

Summer 2026

Southwick Congregational Church
488 College Highway
P.O. Box 260
Southwick, MA 01077-0260
Return Service Requested



*The **Good** Newsletter of the*
Southwick Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Southwick, MA

Please join us Sundays for Worship Service 11:00 am
and Coffee Hour to follow

Website: [www. SouthwickUCC.org](http://www.SouthwickUCC.org)



MISSION STATEMENT

Southwick Congregational Church is a faithful Christian presence in the community of Southwick since 1773, and we look to the future. We are a diverse and loving congregation, joyfully serving, teaching, and sharing with one another, according to the gifts we have been given.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We invite you to join us each Sunday for our service at 11:00 am and coffee hour that follows.

OFFICE HOURS

After July 21, Joseph will be remote, & we will update you with any office hours available.

Please leave a voicemail message or an email if you need anything nonemergent after hours.

Joseph *will* get back to you.

Rev. Paul has office hours until Aug 16.

If you would like to meet with him, please call the church office at

(413) 569-6362 or email him at

revpaulnesbit@gmail.com

to arrange.



VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Our Facebook page is

Southwick Congregational Church UCC

Please check it out, "like" us, and follow us!!!

Keep track of what our very busy church is doing!

REV. PAUL'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

For the past four and a half years I have had the privilege to serve Southwick Congregational Church as pastor. I truly believe that the Holy Spirit was at work when you called me to this position. So many wonderful things have happened; I also feel that I have been able to grow as a minister.

This space in the newsletter will be filled by Terry Putnam or her designee as your church moves forward in the search and call process. Conversations will be had and decisions will be made. Not everyone will be happy but, hopefully, you will work to resolve conflicts to reach a consensus as to what will happen in your immediate future. Please remember to **stop, reflect, pray, and listen.**

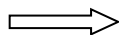
We don't know what the Holy Spirit has in store for us unless we stop the conversation, especially if it becomes heated. It is important for us to reflect privately on what is being asked and then to put it to prayer. We can even pray with the person with whom we may not agree; you're both in conversation with the same goal in mind. And then, you simply must listen quietly so that you can hear what the Holy Spirit is saying.

My prayer for this congregation is that you will continue to listen to the Holy Spirit as you grow in service to extend the Reign of God on earth in the Greater Southwick area and beyond. I have cherished my time here with you and, again, I thank you for how you have helped me on my own faith journey. I am around until August 16; reach out if I can help you with anything.

Peace and love,

Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit, Pastor



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Joint Service July 26 is in **WESTFIELD** at 9:30am
- Special Send Off Coffee Hour August 9th
- Rev Paul's last Sunday is August 16th
- August Joint Service is in Southwick at 11am
- If you need something, call or email the office, I am checking messages and emails, remotely, Tues, Wed and Thurs. If there are changes, we will let you know.
- Aug 2, at 2pm, Southwick Historical Society will present a program on the Declaration of Independence, a tour of Veterans Memorial and refreshments hosted by the Church



Buildings & Grounds beseecheth all budding aspirational artist types to assist the beautification of the Nativity pieces. Come help paint manger pieces—animals, shepherds, wise guys, wise men!

2026 JOINT SERVICE SCHEDULE

July 26	Westfield	Last Sunday
August 30	Southwick	Last Sunday
September 27	Westfield	Last Sunday
October 25	Southwick	Last Sunday

