

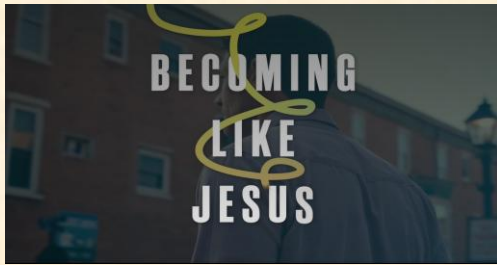


This week's newsletter includes a reflection on the power of gentle words, an update on friends connected to South Parish, celebrations of new visitors and church growth, an urgent food pantry appeal, details about Bible Study's summer break, and community news from Augusta.

A soft answer
turns away wrath,
but a harsh word
stirs up anger.
(Psalm 15:1)

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word Stirrs up anger. (Psalm 15:1)

Of the Seven Deadly Sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to perhaps come, to savor to the last morsel of pain you are given and the pain you give back--in many ways is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what which you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you.



Click on the picture to watch



Or scan the QR code:

Becoming Like Jesus **Matt Chandler**

Description

The Christian life is not up and to the right but a lifelong series of highs and lows that the Holy Spirit uses to shape us into people who look like Jesus. In this six-session series, pastor and author Matt Chandler guides us through Jesus's beatitudes found in Matthew 5. As we live out our Christian faith, Jesus develops in us a new way of living so we can be people who reflect God's kingdom.



Some of you may remember Ormond and Nancy Irish, who were active and involved members of South Parish in the 80's and 90's. Nancy died in the mid-2000's, and Ormond didn't come to church much after that. We have learned from his daughters that he is currently in the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta in the memory unit. His daughters say that he often doesn't remember people, but he does like visitors, and he may remember the connection with South Parish. If you would like to send a card, it can be sent to him c/o the Maine Veterans Home, 35 Heroes Way, Augusta 04330.

Joanne



Celebrations

Church greeter report



July 26, 2026

By Nelson Leavitt

As seems to happen every week, a new couple came into the Church for the first time. They are Ross and Emily.

Ross lives just across the street at the corner of Bridge and State. Emily lives in Portland. Ross would like to find a way to advance his work life. He is looking for training in welding. Emily is following a path to become a nurse. She has worked as an EMT. She gets great pleasure from helping others and sees this as a way to follow her passion.

I hurried to catch them before they left, so I asked them for contact information so they could receive our newsletter. They gladly accepted and carefully filled in the information so they can continue their contact with our Church. Then they accepted my invitation to join in for fellowship, coffee and donuts made possible by Donna Martin, which made our visit comfortable and relaxed. Their answer to the question, what brought them to Church on such a beautiful day when most people were out enjoying nature, came forth as we talked. They said they were looking for a Church together for the first time... Since their relationship is quite new, they want to make sure it continues in a Christian way. Both of them are approximately 40 years old and have experienced early life history, including awareness of God, followed by later struggles that kept them separated. I told them I certainly can relate to that, as many of us can. Another question, asking how they liked the sermon, led to the answer... They will definitely be coming back!

This is more proof, that positive result in growth of our Church is coming from our community working together.

No matter our ages, ability or financial standing, God finds a way to put it all together to His benefit, through us.

Romans 8:28. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."



FOOD PANTRY PLEA

The church food pantry needs your help. I have been notified by the church treasurer that the pantry has expended all of its allotted funds for the year already. So both monetary and food donations are desperately needed to help us through the next several months. I know we are all suffering sticker shock with the price of food, gas, rent, and utilities, but if you can possibly see your way to chip in, every small bit helps. The number of individuals/families served on distribution day has been holding steady around 27-28, though once a couple of months ago, we had 51. Marcel says the number of people coming into the office for help has ticked up, and I know I restock the kiosk 2-3 times a week. So, unsurprisingly, the need is great!

Food items that are particularly popular and nutritious too, are canned soups (tomato, mushroom, chicken noodle most often chosen), ramen soup, stews, tuna, meal kits, Raviolis, Vienna sausage, pudding and/or fruit cups, oatmeal packets, Kraft macaroni and cheese, juice, and water. Pop top lids are helpful if you can find them.

