

AUGUST 28 2025

**WEEKLY QUIPS NEWSLETTER**  
SOUTH PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC



**Pastor Nathan Richards' Message**

***"The Heart of True Hospitality"***

*"One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched." At that meal, Jesus noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table. So He told them a parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor... But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (vv. 7–11)*

*Then Jesus turned to the host and said, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:1, 7–14*

This passage reminds us that the way of Christ is not the way of status, recognition, or self-importance. Instead, Jesus teaches us that humility leads to honor in God's kingdom, and that true hospitality is found in opening our lives to those who cannot repay us.

As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect His generous love. That means choosing the lower seat, welcoming the overlooked, and serving without expecting anything in return. This is the kind of hospitality that transforms hearts and reveals the heart of God.

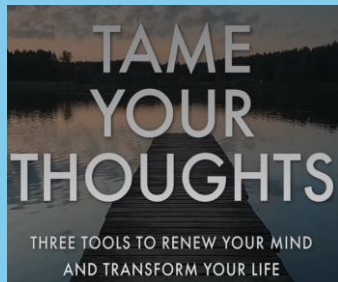
So this week, may we ask ourselves: Where can I choose humility? Who can I welcome with no strings attached? Let us be a church known for lifting others up and making room at the table for all.

Grace and peace,

**Pastor Nathan Richards**



## Pastor Nathan's Video Choice of the week



### **Max Lucado Three Tools to Renew Your Mind and Transform Your Life Description**

Have you been feeling weighed down by worry? Or caught up in a web of self-critical thoughts? The good news is that with God's help, you can learn to renew your mind, break free from negative patterns, and become a little more like Jesus every day. This six-session Bible study explores three Scripture-based tools for managing your thoughts



Scan the  
QR Code  
To Watch

[Click Here  
to Watch](#)

## CE Update:

### Sunday, September 7th, is Rally Day!

What is Rally Day, you may ask? According to Google: "In a church context, it is the start of the Sunday School year, marking a 'rally' or coming together for Christian education after the summer break." Its purpose? "To renew energy and involvement in Christian education programs, especially for the fall, after a quieter summer."

So join us on Sunday, September 7th, for cake and ice cream after Church, as we rally together to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School year.

We have the potential for more kids, which is wonderful! But that means we need more help - both teachers and helpers. PLEASE consider helping out, even once a month! (I have one volunteer teacher, and a volunteer helper, since posting this last week - I am so grateful! But we can use more, even if you only can do once a month)

Adult CE continues with Tuesday Bible Study, and monthly Coffee and Conversation after Church. Donna Glover would like to start a Meditation Group. Please talk to her if that sounds interesting!

Finally, as our Sunday School grows, we are looking at hiring a part-time CE Director. More on that to come.

Kathy Petersen, CE Chair



*"Christian education plants seeds of faith and truth, nurturing souls to shine with purpose, courage, and love in a world that needs light."*





## Now Enrolling at South Parish Nursery School! Discover Joyful Learning for 3-5 Year Olds

If you are interested in South Parish Nursery School, we have openings in our two and four day programs. ☺

We're happy to schedule a private tour for you and your child to visit our wonderful school! Classes for 3, 4 and 5 year olds start the week of September 8th.

For more information, please call 207-242-1620.

We look forward to hearing from you!



THANK YOU

Aug 23, 2025  
Dear South Parish Church Congregation  
Jan & I can't thank you enough  
for your prayers and loving care during  
the terrible loss of our son Douglas.  
Thanks so much for the beautiful  
prayer shawl and bouquet of  
flowers.  
Doug grew up in So. Parish where  
he attended church each Sunday with  
our family. He designed the church  
sign in 1982 after he became an  
architect.  
He was too young, just 68 years  
old. Thanks for everything -  
Love Wil & Jan Whitney



**Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center: Staff Hiring Soon!**

The Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center is preparing to open its doors for the upcoming season—and we’re getting ready to hire and train dedicated staff members to join our team!

If you’re passionate about helping others and want to make a difference in our community, stay tuned for more information and upcoming job postings. We’ll be sharing details soon about available positions, qualifications, and how to apply.

Keep an eye on our page for updates and help us spread the word!

**Together, we can provide warmth, safety, and support to those who need it most.**



**12 Years Without Judy—  
Let’s Walk for a Future Without Myeloma  
“Step by Step Toward a Cure: Support Our 5K for  
Judy,  
9/13”**

September is coming up, and the annual Multiple Myeloma Research 5K Walk/Run is 9/13/2025 in Boston.  
My team walks in memory of my "little" sister, Judy Bourassa Joy, who died 12 years ago at age 49, after just a 3 month battle with an aggressive form of the disease.



Funds raised go towards research, in hopes of finding a cure so no one has to go through such a loss again. If you feel you can donate, that would be very much appreciated. Thank you. Kathy

Scan QR code with your phone’s Camera

***Together, our footsteps carry the promise of a tomorrow free from mveloma***



# **Free Community Supper**



**Take-out meal with  
Indoor dining available**

**Saturday, August 30, 2025  
4:30-5:30 pm**

**South Parish Congregational Church  
9 Church Street – Augusta**





## Bridging the Gap Monthly Report

**JULY 2025**

**TOTAL UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2025 TO DATE: 2,895** (ytd in 2024: 2,830)

**TOTAL INDIVIDUALS REPORTING "NO PERMANENT RESIDENCE": 123** (ytd in 2024: 190)

### SERVICE STATISTICS FOR JULY

#### **Addie's Attic:**

- Total Households served: **301** (same month 2024: 230)
- Total unduplicated individuals served: **919** (same month 2024: 764)

#### **Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry:**

- Total Households served: **380** (same month 2024: 270 / .5% increase)
- Unduplicated individuals served: **1240** (same month 2024: 934 / 3.27% increase)
- Percentage of individuals who are New Mainers: **42.74%**

