

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Question: How about infant baptism? Shouldn't parents wait until the child grows up enough to know what's going on?

Answer: Maybe, But when it comes to understanding the forgiving and transforming love of God, one wonders if the six week old babe knows all that much less than any so-called knowledgeable adult. Baptism symbolizes the beginning of something strange and new and hopeful.



The Beatitudes
Matt Chandler
Description

What does it mean to be blessed? And, more importantly, how do we become someone who is blessed? The kind of life God is calling us to may not look the way we imagined, but it will be better than we could have hoped.

In this eight-session series, pastor Matt Chandler takes us through the Beatitudes and shows us what it means to live in the kingdom of God. Through Jesus's teaching, learn what the blessed life really looks like.

[Click Here to Watch](#) Or click the QR Code with

camera.





2025 Year-End Wrap-Up: Feeding Our Community- Saturday Community Suppers

As we close out 2025, we want to extend a grateful thank you to the cooks and volunteers who made the **4 Community Suppers** possible. This year was a busy one, marked by the return of **dine-in meals**, restoring social connections to our guests. **We have served over 6,250 meals during the year.** We serve anywhere from 125 to over 225 meals each week.

Current Needs for 2026

While we celebrate our successes, we are facing new challenges and need your help to keep our doors open and plates full:

- **Hands-on Help:** We are looking for volunteers for the **2nd and 3rd Saturdays** of the month. If you can commit 2–3 hours to gratifying community work, we'd love to have you join us. It is rewarding work and the guests appreciate the meals. An added bonus is getting to know the other volunteers and our own sense of community.
- **Homemade Desserts:** Our guests love a sweet finish! We need donations of homemade desserts that are easy to pack into to-go containers. Pies are welcome too. We serve these to the sit down diners.
- **Supply Challenges:** With the Augusta Food Bank seeing fewer grocery store donations, our supply chain for desserts has become sporadic. Dessert donations are needed now more than ever.

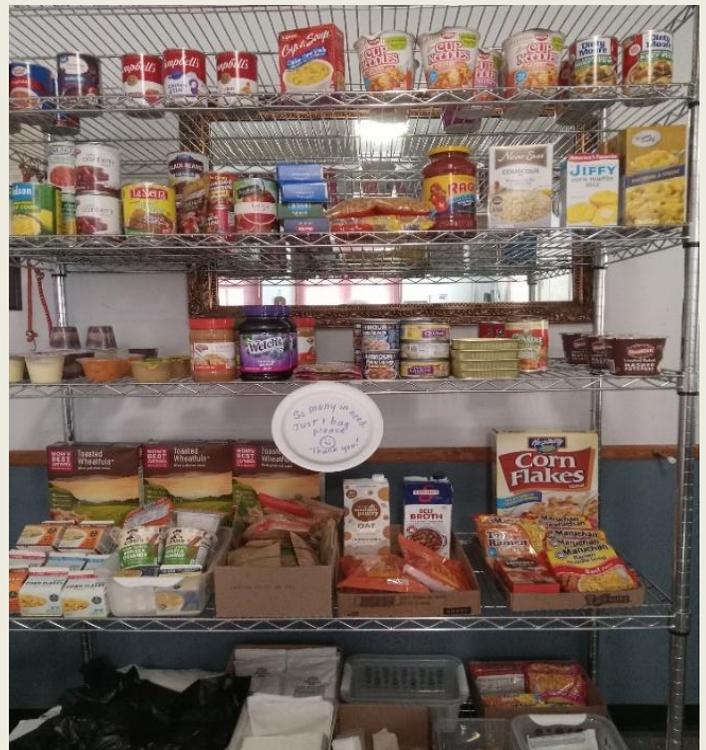
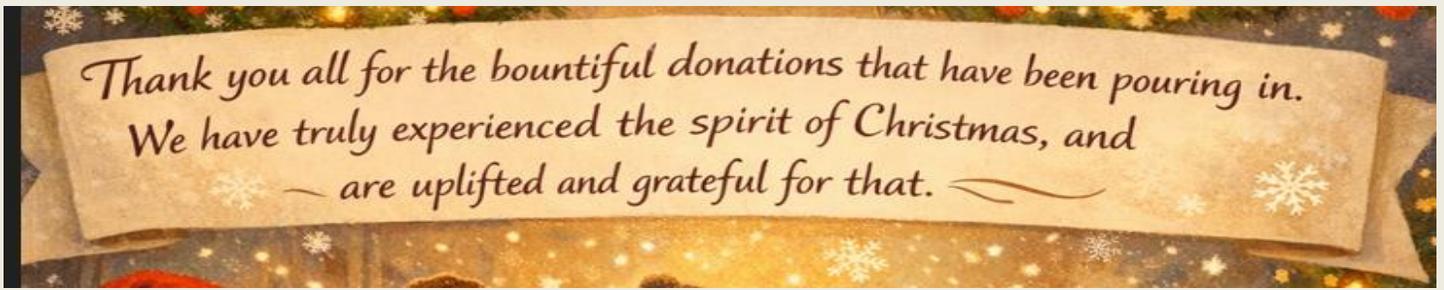
Why It Matters