JUNE PRAYER LIST

Roberta & Ted K., Jim R. (Eric N.), **Julie, Emilie & Ted** (Dawn), **Emma C., Ron R., Jeanne S., Jane W.** (Patty), **Robert R., T.J.W., Raymond F., Diane R., Brian C., Chris L.** (Robin), **Cara C., Sharon W., Owen L.** (Melanie), **Sarah B. & Susan U.** (Patty), **Jennifer** (Deb), **Jill** (SteveP), **Avany, Dick & Lynn A.** (Kirsten), **Patricia F., Judy R.** (Kristy), **Dennis W.** (Eric), **R.J.** (Robin), **Ashley, Melanie D.** (Dennis & Melissa), **Kim & Jenn** (Cynthia), **Julie C, Jemma** (Robin), **Dominic, Pat M., Lorraine B., Mike D.** (Lori), **David S.** (Robin), **Sarah** (Karen), **Selwyn W., Amy P.** (Rev Paul), **Ann B.** (Robin), **Angie K.** (Kirsten), **Mark, Judy L.** (Jim), **Sean W.** (Robin), **Joan B & Larry B.** (Flo), **Jen B** (Patty), **Jasmine, Elizabeth** (Terry), **Stewy J.** (Jim), **Treasure** (Dom), **Marty B** (Deb F), **Gus G.** (Shirl), **Kara K** (Bob & Pat), **Katie M.** (Robin), **Deb F., Tom** (Eric), **Henry P.** (Terry), **Ken** (Dennis & Melissa), **Jeff R., family & friends** (Jim), **Andrew C., Jim H** (Lorraine), **Mathew**, Roberta's son, **Jim D** (Melissa), **Judy B.** (Deb), **Scott G.** (Rev Paul), the family of **Ron C** at his passing (Bob), **Bill P.** (Janice), **Brittany**, and **Steve** (Dom).

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:

Michael C., Julie C and Jake M.

**Serving in our Military at home and abroad: S
amantha P., and Samuel H.**

Please also pray for all those unnamed who are suffering or in need of prayer in our community and worldwide.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am - JOINT 9:30am - SCEC NFH		6pm - BSA OFH			10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop 5pm - Family Game
A QUICK REMINDER THAT UP TO DATE CALENDAR INFO IS AVAILABLE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AT SouthwickUCC.ORG						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC 2pm - Reading of 2pm - SHistSoc OFH					10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC		7pm - BSA OFH			10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC		7pm - BSA OFH			10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC		6pm - BSA OFH			10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
30	31					
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC						

PICNIC WITH THE PASTOR 6/28/26

Celebrating and appreciating a wonderful, church picnic with Westfield First Congregational Church. Thanks to Kristy P and volunteers from both churches who put together a scrumptious smorgasbord of appetizers, sides, desserts, and beverages. Thanks also to Bob F, Denny D, and Mike for grilling burgers and hot dogs. Had all the vibes of an old-fashioned church picnic!

In 2020, a conversation between individuals from both churches developed into a partnership to join in calling a shared minister. In the past few years, we have learned how to make joint decisions and solve issues as they came up. We've worshipped together at special times and shared coffee hours. Most of all, we have become good friends bound together by our commitment to congregation, community, and faith.



ALL CHURCH MEETING JUNE 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:20 pm following church services and fellowship and opened with a prayer by Rev. Paul.

Pastor: Rev. Paul mentioned the Picnic with the Pastor to be held following service on June 28th at the Joint Service held in Westfield. He asked those present if anyone had any questions for him regarding his announcement that he would be leaving for a new position in Wilbraham at the end of August. The question was asked if our office administrator, Joseph, was leaving with Rev. Paul. It was stated the Joseph and his wife are moving to Rhode Island and this is entirely coincidental regarding the timing. Joseph is planning to work remotely for us and may possibly come to Southwick occasionally as needed. It was mentioned that the office may need occasional help and we might need to hire someone for a few hours a week but will have to see.

Music: Jen Hall Cotto said that the Gift of Music that the handbell choir played today in church ("Pandemem") was purchased by the bell choir in memory of Patti Wood, their former director.

Finance: Melanie Nitsch reported that the group did not meet in person before this meeting but discussed a few things over email. They are aware of the need in the near future to discuss salary figures for a bridge pastor and then an interim pastor. Joseph will be organizing notes and jobs that he can and cannot do remotely and will keep us informed about the progress of his leaving. The first parsonage rent increase will take place as of July 1st. The landscaping and power washing taking place at the parsonage has an expected cost of \$2,000 to \$2,500. Jim Putnam suggested half could be paid for from Memorial Gifts funds and the other half from our operating account.

