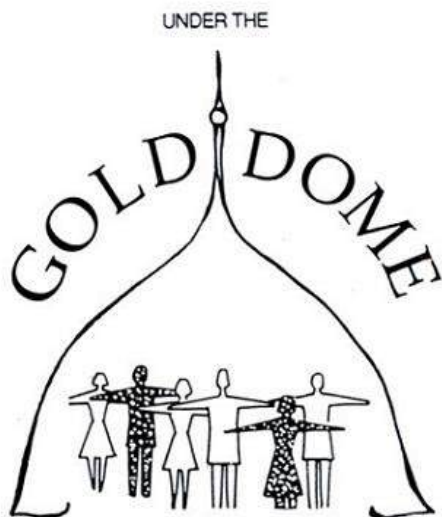


# April 2025

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 in-person service at 11:00 am and coffee hour that follows.

## OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are Tue, Wed & Thu 9:30-4.

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

Rev. Paul has office hours.  
If you would like a visit,  
please call the church office at  
(413) 569-6362 to schedule.  
Office Hours by appointment.



## 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



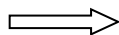
### From Death to New Life!

It has been an interesting start to 2025 as we finally witnessed a true New England winter. However, the promise of Spring is all around us. With the budding of trees and flowers comes the promise of the Resurrection, as foretold by Jesus to his disciples.

April is a “funny” month as it intermingles with two distinct liturgical seasons. It comes in while we are in the midst of Lent and goes out while we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter. As a result, we will observe

- Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday on **April 13** at **both** churches (**9:30 FCC/11:00 SCC**)
- Maundy Thursday **April 17** at **Southwick Congregational Church** at **7:30 PM**
- Easter Sunday on **April 20** at **both** churches (**9:30 FCC/11:00 SCC**)
- Joint Service on **April 27** at **Southwick Congregational** at **11:00 AM**

I know of folks who enjoy the simple but majestic entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. For some, it is the beauty and time-honored ritual of the Maundy Thursday Service. Others enjoy the prayerful quiet that accompanies Good Friday and Saturday as we keep our own Easter Vigil. Of course, we are so pleased to come together on Easter morning to celebrate the Resurrection and how we have new life in the Risen Christ. The light days that follow, especially as we enter Daylight Savings Time, allow us to experience our own version of new life as the earth awakens around us once again.



## REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

May we all move from the “death” that comes with winter into “New Life” that comes with spring and the Resurrection at Easter.

Peace and Love,

*Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit  
Pastor

## APRIL PRAYER LIST

**Roberta & Ted K., Jim R. (Eric N.), Julie & Emilee (Dawn), Emma C., Ron R., Lisa B. (Patty), 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 A. (Kirsten), Patricia F., Judy R. (Kristy), Dennis W. (Eric), Scott (Patty), R.J. (Robin), Bob B., Bobby (Terry), Ashley, Melanie D. (Dennis & Melissa), Kim & Jenn (Cynthia), Julie C., Jemma (Robin), Dominic, Pat M., Lorraine B., Mike D. (Lori), Parker (Terry), David S. (Robin), Sarah (Karen), Selwyn W., Robyn (Terry), Heidi (Judy), Ernie's family at his passing, and Heather H. (Jen).**

**Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Michael C., and Julie C.**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maundy Thursday Service, Southwick, 4/17 @ 7:30pm

Easter service 4/20, 11am, no sunrise service

BSA Can/Bottle Drive, parking lot, 4/26, 10-2

Joint Service with First Congo, in Southwick, 4/27 at 11am



14 June

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So  p  
Sale

# SUCCESS

To all who helped, stewed, sliced, sautéed, peeled, diced and simmered, a big thank you. We raised \$1,275.

