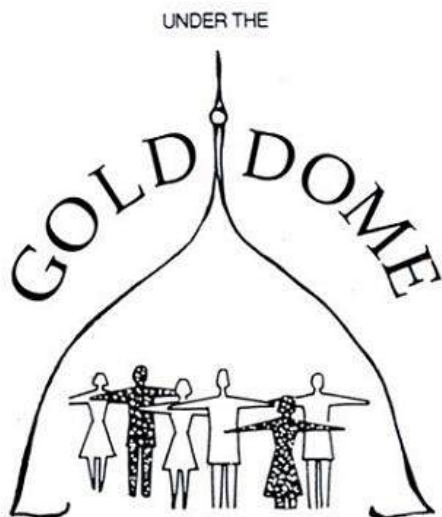


October 2025

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 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

An Attitude of Gratitude

“How shall I make a return to the Lord, for all that’s been done for me?”

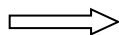
(Psalm 116:12)

Each year, many of us involve ourselves in the rituals of leaf peeping, leaf raking, pumpkin carving, and getting ready for Halloween. We may take out window air conditioners as we give way to a bit of “fall cleaning” before settling in for the winter. Many people claim that Fall or Autumn is their favorite season as we have many days of clear, blue, sunshine skies that highlight the splendor of God’s creation.

It is important that we remember to give thanks to God for the gift of creation and all that has been bestowed on us. Our church is fortunate to have been the beneficiary of many great gifts from God and the gifts from members of the congregation. Truly we are blessed by God.

This causes us to claim “An Attitude of Gratitude” as our stewardship theme this year. We know we’ve been blessed, we know that God has provided what we need, and we also know that we need the assistance of our congregation as we seek to continue to bring about the Reign of God here on earth. We must do what we can to ensure that all the good things that our church wants to do can be accomplished without financial concerns.

We have people who have ensured that we are in good and stable financial shape. We must continue, however, our Attitude of Gratitude as we consider how



REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

we can be even better stewards of what God has given to us. The Psalmist goes on to remind us that “I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people.” (Ps 116: 14)

All of us recognize that the economy is in turmoil as we hear different things on the news. Some struggle with all types of bills and payments. Our church must do the same. I am asking all of us, myself included: are we in a position to make a small increase in pledges this year? If you can, great; if you cannot, we understand. I only ask that we maintain an Attitude of Gratitude. How do we make a return to the Lord for all that's been done for us?

Love and peace,

Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

—Oct 18, 10am-2pm, Cub Scout Can & Bottle Drive in the church parking lot.

—Oct 26th Service will be Joint in Westfield at 9:30 am

—**Annual Turkey Drive** for area food pantries and neighbors in need. Southwick Community Episcopal is looking for monetary donations as they attempt to help local food pantries during the Thanksgiving season.

OCTOBER 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 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., Robyn (Terry), Heather H. (Jen), Karen B., Sierra P (Steve & Cynthia), Heidi (Julie), Lainey (Lee), Amy P. (Rev Paul), Ann B. (Robin), Angie K. (Kirsten), Mark, Judy L. (Jim), Traci C. (Paul), Heidi W (Judy), the family of Lee Mercer at her passing, and All who have been affected by recent events (floods, shootings, etc).

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:

Michael C., and Julie C.

Serving in our Military at home and abroad:

Samantha P., and Samuel H.

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

COMMUNITY TABLE

Starting Feb 2026, every other month, SCEC is coordinating making and serving food at the Community Table in Westfield, working with our church. Rev Paul will have a meeting in January 2026, date to be determined, for those interested in helping out.

2025 END OF SUMMER WORSHIP



AND CELEBRATION, STANLEY PARK



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - GSA OFH	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC 3pm - GSA OFH	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	Columbus Day	7am - Food COOP? 9:30am - Office Open 7pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Bottle Drive 10am - Thrift Shop
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 7pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - GSA OFH	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am - Joint svc 9:30am - SCEC NFH	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open	Halloween 10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop 12pm - Farm Parade

2025 END OF SUMMER WORSHIP



AND CELEBRATION, STANLEY PARK



ALL CHURCH MEETING

September 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:10 pm following church services and fellowship and opened with a prayer by Rev. Paul. A motion was made to approve the May 29th Leadership Committee Minutes held via in-person and Zoom which passed unanimously.

