

SOUTH PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Happenings

NEWS LETTER

FAITH • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION

Growing Together in God's Love

August 20, 2026

← →
WORSHIP WITH US at
10:00 AM\
IN PERSON AND ON
YOUTUBE OR
FACEBOOK
ALL ARE
WELCOME!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE
LOOK INSIDE FOR
PASTOR'S
NATHAN'S
MESSAGE AND
INSPIRATION FOR
THE WEEK

THIS WEEK AT A
GLANCE SEE
WHAT'S
HAPPENING AT
SOUTH PARISH

UPCOMING EVENTS
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR! DON'T
MISS OUT WHAT'S
AHEAD

*Let us grow together in faith, serve together in love,
and share together in God's grace.*



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Pastor Nathan's
**WEEKLY
INSPIRING
MESSAGE**

FAITH. HOPE. LOVE.
Guided by God's Word.



Each week, Pastor Nathan
shares a message of hope,
encouragement, and truth
from God's Word.



Be Encouraged

Find inspiration for your
faith journey and strength
for your everyday life.



Apply. Live. Share.

God's Word is for our lives
today—let it guide, transform,
and equip us to make a
difference.

Join Us!

Sundays at 10:00 AM

In Person & on YouTube

All are welcome!



Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

— Psalm 119:105

SOUTH PARISH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Growing Together in God's Love

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:1-4)

When the disciples, overearnest as ever, asked Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus pulled a child out of the crowd and said the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven were people like this. Over sentimentalizing notwithstanding, Jesus was really saying that people who get into Heaven are people who, like children, live with their hands open more than with their fists clenched. They are the people who, like children, are so relatively unburdened by preconceptions that if somebody says there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, they are perfectly willing to take a look themselves. Children aren't necessarily better than other people, they are just better at telling the difference between a put-up job and the real thing.



In Honor of Jane Coryell

As was noted in last week's Happenings, Jane Coryell passed away at the end of August. Although she did not want a religious service, her dear friend, Irma Wilhelm, reached out to the choir.

Jane was an Alto in the South Parish Choir for decades before failing health prevented her from coming to Church. For many years, she did her best – though not all that successfully – to keep the Alto section in line!

The Choir has therefore decided to
DEDICATE OUR SERVICE MUSIC TO JANE
on Sunday, September 20th.



*We will have coffee hour
in her honor after
the Church service.*

*Jane's dedication, warmth
and sense of humor will
always be remembered
and missed.*



Kathy Petersen

Report from **GREETER**

Nelson Leavitt

August 16, 2026

Ken and Martha Nelson came back to visit again, all the way from Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts! Ken likes to remind me he was at our church much before I was. He was christened at South Parish when he was an infant. Now in his 80's, it is marvelous that he and Martha make the trip to visit whenever they can.

Dale Tenekyek, from Nebraska came to Augusta because of his interest in historical places. I asked if he had visited Old Fort Western, and he said he took the tour on Saturday. When I told him the Church was built in 1865-66, he said Nebraska was settled as a State in 1867!

Jessica from Randolph, first came to Church alone last week to check out our Church to see if she liked it. And this week she returned again, with Alex.

We exchanged text messages and she said they both were pleased with the Service and the warm welcome they received from everyone.

Last week, new first-time attendees Steve and Glenda from Fontaine Street, Augusta attended. I didn't get a chance to talk with them, but we hope they come back again. So our Church continues to grow week by week, person by person. Some of us are anxious for "Homecoming Sunday," the first Sunday after Labor Day. Some of the long-time members, who have been off for the summer, may be surprised to see how many are now attending.



In Loving Memory of
Chad & Barbara Sutton Arms
December 6,
1964 – March 20, 2025

South Parish Church remembers with gratitude and affection our longtime member, **Barbara Sutton Arms**, who joined our church family on December 6, 1964, and passed away on March 20, 2025. Barbara and her husband, Chad, were devoted supporters of South Parish Church for many years. Together, they generously gave of their time, talents, and resources, always seeking ways to strengthen and support the life of the church. Their faithfulness and dedication left a lasting impact on our congregation. The couple owned and operated a small farm in Vassalboro, a place that reflected their hard work and love of the land. When they were no longer able to care for the farm, they sold it and moved to Granite Hill Estates, where they spent several years together until Chad's passing about a decade ago. Barbara will be remembered for her steadfast faith, kind spirit, and unwavering commitment to her church community. We give thanks for her life and the many ways she enriched South Parish Church through her presence, service, and friendship. May her memory be a blessing, and may she rest in God's eternal peace.



SOUTH PARISH Nursery School

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

WELCOMING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGES 3–5 FOR AN ENGAGING PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE!



Spots still available!

Curious about our school? Schedule a classroom visit and discover the difference our school can make for your child!



