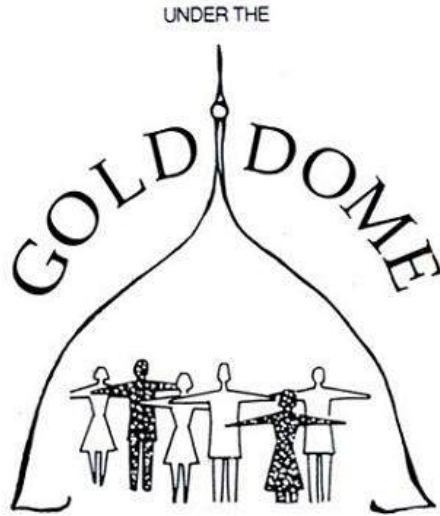


May 2026

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



*The **Good News** 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

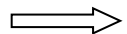
“Come, Holy Spirit!”

On my ride into church this morning, I noticed that trees had begun the bud process, with leaves. Before we know it, we will be gifted with trees that give us “new life” with majestic leaves as well as much-needed shade in the heat of the summer. We are blessed to live in Western Massachusetts, where the climate allows us to enjoy (or endure) all four seasons.

As we are currently in the season of Easter, this year, Pentecost will be celebrated on May 24. Our churches will be resplendent in red as we yet again hear the story from the Acts of the Apostles of the first Pentecost. Hopefully, we will feel the breeze of the wind as the Holy Spirit moves and shakes us to renew the face of the earth in both Southwick and Westfield. This does not mean that the Spirit has been dormant in us; in fact, it is an opportunity for us to celebrate again!

The Holy Spirit is truly at work in our churches. Blessed Buys Thrift Shoppe in Westfield and Henrietta's Thrift Shop in Southwick both minister to people as our volunteers are “church” for so many who come through the doors. For three and a half months, we were able to provide a free lunch and a warm place to eat it twice a week at First Congregational Church; the Holy Spirit moved us to work with the Westfield Food Pantry as well as volunteers from the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, First United Methodist Church, and Second Congregational Church. Truly, the Holy Spirit continues to work double time!

We hope that both churches will come together to celebrate the Spirit with “Pancakes with the Pastor” on Sunday, May 31, after our joint service in Westfield.



## REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

As we embrace the season of spring, let us also embrace the season of Pentecost as we allow the Holy Spirit to take us, move us, and shake us (gently) to join in the breeze.

Peace and love,

*Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit  
Pastor

## MAY PRAYER LIST

The family of **Karen B** at her passing, **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., Karen B., Amy P.** (Rev Paul), **Ann B.** (Robin), **Angie K.** (Kirsten), **Mark, Judy L.** (Jim), **Sean W.** (Robin), **Joan B & 'Tricia D.** (Flo), **Jen B** (Patty), **Jasmine** (Terry) **Stewy J.** (Jim), **Treasure** (Dom), **Marty B** (Deb F), **Gus G.** (Shirl), **Kara K** (Bob & Pat), **Katie M.** (Robin), **Deb F., Tom** (Eric), and **Jesse** (Paul) at her passing.

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

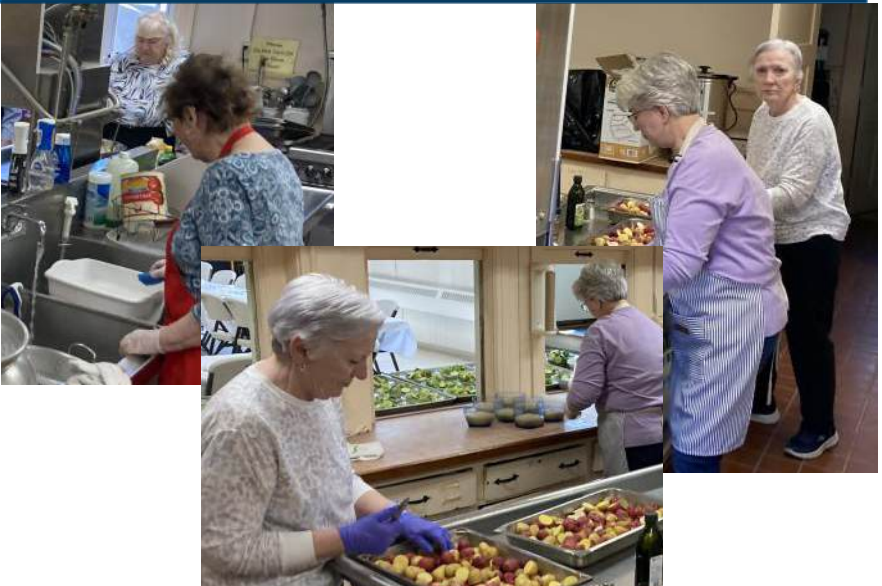
Serving in our Military at home and abroad: **Samantha P.,** and **Samuel H.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Executive Committee Meeting Thursday April 30th 5:30 in advance of...
  - The Chosen, Thursdays, 7pm, Old Fellowship Hall
  - Memorial Service for Karen Brzezinski, Saturday May 16th, at 11am.
- Joint Service May 31st, in Westfield, at 9:30am.

