

April 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*****Christ is Risen!***

*“Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.”*

These words found in the Episcopal version of the Exultet initiate the celebration of Easter at the Great Vigil that is celebrated after sundown the night before Easter. It lifts any weight or burden that Lent may have bestowed and allows us to rejoice in the light that has conquered over darkness. All of us join the church in a fifty day celebration of Easter that will encompass the whole month of April and will culminate with Pentecost on May 19.

Throughout the Season of Lent/Season of Love we did our due diligence to ready ourselves to receive the love in the supreme sacrifice of Jesus and how it is brought to glory in the Resurrection. WE are the recipients of God's ultimate act of love. WE are the recipients of the unconditional love offered to us freely and constantly by God. Indeed, all of us are called to rejoice in this Eastertide or Easter Season.

In the past few weeks we have basked in increased light as the hours of daylight grow longer. We see the initial signs of Spring that awaken and cause Mother Earth to rise again in all her splendor. The earth awakes from its slumber and echoes the Resurrection! This is also a reason to celebrate, despite any allergies, that the warm months of summer are soon to arrive.

Let us celebrate the Resurrection and unconditional love offered to us by God!

“This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified,  
has sprung to life this morrow...”  
*Christ is Risen, indeed!*

Peace and love,

*Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit  
Pastor

*Pasta With The Pastor March 23*



## APRIL 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., Dick A. (Kirsten), Jon, Cindy with Michael (Lori), Bob F., Patricia F., Judy R. (Kristy), Dennis W. (Eric), Elizabeth (Terry), and The Family of Angelo Melloni, as his passing.**

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

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

### Jubilee Year

Sunday, April 14, 2024	Jubilee Service and Celebration Luncheon
Thursday, April 25, 2024	Historical Society Dinner
Saturday, May 18, 2024	Community Cookout
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.

# April 2024



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

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	<b>3</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm GSA Dickinson 7-9	<b>4</b> Church Office 9:30-4	<b>5</b> Thrift Shp 10-1 OA-6 pm AA 7:30	<b>6</b> Thrift Shop 10-1
<b>7</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T2 OA-330pm	<b>8</b> GSA 530-730 N/OFH	<b>9</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	<b>10</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	<b>11</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Bible Study 7-8 GSA 530-730 N/OFH	<b>12</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	<b>13</b> Thrift Shop 10-1
<b>14 250th Lunch</b> Worship 11 CoffHr T4 Celebration Lunch OA-330pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	<b>17</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	<b>18</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Bible Study 7-8	<b>19</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	<b>20</b> Thrift Shop 10-1
<b>21</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T5 OA-330pm	<b>22</b> GSA 530-730 N/OFH	<b>23</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	<b>24</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	<b>25</b> Church Office 9:30-4 GSA 530-730 N/OFH  Historical Soc Dinner	<b>26</b> Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	<b>27</b> Thrift Shop 10-1
<b>28</b> Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T1 OA-330pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30				

# ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

**March 10, 2024**

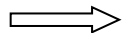
The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:10 pm followed by coffee hour and an opening prayer by Rev. Paul. A motion was made to approve the December and January All-Church Meeting Minutes and with no questions or discussion was approved unanimously.

**Pastor's Report**—Rev. Paul reported there has been great attendance at his Lenten Bible Studies held at First Church in Westfield, The American Inn, and Southwick Congregational. He would like the plans for the April 14<sup>th</sup> celebration of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church to be finalized. Currently, there are plans to have it catered so reservations will need to be made. The First Church of Westfield will help with serving and clean-up. The music for the service has been planned. Rev. Paul is generally here in his office on Wednesdays and Thursdays but it is best to email him to coordinate a time if anyone would like to meet with him. He will have a Sunday off in May to attend a “Festival of Homiletics.”

**Moderator**—Terry Putnam spoke about the decision to have our Jubilee Celebration catered and inquired about funding it. She will get a price from the caterer soon. If the church covers the cost, it was suggested we also have a free-will offering available for those that would like to contribute. The catered will need an approximate head count and there are plans for the event to be advertised on social media. It was suggested to have a large banner printed for outside of the church to advertise the event and Terry, Jim P, and Rev. Paul will work on this.

