

South Parish Congregational Church UCC
Newsletter • April 30, 2026



Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." (John 14:5-6)

These words express the Fourth Evangelist's unshakable belief that the coming of Jesus, the Word made flesh, decisively altered the relationship between God and humanity. These words affirm that Jesus is the tangible presence of God in the world and that God "the Father" can be known only through that incarnate presence. The Church's encounter with Jesus the Son makes possible a new experience of God as "the Father."

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)

Our church is excited to provide you with free access to RightNow Media, including Pastor Nathan’s weekly and Coffee Time videos.

When you click the link, you’ll be prompted to sign up. There is no cost to you—our church pays for your access.

rightnow MEDIA

Free Access to 25,000+ Bible Study Videos SIGN-UP

www.rightnowmedia.org



Jesus - Pastor Nathan’s Right Now Video Choice of this week

[Click Here to watch](#)

Or Scan the QR Code with your camera.



Family Time Management: Stuart Hall

Talk to just about any parent and they will tell you that they feel like they're being pulled in all directions, between their kids' school demands, activities, and sporting events, along with the typical issues that all kids walk through in life. Managing our family time, along with the time of our kids, has never been more important. In this series, Stuart Hall will help parents better manage their family's time to align their family's priorities with Jesus's.



WANTED Looking for an intern to learn the job Don

Keneagy does as caretaker of building and grounds, and Projects Manager. The ideal candidate lives in Augusta, has general knowledge of trade, good with people, and some accounting skills. Don is hoping to share his knowledge of the job over the last 10 years, relationships with contractors (and existing contracts!), before he retires.

Do you have a calling? You can text Don at 207-213-0430.

Four Years of Impact: A Reflection from the Front Lines

This week, we're honored to share a reflection from one of our long-time staff members, Vanessa Gilbert. For the past four years, Vanessa has been part of the Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center—witnessing firsthand the growth, challenges, and impact of this work on our community.

Julia Stone, Director



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As the fourth year of the Augusta Overnight Warming Center comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the past four years and the role this work has played in my own personal growth. So many people still don't fully realize the impact we have on our community, what we do, who we serve, and just how many lives we touch each season. In our first year, we were able to provide overnight shelter for up to 20 individuals. By our second year, that number grew to 30. Last year, we expanded even further, increasing our capacity to 50 beds. That growth has made a meaningful difference—not only in how many people we're able to serve, but in how many are no longer left outside during the coldest days and nights, facing dangerously low temperatures. Each year brings a new set of challenges, often unpredictable and complex. We regularly encounter individuals navigating mental health struggles, substance use, alcohol dependency, and the difficult effects of withdrawal. Alongside these challenges, we also see the impact of domestic violence, evictions, lack of employment, loss of disability benefits, and ongoing housing instability. Each person who walks through our doors carries their own story. In response, we do our best to meet every individual with care and intention. We rely on active listening, strong problem-solving skills, and, at times, the ability to make thoughtful decisions in the moment. Through these experiences, we continue to learn, adapt, and grow—not only as individuals, but as a community. We evolve as a center, continuously finding better ways to serve, support, and respond to the needs around us. Our partnership with the Augusta Police Department, along with other local resources such as UCLC, the Linc Center, the Access Center, and the Anglez Outreach Program, has been invaluable. We are also deeply grateful for the community's ongoing generosity, including consistent donations of food and a wide range of clothing items. This support plays a vital role in helping us meet immediate needs and ensure that those we serve are cared for with dignity. Their support not only strengthens our center but also ensures that the individuals we serve continue to receive care and guidance even when our doors are closed. These collaborations allow us to extend our reach beyond overnight shelter and connect people with the resources they need year-round. As we close this fourth year, I carry both pride and purpose in how far we've come, and purpose in the work that still lies ahead. We will continue to grow, to adapt, and to show up for those who need us most, ensuring that no one in our community is left out in the cold.

Keeping Our Community Safe, Together.

The Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center provides a safe, warm place for individuals experiencing homelessness during the coldest nights.

We are a non-medical overnight shelter and are not equipped to provide medical care, medication management, or supervision for complex health needs.

Recently, we've seen an increase in guests arriving with medical needs that require a higher level of care than we can safely provide.

Our goal is simple:
Everyone in our community is safe, supported, and in the right place for their needs.



We know that our local hospitals and community partners share our mission of care. By working together, we can ensure each individual is connected with the most appropriate support and care.

WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE



A safe, warm overnight shelter



A warm meal and hydration



Respectful, welcoming support



WHAT WE CANNOT PROVIDE



Medical care or nursing services



Medication management



Supervision for complex health needs

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supports this work through donations, volunteering, advocacy, and kindness.

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP OUR COMMUNITY WARM.





Weekly

Al-Anon Meetings at South Parish

We are pleased to announce that **Al-Anon** is now meeting here at our church!


Al-Anon offers support and hope for anyone affected by someone else’s drinking. It’s a safe, welcoming space to share and find strength together.

In-person only Al-Anon meeting. If the door is locked, please ring the bell.

All are welcome—come as you are!

Message of Hope

 **Every Wednesday**

 **5:30 – 6:30 PM**

 **South Parish Congregational Church**

9 Church Street, Augusta

In-person only Al-Anon meeting. Please ring the bell if door is locked.



Join Our Deacon Ministry

Are you called to serve and support our church family? The Deacon Ministry is a vital part of our mission—caring for members, assisting in worship, and extending Christ’s love to those in need.

If you feel led to join this meaningful ministry, we would love to hear from you!

 Email us at **southparish@gmail.com**

 Call the church office at **207-622-0552**

Or speak with Head Deacon Rob Flannery

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of others.



Church Office Hours

For general questions or administrative assistance, the church office is here to help:

- **Monday–Wednesday:** 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
 - **Thursday:** 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon
-

Men’s Breakfast – Thursdays at 6:30 AM

Start your day with good food, good company, and plenty of laughs.

Join us every Thursday morning in the Marge Grover Room for a relaxed and welcoming men’s breakfast. We’ve got a great mix of guys who bring stories, songs, humor, and all kinds of “you had to be there” moments.

A couple simple ground rules:

- No politics
- No religious debates
- Just respect, connection, and a good time

Whether you’re a regular or thinking about stopping by for the first time, you’re always welcome at the table.

Come for the breakfast... stay for the camaraderie.



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




East Coast Swing Dance Lesson

**Come dance, have fun, and learn some swing
moves!**

Thursday, April 30 6:30 PM

9 Church St., Augusta

**\$5.00 donation (Enter by the Glass Door near the
flag) No experience needed—just show up and
enjoy!**

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