Treasurer : Jim Putnam reported we have received a number of memorial gifts in memory of Karen Brzezinski and Jim Gebryel. He has been working with the town regarding the signage policy for the Veterans Memorial Green. Tina Clark had asked for a Little Library to be placed somewhere outside on the church property. The Rotary in town also wanted to do this and placed posts already. A recent Southwick High School graduate built the library and it will soon be put in place.

Buildings & Grounds: Eric Nitsch reported Jim Putnam and Bob

ALL CHURCH MEETING CONT.

Franzen cut down the bushes around the parsonage. There was a crew that helped place all the debris in a dumpster that was hauled away. The power washing and new bushes to be planted are next.

Pastoral Relations: Bob Franzen reported the committee lost a member, Lee Zinnack, who has moved away. He and Dennis Day will remain idle for a bit since our current pastor is leaving.

Moderator: Terry Putnam reported that currently Westfield is committed to remaining partners with us in sharing a pastor. She and the Westfield Moderator, Daniel, had met with the UCC and a list of bridge pastors was obtained. She and Daniel have emailed twelve potential candidates. The bridge pastor would be expected to have a weekly Sunday morning service, as well as perform any weddings or funerals that may arise, and perhaps hold brief weekly office hours. We may need to pay for each job they are asked to do, but this needs to be ironed out. Some of the potential candidates have been eliminated already from the list. Terry and Patty Banasik will choose any needed pulpit supply and the bridge minister. It is the hope that this person will also be shared with Westfield.

Jim Putnam wanted to assure everyone present that the process will move forward during the summer. Terry agreed and the hope is to have a candidate lined up for September 1st. The next step would be to begin to search for an interim minister who will help us in the process of helping us decide what we want to search for in a called pastor. Our past Profile will be updated hopefully by the end of July. Terry made a motion to ask for a committee of four to be appointed to update the profile and interview for an interim who perhaps will be employed for 1-2 years, or whatever is needed. After a show of hands vote, the motion passed unanimously. Positive things are happening!!

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Nitsch, Clerk

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Moderator:	Terry Putnam	hannahput@yahoo.com	413-569-9283
Buildings & Grounds:	Eric Nitsch	eric.nitsch@gmail.com	413-695-4164
Christian Education:	Kirsten Allhusen	kirstenla@comcast.net	570-762-1313
Deacons:	Patty Banasik	preciousbana@aol.com	413-237-4717
Finance:	Melanie Nitsch	emnitsch@gmail.com	413-454-7043
Music:	Jenn Hall-Cotto	jenncotto@comcast.net	413-218-5335
Pastoral Relations:	Bob Franzen	bobfranzen@hotmail.com	413-355-3061
Treasurer:	Jim Putnam	Jim-putnam@comcast.net	413-569-9283

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488 College Highway; P.O. Box 260
Southwick, MA 01077-0260

Church Office Hours: Will be erratic, by appt—call or email!

Church Office Phone: 413-569-6362

Pastor: Rev. Paul Nesbit

Office Hours: By appointment, until 8/16/26

Rev. Paul's Email: RevPaulNesbit@gmail.com

Church Website: www.southwickucc.org

Office e-mail: southwickucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Southwick Congregational Church UCC

You Tube: Southwick Congregational Church

Staff:	Choir Director/Organist	Roberta Kowal
	Custodian	Christopher Robin Roberts
	Administrative Assistant	Joseph Stiefel (remote)



**Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the
hearts of your faithful and kindle
in them the fire of your love!**

**Please join us for our joint Church
service with First Congregational
Church, in Southwick on Sunday,
August 30 at 11 am.**



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United Church of Christ
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VOLUME MMXXVI No. 7/8

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