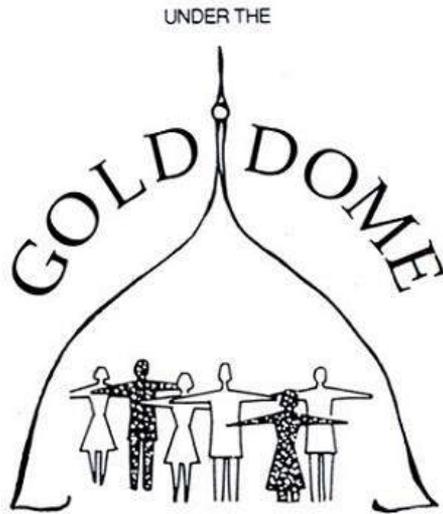


# March 2024

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 a visit,  
please call the church office at  
*(413) 569-6362* to schedule.  
Office Hours by 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!

## REV. PAUL'S CORNER

While I am one of the rare folks who enjoys winter, I have been more excited to see longer hours of daylight. As we “Spring Forward” with Daylight Savings Time in March this year (could this be the end of turning the clocks?) we can start to come out of our homes for a bit and enjoy each other’s presence.

The concept of communal gathering is even older than the first Christians who followed “The Way.” They knew that they could rely on each other for physical, emotional, and spiritual support as they encountered different things in their lives. These folks came together to not only to worship, but to draw support from one another. Are we much different from the early church?

As we continue to Season of Lent/Season of Love, we have numerous opportunities to come together at either of our churches. Please look through here for events that take you beyond the Sunday worship experience. Of course, the highlight of our month will be Holy Week with Maundy Thursday service in Westfield and Easter Sunday services at both churches.

May we all continue to grow during our Season of Lent/Season of Love to embrace God’s love for us as we celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Peace and love,

*Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit  
Pastor

**Pasta with the  
Pastor**

**Southwick Congregational  
Church**

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

**5:30-7:00pm**

Pasta, meatballs, salad, desserts,  
beverages--GF Pasta available!

**Live Music!!!!**

**FREE --ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

Monetary donations are gladly accepted.




Serving the Heart and Soul  
of Southwick since 1773!

Current Sanctuary 1824-2024

**Lenten Bible Study**

**“Women of the Bible”**

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome to join us.



**Thursdays**

**2:30 PM** First Congregational Church, Westfield

**7:00 PM** Southwick Congregational Church

- Feb 15
- Feb 22
- Feb 29
- March 7
- March 14
- March 21

If you miss one, it is ok to join the group whenever you are able. The same session will be in the afternoon/evening so you may attend when you are able on that day.

## **MARCH PRAYER LIST**

**Roberta & Ted K., Eleanor B., Jim R. (Eric N.), Julie & Emilie (Dawn), Emma C., Ron R., Jim & Lisa B. (Patty), Jeanne S., Jane W. (Patty), Robert R., T.J.W., Raymond F., Diane R., Brian C., Chris L. (Robin), Patsy B. (Janice), Cara C., Sharon W., Owen L. (Melanie), Sarah B. & Susan U. (Patty), Bill M., Teresa B. (Melissa), Jennifer, Maria S. & Mariana (Alma), Sherwood M., Patty B., the family of Ken F. (Robin), the family of Jeff Piper, Paul F., (Deb), Jill (SteveP), Avany, the family of Alexander M., Rachael (Terry P's daughter), Dick A. (Kirsten), Jon, Cindy with Michael (Lori), Bob F., Patricia F., and Judy R. (Kristy).**

**Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Joan H., Michael C.**

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

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### **Jubilee Year**

Sat, March 23, 2024	Jubilee Pasta with the Pastor
Sunday, April 14, 2024	Jubilee Service and Celebration
Thursday, April 25, 2024	Historical Society Dinner
Saturday, June 15	Strawberry Supper

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Our Custodian seeks a new, small, inexpensive car. If you have any info, please let the office know. Thanks much.

# March 2024



*Sunday*      *Monday*      *Tuesday*      *Wednesday*      *Thursday*      *Friday*      *Saturday*

<p><b>3</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T4 OA-330pm</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30</p>	<p><b>6</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm GSA Dickinson 7-9</p>	<p><b>7</b> Church Office 9:30-4 GSA 530-730 NFH/ OFH Bible Study 7-8</p>	<p><b>1</b> Thrift Shp 10-1 OA-6 pm AA7:30 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 AA-730</p>	<p><b>2</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 Thrift Shop 10-1</p>
<p><b>10</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T5 OA-330pm</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30</p>	<p><b>13</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Bible Study 7-8</p>	<p><b>15</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> Thrift Shop 10-1</p>
<p><b>17</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T1 OA-330pm</p>	<p><b>18</b> GSA 530-730 NFH/ OFH</p>	<p><b>19</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30</p>	<p><b>20</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b> Church Office 9:30-4 GSA 530-730 NFH/ OFH</p>	<p><b>22</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 Pasta w The Pastor 530-7 pm</p>
<p><b>24 Palm Sunday</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T2 OA-3-430pm NFH</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30</p>	<p><b>27</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm</p>	<p><b>28</b> Church Office 9:30-4 GSA 530-730 N/OFH Maundy Thursday Service-Wflfd</p>	<p><b>29 Good Friday</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm</p>	<p><b>30</b> Thrift Shop 10-1</p>
<p><b>31 EASTER</b> Sunrise Service 6am Worship 11 OA-330pm</p>						

# ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

## 251<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes

Southwick Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

February 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:20 p.m. and was held in Old Fellowship Hall following our 11 a.m. morning worship service and a delicious lasagna luncheon. An opening prayer was led by our Pastor, Rev. Paul B. Nesbit. The Moderator then asked for a moment to recognize and remember Beverly Lindsey who passed away in 2023. Beverly recently became a member of our church posthumously when her husband Donald joined our congregation.

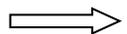
The Moderator asked for a motion from the floor, which was seconded and passed unanimously, to dispense with the reading of the Call to the Annual Meeting.

A count was taken around the room with 25 voting members present – a quorum of 15 was achieved.

The Moderator entertained a motion from the floor to accept the Clerk's Report/Minutes of last year's 250<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting which was seconded, and with no discussion, was passed unanimously.

### **Pastor:**

Rev. Paul Nesbit hoped that everyone had a chance to read the Annual Report. He was pleased to report this is the beginning of his third year at Southwick Congregational Church. His goal is to keep the doors to this church wide open and invite people in. He reports we are doing great as a church community and hopes everyone comes not only for the sermon but because they feel welcome and included. His personal goal as our pastor is to get out and see more people in the community. He has asked everyone to email him directly with questions or concerns, to please



## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

communicate with him, and he will do what he can as soon as possible.

### **Moderator:**

Terry Putnam agreed it has been a very good two years with Rev. Paul as our pastor. She offered a heartfelt thank you to Virgil Paggen for his many years of service to this church in his “Stewardship” role. She offered a thank you to all committee members for their hard work and wished a Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to our church!

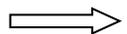
In the absence of a formal Nominating Committee, Moderator Terry Putnam asked for any new names to be added as committee members. Hearing none, committees will remain as is.

### **Treasurer:**

Jim Putnam mentioned the very busy past year he has had as Treasurer and his efforts to operate with utmost transparency. He invited anyone, at any time, to approach him with questions about the church finances or ask to see the financial reports. He also offered his own thank you to Virgil Paggen for his past Stewardship work and how Virgil made it a smooth transition for the Finance Committee to take over the Stewardship record keeping.

### **Review of 2023 and Proposed 2024 Budgets:**

Jim Putnam represented the Finance Committee for this discussion. Jim reviewed the first section of the Budget showing Revenues for actual 2022 figures, proposed 2023 figures, actual 2023 figures, and proposed 2024 figures. Our total budgeted revenue for 2024 is expected to be \$122,524. The remainder of the budget showed actual expenses for 2023 and proposed expenses for 2024. Each section was called to the room’s attention, with most being level-funded. Jim explained that the proposed 2024 budget



## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

showed proposed expenses for 2024 at \$150,108 with that leaving a deficit in our budget of \$27,584. As happened in 2023, Finance Committee is hoping for a much smaller deficit than this when the final 2024 figures are in.

Moderator Terry Putnam asked for a motion to accept the 2024 Budget, which was moved, seconded, and with no further discussion except a thank you to Jim, was voted upon and passed unanimously, no opposed.

### **New Business:**

Rev. Paul Nesbit announced that on Sunday, April 14, 2024, we will have a celebration here of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church building, and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Southwick Congregational Church. We are planning a luncheon prepared and served by our friends from First Congregational Church of Westfield. Plans need to be made for this event; probably a small fee will be charged for the luncheon. Conference representatives will be in attendance for this celebration. Please reach out to Rev. Paul if you are willing to help plan this.

Moderator Terry Putnam called for a motion to close the 251<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwick Congregational Church at 12:50 p.m. which was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. All in attendance stood and sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

*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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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	Robertta Kowal
	Custodian	Christopher Robin Roberts
	Administrative Assistant	Joseph Stiefel



## **Support the “Roof Raising”! For Southwick’s Historic Meetinghouse**

**The roof needs to be replaced and updated after 30 years of protecting the building from the elements 24/7/365. Imagine the stresses that it has endured in that time – ice storms, 100+ degree days, high winds, and more. While we continue to repair and maintain the roof, the experts tell us that the roof is now vulnerable to problems.**

**This is a big project for our small Church congregation - \$56,000 from the lowest and best bidder! Your help is needed to help maintain this iconic town landmark for the future.**



**Southwick Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

488 College Highway; P.O. Box 260  
Southwick, MA 01077

**VOLUME MMXXIV No. 3**

**SouthwickUCC@gmail.com**

**(413) 569-6362**