the center served an average of 51 guests

per night, totaling 1,579 bed nights. The highest number of individuals accessing the center in a single night was 61, with 50 guests staying overnight, while the lowest nightly total remained high at 46 guests—a clear reflection of the ongoing demand for safe, warm shelter.

Since opening in November, the center has supported 234 unduplicated guests, including 36 new individuals in March alone. Encouragingly, 7 guests were successfully placed into alternative housing, marking important steps toward stability and independence.

Emergency services were engaged when needed to ensure guest safety and well-being. In March, there were 19 EMS calls, all initiated by AEOWC staff, and 8 contacts with Augusta Police Department (APD), including 2 initiated by APD and 6 by staff.

The reach of the warming center continues to extend across central Maine and beyond. Of the new guests in March:

- Augusta, Waterville, and Lewiston accounted for several individuals,
- Others came from communities such as Skowhegan, Brunswick, and South China,
- While some arrived from as far as Vinalhaven, Ellsworth, and out of state.

Notably, 53% of guests served are from Augusta or within a 20-mile radius, reinforcing the center's critical role in supporting the immediate local community.

This report is more than numbers—it reflects lives touched, dignity restored, and hope renewed. Thank you to all who support this mission through prayers, volunteering, and generosity.



Julia Stone, Director of the AEOWC



Celebrating Leadership: Rob Flannery

Behind the steady, compassionate work of the Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center stands a leader whose impact is felt every single day, Rob Flannery, the center’s dedicated manager. Rob is known by those who serve alongside him as someone who “wears many hats”, and does so with consistency, integrity, and heart. Whether he’s training staff, enforcing policies, or navigating the daily challenges of the warming center, Rob leads with a steady hand and a clear sense of purpose. His consistency creates a safe, structured environment not only for staff, but for every guest who walks through the doors.

What truly sets Rob apart is the way he treats people. He ensures that each guest is not only sheltered, but welcomed, respected, and valued as a member of our community. His leadership reflects a deep belief in dignity, especially for those experiencing homelessness.

At the core of Rob’s work are two unwavering goals:

- That every person has a warm, safe place during the harsh winter months
- That no one is left out in the cold to face life-threatening conditions

His vision and determination have already made a tangible difference. One of his most significant accomplishments has been helping expand the center’s capacity—from 30 guests to 50, allowing more individuals to find safety and care when they need it most.

Beyond providing shelter, Rob is deeply committed to helping individuals take steps forward. He works compassionately to connect guests with resources, offering guidance and encouragement as they move toward stability and renewed participation in the community.

Rob Flannery is more than a manager, he is an advocate, a leader, and a steady presence of hope. We are grateful for his tireless dedication and the difference he continues to make in the lives of so many.



Julia Stone, Director of the AEOWC

Bridging the Gap Monthly Report MARCH 2026

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2026 TO DATE: 1,978

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS REPORTING "NO PERMANENT RESIDENCE": 77 (An increase of 19 since last month)

SERVICE STATISTICS FOR MARCH

Addie's Attic

- Total Households served: **250** (same month 2025: 256)
- Total unduplicated individuals served: 887 (same month 2025: 810 = 9.5% increase)

Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry:

- Total Households served: **288** (same month 2025: 256)
- Unduplicated individuals served: **1,070** (same month 2025: 1,216= 12% decrease)
- Percentage of individuals who are New Mainers: **36.54%**
- Total New Mainers served **391** (same month 2025: 313 = 24.9% increase)

RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND CENTRALIZED HELPING FUND (CHEF):

We welcomed our new Resources Program Leader, Sarra Maddocks on March 16!

The Resource Department handles multiple calls a day. The nature and outcome of each call is different. People might be directed to a different or additional resource; asked to call back with more information so BTG can better assess and assist; or BTG might agree to assist financially. BTG often works with other funding sources to fully meet a request that is beyond what BTG can support alone. When other agencies' funds are depleted, BTG must be even more discerning.

Number of calls/emails/walk-ins received: **57+**

Number of individuals directly served: **19**

Note: The number of individuals served represents hands-on cases, sometimes in collaboration with another program/agency, and/or BTG supported the individual financially. It does not represent the number of individuals who simply received a pamphlet or phone number.