FOLLOWED BY PANCAKES  
WITH THE PASTOR

## IN PREPARATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINNER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			29	30	1	2
			9:30am - Office Open - GSA Rm3	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - GSA Rm10 5:30pm - Ldrshp OFH 6:30pm - GSA OFH	Thrift Shop CLOSED 6pm - OA	Thrift Shop CLOSED
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	Cinco de Mayo 9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - GSA Rm10	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 7pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - GSA Rm10	Prep for funeral OFH 10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop 11am - Karen
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 7pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 7pm - GSA Rm3	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - GSA Rm10 6:30pm - GSA OFH	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	Memorial Day	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - GSA Rm10	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am - JOINT - 9:30am - SCEC NFH		9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open 5pm - GSA Rm10	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Scout Bottle 10am - Thrift Shop

## ***ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES***

### **March 29, 2026**

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

### **Moderator**

Terry explained we are trying to get on a more consistent schedule going forward for All-Church and Leadership meetings. The Leadership of the church met last Thursday, March 26. The group has begun looking at the church moving into the future, physically and spiritually. Terry welcomes emails with any and all ideas. Strategic planning is needed.

### **Treasurer**

Jim Putnam reported business as usual and nothing new to report.

### **Buildings & Grounds**

Eric Nitsch reported the committee is getting quotes to paint the ceilings in Old Fellowship Hall and New Fellowship Hall.

### **Missions & Community Outreach**

Kristy Johnston stated she has not yet met with Lorraine Bates. They are looking for new members to help them and new ideas.

### **Music**

Jen Hall Cotto reported they have tentatively scheduled Music Sunday for June 14.

### **Finance**

Melanie Nitsch reported they have discussed a rental increase at the parsonage and will institute a \$100 increase as of 7/1/26 and an additional \$100 increase as of 1/1/27. A letter will be sent to inform the tenants. An annual report was returned to the Town of Southwick regarding our property tax exemption. A determination needs to be filed with the State of MA regarding the church's exemption from paying unemployment taxes.

## **ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES**

### **Deacons**

Patty Banasik reported the Deacons have been preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services along with the flowers for those services. There will be a Flowering of the Cross on Easter Sunday. She reminded those present that flowers can always be donated for the altar in memory of some or for a special occasion. Contact the Deacons first to let them know when you would like to do this.

### **Pastoral Relations**

Bob Franzen had nothing to report.

### **Pastor**

Rev. Paul stated we are a viable and alive church even though we are smaller in numbers. Our committees will need to be re-structured for the smaller numbers, and hence the By-Laws will need to be re-written.

The conference was impressed that both of Rev. Paul's churches were in the black financially this year.

On Tuesday of May 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting with a conference official to discuss how to have churches go forward into the future. He encourages some of our membership to attend.

A fun event will be planned hopefully for May – "Pancakes with the Pastor."

In the middle of the month of May, a funeral will be held for long-time member Karen Brzezinski.

The Southwick Historical Society Dinner that we host annually will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It offers great community outreach for our church as close to 50 people from the community attend. Patty Banasik organizes this and volunteers are needed to help.

Rev. Paul asked us to think about getting the word out to the community about Southwick Congregational Church. He asked us to share events on Facebook and invite friends to come.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Melanie Nitsch, Clerk*

## 2026 JOINT SERVICE SCHEDULE

May 31	Westfield	Last Sunday
June 28	Southwick	Last Sunday
July 26	Westfield	Last Sunday
August 30	Southwick	Last Sunday
September 27	STANLEY PARK	End of Summer Celebration
October 25	Southwick	Last Sunday

### Pancakes with the Pastor



Sunday, May 31, 2026  
 Joint Service with Southwick  
 At First Congregational Church of Westfield  
 right after church!

## 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>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	Robert Kowal
	Custodian	Christopher Robin Roberts
	Administrative Assistant	Joseph Stiefel



**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 of Westfield in Westfield on Sunday, May 31 at 9:30 am**



**Southwick Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ  
488 College Highway; P.O. Box 260  
Southwick, MA 01077

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