

**“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” – Isaiah 43:18-19**

### **Prayer for the New Year:**

*Lord, thank You for the gift of a new year. Help us to walk in faith, leaving behind fear and doubt. Fill our hearts with hope, joy, and peace as we trust Your plans. May this year be a time of growth and blessing for our church family and beyond. Amen.*

## **A New Year, A Fresh Beginning**

### **Message from Pastor Nathan Richards**

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we are reminded of God’s promise of renewal. Each day is a gift, and each year brings new opportunities to grow in faith, serve others, and deepen our relationship with Christ.

The past year may have held challenges, but it also carried blessings. As we look ahead, let us leave behind what weighs us down and embrace the hope that comes from walking with Jesus. His mercies are new every morning, and His plans for us are good.

This year, let us commit to:

- **Trusting God’s guidance** in every decision.
- **Serving with love** in our families, church, and community.
- **Growing spiritually** through prayer, worship, and Scripture.

**“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” – Isaiah 43:18-19**



So very proud of my Sunday School youth. They put on a wonderful Christmas pageant, "A Night in Bethlehem," today at [South Parish Congregational Church UCC, Augusta, ME](#) . They were so good, I couldn't be more pleased.

Kathy Petersen



### **Prayer Request**

If you have a prayer request, we would love to pray for you. Please **send an email to: [southparish@gmail.com](mailto:southparish@gmail.com)** or **call the church office at: 207-622-0552.**

Your requests will be handled with care and confidentiality.



## 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.



## New 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.**



## Enjoy Free Bible Study Videos Anytime!

Church Family,

Just a reminder—our church provides **FREE access** to RightNow Media, the world’s largest library of Bible study videos. Pastor has been using it, and now you can too!

With over 20,000 videos from trusted teachers, plus resources for marriage, parenting, finances, mental health, and even a kids’ library, there’s something for everyone. You can watch anytime on your phone, computer, or streaming device.

Check your email for the invitation link to set up your free account. If you don’t see it, look in your spam or promotions folder.

We pray these resources bless you and your family!



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**We give thanks to those who have shared the beauty of poinsettias this Christmas in loving memory of family and friends.**

In Memory Of:	Given By:
Harlean Jordan	Bob Jordan
Rev & Mrs. E. Ben J Currier	Sue and Mark Goodridge
Mr. Donald James I	Donald James II
Andrew & Yvette Blanchette	Denise &Tabitha Appleby
Noreen and Charles Peart	Andrew Flynn
Corbette & Hazel Smith, Monte & Marian Helcomb, Walter & Shirley Smith	Laura Begenwald
Amy Sue & Elizabeth	Family
Merwyn & Geneva Hinkley, & Arthur & Lorena Provost	John & Sue Hinkley

**The Legend of the Christmas Poinsettia**

One Christmas Eve in Mexico, a young girl named Pepita was sad because she had no gift to present to the Christ Child at church. Her cousin reminded her that even the smallest gift, given with love, is precious in God’s eyes. Inspired, Pepita gathered a handful of roadside weeds and placed them at the altar. As she knelt to pray, the humble bouquet miraculously transformed into brilliant red flowers—the first poinsettias. From that night on, they became known as *Flores de Noche Buena*—Flowers of the Holy Night—a symbol of love and faith.TE3



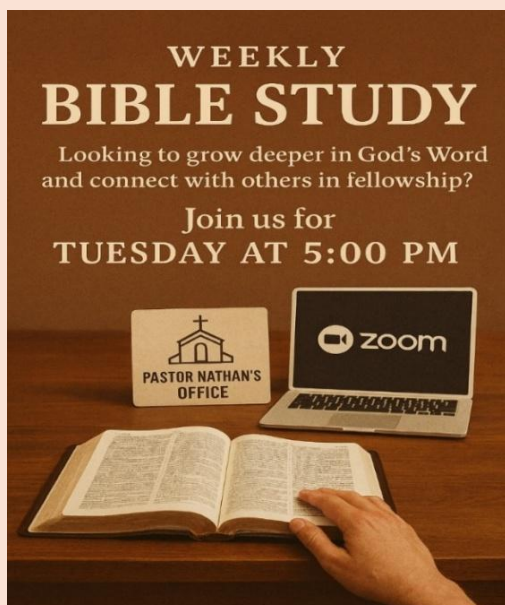
## Put It in Jesus' Hands

Life often brings pain, worries, and anxiety that feel too heavy to carry alone. But we are never meant to bear these burdens by ourselves. Scripture reminds us: *"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7).