Special thanks to Robin and her main helpers Kristy, Deb and Terry

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	5pm - GSA #6, #10 6pm - BSA Old Hall	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - GSA #6, #10	10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	5pm - GSA #6, #10 6pm - BSA Old Hall	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - GSA Dickinson	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - GSA #6, #10	10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	5pm - GSA #6, #10 7pm - BSA Old Hall	Tax Day 9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice 6:30pm - SCEC	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 7:30pm - Maundy Thu	10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	Easter Monday 7pm - BSA Old Hall	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 3pm - HistSocDinner 5pm - SCEC	10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - BSA bottle 10am - Thrift Shop
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - Joint Svc	5pm - GSA #6, #10 6pm - BSA Old Hall	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - SCEC 6:30pm - GSA #6, #10	10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

### 252<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:25 p.m. and was held in Old Fellowship Hall following our 11 a.m. morning worship service and a delicious potluck luncheon. An opening prayer was led by our Pastor, Rev. Paul B. Nesbit. The Moderator then asked for a moment to recognize and remember members who passed away in 2024 – Ellie Bates, Don Lindsay, Joan Holmes, and Charlie Pratt.

The Moderator asked for a motion from the floor, which was seconded and passed unanimously, to dispense with the reading of the Call to the Annual Meeting.

A count was taken around the room with 30 voting members present – a quorum of 15 was achieved.

The Moderator entertained a motion from the floor to accept the Clerk's Report/Minutes of last year's 251<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting which was seconded, and with no discussion, was passed unanimously.

**Moderator:** Terry Putnam thanked all committee members for their work throughout last year with a reminder that anyone interested in working on a committee or changing committees could speak with her. She reported a new three-year contract had been discussed, agreed upon, and signed by the Negotiating Committee and Rev. Paul which brought a round of applause.

Committee chairs were asked if they had anything to highlight or add to their committee annual reports:

**Board of Deacons** – Patty Banasik reported that no Sunrise Easter Service will be held at our church this year but noted several other area churches held them. She also added a big thank you to Jane Thompson for helping the Deacons this past year.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Eric Nitsch thanked Bob Franzen and Mike Pitoniak for all their help this past year.

**Christian Ed** – Kirsten Allhusen is considering events for youth outreach into the community.

**Finance Committee** – Melanie Nitsch mentioned important visible financial goals last year of the new roof, the new copier, and rental space to the Southwick Community Episcopal Church, as well

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

as less visible goals to the congregation of a new payroll provider and transferring of all church banking to Westfield Bank – undertaken by Jim Putnam.

**Memorial Gifts** – Karen Brzezinski reported the recent receipt of an over \$5,000 check from FMC for share transfers.

**Music Committee** – Jen Cotto offered a thank you to our organist and choir director, Roberta Kowal, as well as the bell choir members, along with our East Granby Congregational Church friends who help out with the bell choir all the time.

**Pastoral Relations** – Bob Franzen stated per his annual report everything is current.

**Henrietta's Thrift Shop** – Joyce Hamilton was thanked by the Moderator and those in attendance for her important mission work the thrift store does and the funds it raises. Joyce thanked Robin Sklarski for her help throughout the year.

**Boy Scouts** – Jen Cotto stated that Troop 114 (sponsored by our church) merged with Troop 338 this past year and they decided to continue to hold meetings in our church because our church holds the longest charter for scouting in the town.

Moderator Terry Putnam asked if there were any new members of committees to bring forth. Kirsten Allhusen nominated Tina Clark for the Christian Ed committee with a motion to accept, which was seconded, followed with no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. Thank you and welcome Tina!

### **Treasurer - Review of 2024 and Proposed 2025 Budgets:**

Jim Putnam represented the Finance Committee for this discussion. Referring to the summary of our 2024 finances in the Annual Report, they showed no surprises but thankfully a slightly smaller deficit at year end than predicted. A separate sheet was distributed to all at the meeting showing the actual 2024 figures and the proposed 2025 budget figures. Jim pointed out our major expenses were our staff, insurance, and utility costs. Most proposed 2025 figures were carried over from 2024 with the only significant change in the budget being a requested 3% increase in salaries for our three employees (office assistance, organist, and custodian). The minister's new contract with his proposed increase was previously approved by the Executive Committee with a start date of 2/1/2025 as per his contract.

