November 2026

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



*The **Good News**letter 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**



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

The Office is currently open Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm.
Please leave a voicemail message or an email if you need anything nonemergent after hours.
Joseph *will* get back to you.

Rev. Kristie Rubendunst is our new bridge minister as of September 1, 2026

Contact her directly at RevKristieR@icloud.com
Or call/email the office for an 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!

PASTOR'S CORNER

ALONG THE WAY with Rev. Kristie Rubendunst



As autumn deepens, our calendars fill with familiar traditions that bring us together year after year -- There are harvest fairs, Halloween celebrations with children and grandchildren in costume, and the sugar highs that leave us running ragged after too much candy. There are Thanksgiving dinners with tables heaped high with roasted meats and seasonal delights. And there are beautiful church services with wreath-covered columns and carol singing.

We cherish these gatherings. But by themselves, they do not build relationships.

Relationships grow in the time we spend together. They grow around kitchen counters, as we peel potatoes and chop onions. They grow when we work shoulder to shoulder, repairing the church building or raking autumn leaves. They grow when we sit together in prayer and grief-support groups, sharing the joys and sorrows of our lives.

It is not the activity itself that creates the relationship. It

PASTOR'S CORNER *(CONT)*

is the conversation, the shared experience, and the care we show one another along the way.

What if we invited our neighbors not simply to attend our celebrations, but to help create them? Or made room for simpler gatherings—a cup of coffee at the diner, pizza and a movie, or an evening sharing stories about what gives our lives meaning? Building relationships need not require elaborate programs or exhausting preparations. Sometimes it begins with two people sharing a conversation, and grows when one brings a friend.

We have *in-reach* to do, engaging every member of our congregation. And we have *outreach* to do, stepping beyond our familiar circles to meet our neighbors where they are.

We must be willing not only to welcome people to our tables, but also to sit at theirs. We can share their stories, learn their children's names, and remember those they have loved and lost.



For we cannot truly love neighbors we have never taken the time to know. *Who might we discover waiting for us just beyond our doors?*

In Faith,

Rev. Kristie

NOVEMBER PRAYER LIST

Friends and family of **Selwyn W.** at his passing**, 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., 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.**, **Mike D.** (Lori), **David S.** (Robin), **Sarah** (Karen), **Amy P.** (Rev Paul), **Angie K.** (Kirsten), **Mark**, **Judy L.** (Jim), **Sean W.** (Robin), **Joan B** (Flo), **Jen B** (Patty), **Jasmine, Stewy J.** (Jim), **Treasure** (Dom), **Marty B** (Deb F), **Gus G.** (Shirl), **Kara K** (Bob & Pat), **Katie M.** (Robin), **Deb F.**, **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), **Bill P.** (Janice), **Brittany**, **Steve** (Dom), **Avanya** (Cindy), **Dave** (Steve & Jim), **Gayle** (Terry's sister), **Shawn K.** (Robin), **The Fox family** at the passing of their brother, **Raymond**, the family of **Sue H.** at her passing (Brian), **Dylan W.** (Jillian), **Lorraine B** (Judy), and **Bill & Carolyn H.** (Lorraine).

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

ALL CHURCH MEETING 10/18/26

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:05 pm following church services and fellowship and opened with a prayer by Rev. Kristie.

Pastor
Rev. Kristie, our bridge minister since Rev. Paul's departure, reported she is trying to maintain the status quo and feels there have been no surprises yet. Everyone she has met has been a delight and she enjoys worshipping with us. Our office administrator, Joseph, has been here on Tuesdays from 10 am to 2 pm for the time being if you need him or email him with questions and he can certainly forward these to Rev. Kristie. She would also like to get to know our committees and if any committee wants something to happen during worship to please speak with her so she can plan. Terry P, Bob F, and Rev. Kristie have met in Pastoral Relations to keep the lines of communication open.

Brief Committee Updates
Finance – Melanie N stated the committee will meet in the next week or two. Our stewardship campaign will begin in November and we are in the planning stages.
Christian Ed – Tina C said an afternoon of Pumpkin Painting is planned for Saturday, 10/17/26 from 2-4 pm. Everyone is invited.
Deacons – Patty B mentioned a Remembrance Sunday is planned for November 1st and everyone is encouraged to bring in pictures of loved ones to be remembered.
Treasurer – Jim P reported nothing out of the ordinary with the budget. All bills are paid. He received a special pledge this past month and it is very much appreciated. Regarding the parsonage plantings, the new bushes/landscaping did not happen as expected but 4-5 annuals were planted along with some regrowth and it is looking nice for now.
Music – Roberta K said although their numbers are small, the choir will begin rehearsals for this year on Oct. 28th.

ALL CHURCH MEETING (CONT)

New Business

Terry P is planning to send cards to those we have not seen in a while in worship or those that may be ill to let them know we miss them.

Our tenants next door at the Parsonage have informed us they have purchased a home and will be moving out as of November 30th. They have rented from us since 2017. We will need to examine all of our options. Should we update? Should we re-rent? Should we increase the rent? Should we sell? Leadership will meet soon to brainstorm and make decisions. Communication with the tenants will need to happen before their departure.

