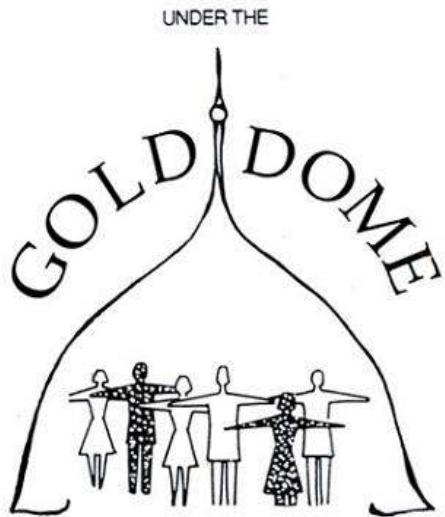


December 2025

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 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!

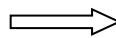
We Need A Little Christmas!

During these troubled times, I think that Christmas couldn't come fast enough. Now, lest I sound like a child, I know that we have to experience Advent and prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child who will again be born in our hearts. However, many people are filled with angst about what is happening in our world, our country, and even here in the greater Southwick-Westfield area.

We continue to do things in our churches to prepare. In Westfield, we have our Community Carol Fest on December 6 with our own spectacular Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, New England Brass, and the Young Singers of Greater Westfield. In Southwick, we anticipate our Holly Bazaar with the Holiday Café as well as our Cookie Walk the following week. Our friends at Southwick Community Episcopal will also have an Advent/Christmas concert in the Sanctuary. Our churches will put up decorations as we do so in our own homes. It is a busy time of year.

While I join you as we look forward to these things, I also look forward to a time of quiet reflection, reading, and prayer as the Christian Church prepares for the celebration of the Savior's birth. We reflect on how, amid the chaos of the Roman-ordered census, Jesus was born in a cattle stall, or manger, in Bethlehem.

So, go ahead and haul out the holly, put up the tree, light the candles, and sing Christmas carols. But please be mindful of our need to reflect on how the birth



REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

of Jesus was the start of something in which we now live out our faith each and every day. My prayers are that we all have a Blessed, Peace-filled, and a Merry Christmas—a Christmas that we all need.

Peace and love,

Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Rev Paul says, “There are people in need of winter hats, scarves, and gloves. If you are in a position to donate new, used, items, please see me.”

-November 30 is joint service here in Southwick. Also the blessing of the manger at 6pm.

-December 5, Sanctuary, Blues to Advent to Christmas Concert 7:00pm, sponsored by Southwick Community Episcopal Church.

-December 6 is the Holly Bazaar.

-December 13 is the Cookie Sale.

-December 20, 6:00pm, Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service at Second Congregational Church Westfield.

-December 21, Joint service in WESTFIELD at 9:30am.

-December 24, Christmas Eve service Southwick 6:30pm.

-December 28 Joint service in Southwick.

-Office Hrs in Dec vary, the calendar online at the Church website should be most up to date.

DECEMBER 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., Karen B., Sierra P (Steve & Cynthia), Amy P. (Rev Paul), Ann B. (Robin), Angie K. (Kirsten), Mark, Judy L. (Jim), Sean W. (Robin), All who have been affected by recent events (Amherst fire, floods, shootings, etc), Joan B (Flo), Nancy O (Flo), the family of Kristen P (Janice), Jen B (Patty), Joyce (Terry) and Stewy J. (Jim).

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

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

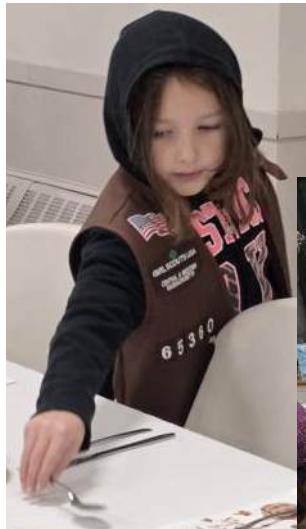
COMMUNITY TABLE

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 ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

We give thanks to:

- FRESH BUTTERNUT SQUASH, COURTESY OF RAY'S FAMILY FARM
- APPLES COURTESY OF JIM AND TERRY PUTNAM
- HOMEMADE APPLE CRISP, COURTESY OF PATTY BANASIK
- HOMEMADE MASH POTATOES, STUFFING & GRAVY
- SOUTHWICK GIRLS SCOUTS GROUPS & TROOP LEADERS FOR TABLE SETTING
- ENTERTAINMENT BY THE PITONIAK BROTHER AND FRIENDS
- JESS AND MARK AT THE LAUNCH
- OUR TEAMS OF PREPARERS, SERVERS, AND CLEANER-UPPERS
- CHRIS FOR SET-UP AND TAKING GREAT CARE OF OUR CHURCH
- JOSEPH FOR TAKING ORDERS
- REV. PAUL NESBIT AND OUR CONGREGATION FOR SUPPORT