CONTACT US

 (207) 242-1620

 spschool4u@gmail.com

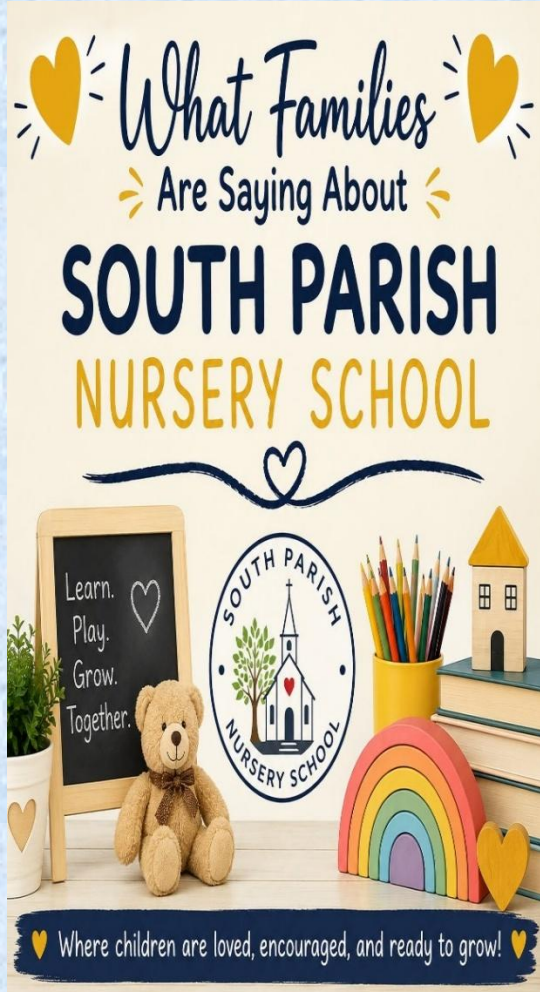
 9 Church St.
Augusta, ME 04330

 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Program Highlights

-  Hands-on learning and creative play
-  Experienced and caring teachers
-  Multiple classrooms with activities to spark imagination





What Families Are Saying About South Parish Nursery School 🧡

We are so grateful for the kind words families have shared about Miss Beth and Miss Becky and their experiences at South Parish Nursery School.

“Miss Beth and Miss Becky are the most caring, sweet, kind humans you will ever find!”

“We will never be able to express our gratitude for all they have done for our family.” 🧡

“Wonderful educators who welcome diversity and love children, gently guiding them in all domains of developmental growth.”

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Handstands, back flips, hi-fives, bear hugs.....Thanks to all who have responded so kindly and generously to our call for help! It's so heartwarming to know that people care about our mission to provide our neighbors in need with a little help. They are very appreciative and grateful for whatever we can offer. With your continued assistance we will endeavor to keep it going. So whenever you are able, keep the donations coming, either food or \$\$!

Shelf stable items always needed: tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, Raviolis, soups, ramen noodles, Mac and Cheese, crackers, cereal, juice, water.

Thank you again, 🧑🏻‍🎓

Pantry Volunteers



Bridging the Gap Monthly Report

JULY 2026

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2026 TO DATE: 2,707

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS REPORTING "NO PERMANENT RESIDENCE": 123 *(An increase of 7 since last month)*

SERVICE STATISTICS FOR JULY

Addie's Attic

- Total Households served: **272** (same month 2025: 201 = 35% increase)
- Total unduplicated individuals served: **796** (same month 2025: 943 = 15.5% decrease*)

Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry:

- Total Households served: **296** (same month 2025: 378 = 23% decrease*)
- Unduplicated individuals served: **998** (same month 2025: 1,240 = 19.5% decrease*)
- Percentage of individuals who are New Mainers: **40.08%**
- Total New Mainers served **400** (same month 2025: 530 = 24.5% decrease*)

***BTG was closed on 6/30 and 7/2, which contributed to the decrease in guests served.**

RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND CENTRALIZED HELPING FUND (CHEF):

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: **75+**

Number of individuals directly served: **36**

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.

JULY ALLOCATIONS FOR CENTRALIZED HELPING FUND (CHEF):

JULY 2026	AMOUNT	YEAR TO DATE 2026	YTD AMOUNT
Recovery Housing	\$ 175.00	Recovery Housing	\$ 1,675.00
Rooming House		Rooming House	\$ -
Rental Assistance	\$ 1,046.00	Rental Assistance	\$ 8,070.36
Security Deposit	\$ 1,000.00	Security Deposit	\$ 2,448.00
Housing Other (Hotel)		Housing Other (Hotel)	\$ 196.20
Utilities	\$ 875.00	Utilities	\$ 5,068.06
Heating Assistance		Heating Assistance	\$ 2,440.50
ID/Birth Certificate		ID/Birth Certificate	\$ -
Car Repairs		Car Repairs	\$ 610.89
Gas	\$ 100.00	Gas	\$ 640.00
Taxi/Concord/Greyhound		Taxi/Concord/Greyhound	\$ -
Phone/Phone Service		Phone/Phone Service	\$ 48.48
Food Card		Food Card	\$ -
Other	\$ 395.00	Other	\$ 1,483.10
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$ 3,591.00	YEAR TO DATE TOTAL	\$ 22,680.59