Thanking you in advance for any help you are able to offer,

The South Parish pantry staff

9 Church St., Augusta, Me 03440

Email: southparish@gmail.com



Bible Study Takes a Summer Break

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Bible Study throughout the past year. We have enjoyed growing together in faith, sharing meaningful conversations, and strengthening our walk with Christ.

Our weekly Bible Study is now taking a break for the summer and will resume in September. We look forward to gathering again to explore God's Word, encourage one another, and continue learning together.

Until then, we encourage you to spend time in Scripture, prayer, and worship throughout the summer months.

Watch for details on the September start date in upcoming church bulletins, newsletters, and on our Facebook page.

Have a blessed, safe, and joy-filled summer!
South Parish Congregational Church UCC



Community News

SAVE THE DATE
FOR A
Comedy Night!

THE AUGUSTA EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER

34 BRIDGE STREET, AUGUSTA, ME
A Mission of South Parish Congregational Church

 **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026**
TO SUPPORT THE AUGUSTA EMERGENCY
OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER
A MISSION OF THE SPCC.

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
OF FUN AND LAUGHTER!

 HELD AT THE AUGUSTA ELKS CLUB LODGE 964
397 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE

 ELKS
964



COME SOON!!

TICKET INFORMATION
COMEDIAN LINEUP
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
RAFFLE & AUCTION DETAILS
AND MORE!

LAUGH. GIVE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
Together, we can help keep our neighbors warm.

Farmers' Market at Mill Park

Come Shop From Neighboring Farms and Businesses at The Augusta Farmers Market! Located right in the heart of Augusta, Maine and year-round. Join us every Tuesday to shop for local, fresh, quality delicious products from the area's best local vendors. You can find anything from fresh vegetables and meats to fresh-baked breads and other baked goods, fruit, spices, flowers, honey, and maple syrup from our farms and kitchens! Come visit our tight-knit community of small, local Maine businesses and farms!

Mill Park. 1 Water Street, Augusta, Maine. 2pm - 6pm



Calendar August 2026

South Parish Congregational Church Calendar

Aug 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - GSt. UMC 10am - SPCC 11:30am -	27 12pm - AA 1pm - BClub 6pm - L Dancing	28 12pm - AA 1:30pm - P Nathan 4pm - BS	29 12pm - AA 4pm - GST	30 6:30am - Men's B 12pm - AA	31 12pm - AA MG Rm 1:30pm -	1 12pm - SPPC 4:30pm - C MEALS 7pm - AA
2 9am - GSt. UMC 10am - SPCC	3 12pm - AA 1pm - BClub 6pm - L Dancing	4 12pm - AA 4pm - 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 - SPPC 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 4pm - 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 - SPPC 4:30pm - C MEALS 7pm - AA
16 9am - GSt. UMC 10am - SPCC	17 12pm - AA 1pm - BClub 6pm - L Dancing	18 12pm - AA 4pm - BS 6pm - Council Mtg	19 12pm - AA 4pm - GST	20 6:30am - Men's B 12pm - AA	21 12pm - AA MG Rm	22 12pm - SPPC 2pm - Kerya & 7pm - AA
23 9am - GSt. UMC 10am - SPCC 11:30am -	24 12pm - AA 1pm - BClub 6pm - L Dancing	25 12pm - AA 1:30pm - P Nathan 4pm - BS	26 12pm - AA 4pm - GST	27 6:30am - Men's B 12pm - AA	28 12pm - AA MG Rm 1:30pm -	29 12pm - SPPC 4:30pm - C MEALS 7pm - AA
30 9am - GST UMC 10am - SPCC	31 12pm - AA 1pm - BCLUB 6pm - L Dancing	1 12pm - AA 4pm - BIBLE S 6pm - TRUSTEES	2 12pm - AA 4pm - GST	3 6:30am - Men's B 12pm - AA	4 12pm - AA MG Rm	5 12pm - SPPC 4:30pm - C MEALS 7pm - AA