

Jul/Aug 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.

Rev Paul will be out on vaca 8/19 through 9/2



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

Dear Friends,

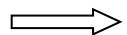
How many of us like to cook or prepare food? What is your favorite thing to cook and/or bake in the summer? Do you follow a recipe? When I make a version of my mother's macaroni and tuna salad, I tend to simply guess as I add things to it. My mother was not a fan of cooking; she left us no recipes or instructions on how to do anything. Perhaps it varies from person to person.

I recall an episode of *Everybody Loves Raymond* where Marie agrees to teach Debra how to prepare the favorite meatballs. She brought over all of her spices and had the recipe to give to Debra. However, she set Debra up to fail as she replaced the "basil" (that is what the label said") when it was really tarragon.

You wouldn't think that one little ingredient would change something but it certainly did with those meatballs. The same thing can happen with a mustard seed. Remember, Jesus compares the beginning of faith to one little mustard seed. If you haven't seen a mustard seed, they are tiny. But this tiny mustard seed can grow into a beautiful bush or tree. In turn our faith can do the same.

Often times, we think that we don't make a difference in how we live our lives or how we can share our faith. Other times we wonder what impact we can have on people around us—even complete strangers. As we discussed in a recent sermon, this can be one of our "mustard seed moments." We don't know the impact we can have on another person until we have dropped or planted that seed.

As we enjoy the next few months ahead, I invite all of us to pay attention to the small things that we do for each other. Let someone go ahead of you. Tell the



REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

clerk, "I hope you have a great day." Try not to judge people and simply let them be. Pay attention to the ingredients you use in your speech and actions. Oh, and don't forget to come see us on Sundays when you're in town.

Peace and love,

(Rev.) Paul

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit, Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date: End of the Summer ecumenical worship and celebration will be on September 15th, at 10:30am at Stanley Park. There will be no church service at Southwick Congregational Church that day.

AUGUST 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), Cara C., Sharon W., Owen L. (Melanie), Sarah B. & Susan U. (Patty), Bill M., Teresa B. (Melissa), Jennifer, the family of Ken F. (Robin), Paul F., (Deb), Jill (SteveP), Avany, the family of Alexander M., Dick A. (Kirsten), Michael (Lori), Patricia F., Judy R. (Kristy), Dennis W. (Eric), RobA (SteveP JimP), Scott (Patty), R.J. (Robin), Geneva's family, and Bob B, the family of Janice Hall at the passing of her sister Patsy, and Dina B. (Flo).

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

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

Church Contributions to Worms Comes Back Around

Bob Franzen

A couple years ago, it became known to some members of the congregation that I am a hobby worm farmer. Since then, after church dinners, my worms would receive a trash bag full of apple cores and peels, or dry coleslaw, etc.. I keep an estimated 5000 to 7000 composting worms in the basement. They are fed about two and a half pounds of garbage a week along with a bucket of shredded cardboard as bedding. They eat their bedding too. What I harvest is worm castings (worm poop). Humus in the castings helps increase soil's capacity for water retention, improve soil aeration and anchor plant nutrients that would leach away and be lost. Worm castings also feed beneficial soil microorganisms that produce, store and slowly release plant nutrients into the soil to feed plants. For the church, to feed the lawn behind New Fellowship Hall.

The first picture shows the bare fill behind New Fellowship Hall. The second picture is my son Joe finishing up spreading hay in the area off the back parking lot.

The lawn behind New Fellowship Hall was in rough shape. A riding lawn mower couldn't mow in some areas. A weed wacker had to finish the job of mowing. A contractor was hired for clean fill and to smooth out the area. Joe and I spent time together on Father's Day to sow grass seed. In addition to the grass seed, we brought 360 pounds of compost. My recipe by volume is about 30% grass clipping, 20% shredded cardboard and 50% leaves from last year, 2023. While bagging the compost to bring to church, I estimated about 2000 composting worms came along too. I had four gallons of worm castings remaining after my own spring plantings and gardens. These castings were spread out over the seeded area. Thus the circling back around. The church gives its garbage and the worms give back their poop.



Aug 2024

6

7



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

				1 Church Office CLOSED	2 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	3 Thrift Shop 10-1
4 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T5 OA-330pm	5	6 Church Office 9:30-4	7 Church Office 9:30-4 Attic Insulation Project	8 Church Office 9:30-4 Attic Insulation Project	9 Thrift Shop 10-1 Attic Insulation Project OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	10 Thrift Shop 10-1
11 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T1 OA-330pm	12	13 Church Office 9:30-4	14 Church Office 9:30-4	15 Church Office 9:30-4	16 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm	17 Thrift Shop 10-1
18 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T2 OA-330pm	19 REV PAUL OUT	20 Church Office 9:30-4 REV PAUL OUT	21 Church Office 9:30-4 REV PAUL OUT	22 Church Office 9:30-4 REV PAUL OUT	23 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm REV PAUL OUT	24 Thrift Shop 10-1 REV PAUL OUT
25 Worship 11 Coffee Hr follows T3 OA-330pm REV PAUL OUT	26 REV PAUL OUT	27 Church Office 9:30-4 REV PAUL OUT	28 Church Office 9:30-4 REV PAUL OUT	29 Church Office 9:30-4 REV PAUL OUT	30 Thrift Shop 10-1 OA-6 pm AA-7:30 pm REV PAUL OUT	31 Thrift Shop 10-1 REV PAUL OUT

ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 7 pm followed by an opening prayer by Rev. Paul. A motion was made to approve the May All-Church Meeting Minutes as published in the Gold Dome. With no questions or discussion, it was approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Paul will be on vacation from the afternoon of Aug, 18th and will return to work after the Labor Day weekend. Coverage is needed for Sunday, August 25th and Sept. 1st. His remaining two weeks of vacation are still to be decided.

Our church will host the combined service with First Church Westfield on June 30th. Coffee Hour will be hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill with sides and desserts welcomed.

The next combined service would be Sept. 29th but Rev. Paul is suggesting we do it Sept 15th at 10:30 am in Stanley Park and invite all area churches & follow this with a picnic. Perhaps each church could contribute \$100 towards the pavilion rental fee of \$800.

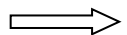
Jim Putnam expressed his thanks to Rev. Paul for all he does for our seniors and those who are ill in our church community as it is so important.

Treasurer

Jim Putnam provided an updated financial report through the month of May. Our revenue is on target with our budget for the first five months of the year. Expenses are as expected with the deficit at what was budgeted at \$11,831 currently. He will be following up with Berkshire Bank about some expired CD's. Eric N. asked about getting different quotes for our PC&L insurance. Jim feels most companies don't want to insure churches. We currently insure through the UCC. Rev. Paul will check with First Church in Westfield to see who they use.

Buildings and Grounds

Eric reported the landscaping behind NFH is completed. The air conditioners are going in this week. He is still working with Ever-



ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

source regarding the \$16,000 worth of insulation to be installed and still trying to get an installation date. Bob F. cleaned out the area behind the kitchen in anticipation of this work being done. The OFH crash bar on the door is working well but NFH door is very hard to unlock. Eric will follow-up. Eric would still like to get quotes to replace the altar carpeting. Patty B. suggested maybe cleaning the carpet would help and she offered to work with our custodian to try to use her personal carpet cleaner. The sanctuary mini-splits need to be serviced and Terry is looking into an independent person she knows.

Eric recently met with Todd Westcott and Dave Baker regarding Boy Scout issues. He had a list of concerns which they agreed to. Possible greater concern about the issues involving the Cub Scouts. Clear expectations need to be set in the fall.

Deacons

Patty Banasik and the Deacons met this evening and set up the summer Deacon schedule for each Sunday. They discussed standing/sitting during the Benediction during services. They would like to send a gift from the church to Mike Chambers to let him know we are thinking of him and one of Mike's relatives will be contacted.

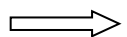
Finances

Melanie Nitsch reported 3 members present at their meeting. The final tally on the cost of the roof project was \$56,433 with approx. one-third covered through donations at \$17,565 and the balance paid from Memorial Gifts funds of \$38,868. A heartfelt thank you to our donors! The new copier is set to arrive July 11th. Our Quickbooks conversion is still ongoing along with the changeover to Westfield Bank for the church accounts.

For the church office:

Joseph is away on vacation June 17-30. Rev. Paul is available if help is needed but the office is otherwise closed.

There was a concern about lead paint exposure in the parsonage but after testing the lead levels were found to be well within normal limits.



ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

The office has already had an inquiry about the Holly Bazaar so we agreed it will be held this year on the first Saturday in December, the 7th. The Holly Kitchen will be running and there was a discussion about increasing the cost of the table rentals.

Joseph will be asked to have our church's P.O. Box mailing address placed on the church website so mail gets delivered to us properly.

Anyone who has an order to be placed for the church should have Joseph place it for consistency and tracking. (Cokesbury, UCC orders, etc.)

Christian Ed—No report.

Music

Jen Cotto reported Music Sunday went very well. Summer music is being worked on and she is hoping to get the Bell Choir to play over the summer.

Pastoral Relations

Bob Franzen reported no recent meeting and will next meet in the fall.

Memorial Gifts

Karen Brzezinski had nothing new to report.

New Business

Rev. Paul asked the group present to think about things we can do with our building in the future. Could we share our space with another church? Could we rent out office space? We should also think about the implications these things would bring about. He is asking the leadership to look ahead to the future regarding possibilities for us and our building.

A Certificate of Appreciation was received by our church from the Town of Southwick congratulating us and commemorating our 250th Anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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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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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VOLUME MMXXIV No. 7-8
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