Pastor: Rev. Paul reported it has been very quiet at the church throughout the summer. He would like to hold a “P.....with the Pastor” (pizza or potluck) with a date to be decided. The end of summer community worship at Stanley Park will be held Sept. 28th at 10:30 a.m. A picnic will follow and Southwick Congregational has been asked to bring approx. 75 lb. of potato salad. About 200 people are expected to attend. Rev. Paul feels having posted office hours is not time well spent for him and has asked everyone to email him if they would like to set up a time to meet. A proposal has been made to amend the Joint Service schedule. Proposed would be to have 5 Sundays beginning in July next summer held at Southwick Congregational and the next 5 held at Westfield First Congregational, all held at 10 am, and also the 4th Advent Sunday in December to be held in Westfield and the 5th Sunday in Southwick. There would be no more last Sunday of the month joint worship services. Members have been asked to consider this for a future final decision.

Finance/Treasurer: Melanie Nitsch reported the committee emailed concerns as they were unable to meet in person. Treasurer Jim Putnam reported pledges and income were coming in as budgeted. We have begun receiving the increased rent from SCEC. Some Memorial Gifts have been received in memory of Bob Bates. The Memorial Gifts checking account has been closed and future funds for Memorial Gifts will be dispensed through the main church account. Jim will be renewing CD's as they come due. Jim has also been working on purging old business records and they will be shredded in October at a

ALL CHURCH MEETING (CONT)

Westfield Bank shredding event. All church accounts are now at Westfield Bank and the transition went smoothly. Melanie has been completing our quarterly DUA Wage and Hour Detail reports successfully. We have some contributors who have paid above their pledged amounts for which we are very grateful. Finance is mindful that Stewardship season will be coming soon and needs to be planned for.

Buildings & Grounds: Eric Nitsch reported the steeple repair due to a discovered leak was completed this summer with Bob Franzen's help during Eric's absence.

Christian Ed: Kirsten was busy with coffee hour clean-up and Terry Putnam mentioned trying to plan getting the older teens together for a social time. Rev. Paul mentioned that a lot of area churches have small attendance for children and youth so they are trying to regionalize youth activities (i.e. drumming, caroling, and a Halloween gathering).

Deacons: Flo Pitoniak stated they had nothing new to report.

Music: Jen Cotto stated they had nothing new to report.

Pastoral Relations: Bob Franzen stated they had nothing new to report.

New Business:

—Bible Study will likely next be held during Advent, may be held virtually, but scheduling and time prep is proving to be difficult for Rev. Paul.

—The Ladies Group will next meet in October.

—Jim Putnam mentioned a request to use our parking lot as the landing zone for the Southwick Farm Parade in November. The parade will benefit the town's animal shelter. A volunteer is needed to have the church open for rest room facilities.

—George Harvey thanked those present for remembering and celebrating his 98th birthday today!

—The Rotary Club has asked the church for permission to install a small lending library close to our parking lot. They will

ALL CHURCH MEETING (CONT)

be asked to let us know the location before installation so that it does not interfere with the installation/placement of our manger scene.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Melanie Nitsch, Clerk*

DRUMMING CIRCLE FOR ALL AGES
Inspiration for Mind, Body and Spirit

Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 4:30-5:30

First Congregational Church
18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

- Drums provided
- No prior musical experience necessary
- Led by Janet St. Jean

Feel the Beat, Bring the Heat — All Ages Welcome!
Everyone's invited to drum!
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

For further information,
call 413-568-2833

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome at First Congregational Church of Westfield.









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
Memorial Gifts:	Karen Brzezinski	karenbrzezinski@hotmail.com	413-569-6816
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

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

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

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	Robertta Kowal
Custodian	Christopher Robin Roberts
Administrative Assistant	Joseph Stiefel



God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you

for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy,

for the coloring of trees that shows the creativity of the Divine Artist,

for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches,

for the hues of fields that bring peace to our souls,

for the smiles on pumpkins that bring joy to children,

for the fall harvest which that brings us gratitude for the bounty of our land,

for this change of seasons that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons, as you transform the earth, transform us by your Spirit. Amen

— Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.



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SouthwickUCC@gmail.com

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