### RESOURCE CONNECTION & SUPPORT

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: **92**

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

July 2025	YEAR TO DATE 2025
Hotel = \$0	Hotel = \$0
Recovery Housing = \$525.00	Recovery Housing = \$1,162.00
Rooming House = \$0	Rooming House = \$0
Rental Assistance = \$1,345.00	Rental Assistance = \$3,325.00
Security Deposit = \$0	Security Deposit = \$2,948.00
Housing Other = \$0	Housing Other = \$2,206.00
Utilities = \$489.35	Utilities = \$3,048.57
Heating Assistance = \$0	Heating Assistance = \$3,527.20
ID/Birth Certificate = \$0	ID/Birth Certificate = \$15.00
Car Repairs = \$500.00	Car Repairs = \$925.34
Gas = \$20.00	Gas = \$990.00
Taxi/Concord/Greyhound = \$34.00	Taxi/Concord/Greyhound = \$311.94
Phone/Phone Service = \$0	Phone/Phone Service = \$277.38
Other = \$0	Other = \$1,615.00
<b>July TOTAL = \$2,913.35</b>	<b>July YTD TOTAL = \$20,351.43</b>

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

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Moral Support      | Greyhound Bus Ticket                    |
| Recovery Residence | Gas Cards                               |
| Housing            | Connecting/Directing to other resources |
| Rent               | Utilities                               |
| Car Repair         |   |

#### **Agency(s) or Person(s) who referred individual to BTG:**

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. VOA (Volunteers of America) | 5. In House                   |
| 2. ESM. Case Management        | 6. Augusta General Assistance |
| 3. Kennebec Behavioral Health  | 7. Maine General              |
| 4. Self                        | 8. 211                        |

#### **Agency(s) or Person (s) BTG referred individuals to:**

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Starfish Village              | 6. Salvation Army      |
| 2. Mid Maine Homeless Shelter    | 7. Catholic Charities  |
| 3. Augusta General Assistance    | 8. Hope Baptist Church |
| 4. Waterville General Assistance | 9. Blessed Hope Church |
| 5. Christ Church                 |                        |

#### **Tabling at Bridging the Gap:**

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Groups                   | Maine General Harm Reductio |
| SMART Recovery           | Family Violence Project     |
| CMP Community Connection | Option                      |

#### **Bridging the Gap Outreach:**

1. We continue to collaborate with KVCAP to connect individuals and families to their Laundry Card Program. Through this partnership, we can fill 8 slots each month, providing participants with access to clean laundry—a basic but critical need that supports health, dignity, and self-confidence. This ongoing collaboration helps reduce barriers for those facing financial hardship.
2. Sam met with two valuable new resources this month: Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center and Maine Family Planning Health on Wheels. Both organizations will be excellent additions to our monthly tabling lineup, expanding our ability to connect individuals to critical support and services in the community.
3. Sam attended the 7th Annual Opioid Response Summit on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at the Augusta Civic Center. This annual event gathers leaders from across Maine and the nation to exchange ideas, strategies, and best practices aimed at supporting Mainers impacted by the opioid crisis.

#### **Upcoming Bridging the Gap Outreach:**

1. In September, the Resource Department will represent Bridging the Gap and showcase our programs at two key community events: the City of Waterville's 3rd Annual Community Collaborative: Support and Education at Head of Falls, and the Recovery Friendly Workplace Resource Fair at the Augusta Civic Center—a meaningful event, especially since Bridging the Gap became a proud member of the Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative in 2024.
2. The Resource Department will also be participating in the United Way's Impact2032 Summit on October 28th. This important event brings together community leaders and partners to advance shared goals in health, education, and financial stability, creating lasting, positive change for Kennebec County. Bridging the Gap is thrilled to be part of this collective vision.



Stay Connected with South Parish Online Worship • Learn • Give • Grow



Watch Sunday Services Online. Join us live or catch up anytime!

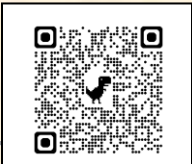
Links to Watch



YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@southparishchurch9971>

Facebook <facebook.com/SouthParishAugusta>

Scan the QR codes below or on our bulletin board to watch!



Monthly Church Newsletter

Stay inspired with reflections, updates, and events.

- [southparishchurch.com](https://southparishchurch.com)
- Sign up for email delivery or download the latest issue.

Scan to read the newsletter now!

Church Website

Explore our ministries, events, and more.

- [southparishchurch.com](https://southparishchurch.com)

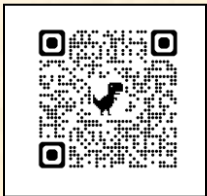
Scan to visit our homepage.



Online Giving

Support our mission with secure online donations.

- <https://southparishchurch/donate>
- One-time or recurring gifts welcome.



Scan to give online.

*Thank you for being part of our vibrant, inclusive community. Together, we grow in faith—wherever we are.*

# **CHURCH** **Community** **EVENTS**

**Welcome to our community events posting!**

**We have a variety of activities and meetings to enrich your week. Please join us for any of the events listed below:**

## **Weekly Events**

**Bible Study - Every Tuesday at 5:00 PM**

## **AA Meetings**

**Monday through Friday at 7:15 AM and 12:00 PM**

**Monday evenings at 7:00 PM**

**Men's Breakfast Every Thursday at 6:30 AM**

**Line Dancing Every Monday at 6:00 PM**

## **Monthly Events Pet Pantry**

**2nd Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Trustee's Meeting 1st Tuesday of every month**

**Council Meeting 3rd Tuesday of every month,**

## **Deacons Meeting**

**4th Sunday after Church**

## **Community Suppers**

**The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month**

**4:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

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