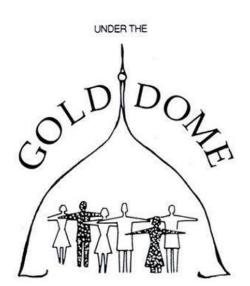
Return Service Requestec

Feb 2025



The **Good News**letter 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



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 inperson 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

Deep In the Heart of Southwick

There are some songs that tend to creep back into our heads. These are called "earworms" as they crawl around in our minds, and we simply can't get them out. Occasionally, one of my earworms is, for some unknown reason, "Deep in the Heart of Texas." So, when this comes around, I have learned to change it to "Deep in the Heart of Southwick." How appropriate for a month when we celebrate Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day is the day when we celebrate love in all forms. We profess our love for our spouses, significant others, our children, our friends, and even our pets. It is a time when we can profess our love for not only our church, but to celebrate God's unconditional love for all of us. It is also a time for us to re-establish our church as the "Heart of Southwick."

When our church was officially established in 1773, we definitely served as the heart of newly incorporated town of Southwick. According to the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the town or settlement of Southwick could not exist without the foundation of a church. This church was actually supported by the town; this continued into the early 19th century when the laws were changed. As a result, church was the heart and soul of Southwick.

As the town green was established, the church moved to the new "center" of town and was prominent on the green. This is a hallmark of almost every Congregational church in New England. We continue to be in the center of the town of Southwick which, in the last year of the first quarter of the twentyfirst century, brings a different flavor to what it means to be the "Heart of Southwick."

Our church continues to welcome various non-profit groups to come in to use our facilities for little cost to us. We practice extravagant hospitality to various Scout troops as well as 12-step programs. Our church hosts dinners and talks for the community at large. We continue to share our building with the



REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

Southwick Episcopal Community Church and enjoy a nice relationship with them.

We need to continue to keep the heart of Southwick beating proudly and strongly. As we once again open our doors to our neighbors, let us be proud to hold our place "Deep in the Heart of Southwick."

Peace and love,
(Rev.) Paul
Rev. Paul B. Nesbit, Pastor

FEBRUARY PRAYER LIST

Roberta & Ted K., 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), Jennifer (Deb), Jill (SteveP), Avany, Dick A. (Kirsten), Patricia F., Judy R. (Kristy), Dennis W. (Eric), Scott (Patty), R.J. (Robin), Bob B., Bobby (Terry), Ashley, Melanie D.(Dennis & Melissa), Kim & Jenn (Cynthia), Julie C, Jemma (Robin), Dominic, the family of Norman C., Angie K. (Kirsten), Pat M., Lorraine B., Mike D. (Lori), Parker (Terry), David S. (Robin), the family of Don L, and California.

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Michael C., and Julie C.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 16th following the service. Come to express your thoughts and to support our church.

There will be a *POT LUCK* luncheon, bring something if you can, but fear not if you cannot.

The Souper Bowl is Saturday Feb 8th from 9—12:30.



Joint service on February 23rd, in WESTFIELD, at 9:30am with First Congregational Church

26	0.7					
	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am - SCEC NFH 5pm	ı - GSA #6, #10	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop	10am - Thrift Shop
11am - SCC 6pm	- BSA OFH	6pm - Bell Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scouts		6pm - OA	
3:30pm - OA						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	ı - GSA #6, #10	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop	9am - Soup Sale! OFH
	- BSA OFH	6pm - Bell Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scouts	5.50dili Ollice Open	3:30pm - Soup Prep	10am - Thrift Shop
	I-BSA OFFI	opin - Bell Fractice	6.30pm - Cub Scouts			Toain - Tillit Shop
3:30pm - OA					6pm - OA	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am - SCEC NFH 5pm	ı - GSA #6, #10	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	Valentine's Day	10am - Thrift Shop
11am - SCC		6pm - Bell Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6:30pm - GSA #6, #10	10am - Thrift Shop	
3:30pm - OA			7pm - GSA Dickinson		6pm - OA	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Annual Mtg Pres	sidents' Day	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop	10am - Thrift Shop
9:30am - SCEC NFH 6pm	- BSA OFH	6pm - Bell Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scouts		6pm - OA	
11am - SCC		6:30pm - SCEC				
3:30pm - OA						
		0.5		0.7		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	ı - GSA #6, #10	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	9:30am - Office Open	10am - Thrift Shop	10am - Thrift Shop
	- BSA OFH	6pm - Bell Practice	6:30pm - Cub Scouts	6:30pm - GSA #6, #10	6pm - OA	
3:30pm - OA						

ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12 pm following refreshments and opened with a prayer by Rev. Paul. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the December All-Church Committee Meeting which was seconded and with no discussion was passed unanimously.

