

Dec 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**

*What can I give him poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part  
But what can I give him?  
Give him my heart.*

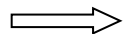
*(Holst, Rossetti, Rice)*

I continue to enjoy the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. While ministering at First Congregational Church and Southwick Congregational Church, a great deal of my time is spent in preparations for music, prayers, and sermons for various church services throughout Advent as well as Christmas Eve and a joint service in Southwick on December 29.

We tend to get up in what we are buying, how much we are spending, and trying to make Christmas and New Years special for our families and friends. But we don't have to get locked into the cost of things or the material aspect of Christmas. Don't get me wrong, most of us like to exchange gifts. But we can do this in spiritual ways as well. We can give gifts of the heart: share a meal, make a call, plan a visit, etc.

It is still important to have our bazaars, fairs, parties, and concerts as those things help us spread joy. I hope that you will participate in all the fun events in the Westfield and Southwick areas. But, amid all of this, please remember to spend some time in prayer and reflection on your relationship with God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You can find the right gifts for all your family and friends, but the gift that Jesus wants from us is simply our love.

Let us all spend some time in prayer and reflection so that we can truly and freely respond to God's great Christmas gift to us and give Jesus our hearts this year. Time is a precious commodity these days; if we can spend



## REV. PAUL'S CORNER, CONT.

some time in prayer this Advent season, perhaps we can experience the re-birth of our own relationship with Jesus. Poor as we are, may we all give our hearts to Jesus this Christmas season.

Peace and love,

*Rev. Paul*

Rev. Paul B. Nesbit

Pastor

## DECEMBER 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., Jennifer, Paul F. (Deb), Jill (SteveP), Avany, Dick A. (Kirsten), Patricia F., Judy R. (Kristy), Dennis W. (Eric), Scott (Patty), R.J. (Robin), Geneva's family, and Bob B, Elizabeth (Terry), Bobby (Terry), Ashley, the family of Richard P. at his passing(Lorraine), Melanie D. (Dennis & Melissa), Kim & Jenn (Cynthia), Julie C, Jemma (Robin), Dominic, the family of Norman C., Angie K. (Kirsten), Pat M., and the family of Herb.**

**Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Michael C.**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bakers and helpers needed for the Holly Bazaar Dec 7, contact Melanie Nitsch
- Bakers needed for the Cookie Sale Dec 14. Contact Robin Sklaski.
- JOINT SERVICES on **\*BOTH\*** Dec 22nd and 29th. The Dec 22nd service will be in Westfield at 9:30, while the Dec 29th will be at 11am in Southwick.
- Full calendar of events is available on the website at [SouthwichUCC.org](http://SouthwichUCC.org).



**Exploring Christmas Hymns**

Come to explore the meanings behind our most beloved (and even some obscure) Christmas Hymns  
Thursday (12/5 and 12/19)

2:00 pm at First Congregational Church of Westfield  
7:00pm at Southwick Congregational Church

**THE BLESSING OF THE MANGER**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC 3:30pm - OA 6pm - Manger	2	3 9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	4 9:30am - Office Opne 6pm - Cub Scouts	5 HBPrep OFH NFH 9:30am - Office Open 7pm - Exploring	6 10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA 7pm - Concert 7:30pm - AA	7 7am - Holly Bazaar
8 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC 3:30pm - OA	9 5:30pm - GSA Rm 6,	10 9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	11 9:30am - Office Opne 6pm - Cub Scouts	12 CSPrep OFH RevPaul out 9:30am - Office Open 5:30pm - GSA Rm 6,	13 10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA 7:30pm - AA	14 8:30am - Cookie Sale 10am - Thrift Shop
15 RevPaul out 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC 3:30pm - OA	16	17 9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice 6:30pm - SCEC	18 9:30am - Office Opne 6pm - Cub Scouts	19 9:30am - Office Open 7pm - Exploring	20 10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA 7:30pm - AA	21 10am - Thrift Shop 4pm - Youth Movie
22 9:30am - Joint Svc 9:30am - SCEC NFH 3:30pm - OA	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve 6:30pm - Candlelight	25 Christmas Day	26	27 10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA 7:30pm - AA	28 10am - Thrift Shop
29 9:30am - SCEC NFH 11am - SCC Joint Svc 3:30pm - OA	30	31 New Year's Eve 9:30am - Office Open 6pm - Bell Practice	1 New Year's Day 6pm - Cub Scouts	2 9:30am - Office Open	3 10am - Thrift Shop 6pm - OA 7:30pm - AA	4 10am - Thrift Shop

