

**South Parish Congregational Church UCC**  
**Newsletter • May 07, 2026**



*"If you love me you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15)*

Can the disciples still love Jesus, when he has gone? The Gospel answers yes to this question, but it may be a yes that surprised even Jesus' first disciples. The disciples can still love Jesus, but neither by clinging to a cherished memory of him nor by retreating into their private experience of him. Rather, they can continue to love him by doing his works and by keeping his commandments. That is, when they move outside of their own private experience of Jesus, when they live what Jesus has taught them and demonstrated in his own life, then they will find themselves once again in his love.

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### **Special Edition Newsletter Coming Soon!**

Be watching for a special edition of the South Parish Congregational Church "Happenings" Newsletter!

This upcoming issue will highlight the many ministries, programs, groups, outreach opportunities, and community resources available through our church for both members and the wider community.

Whether you are new to South Parish or have been part of the church family for years, this special edition will help you discover new ways to connect, serve, grow, and belong. Stay tuned!

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### **A Word of Encouragement**

Some weeks feel full and joyful; others feel heavy or uncertain. Wherever you find yourself today, remember this promise:

**"The Lord is near to all who call on Him." — Psalm 145:18**

God doesn't wait for us to have everything figured out. He meets us right where we are — in the middle of our routines, our questions, and our hopes. Take a moment this week to pause, breathe, and invite Him into whatever you're carrying.

*A Special* **Mother's Day** *Message*

**Pastor Nathan** shares an encouraging message honoring the love, faith, and strength of mothers and mother figures everywhere.

**WATCH NOW**  
on our church page

**SCAN TO WATCH**  
Scan with your phone camera to watch the video!

*Her children rise up and call her blessed.*  
— Proverbs 31:28

**MOTHER'S DAY IS THIS SUNDAY**  
**MAY 10, 2026**  
Celebrate ♥ Honor ♥ Give Thanks

**SOUTH PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**  
9 Church St. Augusta, Maine  
(207) 622-7171 | southparishucc.org

**Join us this Sunday as Pastor Nathan shares a special Mother's Day message honoring the love, strength, faith, and care of mothers and mother figures everywhere.**

Whether you are celebrating, remembering, or simply seeking a place of encouragement and hope, you are warmly welcomed to worship with us.

**Mother's Day Service**

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

**South Parish Congregational Church UCC**

**9 Church St. Augusta, Maine**

**Come worship, reflect, and celebrate together as a church family.**

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**Prayer Focus for the Week - Let's pray together for:**

- Local teachers and school staff as they finish the spring semester
- Families in our church who are navigating illness or transition
- Our missionaries serving the community
- A spirit of unity and encouragement within our community

**If you have a prayer request, reply anytime we'd love to pray with you.**

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## Family Faith Moment

At dinner one night this week, ask:

*“Where did you see God’s goodness today?”*

It’s a simple question that opens the door to gratitude and conversation.

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## Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center – Season Summary

As the winter season came to a close, the Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center continued to serve some of our community’s most vulnerable neighbors with compassion, dignity, and care.

During the final month of operation, the center welcomed an average of **47 guests per night**, providing a total of **1,409 bed nights** of shelter and safety. The highest nightly total reached **57 guests accessing the center**, with **50 guests staying overnight**, while the lowest nightly total was **39 guests**.

Over the course of the season (November through April), the center served **265 unduplicated guests**, including **21 new guests in April alone**.

Beyond providing overnight shelter, staff and volunteers worked to connect guests with critical support services:

- **8 alternative housing placements**
- **15 contacts with the Augusta Police Department (APD)**
  - 8 APD-initiated contacts
  - 6 staff-initiated calls to APD
  - 1 guest-initiated call
- **14 contacts with Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**
  - All initiated by AEOWC staff
- Support provided for **1 animal service (cat)**
- **0 Narcan administrations**

These numbers represent more than statistics, they reflect touched lives, relationships built, and a community coming together to ensure no one faces Maine’s harsh winter alone.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to every volunteer, donor, staff member, church, organization, and community partner who helped make this season possible. Your compassion made a difference every single night.

