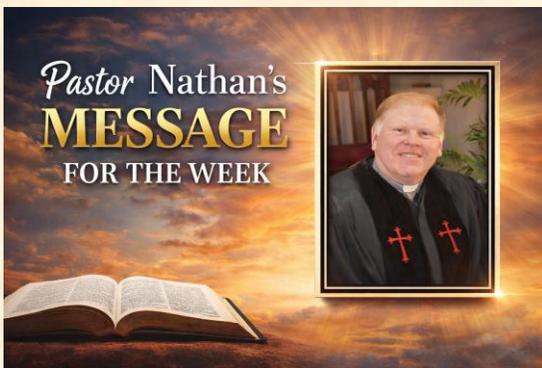




At South Parish Congregational Church, we believe church is more than a building — it is a family of people who care for one another and for our wider community. Whether you are visiting for the first time or have been here for years, **you are an important part of this community.**



### **Pastor Nathan's Message for the Week**

*So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." (John 9: 24-25)*

**The story of the blind man in John's Gospel has been used as a symbol of faith and new life throughout the history of the church.**

The healing of the blind man appears as a baptismal symbol in second century frescoes in the catacombs in Rome. The same story was used in Lenten baptismal liturgies dating at least as far back as the fourth and fifth centuries. The blind man's movement from darkness to light and his confession of his faith in Jesus provided a vehicle through which the church could celebrate the power of new life that begins in baptism.

The blind man's words in John 9:25 also offer eloquent testimony to the transforming power of God's grace in the hymn "Amazing Grace": **"I once was blind, but now I see."**

## Where Faith, Friendship, and Music Meet Jean's Piano Lives On



Many of you knew Jean Matheson, a beloved member of our Church until her passing three years ago. Her daughter Meg, a self-described S. Parish CEO (Christmas and Easter Only) Church member, has been one of my dearest friends since 6th grade. She mentioned to me a bit ago that she wanted to find a home for her mom's piano. Then Emmanuel mentioned to Dan several weeks ago that he was hoping to find a piano for his talented girls. A match made in heaven.

**Literally.**

Today, the Piano Gang made it happen. Dan Petersen, Eric Lind, Scott Whipkey and Pastor Nate moved Jean's spinet piano from her condo on Riverside Drive, to the Malengue's townhouse apartment on New England Rd. Other than a small scrape, all went well.

Mom Filipina, and the girls, Elizabeth and Cleide, were delighted. The girls played the piano for us, Meg wept a bit with happiness, Filipina cooked for us, and Jean looked down from Heaven. **(Oh, and in case you were wondering where Emmanuel was, he is going through orientation with FedEx - yay!)**

Thank you all. We are blessed.

Kathy Petersen

**February 2026**  
**IMPACT UPDATE:**  
**207 Guests Served & 7 Housing Placements**

 Average Nightly Guests <b>48</b>	 Highest Nightly Total Slept Overnight <b>50</b>	 Highest Nightly Total Accessed Center <b>58</b>
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<b>207</b> Total Unduplicated Guests (Nov-Feb)	<b>24</b> New Guests in February	<b>7</b> Housing Placements in February
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City Council Update - Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

Working with Augusta Police & EMS

**Closing for the Season on April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**We Need Your Support!**  
 Donations & Supplies Needed

Visit our Facebook page for our current needs list!

**Making a Difference: February Update from the Warming Center**

February 2026 Data

Average Nightly Guests: 48

Highest Nightly Total (Slept overnight): 50

Highest Nightly Total (Accessed Center): 58

Total Unduplicated Guests (Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb combined): 207

New Guests in February: 24

Alternative Housing Placement: 7

February was a great month for the Center! The number of new guests decreased from January, and there were 7 folks that were supported in finding alternative housing!

Rob and I met with City Council on February 12 th . We were invited to give an overall update on the center operation, and we were received with such support and kindness. The City continues to be appreciative of the work we are all doing to ensure the Center us running each and every evening. We continue to work well with the Augusta Police Department, as well as the Augusta EMS/Fire. They are instrumental in our ability to provide support and safety to our guests each evening!

We are starting to get closer to closing for the season. Our last evening of operation is April 30 th . We continue to seek support from our community members, local businesses, and partners for monetary donations as well as supplies donations. Our current list of needs is listed on our Facebook page!

### Pastor Nathan’s Video of the week.



Scan QR Code with your Camera to Watch.