We serve neighbors who rely on these meals to make ends meet for themselves and their families. The gratitude we hear every Saturday is a testament to the impact of our work.

Again, THANK YOU. Cindy Sloma- Kitchen Coordinator



Please note: A Deacon's Meeting is scheduled for after Sunday service on January 11, in the Deacons Conference Room.



A wonderful abundance of supplies! Thank you all for the bountiful donations that have been pouring in. We have truly experienced the spirit of Christmas and are uplifted and grateful for that.

In a slight reversal of things, I have to ask that we NOT receive any more oatmeal, peanut butter or sausages for the time being. The supply we have on hand will take a few months to get through. A good problem!

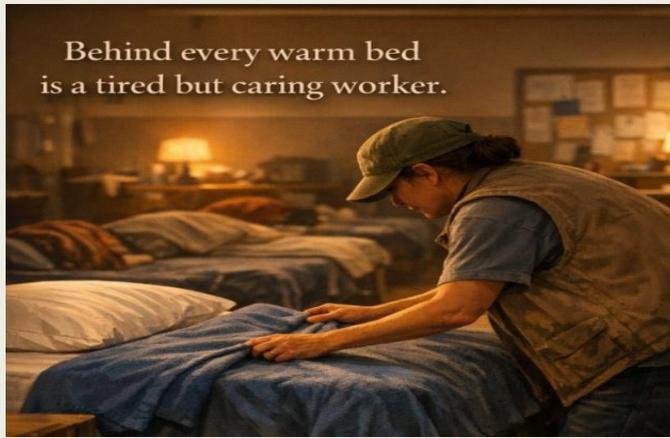
Happy New Year to all!!!



Welcome to Membership!

Please join us in warmly welcoming **Beth Sirabella** as a new member of **South Parish Congregational Church**. Beth was joyfully received into membership during Sunday's service by **Pastor Nathan Richards**.

Beth has faithfully served our community for many years as the **Director of the South Parish Preschool**, offering leadership, care, and dedication to our youngest members and their families. We are grateful for her continued commitment and are blessed to now officially welcome her into the full life and fellowship of our church.



Behind every warm bed
is a tired but caring worker.

In 2026, homeless shelters like the **Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center** are facing record challenges.

Our staff work long hours for low pay while caring for people with serious mental health needs and addiction. Safety concerns, emotional stress, and burnout are real—and many workers are stretched thin.

At the same time, funding is uncertain, repair costs for older buildings keep rising, and more people than ever are coming through our doors. Some nights, demand is up by nearly 20%.

We are also seeing more seniors who need medical support and accessible spaces, while pressure grows to move toward permanent housing solutions that cost much more to operate.

Despite all this, our staff and volunteers continue showing compassion every night. Community support makes this work possible. ❤️

FREE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AVAILABLE



PROJECT FRESH START

12 SPRUCE STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE

SIGN-UP LINK:
SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0E04CA
FAA29A0FCC70-61336259-2026

To Obtain Household Items here is the 2026 Signup

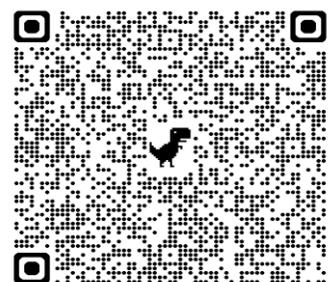
To help us stay organized and make sure everyone gets what they need, please sign up using the link below:

👉 Sign-Up

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C0E4CAFAA29A0FCC70...>

Located at 12 Spruce Street in Augusta Maine.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR CAMERA



