

South Parish Congregational Church UCC Newsletter • May 28, 2026



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus’ final words to His disciples were not words of fear, but words of purpose and promise. He calls ordinary people to carry love, hope, compassion, and grace into the world around them.

In a world that often feels divided and uncertain, we are reminded that even small acts of kindness and faithfulness matter. We are never called to walk alone — Christ goes with us always.

May we carry His love into our homes, our community, and our daily lives this week.

Warrant
Annual Meeting
South Parish Congregational Church UCC
May 31, 2026

Article I: To review and accept reports relating to programs and activities of the church

Article II: To discuss any matters of significance occurring since the Annual Meeting in May 2025

Article III: To review the status of the budget

Article IV: To elect officers and members of boards and committees for the coming year.

Article V: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Article VI: To adjourn the meeting.



Kari Russo & Jim Kochenburger

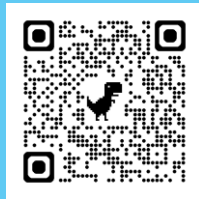
Description

In this session of the Mental Health Toolkit 2.0, we discuss Loneliness. One out of four Americans currently suffers from loneliness; a condition the Former Surgeon General has called a national mental health crisis. In this episode, counselor Jim Kochenburger Russo explores the despair of isolation and provides a roadmap for recovery. This project is designed as a foundational tool to help you understand basic mental health concepts and bridge the gap for those who may not have immediate access to face-to-face counseling.

In this session, you will learn to identify different forms of loneliness, from social disconnection to the "alone in a crowd" feeling of emotional loneliness. Jim outlines practical "loneliness busters," including the importance of finding a bigger purpose and the biological power of physical affection and oxytocin. While this episode does not replace the necessity of professional therapy, it serves as an essential first step toward reclaiming your mental well-being and discovering the vital importance of human connection.

[TO LISTEN TO PASTOR NATHAN'S VIDEO CHOICE CLICK HERE](#)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA.



<https://youtu.be/EUtRPmKhmtE>

Help **KEEP THE**

AMY BUXTON

PET PANTRY

OPEN!

Help pets stay with the families who love them.

We need your help!

 Dog Food (dry & wet)
 Cat Food (dry & wet)
 Kitty Litter
 Monetary Donations
 Volunteers Needed

SUMMER HOURS:
Open the 2nd Saturday of each month
9-10 AM

Donations may be dropped off during church office hours:
Tue-Thu, 9 AM-Noon, or Sunday mornings.

Together, we can make sure no family has to choose between feeding themselves or feeding their pets.

SOUTH PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
9 Church Street, Augusta, Maine
207-622-0552

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PETS AND OUR COMMUNITY!

Dear Friends,

For many of us, pets are not “just animals.”

They are family.

They are the wagging tails that greet us at the door after a hard day. The quiet comfort beside us when life feels overwhelming. The unconditional love that asks for nothing except kindness in return.

Right now, many families in our community are struggling to keep food on the table — not only for themselves, but for the pets they love deeply.

The Amy Buxton Pet Pantry at South Parish Congregational Church has become a lifeline for local seniors, disabled individuals, families, and neighbors facing difficult times. Because of the pantry, many beloved pets have been able to stay in the homes where they are loved instead of being surrendered simply because families cannot afford pet food.

But today, we need help.

The need has grown so quickly that volunteers have personally spent hundreds of dollars out-of-pocket to make sure no pet goes hungry. We are doing everything we can to keep the pantry open and continue serving our community — but we cannot do it alone.

We are asking animal lovers, compassionate neighbors, local businesses, churches, and community members to help in any way they can.

Our mission is simple:

Help pets stay with the families who love them.

The pantry operates in honor of Amy Buxton, whose compassion for both people and animals continue to touch lives throughout Central Maine every single day.

If you are able to help, donations may be dropped off at:

South Parish Congregational Church
9 Church Street
Augusta, Maine

SUMMER HOURS:

Open the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00–10:00 AM

Additional drop-off times:

Tuesday–Thursday, 9 AM–Noon, or Sunday mornings.