2025 ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC 6pm - Manger blessing	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - GSA Rm3	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 5pm - Blues to Advent 6pm - OA	9am - Bazaar 10am - Thrift Shop
	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC	6pm - GSA Rm6-10	9:30am - Office Open 7pm - BSA OFH	9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Episc Room3 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - GSA OFH	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	8:30am - Cookie Sale 10am - Thrift Shop
	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC		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 - Thrift Shop
	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am - WFLD Joint 9:30am - SCEC NFH	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open 7pm - BSA OFH	Christmas Eve 9:30am - Ofc 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - XmasEve Svc	Christmas Day 9:30am - Ofc	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop
	28	29	30	31	1	2
Paul OUT 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - Sthwk Joint		9:30am - Office Open 6pm - BSA OFH	New Year's Eve 9:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	Happy birthday! New Year's Day 9:30am - Ofc	10am - Thrift Shop OFF 6pm - OA	10am - Thrift Shop

HOLLY BAZAAR

Southwick Congregational Church

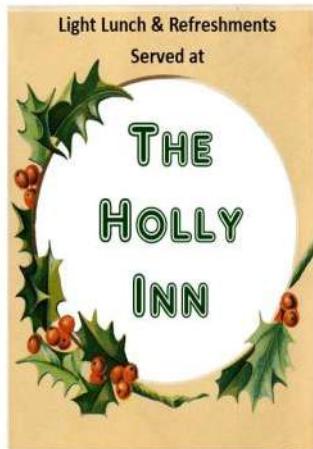
488 College Highway, Southwick, 01077

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 6, 2025

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

CRAFTERS BAKE SALE





Christmas Cookie Sale

Southwick Congregational Church

Old Fellowship Hall

488 College Highway (Under the Gold Dome)

Southwick, Massachusetts

Saturday, December 13, 2025

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

\$10 a pound

ALL CHURCH MEETING

November 23, 2025

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. A motion was made to approve the October 12th All-Church Committee Minutes which was passed unanimously.

Pastor

Rev. Paul reminded us of upcoming event dates:

Joint service with Westfield to be held here in Southwick on 11/30/25.

The manger set-up at 3 pm followed by a blessing to take place 11/30/25 6 pm with cookies and hot cocoa.

Concert in our sanctuary on 12/5/25 at 7 pm sponsored by the Southwick Episcopal Community Church.

The Holly Bazaar and Holly Inn will be on 12/6/25 from 9 am to 3 pm

Westfield's First Congregational Church will host a Community Holiday Concert on 12/6/25 at 3 pm.

Our church's Holiday Cookie Sale will take place 12/13/25 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm with cookie drop-off the day before from 3:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

Rev Paul will plan a study for January 2026 to discuss the television series "The Chosen." Discussions will take place in Westfield in the morning and at Southwick in the evenings with dates to be determined. Rides can be provided if you call the church office.

Treasurer

Jim Putnam plans to update the church financials later this week. He offered a thank you to all pledges received and reminded others to send theirs in ASAP. Jim

ALL CHURCH MEETING

thanked Buildings & Grounds for all their efforts at maintaining our building and reported on their efforts when he completed our annual survey for our PC&L insurance.

Finance

Melanie Nitsch communicated with her committee by email. Cindy at First Church will handle discontinuing Rev. Paul's vision insurance, per his request. Jim completed the PC&L insurance annual survey and our Worker's Comp annual survey. All stewardship letters have been mailed out and pledges are soon to be tallied. Envelopes will need to be distributed to those who request them. The church will be jointing along with many/most residents in the Town of Southwick to have First Point as their electricity supplier and Eversource as the deliverer in an effort to try to cut energy costs. Jim recently rolled over a CD at Westfield Bank. Melanie asked whether the Deacons still collected for The Christmas Fund at our Christmas Eve Service and since they still do she will follow-up with Joseph about envelopes for the collection.

Buildings & Grounds

Eric Nitsch reported Dave Wetherill will continue to snow plow the church's lot during the winter. The manager scene will be set up on 11/30/25 at 3 pm.

Christian Ed

Kirsten Allhusen reported that if children did appear for services she is still able to hold Sunday School classes.

Deacons

Patty Banasik reported they are getting ready for the holidays. The church will be decorated this Saturday morning, 11/29/25, at 9 am if anyone is able to come and help. They are looking for Advent readers for November 30, December 7 and 14. A joint service will be

ALL CHURCH MEETING

held here in Southwick with Westfield on 12/28/25. Rev. Paul will not be here that Sunday so the Deacons will look for someone to cover.

Music

Jen Cotto reported that via email communication the group is coordinating voice choir and bell choir dates with Roberta and the members' availability. She also reported the damp chaser on the organ in the sanctuary has been disconnected since our current mini-splits are maintaining proper humidity for the organ.

Pastoral Relations

Bob Franzen stated they had nothing new to report.

New Business

Jim Putnam requested that since we have three working bathrooms upstairs in New Fellowship Hall that are all close together we should close the one in the Dickinson Room. That bathroom recently gave us plumbing problems. More discussion to follow with Buildings & Grounds.

Patty Banasik asked Buildings & Grounds if they could remove the wall-mounted soap dispensers in the bathrooms as they are not used.

Terry Putnam is looking for help to fill the food bags being set out in the Food Trailer while she and Jim are away this week.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 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
Memorial Gifts:	Karen Brzezinski	karenbrzezinski@hotmail.com	413-569-6816
Music:	Jenn Hall-Cotto	jenncott@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	Roberta Kowal
	Custodian	Christopher Robin Roberts
	Administrative Assistant	Joseph Stiefel



ADVENT



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

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