Agency or Person who referred individual to BTG:

Self-referred	School Social Worker
Pine Tree Legal	211
Augusta General Assistance	Salvation Army
Anglez	Family Violence Project
Phoenix Rising	Mid Maine Homeless Shelter
Family and Community Members	South Parish Congregational Church
SKCDC	KVCAP
Bread of Life	Crossroad Case Management
Augusta Police Dept. Community Response Specialist	

Agency or Person BTG referred individuals to:

Augusta General Assistance	Salvation Army
Grace Church	Hope Baptist Church
Christ Church	Catholic Charities
Local General Assistance	Bread of Life
Mid Maine Homeless Shelter	Intensive Case Manager from Kennebec County
ME General Health Community Health	

Tabling at Bridging the Gap:

Anglez	LINC
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Volunteers: Volunteers in July: 17 Total Volunteer Hours: 232.25

SPECIAL EVENTS:

We are planning to table at Recovery in the Park on Aug. 15th

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MILL PARK

2-5:30 PM

SHOP LOCAL, SUPPORT FARMERS,
AND ENJOY **FRESH FOOD** AND HANDMADE GOODS!

Our Winter Market

TUESDAYS 3-5 PM

FROM 18TH - APRIL

AT BUKER COMMUNITY
CENTER IN THE GYM



South Parish Congregational Church

Monthly Calendar

AUGUST 2026

Eastern Time • New York

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 9am · GSt. UMC 10am · SPCC 11:30am · Open	27 12pm · AA 1pm · BClub 6pm · L Dancing	28 12pm · AA 1:30pm · P Nathan 5pm · BS	29 12pm · AA 4pm · GST	30 6:30am · Men's B 12pm · AA	31 12pm · AA MG Rm 1:30pm · Open	1 12pm · SPCC 4:30pm · C MEALS 7pm · AA
2 9am · GSt. UMC 10am · SPCC	3 12pm · AA 1pm · BClub 6pm · L Dancing	4 12pm · AA 5pm · BS 6pm · TRUSTEES	5 12pm · AA 4pm · GST	6 6:30am · Men's B 12pm · AA	7 12pm · AA MG Rm	8 9am · PET 12pm · SPCC 4:30pm · C MEALS 7pm · AA
9 9am · GSt. UMC 10am · SPCC 2pm · GS Event	10 12pm · AA 1pm · BClub 6pm · L Dancing	11 12pm · AA 5pm · BS 6pm · GS Members	12 11am · P Nathan A 12pm · AA 4pm · GST	13 6:30am · Men's B 12pm · AA	14 12pm · AA MG Rm	15 12pm · SPCC 4:30pm · C MEALS 7pm · AA
16 9am · GSt. UMC 10am · SPCC	17 12pm · AA 1pm · BClub 6pm · L Dancing	18 8am · Fidium 12pm · AA 1pm · Pastor 5pm · BS 6pm · Council Mtg	19 9:30am · GST 10am · BOB 12pm · AA 4pm · GST	20 6:30am · Men's B 12pm · AA	21 12pm · AA MG Rm	22 12pm · SPCC 2pm · Kerya & 7pm · AA
23 9am · GSt. UMC 10am · SPCC 11:30am · Open	24 12pm · AA 1pm · BClub 6pm · L Dancing	25 12pm · AA 1:30pm · P Nathan 5pm · BS	26 12pm · AA 4pm · GST	27 6:30am · Men's B 12pm · AA	28 12pm · AA MG Rm 1:30pm · Open	29 12pm · SPCC 4:30pm · C MEALS 7pm · AA
30 9am · GSt. UMC 10am · SPCC	31 12pm · AA 1pm · BCLUB 6pm · L Dancing	1 12pm · AA 5pm · BS 6pm · TRUSTEES	2 12pm · AA 4pm · GST	3 6:30am · Men's B 12pm · AA	4 12pm · AA MG Rm	5 12pm · SPCC 4:30pm · C MEALS 7pm · AA

STAY CONNECTED WITH SOUTH PARISH

There’s always something happening at South Parish!

 **Worship with us:** Sundays at 10:00 AM

 **9 Church Street, Augusta, Maine**

Stay connected throughout the week for worship, community events,
outreach opportunities, and more.

Have something to share in Happenings?

Send announcements, events, photos, or information to the church office.

South Parish Congregational Church UCC
Faith • Community • Caring • Serving