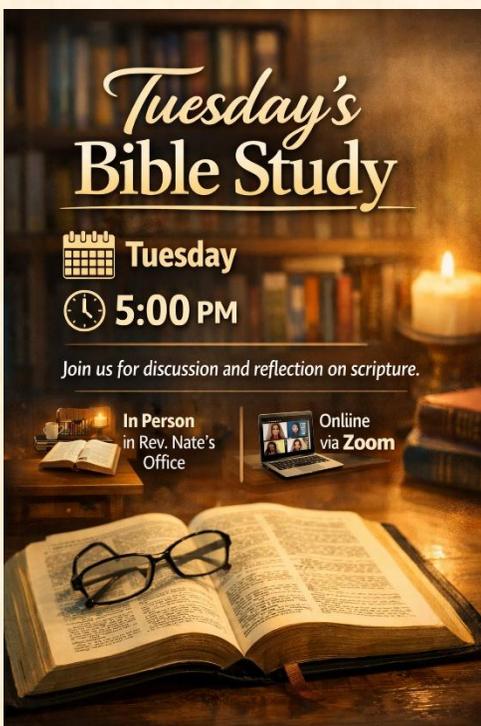
[Click Here to Watch The video](#)

### The Soul of Shame

Curt Thompson

Description

Whether we realize it or not, shame affects every aspect of our personal lives and vocational endeavors. It seeks to destroy our identity in Christ, replacing it with a damaged version of ourselves that results in unhealed pain and brokenness. But God is telling a different story for your life. Psychiatrist Curt Thompson unpacks the soul of shame, revealing its ubiquitous nature and neurobiological roots.



### Tuesdays Bible Study

Tuesday

5:00 PM

Join us for discussion and reflection on scripture.

You may attend:

- In person in Rev. Nate’s office
- Online via Zoom

Let’s walk through these hard times together, grounded in faith and strengthened by love.

The zoom link is easily available, just ask Marcel in the office, or talk with/email Kathy Petersen

[\(dkpete04330@aol.com\)](mailto:dkpete04330@aol.com)

**Everyone is welcome — whether you’ve studied the Bible for years or are just curious.**

MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR  
SUE GAYNE

Save the Date:

## MISSIONS SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

Plan to stay after church for lunch and conversation.

Lent is a great time to add

**“Making A Difference”**

to your calendar

**Save the Date: This Sunday, March 15th is Missions Sunday.**

Plan to stay after church for lunch and conversation. Lent is a great time to add **“Making A Difference”** to your calendar

**Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center**  
*Current Needs*

Thanks to our community, our shelves are **FULL** of clothes! Now, we need the following items:

- Snacks
- Laundry Pods
- Trash Bags (White - Tall Kitchen)
- Paper Towels
- Lysol / Disinfectant Spray
- Trash Bags (Black - 33 Gallon)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Coffee
- Powdered Creamer & Sugar
- Disposable Coffee Cups
- Tissues
- Ibuprofen

**Monetary Donations Urgently Needed!**

Mail checks to:  
Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center  
9 Church St,  
Augusta, ME 04330

Or Donate Online: [CLICK HERE](#)

*Thank you for your support & generosity!  
Together, we can keep the center open for those in need.*

**THE AUGUSTA EMERGENCY OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER**  
34 BRIDGE STREET, AUGUSTA, ME

**DONATIONS DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**

**SOUTH PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OFFICE**  
9 CHURCH ST, AUGUSTA  
MONDAY – THURSDAY  
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**WARMING CENTER (BEHIND THE CHURCH)**  
34 BRIDGE ST, AUGUSTA  
DAILY  
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY!

**Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center – Current Needs**

The Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center continues to provide a warm, safe place for our neighbors during the cold months. Because of the incredible generosity of our community, many people have found comfort, care, and support during difficult times.

We are especially grateful for the outpouring of clothing donations. Thanks to the kindness of so many in our community, our shelves are currently full of clothes, and we are truly thankful for that generosity. At this time, we kindly ask that no additional clothes, blankets, or sheets be donated.

However, there are several everyday supplies that help us keep the center running smoothly and comfortably for our guests.

**Current Needs:**

• Snacks	• Laundry Pods	• Trash Bags (White – Tall Kitchen)
• Trash Bags (Black – 33 Gallon)	• Paper Towels	• Toilet Paper
• Lysol or Disinfectant Spray	• Coffee	• Powdered Creamer
• Sugar	• Disposable Coffee Cups	• Tissues
• Ibuprofen	•	•

In addition to these supplies, monetary donations are very much needed to help keep the center open and operating.