Pastor

Both churches have worked hard to produce a new Call Agreement and Rev. Paul will be our pastor for the next three years. One change to be implemented is that the last Sunday of every month will be a joint service, not just months with a fifth Sunday. A schedule will be provided to both churches as to where the joint services will be each month as they do not alternate from month to month. For example, June, July, and August will be held here in Southwick because our sanctuary is air conditioned.

Treasurer

Jim Putnam reported our 2024 Financial Report will be in the upcoming Annual Report. He asks that members do not hesitate to ask how we are spending our money. Other than the amounts of personal pledges, he wants to be an open book. Our predicted 2024 deficit budget of approximately \$25,000 ended up at a deficit of about \$21,000, due partly to the fact we had higher than pledged contributions. He thanked those who have sent in their 2025 pledge cards and some who have sent in their entire pledge already. On the expense side, our biggest expenses are our minister, the music program, our office administrator, and our custodian. These costs are very stable. A very unstable cost has been our property insurance bill which has increased substantially – something we have little control over and is a sign of the times. Jim thanked Karen Brzezinski very much for covering the cost of the steeple bell repair, something near and dear to her.

Finance

Melanie Nitsch reported the committee met on January 16th with five in attendance. They are still in the process of securing a copy of the Episcopal Church's insurance coverage. The pledges have been tallied and pledge cards handed out. The yearly donation statements are being worked on by Joseph. The group reviewed Jim's 2024 fi-



ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

nancial statement and plans for the 2025 budget to submit for the Annual Meeting in February. All church accounts have been changed over to Westfield Bank. All committees were reminded to submit their Annual Reports to the church office as soon as possible and any committees with budgets need to have them submitted to the Finance Committee.

Buildings & Grounds

Eric Nitsch reported that since last meeting the steeple bell has been fully repaired with special thanks to Jay Jones from Granville. The Nativity scene was recently put away for the season. A new kitchen door will be installed soon. Eric will ask Chris to remove and dispose of the outdoor wreaths.

Deacons

Patty Banasik reported the committee has worked with Rev. Paul planning services going forward in the coming months. Rev. George Porter will be in our pulpit on February 9th when Rev. Paul will be attending the First Congregational Church's Annual Meeting. The Mitten Tree has been taken down and the many donations need to be sent to the Food Pantry.

Moderator

In the absence of a formal Nominating Committee, Terry Putnam mentioned if anyone is interested in joining a committee to please let us know. Help is always needed. Members and groups are reminded to always let Joseph know when meetings are to be held in the building so he can get them onto the church calendar. It is important to know who is in the building at all times. The calendar is available for all to be viewed on our web page at southwickucc.org.

Music

Jen Cotto asked to defer her report for the Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. Respectfully submitted, *Melanie Nitsch, Clerk*



ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm by Moderator Terry Putnam. A discussion was held on pay raises for church employees. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by the committee to allow Finance to include these in the proposed 2025 budget. A discussion was generated from Jen on the Music Committee on how substitutes or soloists are paid as she is learning procedures. Rev. Paul suggested having a discussion in the future about re-structuring our committees to make them more efficient. Joseph will be asked to send out updated Building Use Agreements to groups that use our building.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 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

Southwick Congregational Church, UCC 488 College Highway; P.O. Box 260 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 Roberta Kowal

Custodian Christopher Robin Roberts

Administrative Assistant Joseph Stiefel





Southwick Congregational Church

United Church of Christ 488 College Highway; P.O. Box 260 Southwick, MA 01077

> VOLUME MMXXV No. 2 SouthwickUCC@gmail.com (413) 569-6362