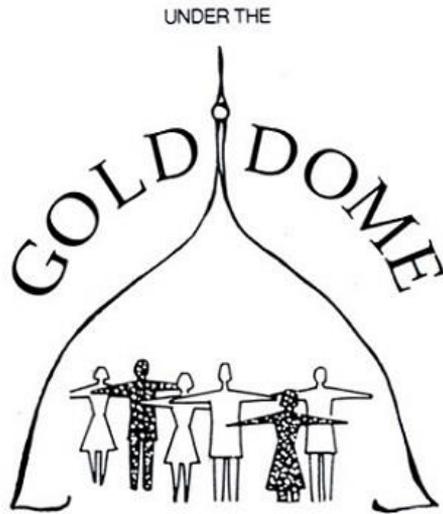


May 2024

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

On my ride in to church this morning, I took notice 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 in the month of May. 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!

We must celebrate how we have responded to the call of the Holy Spirit as both churches continue to find new ways to fling open the doors to let the breeze in through our “Extravagant Welcome” of new people. We saw the Holy Spirit at work in the celebration of Easter as both churches welcomed more people than they have in a long time.

The Holy Spirit was truly at work on April 14 as First Congregational Church came to Southwick Congregational's 250th Anniversary celebration to serve the meal and do the dishes. The Holy Spirit is at work with Southwick Congregational as we continue to welcome people to our dinners at no cost, including the Anniversary Dinner. 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

REV. PAUL'S CORNER

warm place to eat it at First Congregational Church; the Holy Spirit moved us to work with Peppermill Catering as well as volunteers from the Episcopal Church of the Atonement and First United Methodist Church. Truly the Holy Spirit continues to work double time!

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 Nesbit
Pastor

Jubilee Year

Saturday, June 15	Strawberry Supper
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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., 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), Patricia F., Judy R. (Kristy), Dennis W. (Eric), Elizabeth (Terry), The Family of Angelo Melloni, at his passing, Joyce & Elizabeth (Terry), NancyM and her family at the unexpected passing of her husband James (JennHC), AnnJ (DianeJ), RobA (SteveP JimP), and Scott (Patty).

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study resumes May 2, 2:30 @ 1st Congo, 7pm in Southwick. Bible Study concludes May 9th

Rev Paul will be out May 13 through may 19

Rev Paul will be appearing in the Southwick Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 27

250TH CELEBRATION



ION SUNDAY



May 2024

8

9



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

			1 Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	2 Church Office 9:30-4 Bible Study 7-8 GSA 530-730 N/OFH	3 Thrift Shp10-1 OA-6 pm AA7:30	4 Thrift Shop 10-1
5 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T2 OA-330pm	6 GSA 530-730 N/OFH	7 Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	8 Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	9 Church Office 9:30-4 Bible Study 7-8 GSA 530-730 N/OFH	10 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	11 Thrift Shop 10-1
12 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T3 OA-330pm	13 Rev Paul OUT	14 Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30 Rev Paul OUT	15 Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm Rev Paul OUT	16 Church Office 9:30-4 Bible Study 7-8 Rev Paul OUT	17 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm Rev Paul OUT	18 Thrift Shop 10-1 Rev Paul OUT
19 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T4 OA-330pm Rev Paul OUT	20 GSA 530-730 N/OFH	21 Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	22 Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	23 Church Office 9:30-4 GSA 530-730 N/OFH	24 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	25 Thrift Shop 10-1
26 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T5 OA-330pm	27 Memorial Day Rev Paul in Parade	28 Church Office 9:30-4 Boy Scouts 6:30	29 Church Office 9:30-4 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm	30 Church Office 9:30-4	31 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	

THE CHURCH GETS A NEW ROOF



On behalf of our Church and co-chair Eric Nitsch, I am pleased to announce that we have raised \$15,365 to date toward the expense of replacing the roof and gutters of our historic Church meetinghouse. To the eight donors among us, a heartfelt “thank you” for your generosity and commitment to the future of our church building and congregation. The quoted price of the project is \$55,500 of which this fund



drive will defray over 25%. That saves Memorial Gift funds which are a very important part of our “rainy day” financial strategy.

We will “keep the window” open for any additional contributions and update you later in the spring. No contribution is too small and all are greatly appreciated.