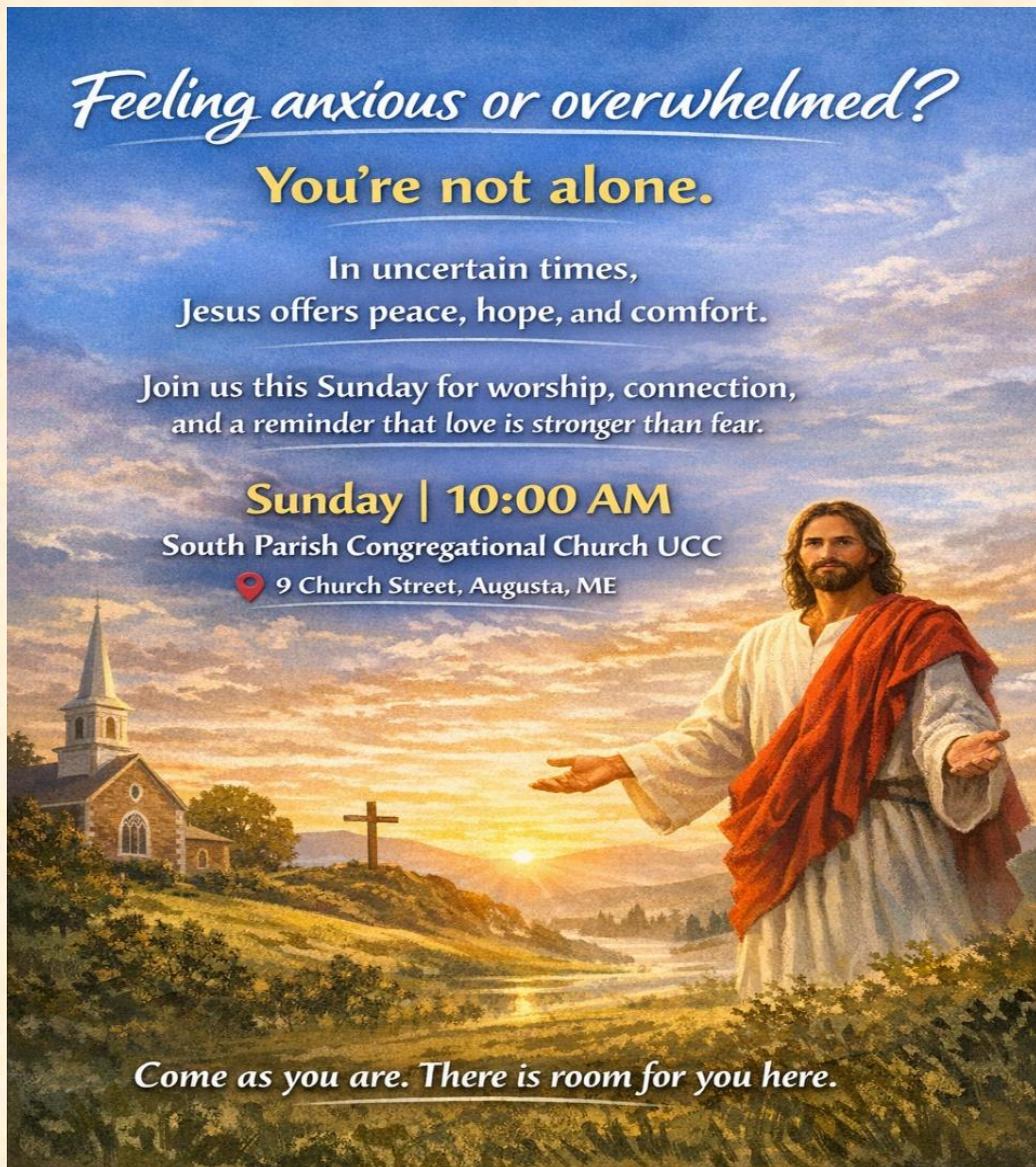
Checks can be mailed to:

**Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center**  
9 Church Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

You may also donate online by clicking the link [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

Every donation, whether supplies, financial support, or prayers helps us continue offering warmth, safety, and dignity to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for your continued compassion and support of the Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center. *Director Julia Stone, Manager Rob Flannery*



### **Finding Peace in Uncertain Times**

With everything happening in the world right now, many of us are carrying anxiety, fear, and weariness in our hearts. If you're feeling overwhelmed, you're not alone—and you don't have to walk through this season by yourself.

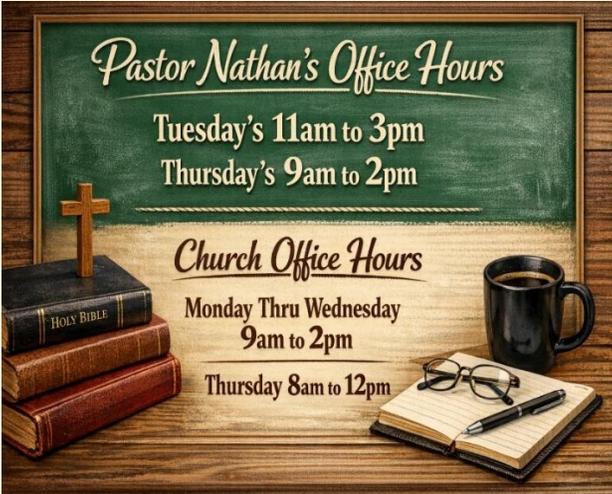
In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus offers us peace that goes beyond understanding, comfort that steadies our hearts, and hope that anchors our souls. This is a time to lean in, not pull away—to reconnect with faith, with community, and with the love that never fails.