Questions or donations:

207-622-0552

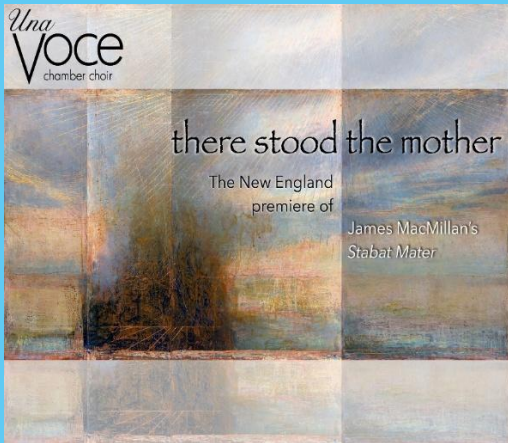
Please consider donating, volunteering, or simply sharing this message with friends and family.

Together, we can make sure no family has to choose between feeding themselves or feeding their pets.

From the bottom of our hearts — thank you for caring.

With gratitude,

Kathy Petersen and Anna Buxton



**Una Voce Chamber Choir to Present
New England Premiere of James
MacMillan's *Stabat Mater*
*A powerful and rarely performed
modern masterpiece comes to
Bowdoin College this June 12 @ 7 PM
Brunswick, Maine***

Brunswick, Maine — Una Voce Chamber Choir (UVCC) proudly announces *there stood the mother*, a landmark June performance featuring the New England premiere of *Stabat Mater* by acclaimed Scottish composer James MacMillan. The concert will take place in the exceptional acoustics of Studzinski Hall on the campus of Bowdoin College.

Premiered in 2016 by Harry Christophers and the renowned vocal ensemble The Sixteen to widespread critical acclaim, *Stabat Mater* has quickly emerged as one of the most significant choral works of the 21st century. The piece sets the 13th-century Marian text by Jacopone da Todi, exploring profound themes of grief, devotion, and transcendence. MacMillan's score blends centuries of choral tradition with a strikingly modern musical language, pairing luminous vocal writing with angular, at times visceral, string accompaniment. The result is a deeply moving and immersive experience that pushes performers and audiences alike into the emotional core of the text.

Despite its U.S. premiere in 2019, *Stabat Mater* remains rarely performed outside Europe due to its formidable technical and expressive demands. "This is a state of affairs that we are excited to help rectify," says UVCC Artistic Director Virgil Bozeman IV. "It is a work of extraordinary power and beauty, and one that deserves to be heard more widely."

For this special performance, UVCC will be joined by seventeen of the region's finest instrumentalists, bringing MacMillan's vivid orchestration to life in a setting uniquely suited to its sonic intensity and nuance. *there stood the mother* promises to be a compelling event for lovers of contemporary music and choral artistry alike—an opportunity to experience a modern masterpiece in a rare and unforgettable performance.

Event Details

there stood the mother

Una Voce Chamber Choir

June 12 @ 7 PM



On Sunday, May 24, I got to meet yet another new person. I invited her to Fellowship after Church, so got to talk one-on-one with her. Her name is “Tish,” short for Atisha. She lives in Sidney.

It seems she found her way to South Parish Church because of her friend Rob. That is Rob who is Director of the Overnight Warming Center and Head Deacon.

Thank you to Beth Sirabella, who also heartily welcomed her at Fellowship.

It is fun to tell you about new people coming into Church, because it proves the point that we are growing week after week!