When fear overwhelms you, when the future seems uncertain, pause and place it all in Jesus' hands. He is our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in times of trouble. Trust that His love is greater than any storm, and His peace will guard your heart and mind.

### Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, I give You my pain, my worries, and my anxiety. Fill me with Your peace and guide me with Your love. Help me trust You fully, knowing You hold my life in Your hands. Amen.*



**Join Us for Bible Study — From Home!**

**Connect with us every Tuesday at 5:00 PM  
for Bible Study via Zoom.**

**Grow in faith and fellowship—all from the  
comfort of your home.**

**Zoom ID: 870 6936 3772**

**Passcode: welcome**

## *Connect with Pastor Nathan*

Tuesdays: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



### Church Office Hours

Mon–Wed: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Thu: 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

*Building a community of care, connection, and grace.*

### Connect with Pastor Nathan

Need prayer, a listening ear, or pastoral care? Pastor Nathan would love to meet with you during his office hours:

- **Tuesdays:** 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Wednesdays:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Whether you're seeking guidance or just want to stop by and say hello, his door is open.

### 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

Together, let's keep building a community rooted in care, connection, and grace—one conversation at a time.

December 2025 SOUTH PARISH CONTREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Sun 30	Mon 01	Tues 02	Wednesday 03	Thursday 04	Fri 05	Sat 06
10 AM SPCC WORSHIP 9 AM GREEN ST. UMC	12 PM AA 1 pm Bridge Club 6 pm Line Dancing	12 PM AA 5 PM BIBLE STUDY	12 PM AA Green St UMC 4 PM AUGUSTA SYMPONY	6 AM MEN'S BRKFST 12 PM AA MTG	12 PM AA Holly Mart Final Collection & Setup	Holly Mart 4:30 to 5:30 pm Community Dinner 7 PM AA MTG
Sun 07	Mon 08	Tues 09	Wed 10	Thurs 11	Fri 12	Sat 13
10 AM SPCC WORSHIP 9 AM GREEN ST. UMC	12 PM AA MTG 1 pm Bridge Club 6 pm Line Dancing 6 PM AA MTG	12 PM AA MTG 5 PM BIBLE STUDY 6 PM TRUSTEES Mtg 6:30 PM BLUE CHRISTMAS Green St UMC Members	12 PM AA MTG 10 AM Nathan Communion Green St UMC Augusta Symphony Board meeting at TJ's place	6 AM MEN'S BRKFST 12 PM AA MTG	12 PM AA MTG ASO Dress Rehearsal	7 PM AA MTG 9 AM PET PANTRY 4:30 PM COMMUNITY DINNER
Sun 14	Mon 15	Tues 16	Wed 17	Thurs 18	Fri 19	Sat 20
10 AM SPCC WORSHIP 9 AM GREEN ST. UMC ASO Concert	12 PM AA MTG 1 pm Bridge Club 6 pm Line Dancing	12 PM AA MTG 5 PM BIBLE STUDY 6 PM Veteran's Day	12 PM AA MTG 4 PM GSUMC REHEARSAL	6 AM MEN'S BRFST 12 PM AA MTG	7 AM AA MTG 12 PM AA MTG	7 PM AA MTG 4:30 PM COMMUNITY DINNER
Sun 21	Mon 22	Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27
10 AM SPCC WORSHIP 9 AM GREEN ST. UMC Deacons Meeting	12 PM AA MTG 1 pm Bridge Club 6 pm Line Dancing	12 PM AA MT 5 PM BIBLE STUDY 6 PM COUNCIL MTG	12 PM AA MEETING Nathan Communion 4 PM GSUMC REHEARSAL Christmas Eve Service	Merry Christmas	12 PM AA MEETING	7 PM AA MEETING
Sun 28	Mon 29	Tues 30	Wed 31	Thurs 01	Fri 02	Sat 03
10 AM SPCC 9 AM GREEN ST. UMC 11 AM DEACONS MTG	12 PM AA MTG 1 pm Bridge Club 6 pm Line Dancing	12 PM AA MTG 5 PM BIBLE STUDY	12 PM AA MTG 4 PM GSUMC REHEARSAL	6 AM MEN'S BRFST 12 PM AA MTG	12 PM AA MEETING	7 PM AA <u>Mtg</u> 4:30 PM COMMUNITY DINNER