We invite you to join us this Sunday at 10:00 AM for a time of worship, encouragement, and connection. Come as you are. Bring your worries, your questions, and your need for rest. There is room for you here.

♥ **Sunday Service | 10:00 AM**

♥ A place for comfort, prayer, and hope

♥ A community ready to welcome you



**Pastor Nathan's Office Hours**  
**Tuesday's 11am to 3pm**  
**Thursday's 9am to 2pm**

**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday Thru Wednesday**  
**9am to 2pm**  
**Thursday 8am to 12pm**

Farmers' Market at Mill Park



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Why not enjoy the day with the kids? Head to the park after school or better yet Buker's park and soak up the sun and get some of that energy out and then come by market to get all the delicious local ingredients you need for dinner!!



### **An Invitation Can Change a Heart**

So many people around us—friends, family, neighbors, coworkers—are carrying heavy burdens right now. Anxiety, fear, and uncertainty are real, and sometimes all it takes is a simple invitation to help someone feel less alone.

This Sunday, we have an opportunity to open the door a little wider.

**Know someone who could use encouragement? Invite them to join you this Sunday.**

A kind word, a shared post, or a personal invitation could be exactly what they need.

At **South Parish Congregational Church UCC**, we gather to find comfort in Christ, strength in community, and peace for the journey ahead.

 **Sunday Service | 10:00 AM**

 **South Parish Congregational Church UCC**

 **9 Church Street, Augusta, ME**

 Reach out to a friend

 Invite a family member

 Offer to sit with them

**You never know how God might use your invitation to bring hope and healing.**

***Thank you for being a welcoming and loving community.***

### Monthly Meetings & Events

- Trustees Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month – 6pm
- Council Meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month – 6pm
- Deacon Meetings – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month – after Sunday Service
- Pet Pantry – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month – 9am

### Weekly Meetings & Events

- Line Dancing Every Monday at 6pm
- Bible Study – Tuesdays – 5pm
- Sunday Service – Every Sunday 10am
- AA Meetings Mon – Fri 12pm Monday Evening 6pm and Saturday 7pm
- ALA-ANON Every Wednesday 5:30pm
- Men's Breakfast Every Thursday at 6:30am
- Swing Dancing Classes Every Thursday at 6:30pm
- Community Meals 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

#### Pastor Nathan's Office Hours

Tuesday's 11am to 3pm

Thursday's 9am to 2pm

#### Church Office Hours

Monday thru Wednesday 9am to 2pm

Thursday 8am to 12pm

Email: [southparish@gmail.com](mailto:southparish@gmail.com)

Phone: 207-622-0552

Webpage: <https://southparishchurch.com/>



Donations Scan QR Code with your camera.

**SPRING**  
*Fling*  
**DANCE PARTY**

**It's been a long winter! Lets get out and party with some friends!**

**April 10, 2026**

**7:00-11:00 PM**

**South Parish Congregational Church**  
**9 Church St., Augusta**  
**tickets \$10 per person**

**Dance to music by Jason B**

**Please feel free to bring a snack or dessert**

**This event is sponsored by your Central Service Office in conjunction with District 12**  
**47 Portland St., Portland ME 04101**

**FMI: Dana 207-459-0126**  
**Heidi 207-756-2118**

**March**

**2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am - Green St. 10am SPCC UCC 2pm Shakespeare MG Rm	2 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	3 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 6pm Trustees Mtg	4 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	5 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Mtg	6 12pm - AA Meeting	7 4:30pm - Community Meals 7pm - AA Mtg
8 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC UCC 2pm Shakespeare	9 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Mtg 6pm - Line Dancing	10 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 5pm - Zoom Bible	11 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	12 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Mtg	13 12pm - AA Mtg	14 9am - Pet Pantry 12pm Baby Shower 4:30pm - Community Meals 7pm - AA Mtg
15 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC Mission Sunday after Service 1pm MG RM Shakespeare	16 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Line Dancing	17 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study 6m Council Mtg	18 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	19 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Mtg	20 12pm - AA Mtg	21 4:30 Community 7pm AA Mtg
22 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC 11:30am Deacon's Mtg	23 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Mtg 6pm - Line Dancing	24 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm - Bible Study	25 12pm - AA Mtg 4pm - Green St 5pm - AL-ANON	26 6:30am - Men's 12pm - AA Mtg	27 12pm - AA Mtg	28 7pm - AA Mtg  4pm to 6pm Chili Chowder Contest
29 10am - Green St. 10am - SPCC	30 12pm - AA Mtg 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - AA Mtg 6pm - Line Dancing	31 12pm - AA Meeting 5pm Bible Study				