Jim Putnam
Co-Chair ***Raising the Roof Campaign***

ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:15 pm followed by an opening prayer by Rev. Paul. A motion was made to approve the March All-Church Meeting Minutes as published in the Gold Dome. With no questions or discussion, it was approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Paul expressed a special thank you to everyone for last week's 250th service and celebration. Bible study will resume on May 2nd and 9th at 2:30 pm in Westfield and 7 pm in Southwick. He will be away the week of May 13th to attend the Festival of Homiletics in Pittsburgh. We will have a visiting minister Sunday May 19th.

Treasurer

Jim Putnam was not able to have an updated financial report but stated financially everything is good and we are operating close to budget. He is in the process of converting from an older version of Quickbooks to an updated version. He offered thankyou's to contributors to our roof fund and thank you letters are in process. Contributions to the roof fund will still be gladly accepted.

Finances

Melanie Nitsch said the group met on April 18th.

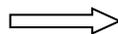
They discussed and agreed to increase the rental price of our halls for outside groups. The Building Use Agreement will be updated. The estimate for replacing the roof is \$55,500 with \$15,365 donated so far, leaving approximately \$40,000 to be paid by Memorial Gifts. Donations are still being accepted and the final cost may be increased if there are overages on the project.

The new copier for the church office will be in place in mid-June. We will have a new lease in place with H.L. Dempsey. Dempsey has agreed to remove the old copier and bring it to the return depot. We have discussed and agreed to change our operating bank accounts from Berkshire Bank over to Westfield Bank. This will be done at the Treasurer's convenience. We feel their services will be of better use to the church. Memorial Gifts also holds their accounts with Westfield Bank.

Karen Brzezinski and Jim Putnam will be meeting with an investment manager from Westfield Bank regarding investment options for the church's Memorial Gifts stock portfolio.

Building & Grounds

Eric Nitsch reported he and Bob Franzen hung the church's 250th



ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

banner on the front pillars of the church. He thanked Terry & Jim Putnam for designing and purchasing it.

A new door knob was replaced on Rev. Paul's office.

The roof project will start Monday, 4/22/24, and hopefully be done in 3-4 days.

The committee will be getting quotes to remove the overgrown shrubbery around the parsonage.

They received a quote to cover the concrete wall outside of the Old Fellowship Hall door from a masonry company using stone veneer at a cost of \$5,500. It would make the wall look very nice but the group will search out other options and other quotes from area companies.

Rev. Paul asked to have a dedication service scheduled for the new tree planted.

Christian Ed

Kirsten Allhusen reported she is planning on handing out Bibles to the children of the church on the first Sunday in June.

Deacons

Patty Banasik reported the group is looking for Deacon fill-ins for over the summer when the regular Deacons are away. She will be sending a thank you card to the First Congregational Church of Westfield for all their help with our 250th celebration dinner.

Music

Jen Cotto reported Music Sunday will be June 9th. They are looking for suggestions for summer music and anyone is asked to contact herself or Roberta Kowal.

Pastoral Relations

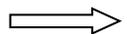
Bob Franzen reported things are going well with no issues reported.

New Business

The annual Historical Society Dinner will be held at our church on 4/25/24. This is a fundraiser for our church and Patty Banasik is the organizer and looking for helpers for that day. The Society follows their dinner in Old Fellowship Hall with their annual meeting in New Fellowship Hall.

Jim Putnam asked about the status of finding storage space for the Girl Scouts. Eric Nitsch will follow-up on asking the Boy Scouts to find room for them in their closet space. They will also be asked to evaluate what is stored in the attic and clean out anything unnecessary and organize the rest.

Jim also requested that the Boy Scouts use one bulletin board in



ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

NFH (rather than 2), and clean it up from very old postings. The other board can then be offered to the Girl Scouts. Eric Nitsch will also follow-up on this with the Boy Scout leaders.

It was noted there are five bulletin boards in Old Fellowship Hall that are not used, some unreachable, and some need to be cleaned of old postings. A suggestion was made to have a friendly competition for the best bulletin board design between the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts with a prize (a \$35 gift card to Moolicious) offered to the winner.

Terry Putnam offered to work with Joseph to communicate with the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts regarding the bulletin boards.

A motion was made to make the bulletin board changes with the Scouts and storage space changes which was seconded and passed unanimously.

A discussion took place about informing Joseph when our halls and kitchen will be needed for set-up for special events and dinners and asking him to communicate well ahead of time with the outside groups that use these spaces certain evenings of the week that they may need to move their meetings upstairs or re-schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 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	jenncotto@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

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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	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.



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