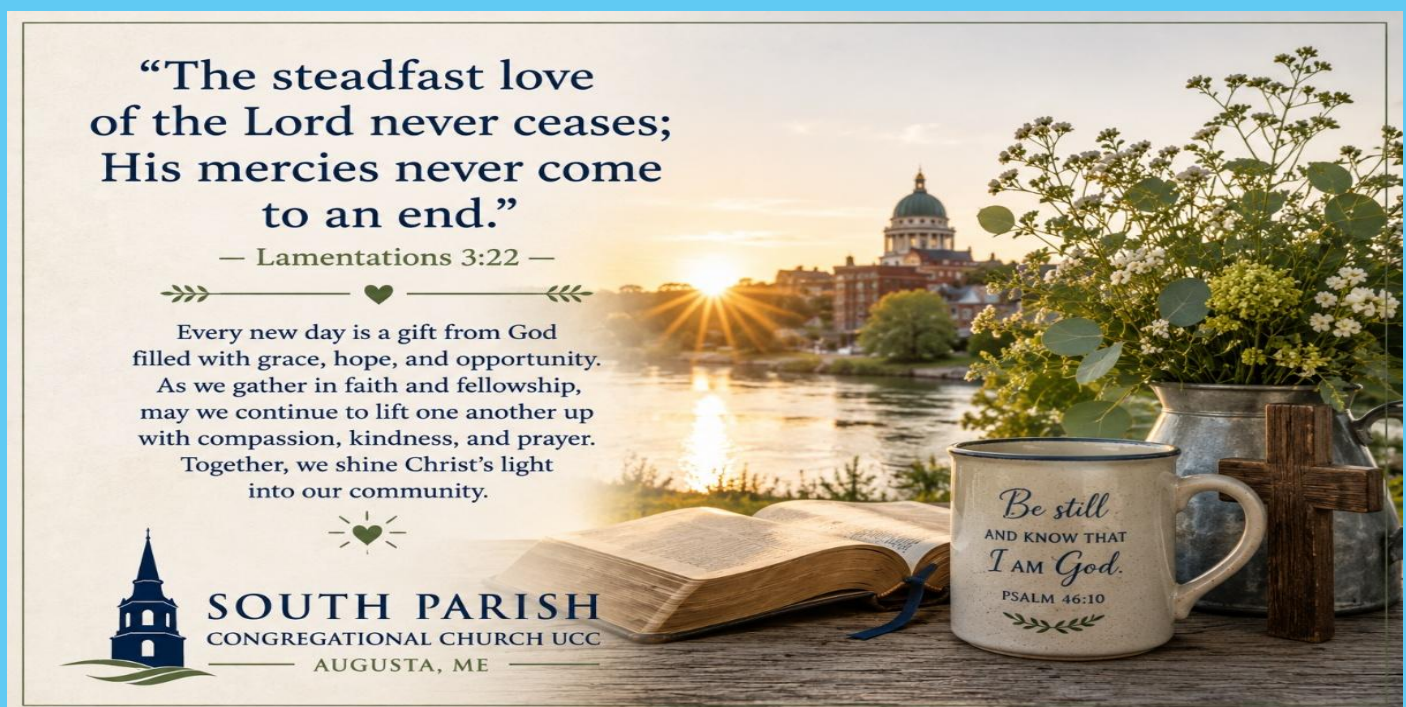
Very often people come to Church for the first time because of relationships with those of us who are already members or congregates.

So be bold and invite someone to Church. You will know when the time is right because you will be prompted by the Holy Spirit. Listen for it...

Nelson

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” — Romans 12:12

No matter what this week brings, may we remember that God walks beside us in every moment. Take time to pray, encourage someone, and share the love of Christ wherever you go. You may never know how much a simple act of kindness can brighten someone’s day.



Bridging the Gap
Together we can!

VENDOR SPACES AVAILABLE!

COMMUNITY MARKET

A fundraiser to benefit
Bridging the Gap
Centralized Helping Fund

SAT. JUNE 13
9 AM - 1 PM

Come and find crafts, plants,
books, baked goods, kitchen finds,
jewelry collectibles, décor & more!

Emmanuel Lutheran
Episcopal Church
209 Eastern Ave.
Augusta, Maine

www.bridgingthegapaugusta@gmail.com

It's getting closer! Do you have a craft, a specialty food, soap, knitted goods, gifts? Need a place to sell? This market is for you!

Rent a space for \$20! Proceeds benefit the Bridging the Gap Centralized Helping Fund (CHEF). Message us or email us at bridgingthegapaugusta@gmail.com for more information!

“Let all that you do be done in love.” — 1 Corinthians 16:14

As a church family, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. A smile, a prayer, a helping hand, or a kind word can make a lasting difference. Thank you for sharing God’s love each and every day.

Let all that
you do be done
in love. ♡

– 1 Corinthians 16:14

As a church family, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. A smile, a prayer, a helping hand, or a kind word can make a lasting difference.

Thank you for sharing God's love each and every day.



SOUTH PARISH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
AUGUSTA, ME



COMMUNITY FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

MAY 28, 2026 - 7:00 PM
AUGUSTA CITY HALL

The City of Augusta invites you to attend a Community Forum on Homelessness on **Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 PM** at Augusta City Hall in the Lecture Hall, Room 138.

This forum is intended to provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about homelessness in Augusta, hear about the work currently being done by the City and community partners, discuss future plans, address community concerns, and participate in an open community conversation.

WHAT'S HAPPENING


The evening will include a panel discussion featuring:

- Kevin Lully, Augusta Police Department Chief
- Meaghan Maloney, District Attorney
- Dawn Kearns, Community Response Specialist
- Earl Kingsbury, Community Services Director

The forum will be moderated by Mayor Mark O'Brien and will take place following the conclusion of the City Council Informational Meeting.

We encourage residents, business owners, service providers, and community members to attend and be part of this important conversation. **We hope you can join us.**



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