**Treasurer**—Jim Putnam was not able to have an updated financial report. Since the last meeting, there have been no large expenses except the crash bars/locks for the NFH and OFH doors. The kitchen had a blocked pipe but no bill has been received yet from the plumber. Since there have been difficulties with the new door locks, Rev. Paul and Joseph have been asked to post instructions near the doors to aid everyone in learning how to lock and unlock the NFH and OFH doors.

**Building & Grounds**—Eric Nitsch reported the new weather-stripping that was recently installed on the doors helps to make them tighter and a bit more difficult to lock. He has emailed Ever-source several times about the church insulation quote but it is not yet available. The drain pipe in the kitchen was blocked from grease buildup so he reminded everyone not to pour greasy foods down the drain. The re-roofing of the church is supposed to begin at the end



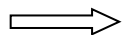
## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

of March or early April and hopefully it will be done before the April 14<sup>th</sup> celebration. As an FYI, the one non-working chimney out of the three that are there will be taken down below the roof line. Bob F inquired whether it was time to start heating the sanctuary with the splitters and not with the boiler, but it was determined not quite yet. Regarding the parking lot sinkhole project, the area has been patched and does not seem to be growing so his group will watch it and decide what needs to be done.

**Christian Ed**—Kirsten Allhusen reported things have been going slowly in Sunday School as a couple of the children aren't here as often. She is still hoping to have the Sunday School do a service. She also would like to start giving out Bibles to the children and she will look into this.

**Deacons**—Patty Banasik reported Flo Pitoniak will do the Easter Sunrise Service. There will be no Coffee Hour planned for after the 11 a.m. Easter Sunday Service. First Church of Westfield will be hosting the Maundy Thursday Service this year. There will be the "Flowering of the Cross" on East Sunday. If you have flowers in your yard, everyone is welcome to bring them in but flowers will also be available as you enter the sanctuary to put on the Cross. Orders are being taken for Easter flowers to decorate the Altar. See Jim or Patty and call the church office. There is an order form that can be filled out and the type of flowers selected.

**Finance**—Melanie Nitsch reported the committee will not meet until this coming week. There are several items on their agenda to discuss. Funding for the parking lot project will be discussed. There has been a request to amend our Building Fee Schedule and Building Use Agreement to add a line item for groups renting our halls that there will be a separate fee paid to our custodian for set-up, cleaning, and break-down of tables/chairs. Both the large copier and the small printer in the church office are out of commission. We are waiting for a part to fix the large copier. The current lease for this machine will expire soon and Joseph and Melanie are investigating new companies. Joseph has done a lot of research on cost comparisons and feature comparisons between different companies. Our intent is to not renew with CBS/Xerox, the current company. A motion was made by Jim Putnam to let Joseph and Melanie decide on which company to go with for a new lease agreement, which was seconded, and with no discussion, was approved unanimously. The committee also will be discussing terminating our current payroll





## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

processor, Paychex, very soon, probably the end of the quarter. Jim has done a lot of research and likes what he sees available if we switch to Quickbooks. Melanie has an upcoming phone meeting with their Sales Rep.

**Music**—Jen Cotto reported they are starting to plan for Music Sunday in June and the Summer Music musicians which is always a challenge.

**Pastoral Relations**—Bob Franzen did not have a report this month as they have not met.

**New Business**—The church has received a request from a local Boy Scout from another town group (not the one we sponsor) who is working on his Eagle Scout project. He has requested putting a bench that he will make out on the green at the Veterans Memorial. Jim P informed the church group that everything out of the green is currently handicapped accessible and designed per agreement with the town, the church, and Tynic Landscaping, plus there are currently benches there. Jim has offered to speak with the Scout and help him find someplace else to place his bench or find a different Eagle project. Jim also mentioned it would be beneficial for the church to come up with a list of projects any of the Scouts could help the church out with as they are eager to do this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 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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**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

**Staff:** Choir Director/Organist      Roberta 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.**



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**United Church of Christ**  
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