# HOLLY BAZAAR

**Southwick Congregational Church**

**488 College Highway, Southwick, 01077**

**SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 7, 2024**

**8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM**

**CRAFTERS    BAKE SALE**

Light Lunch & Refreshments

Served at

**THE  
HOLLY  
INN**





## *Christmas Cookie Sale*

*Southwick Congregational Church*

*Old Fellowship Hall*

*488 College Highway (Under the Gold Dome)*

*Southwick, Massachusetts*

*Saturday, December 14, 2024*

*8:30 am - 1:00 pm*

*\$10 a pound*



## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

### November 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Terry Putnam at 12:20 pm. following refreshments and opened with a prayer by Rev. Paul. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the October Executive Committee Meeting which was seconded and with no discussion were passed unanimously.

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Nesbit offered a big thank you to all who volunteered to work the turkey dinner held Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – servers, kitchen workers, cooks, musicians, all ages. Upcoming events include:

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> - Veterans' Day Parade – Rev. Paul will be marching and offering prayers.

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Dinner at First Church of Westfield – Call for reservations.

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – Co-Hosting with Southwick Historical Society for a lecture about Isaac Damon, the architect of the Southwick Congregational Church – refreshments to follow with a “pie” theme

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Ecumenical Service at First Church of Westfield

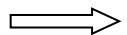
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Blessing of Manger – 6 pm – Southwick Congregational

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Concert at Southwick Congregational – the Gully Whompers from the Southwick Community Episcopal Church

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Holly Bazaar at Southwick Congregational 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Concert at First Church of Westfield 3 pm

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Both churches worship at First Church of Westfield at 9:30 am. New England Brass performing during the ser-



## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

vice along with a children's Christmas pageant

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve service in Westfield at 4:30 pm and in Southwick at 6:30 pm.

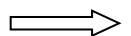
Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – Both churches worship together at Southwick Cong. at 11 am

**Treasurer:** Jim Putnam reported as of 9/30/24 we are running at a deficit of about \$20,000, true to budget expectations. Upcoming fundraisers should help lower this along with the rent received from the Southwick Community Episcopal Church.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Eric Nitsch reported the Manger will be set up Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. Our steeple bell has not been ringing as the striker system is in need of repair. The wood base is cracked. Eric is working on getting quotes for a new system or investigating repairing the current system. Also, a work order has been made with a request for a door for the kitchen to be installed on the right side entry to be able to close off the kitchen completely when necessary, especially when prepping for dinners.

**Christian Ed:** Kirsten Allhusen presented Bibles today during the worship service to our four youth. This presentation had been delayed from last June. Kirsten would like to host a screening of the movie "Nativity", possibly Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> in the late afternoon, and invite the youth and the community.

**Finance:** Melanie Nitsch reported Jim P completed the annual worker's comp audit and had some serious issues with the treasurer's laptop which he got fixed. Rev. Paul composed our annual stewardship letter (thank you!) to be sent out the week of November 10<sup>th</sup> as Stewardship Sunday is Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. Melanie is working on a rate quote comparison for our prop-



## ALL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

erty insurance. Melanie, Patty, Bob, and Terry have begun contract renewal negotiations with Rev. Paul and the representative group from First Church of Westfield. Rev. Paul's three year contract is up as of Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. A copy of the insurance policy from Southwick Community Episcopal Church has been requested for our files and Melanie is investigating the need to have them added to our current policy.

**Music:** Jen Cotto reported through email there was no new business.

**Pastoral Relations:** Bob Franzen reported the group met with Rev. Paul on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> and had a discussion about time management and trying not to be over-committed.

**Moderator:** Moderate Terry Putnam asked for a motion to continue, as previously voted on, with a total compensation package cap for Rev. Paul of \$50,000. A special meeting will be called if that cap needs to be exceeded. This was discussed, seconded, and passed unanimously. Also, a signed lease is still needed from Southwick Episcopal Community Church along with a copy of their liability policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 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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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

**Staff:** Choir Director/Organist      Roberta Kowal  
Custodian      Christopher Robin Roberts  
Administrative Assistant      Joseph Stiefel



# ADVENT



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United Church of Christ  
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VOLUME MMXXIV No. 12  
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