

Quips of the week Newsletter Feb 20, 2025



South Parish Congregational Church UCC

Pastor's Message:

But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. (Luke 6:27-28)

Jesus' teachings in these verses concern questions we all face: How do we deal with our enemies? Who should we love? Jesus teaches we are to give and forgive because WE have been given and forgiven so much by our Lord. Jesus' alternative is not sheer passivity but aggressive action to undermine hostility and violence. The command to love one's enemy replaces the concern for limits to whom we treat as neighbors with concern for inclusiveness: Treat everyone as your neighbor. Such peacemaking partakes of the very character of God. God's love is indiscriminate. Jesus' teachings here in the Gospel call for imaginative, aggressive, but non-violent responses to the problems that continue to bear such bitter fruit in our own time within our communities.



Pastor Nathan's Choice of Video of the Week

**As for Others: Are You Good
Enough for Heaven**

This week, Pastor Nathan has chosen a truly inspiring devotional video series, As for Others: Are You Good Enough for Heaven

by Michael Belk, as his Video of the Week. This remarkable series invites viewers to discover the precious jewels of biblical truth that shine amidst life's struggles.

Description

Fashion photographer Michael Belk invites you on an eye-opening journey to see Jesus from a fresh and inviting view through the lens of his camera. Thirty-four short films explore Jesus's messages that include, "How self-sufficiency gets in your way," "How Jesus can lighten your load in life," "Are you really saved," "How to live on daily bread," and "Jesus's meaning of metamorphosis." Plus, you will go behind-the-scenes in Italy as Michael re-creates "The Last Supper" with a surprising twist, and out onto the Adriatic Sea to understand how you can find His "Supernatural Peace." Watch them individually, easily share them with friends and family, or put them together for group studies of any length.

To watch the videos, visit:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/897317>



Or scan the QR page which will take you to the Videos.

Lenten Lunches
Return

**Lenten Lunches are Back at South
Parish Congregational Church
UCC!**

Join us for Lenten Lunches at South Parish Congregational Church UCC every Friday from March 7th to April 11th, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Enjoy a meal of soup, homemade biscuits, dessert, and a beverage for \$10.00.

Dine in our Marge Grover Room or have your meal to go.

These gatherings offer a chance for fellowship and reflection.

Everyone is welcome, Bring a friend and enjoy this nourishing community experience!

**Pastor Nathan is Honored with Heartfelt Gratitude from the
Maine Senate!**



Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

February 5, 2025

Pastor Nathan Richards
South Parish Congregational Church
9 Church Street
Augusta, ME 04330

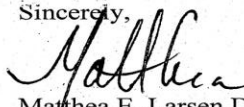
Dear Pastor Richards,

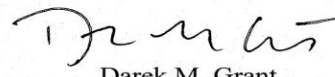
On behalf of the entire Maine Senate, we would like to thank you for attending our Senate session to offer the invocation on February 4, 2025. Your remarks were a welcome message for the start of our session.

Since the original convention of the Maine Legislature in 1820, local clergy have played an integral role in the legislative process by offering blessings to both the House and the Senate. We are honored to have had you take part in this long-standing tradition and hope that you will join us again in the future.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,


Mathea E. Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate


Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

A Heartfelt Thank You Gathering

FROM THE GREEN STREET UMC

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to South Parish Congregational Church by hosting a delightful after-service coffee and pastries event.

This thoughtful gathering is a wonderful way to express our appreciation for The South Parish Congregational Church UCC for their incredible kindness and generosity.

Throughout our transition to a new home, South Parish Congregational Church has opened its hearts and doors, allowing us to use its chapel and rooms. Their welcoming spirit and support have made this journey much smoother and more comforting for our congregation.

Event Details:

- **Date:** March 23
- **Time:** After Sunday Service
- **Location:** Marge Grover Room

Please join us for this special occasion as we come together in fellowship and gratitude. We look forward to sharing this moment of thanks with all who have been a part of our journey.

With warm regards,

Your Friends and Family at Green Street United Methodist Church



Christian Education, *Kathy Petersen, Director*

Once again, due to the storms on Sunday, Beach Day is being rescheduled. With any luck, it will be Sunday, March 9th! The snowstorms better be over by then!



Important Notice

Due to the wintry conditions, we kindly ask everyone to “Please Wipe their feet “before entering the church. This will help us keep our sacred space clean and prevent our humble sexton from working too hard.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Blessings,

The Humble Sexton

Celebrating Black History Month at South Parish Congregational Church



February is Black History Month, a time to recognize and honor the contributions, achievements, and struggles of African Americans throughout history. At South Parish Congregational Church, we commemorate this month as a period of reflection, education, and celebration of the rich cultural heritage that shapes our nation.

From the inspiring leadership of figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Harriet Tubman to the artistic brilliance of individuals like Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes, Black History Month reminds us of the profound impact African Americans have had on our society. We encourage our congregation to take this opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, explore the works of Black authors and artists, and participate in events that highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion.

Let us join in celebrating the resilience, creativity, and contributions of African Americans, both past and present, and strive to build a more just and equitable world for all.

Pastor Nathan Richards



FOOD PANTRY

You guys are the best! The pantry shelves were filled with your generous contributions, and last week's distribution filled the needs of many neighbors, unhoused or just in need of assistance.

They thank you! We're in good shape for now, so let's focus on Rob's asks for the Warming Center this week.