Moderator Terry Putnam asked for a motion from the floor to



## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

accept the proposed 2025 Budget, which was moved, seconded, and with no further discussion, was voted upon and passed unanimously, with no opposition.

### **New Business:**

A request was made that Buildings & Grounds look into power washing the parsonage building.

Patty Banasik reminded all the Historical Society Annual Dinner and Meeting is coming up in April. They will be contacted by the church office to ask them to hold their meeting following the dinner in the church sanctuary rather than New Fellowship Hall as was customary in past years.

Rev. Paul Nesbit asked those in attendance to think about the following:

We are 75 members strong now and we are doing great. Can we re-imagine our leadership structure? Should we continue with committees, have fewer committees, or have just an Executive Committee?

How do we grow and spread the gospel message so others want to be with us?

What do we look like five years from now – or ten years from now?

He asks us all to think positively and remember that he is here to guide us through this time.

Terry Putnam asked us to think about what we can be doing for the community

Moderator Terry Putnam called for a motion to close the 252<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwick Congregational Church at 1:10 p.m. which was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. All in attendance stood and sang “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.”

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Nitsch, Clerk*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Moderator:</b>	Terry Putnam	<a href="mailto:hannahput@yahoo.com">hannahput@yahoo.com</a>	413-569-9283
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds:</b>	Eric Nitsch	<a href="mailto:eric.nitsch@gmail.com">eric.nitsch@gmail.com</a>	413-695-4164
<b>Christian Education:</b>	Kirsten Allhusen	<a href="mailto:kirstenla@comcast.net">kirstenla@comcast.net</a>	570-762-1313
<b>Deacons:</b>	Patty Banasik	<a href="mailto:preciousbana@aol.com">preciousbana@aol.com</a>	413-237-4717
<b>Finance:</b>	Melanie Nitsch	<a href="mailto:emnitsch@gmail.com">emnitsch@gmail.com</a>	413-454-7043
<b>Memorial Gifts:</b>	Karen Brzezinski	<a href="mailto:karenbrzezinski@hotmail.com">karenbrzezinski@hotmail.com</a>	413-569-6816
<b>Music:</b>	Jenn Hall-Cotto	<a href="mailto:jenncotto@comcast.net">jenncotto@comcast.net</a>	413-218-5335
<b>Pastoral Relations:</b>	Bob Franzen	<a href="mailto:bobfranzen@hotmail.com">bobfranzen@hotmail.com</a>	413-355-3061
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jim Putnam	<a href="mailto:Jim-putnam@comcast.net">Jim-putnam@comcast.net</a>	413-569-9283

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

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**Church Office Hours:** Tue, Wed, Thu 9:30am-4pm

**Church Office Phone:** 413-569-6362

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Nesbit

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Rev. Paul's Email:** [RevPaulNesbit@gmail.com](mailto:RevPaulNesbit@gmail.com)

**Church Website:** [www.southwickucc.org](http://www.southwickucc.org)

**Office e-mail:** [southwickucc@gmail.com](mailto:southwickucc@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Southwick Congregational Church UCC

**You Tube:** Southwick Congregational Church

<b>Staff:</b>	Choir Director/Organist	Roberta Kowal
	Custodian	Christopher Robin Roberts
	Administrative Assistant	Joseph Stiefel



*Christ the Lord is risen today;  
 Christians, haste your songs to pay;  
 Offer Him your praises meet  
 At the Paschal Victim's feet.  
 For the sheep the Lamb has bled,  
 Sinless in the sinner's stead;  
 Christ the Lord is risen on high;  
 Now He lives no more to die.*



**Southwick Congregational Church**  
 United Church of Christ  
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