MARCH 2026	AMOUNT	YEAR TO DATE 2026	YTD AMOUNT
Recovery Housing	\$ 500.00	Recovery Housing	\$ 1,500.00
Rooming House	\$ -	Rooming House	\$ -
Rental Assistance	\$ 1,200.00	Rental Assistance	\$ 4,697.36
Security Deposit	\$ -	Security Deposit	\$ -
Housing Other (Hotel)	\$ 196.20	Housing Other (Hotel)	\$ 196.20
Utilities	\$ 326.78	Utilities	\$ 1,758.95
Heating Assistance	\$ 469.90	Heating Assistance	\$ 2,040.50
ID/Birth Certificate	\$ -	ID/Birth Certificate	\$ -
Car Repairs	\$ 150.00	Car Repairs	\$ 288.09
Gas	\$ 110.00	Gas	\$ 190.00
Taxi/Concord/Greyhound	\$ -	Taxi/Concord/Greyhound	\$ -
Phone/Phone Service	\$ -	Phone/Phone Service	\$ -
Food Card	\$ -	Food Card	\$ -
Other	\$ -	Other	\$ -
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$ 2,952.88	YEAR TO DATE TOTAL	\$ 10,671.10

Bridging the Gap offered direct/indirect support with matters including:

- Moral Support
- Rental assistance
- Heating Assistance
- Connecting/Directing to other resources
- Gas Card
- Utilities
- Car Repairs

Agency or Person who referred individual to BTG:

- Self
- Kennebec Behavioral Health
- Augusta General Assistance
- Anglez
- Augusta Police Dept. Community Response Specialist
- Better Life Partners

Agency or Person BTG referred individuals to:

- Augusta General Assistance
- Grace Church
- Christ Church
- Local General Assistance
- Salvation Army
- Hope Baptist Church
- Catholic Charities
- Kennebec Valley Board of Realtors

Tabling at Bridging the Gap:

- Career Center
- Better Life Partners
- Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church
- Anglez
- Options

VOLUNTEERS:

Number of Volunteers in February: **22** Total Volunteer Hours: **199.25**

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Bridging the Gap opened on two Saturdays to enable teens and young adults shop for Prom and Formal dresses and suits. We also had shoes, jewelry and makeup available.



Kennebec Performing Arts Company
presents
Sounds of Spring
Wind Ensemble  Choir  Jazz Band
under the direction of
John Neal * Russell Caverly * Dan Gilbert, asst.
Join us as we honor our service members with a special performance of "Armed Forces Salute" by the KPAC Choir & Wind Ensemble.

Friday, May 1st - 7 PM
Saturday, May 2nd - 5 PM
The William & Elsie Viles Auditorium
Cony High School
Pierce Drive, Augusta

FREE ADMISSION
Donations Appreciated
This event is supported in part by a grant from
The Onion Foundation
kennebecperformingartscompany.com





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm Green St 5pm AL-ANON	2 6:30am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - AA Mtg	3 12pm - AA Meeting	4 4:30pm - Community Meals 7pm - AA Mtg
5 10am Green St. 10am SPCC UCC	6 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	7 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 6pm Trustees Mtg	8 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	9 6:30am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - AA Mtg	10 12pm - AA Meeting	11 9am - Pet Pantry 4:30 Community 7pm AA Mtg
12 10am Green St. 10am SPCC UCC	13 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	14 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm Bible Study	15 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	16 6:30am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - AA Mtg	17 12pm - AA Meeting	18 4:30 Community Meals 7pm AA Mtg
19 10am Green St. 10am SPCC	20 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	21 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 6m Council Mtg	22 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	23 6:30am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - AA Mtg	24 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm to 7pm Bobbi-Jo Funeral	25 8am - 2:30pm Christian Council of ME 5 pm -8 pm Kennebec Contra Dance 7pm - AA Mtg
26 10am - Green St. 10am SPCC UCC 11:30 am Deacon's Meeting	27 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	28 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm Bible Study	29 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	30 6:30am - Men's Breakfast 12pm - AA M		

