

# December 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!

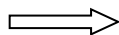
**REV. PAUL'S CORNER****We Need A Little Christmas!**

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.**

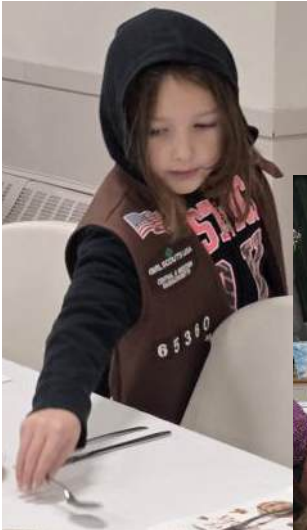
## **COMMUNITY TABLE**

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 CLEARER- 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   | 6  |
| 9:30am - SCEC NFH<br>11am - SCC<br>6pm - Manger blessing | 6pm - GSA Rm6-10     | 9:30am - Office Open<br>6pm - BSA OFH | 9:30am - Office Open<br>6:30pm - Cub Scouts<br>7pm - GSA Rm3                 | 9:30am - Office Open                              | 10am - Thrift Shop OFF<br>5pm - Blues to Advent<br>6pm - OA | 9am - Bazaar<br>10am - Thrift Shop         |
| 7  | 8                    | 9                                     | 10   | 11  | 12  | 13   |
| 9:30am - SCEC NFH<br>11am - SCC                          | 6pm - GSA Rm6-10     | 9:30am - Office Open<br>7pm - BSA OFH | 9:30am - Office Open<br>6pm - Episc Room3<br>6:30pm - Cub Scouts             | 9:30am - Office Open<br>6:30pm - GSA OFH          | 10am - Thrift Shop OFF<br>6pm - OA                          | 8:30am - Cookie Sale<br>10am - Thrift Shop |
| 14   | 15                   | 16                                    | 17   | 18  | 19  | 20   |
| 9:30am - SCEC NFH<br>11am - SCC                          |                      | 9:30am - Office Open<br>7pm - BSA OFH | 9:30am - Office Open<br>6:30pm - Cub Scouts                                  | 9:30am - Office Open                              | 10am - Thrift Shop OFF<br>6pm - OA                          | 10am - Thrift Shop                         |
| 21   | 22                   | 23                                    | 24   | 25  | 26  | 27   |
| 9am - WFLD Joint<br>9:30am - SCEC NFH                    | 9:30am - Office Open | 9:30am - Office Open<br>7pm - BSA OFH | Christmas Eve<br>9:30am - Ofc<br>6:30pm - Cub Scouts<br>6:30pm - XmasEve Svc | Christmas Day<br>9:30am - Ofc                     | 10am - Thrift Shop OFF<br>6pm - OA                          | 10am - Thrift Shop                         |
| 28   | 29                   | 30                                    | 31   | 1   | 2   | 3  |
| Paul OUT<br>9:30am - SCEC NFH<br>11am - Sthwk Joint      |                      | 9:30am - Office Open<br>6pm - BSA OFH | New Year's Eve<br>9:30am - Office Open<br>6:30pm - Cub Scouts                | Happy birthday!<br>New Year's Day<br>9:30am - Ofc | 10am - Thrift Shop OFF<br>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**

Light Lunch & Refreshments

Served at

**THE  
HOLLY  
INN**



## *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 manger 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

|                                 |                  |  |              |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| <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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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 | Robertta Kowal            |
| Custodian                             | Christopher Robin Roberts |
| Administrative Assistant              | Joseph Stiefel            |





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