AUGUSTA

FARMERS MARKET

AT MILL PARK

AUGUSTA
FARMERS MARKET
AT MILL PARK

Indoor Winter Farmers Market
November-April
TUESDAYS 3-5:30PM

at Buker Community Center
22 Armory St, Augusta, ME 04330

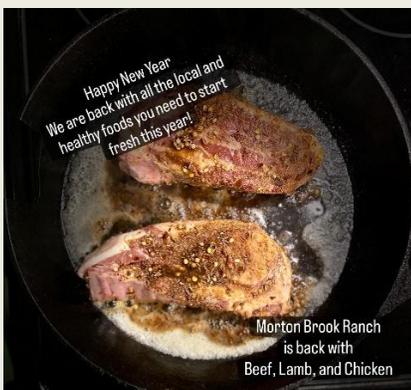
We accept Cash, Credit/Debit, SNAP/EBT, Harvest Bucks and Bumper Crop coupons

Join us every Tuesday for fresh, quality food straight from your neighborhood farms!

Contact Us

Have questions? Don't hesitate to email us at augustafarmersmarket@gmail.com

Checkout our Website: <https://www.augustafarmersmarket.com/>



Start the New Year off with the freshest, most local food there is around!

Morton Brook Ranch- Lamb is in! If you have a whole lamb reserved and would like to pick it up from market, please let me know by noon. Plenty of chicken, ground beef, and a few other remains fall beef harvest items to meet your protein needs.





Ongoing Needs & Donation List

Thank you for your continued support! The **Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center** is always in need of:

- Ground coffee & powdered creamer
- Sugar
- Toilet paper & paper towels
- Sweatpants & sweatshirts (all sizes)
- Socks, mittens & gloves
- Hand & foot warmers
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Men's & women's underwear
- Coffee cups & tissues
- Backpacks & sleeping bags

Your generosity helps us provide comfort, dignity, and warmth to our neighbors in need.

Drop-Off Locations

South Parish Church Office

9 Church St., Augusta

Monday–Thursday | 9 AM–2 PM

Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center

34 Bridge St., Augusta

Daily | 4 PM–6 PM

Together, we can continue to be a place of warmth and care. ❤️

Support Our Mission – Every Gift Makes a Difference!



Scan the QR code or click the image to donate online, or mail to **9 Church St., Augusta, ME 04330.**



Update from the Official Greeter

The highlight of new people today was the two ladies who came in support of Beth Sirabella, to witness her joining the church. Everyone was delighted that happened, after more than 30 years of leading the Church Nursery School. She spoke to the congregation after the ceremony and told her story. She said it has been a step-at-a-time and she finally made it!

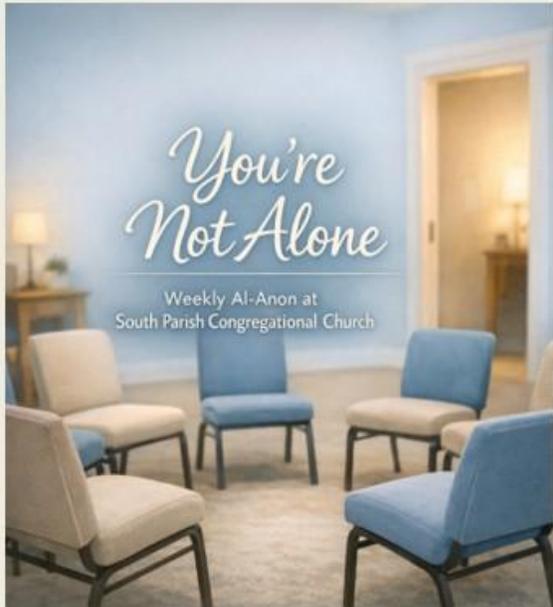
The two friends of Beth were Ollie Dulac and Emily Wilson. Ollie is from West New Portland and Emily is from Augusta and a former Church Office Manager from years ago. She is a member of Christ Church in Gardiner. (When I first came to the church in the early 1990s, Emily was here and continued to serve for several years thereafter.) At coffee time they got to visit with many of us, who were delighted to see them.

The homeless man, came back again. He obviously is carrying the burden of drug addiction and needs our prayers.

Also, Lexi came back and we had a delightful conversation at coffee time. Being concerned that she had disappeared, we happily found that she visited family out of state (Michigan), but is now back and happy to be at South Parish Church.

We have many new people in church now, who have first joined us only a short time. In one way or another they are finding out our Church is a good place to find their Lord. For this, we are being blessed by God.

Nelson L



You're Not Alone: Weekly Al Anon at South Parish Congregational Church

If someone else's drinking is affecting your life, there is a place for you. Al Anon offers hope, support, and a caring community where you can share, listen, and find strength—one week at a time.