First Congregational Church of Westfield has informed us they will be ending their shared minister partnership with us. They have decided to hire a full-time minister. They will continue to share our bridge minister, Rev. Kristie, through her six-month contract, and then re-evaluate.

Our church needs to form a new Search Committee very soon to begin the process of searching for an Interim Minister. Our profile will need to be updated. We have four volunteers so far for the committee: Carl Tagliavini, Cole Deveno, Veronica Bressem, and Tina Clark. Jim Putnam has agreed to work as an advisor for the group due to his past experiences with search committees as well as Bob Franzen.

Dates to remember:

Turkey Dinner – November 14 – volunteers needed – see Patty Banasik

Candy Making – November 21 – volunteers need to bring your scissors – see Veronica Bressem

Holly Bazaar and Holly Inn – December 5 – help also needed – see Melanie Nitsch or Patty Banasik

Cookie Sale – December 19 – see Robin Sklarski or Debbi Anderson

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Nitsch, Clerk

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	2	3 Election Day 6pm - Handbells 6:30pm - BSA OFH	4	5	6 10am - Thrift Shop	7 10am - Thrift Shop
8 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	9	10 6pm - Handbells 7pm - BSA OFH	11 OFH/NFH prep Veterans Day	12 11am - NFH/OFH	13 10am - Thrift Shop	14 Turkey Dinner 10am - Thrift Shop
15 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	16	17 6pm - Handbells 7pm - BSA OFH	18 6:30am - SCES Rm#3	19	20 10am - Thrift Shop	21 Candy Making! 10am - Thrift Shop
22 9:30am - Joint Wfld 9:30am - SCEC NFH	23	24 6pm - BSA OFH 6pm - Handbells	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday 10am - Thrift Shop	28 10am - Thrift Shop
29 Advent Begins 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	30 OFH NFH Bazaar Prep					



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Advent Begins	30 OFH NFH Bazaar Prep	1 6pm - Handbells 6:30pm - BSA OFH	2	3 1pm - NFH/OFH Prep 6:30pm - GSA Rm10	4 10am - Thrift Shop 5:30pm - NFH/OFH	5 9am - Holly Bazaar 10am - Thrift Shop
6 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	7	8 6pm - Handbells 7pm - BSA OFH	9	10	11 10am - Thrift Shop	12 10am - Thrift Shop 4pm - Family Movie
13 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	14	15 6pm - Handbells 7pm - BSA OFH	16 6:30am - SCES Rm#3	17	18 OFH Cookie Prep 10am - Thrift Shop	19 8:30am - Cookie Sale 10am - Thrift Shop
20 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	21	22 6pm - Handbells 7pm - BSA OFH	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 10am - Thrift Shop	26 10am - Thrift Shop
27 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	28	29 6pm - BSA OFH 6pm - Handbells	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day 10am - Thrift Shop	2 10am - Thrift Shop

Annual
TURKEY DINNER

Southwick Congregational Church, UCC
488 COLLEGE HWY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

Saturday, November 14, 2026
6:00 PM dine in
4:45-5:30 PM carry out

Reservations *REQUIRED*: Church Office 413-569-6362
OR Email SouthwickUCC@gmail.com

Menu:

Turkey & Gravy
Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes
Green Peas & Butternut Squash
Cranberry Sauce
Rolls
Homemade Apple Crisp & whipped cream

Adults $24.00 - Kids 12 years old and under $10.00

HOLLY BAZAAR

Southwick Congregational Church

488 College Highway, Southwick, 01077

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 5, 2026

9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

CRAFTERS BAKE SALE

Light Lunch & Refreshments Served at

THE HOLLY INN



Dear Jim and the
Southwick Congregational Church,

Thank you for helping the Southwick Rotary Interact Club build and install our new Lending Library. Your generosity helped turn this wonderful community project into a reality.

Completed in August, the library will provide books and enjoyment to people of all ages for years to come. We are truly grateful for your support!

With sincere appreciation,
The Southwick Rotary Club

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Joint Service Nov 22 is in Westfield at 9:30
- TURKEY DINNER coming Nov 14



- Christmas Candy Making Sat Nov 21
- Holly Bazaar is Sat Dec 5 9-2
- Movie Night Sat Dec 12 4-7



- Cookie Sale Dec 19 8:30-12:30



Committee Chairs

Moderator:	Terry Putnam	hannahput@yahoo.com	413-569-9283
Buildings & Grounds:	Eric Nitsch	eric.nitsch@gmail.com	413-695-4164
Christian Education:	Tina Clark	tlynnc92@gmail.com	413-454-7050
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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Church Office Hours: Will be erratic, by appt—call or email!
Church Office Phone: 413-569-6362
Pastor: Rev. Kristie Rubendunst
Office Hours: By appointment
Rev. Kristies Email: RevKristieR@icloud.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 Spirt, 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 Westfield on Sunday, November 22th at 9:30 am.

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United Church of Christ
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VOLUME MMXXVI No. 11

SouthwickUCC@gmail.com
(413) 569-6362