Missions.

"Children are great imitators. So, give them something great to imitate." — Anonymous

This quote reminds us of the importance of setting a good example for children and guiding them toward a loving relationship with Jesus.



Warming Center Weekly Update Needs

Location: 34 Bridge St., Augusta, ME

Contact:

southparishwarmingcenter@gmail.com

Dear community members,

As we continue to support those in need during these challenging times, the Augusta Emergency Warming Center is reaching out for your help. We are committed to providing warmth, comfort, and care, and we rely on the generosity of our community to keep our doors open.

Current Needs

This week, we are in need of the following items:

1. Coffee cups
2. Paper towels
3. Underwear (women's and men's, all sizes)
4. Socks
5. Decaf coffee
6. Regular coffee
7. Powder creamer
8. Toilet paper
9. Snacks
 - Peanut butter crackers
 - Cheese crackers
 - Pop-Tarts
 - Breakfast bars
 - Sardines

Every contribution, no matter how small, helps us make a difference. If you can donate any of these items, please drop them off at the center or reach out to us for more details at **southparishwarmingcenter@gmail.com**.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness. Together, we can create a welcoming space for those in need.

Warm regards,

The Augusta Emergency Warming Center Team

Julia Stone, Director, and Rob Flannery,
Manager



Scan QR Code to Donate

Centralized Helping Fund (CHeF) Fundraiser.



Envisioning a community in which everyone is given the opportunity to thrive and live with dignity.

Address: Amc Clothing Bank Centralized Helping Fund Everyday Basic Essentials Pantry Resource Connection & Support
209 Eastern Avenue Augusta, Maine 04330 207-248-1782 btgaugusta.org

Support Our Community: Join the CheF Fundraiser

Support the CheF Fundraiser! 🌟

Join us in making a difference by supporting the CheF fundraiser. We have set an ambitious goal of raising \$5,000, and we need your help to reach it. Your contribution, no matter the size, will go a long way in supporting our cause and helping those in need. Together, we can make a positive impact. Let's come together and show our support for this important cause.

Every dollar counts! 🙌🌟

How to Donate

You can make a donation in several convenient ways:

- Mail:** Send your donation to South Parish Congregational Church, 9 Church St, Augusta, ME.
- Online:** Visit our website to donate easily and securely online.
- Phone:** Call us to donate by credit card over the phone.

Thank you for your generosity and support! 🙏 Every contribution helps us get closer to our goal and make a meaningful difference in the community.



Scan the QR Code with your camera and it will bring to the Campaign Donation Page.

You can pay using [paypal](#) or any major credit/debit Card

https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=JJ6WSMZ6J4L78



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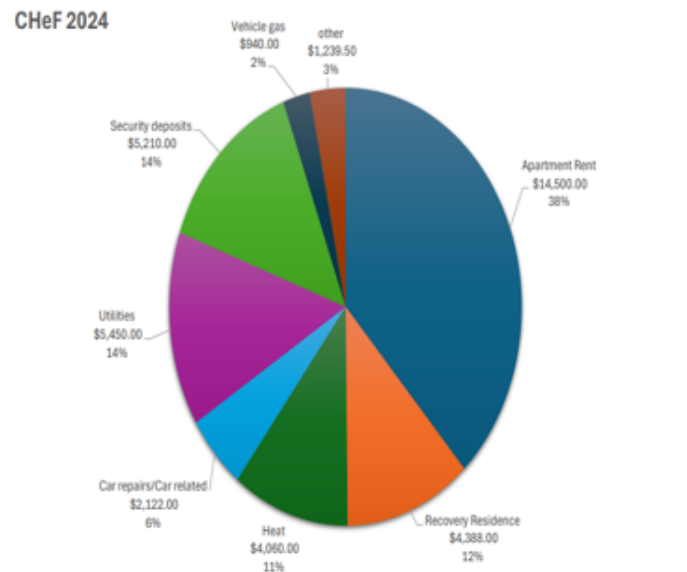
Support Our Community: Join the CheF Fundraiser

The Centralized Helping Fund (CheF) was launched at the beginning of 2022 to streamline financial support to individuals in the greater Augusta area and throughout Kennebec County. Major contributors to the CheF include faith communities, foundations and the United Way of Kennebec Valley. In 2022, BTG distributed \$28,500 to support requests for assistance. BTG distributed close to \$40,000 in 2023 and again in 2024.

🌟 Support the CheF Fundraiser! 🌟

Join us in making a difference by supporting the CheF fundraiser. We have set an ambitious goal of raising \$5,000, and we need your help to reach it. Your contribution, no matter the size, will go a long way in supporting our cause and helping those in need. Together, we can make a positive impact. Let's come together and show our support for this important cause. Every dollar counts! 🙌🌟

Thank you for your generosity and support! 🙏



Saturday February 22, 2025
and the fourth Saturday of every month

with great live music by
String Equinox
 Shana Aisenberg, Beverly Woods, Gale Jonsen
 and calling by
Tommy Linden
SPECIAL LOCATION THIS MONTH ONLY
South Parish Church, 9 Church Street, Augusta
 Dancing from 7:30 to 10:30 pm
 (newcomers' orientation beforehand)
 Come alone or bring a friend Everyone welcome, all ages and
 levels of experience ♡ Gender-free dance roles ♡ Fun for all!
 Suggested donation \$15-25 or pay what you can, children free, teens \$5