*Julia Stone, Director*

## Gratitude Corner

### This week, we're thankful for:

- New faces who visited on Sunday
  - Volunteers who faithfully serve behind the scenes
  - The ways God continues to provide for our church family
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### 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](mailto: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.

### East Coast Swing Dance Lesson

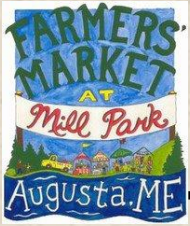
**Come dance, have fun, and learn some swing moves!**

Thursday, April May 14 6:30 PM

South Parish Congregational Church

9 Church St., Augusta

\$5.00 donation (Enter by the Glass Door near the flag) No experience needed—just show up and enjoy!



**The Farmers' Market at Mill Park in Augusta, Maine, for the 2026 season begins on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The summer market runs from May through October, operating every Tuesday from 3–5:30 PM (sometimes listed as 2–6 PM) at 1 Water Street, featuring local produce, goods, and music**



**BRIDGING THE GAP**  
*Together we can!*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13 ~ 9 TO 1**


# Community Market

**CRAFTS - FLEA MARKET - VENDORS**  
**Sell your TREASURES here**  
**Reserve your space today!**  
**8x10 space is \$20**  
(sorry no tables available - bring your own)  
**Space rental proceeds will benefit**  
**Bridging the Gap's Centralized Helping Fund**

**Support Bridging the Gap**  
**Support Local Artisans**  
**Community Atmosphere - Food**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church**  
**209 Eastern Avenue ~ Augusta, ME**

For more information, please email [bridgingthegapaugusta@gmail.com](mailto:bridgingthegapaugusta@gmail.com)

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday                                     | Friday                                     | Saturday   |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |   |  |   |  | 1<br>12pm - AA Meeting                     | 2<br>4:30pm - Community Meals<br>12Pm - 4:30pm Dirigo Braiders Guild Meeting<br>7pm - AA Mtg |
| 3 10am Green St.<br>10am SPCC UCC   | 4 12pm - AA Meeting<br>1pm - Bridge Club<br>6pm - AA Meeting<br>6pm - Line Dancing  | 5 12pm - AA Meeting<br>5pm - Bible Study<br>6pm Trustees Mtg | 6 12pm - AA Meeting<br>4pm Green St<br>5pm AL-ANON  | 7 6:30am - Men's Breakfast<br>12pm - AA Mtg  | 8 12pm - AA Meeting                        | 9 9am - Pet Pantry<br>4:30 Community<br>7pm AA Mtg   |
| 10 10am Green St.<br>10am SPCC UCC  | 11 12pm - AA Meeting<br>1pm - Bridge Club<br>6pm - AA Meeting<br>6pm - Line Dancing | 12 12pm - AA Meeting<br>5pm Bible Study                      | 13 12pm - AA Meeting<br>4pm Green St<br>5pm AL-ANON | 14 6:30am - Men's Breakfast<br>12pm - AA Mtg | 15 12pm - AA Meeting                       | 16 4:30pm - Community Meals<br>7pm - AA Mtg  |
| 17 10am Green St.<br>10am SPCC UCC  | 18 12pm - AA Meeting<br>1pm - Bridge Club<br>6pm - AA Meeting<br>6pm - Line Dancing | 19 12pm - AA Meeting<br>5pm - Bible Study<br>6m Council Mtg  | 20 12pm - AA Meeting<br>4pm Green St<br>5pm AL-ANON | 21 6:30am - Men's Breakfast<br>12pm - AA Mtg | 22 12pm - AA Meeting                       | 23 7pm - AA Mtg  |
| 24 10am Green St.<br>10am SPCC UCC  | 25 12pm - AA Meeting<br>1pm - Bridge Club<br>6pm - AA Meeting<br>6pm - Line Dancing | 26 12pm - AA Meeting<br>5pm Bible Study                      | 27 12pm - AA Meeting<br>4pm Green St<br>5pm AL-ANON | 28 6:30am - Men's Breakfast<br>12pm - AA Mtg | 29 12pm - AA Meeting<br>Fellowship Meeting | 30 4:30pm - Community Meals<br>7pm - AA Mtg  |
| 31 10am Green St.<br>10am SPCC UCC  |   |  |   |  |  |  |