All are welcome—come as you are. This is an in person only meeting. If the door is locked, please ring the bell and we'll let you in.

Message of Hope

- 📅 Every Wednesday
- 🕒 5:30–6:30 PM
- 📍 South Parish Congregational Church
9 Church Street, Augusta

MEETINGS & EVENTS



Monthly Meetings & Events

- Trustees Meeting – 1st Tuesday • 6 PM
- Council Meeting – 3rd Tuesday • 6 PM
- Green St. UMC Members Meeting – 2nd Tuesday • 6 PM
- Deacons Meeting – 4th Sunday • After Sunday Service
- Pet Pantry – 2nd Saturday • 9 AM



Weekly Meetings

- Bible Study – Tuesdays • 5 PM
- Sunday Service – Green St. UMC • Every Sunday • 9 AM
- Sunday Service – SPCC • Every Sunday • 10 AM
- AA Meetings – Mon–Fri • 12 PM; Mondays • 6 PM; Saturdays • 7 PM
- Community Meals – 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Weeks • 4:30 PM
- Men's Breakfast – Thursdays • 6:30 AM
- Line Dancing – Mondays • 6 PM
- Rehearsal – Green St. UMC • Wednesdays • 4 PM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC UCC 11:30am -	29 12pm - AA Meeing 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	30 11am - Keyra 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Zoom Bible	31 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	1 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Meeting	2 12pm - AA Meeting	3 4:30pm - 7pm - AA Meetings
4 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC UCC	5 12pm - AA Meeing 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	6 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Zoom Bible 6pm - Trustee's 6pm - Trustees	7 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	8 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Meeting	9 12pm - AA Meeting	10 9am - Pet Pantry 4:30pm - 7pm - AA Meetings
11 9am - Green Street 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC UCC 12:30pm - Green	12 12pm - AA Meeing 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	13 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Zoom Bible 6pm - Green St	14 10am - Nathan 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	15 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Meeting	16 12pm - AA Meeting	17 9am - Green St. 4:30pm - 7pm - AA Meetings
18 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC UCC	19 12pm - AA Meeing 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	20 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Zoom Bible 6pm - Counsel	21 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	22 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Meeting	23 12pm - AA Meeting	24 7pm - AA Meetings
25 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC UCC 11:30am -	26 12pm - AA Meeing 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	27 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Zoom Bible	28 10am - Nathan 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	29 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Meeting	30 12pm - AA Meeting	31 4:30pm - 7pm - AA Meetings

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!

PASTOR NATHAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Need a moment of prayer, a listening ear, or a friendly hello?



OFFICE HOURS
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
Thursday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

SOUTH PARISH

► Church Office Hours

► Looking to connect with Pastor Nathan for prayer, conversation, or pastoral care? He welcomes visits during his dedicated office hours:

► Tuesdays: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

► Wednesdays: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

► Whether you're seeking spiritual guidance or simply want to say hello, Pastor Nathan is here for you.

► Church Office Hours

For general inquiries or administrative support, the church office is open:

► Monday–Wednesday: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

► Thursday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

► Let's keep building a community of care, connection, and grace, one conversation at a time.



Community Meals with Love and Dignity

Every Saturday at 4:30 PM

Our doors—and our hearts—open wide to welcome neighbors in need of a warm meal and kind company. These gatherings are more than just—they're moments of grace, and shared humanity.

Whether you're joining us for nourishment or offering your hands in service, you are part of something sacred.

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Monthly Meal Schedule:

- **1st Saturday** Hosted at: South Parish Congregational Church UCC

Served by: Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church

- **2nd Saturday** Hosted at: South Parish Congregational Church UCC

Served by: South Parish Congregational Church

- **3rd Saturday** Hosted at: South Parish Congregational Church UCC

Served by: United Community Living Center

- **4th Saturday** Hosted at: Penney Memorial

Served by: Penney Memorial

- **5th Saturday (when applicable)**

Hosted at: South Parish Congregational Church, UCC Served by: St Michael's & Temple-Beth EL

All South Parish meals are held at 9 Church St., Augusta

Let us continue to be the hands and feet of Christ—serving with humility, welcoming with joy, and loving without condition.



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.

Prayer Request

If you have a prayer request, we would love to pray for you.

Please **send an email to:**

southparish@gmail.com

or **call the church office at:**

207-622-0552.

Your requests will be handled with care and confidentiality.