



SCC



Highlights

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here

SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WORSHIPING AND SERVING SINCE 1727
599 Main St. PO Box 295 Somers, CT 06071 (860) 763-4021

May 2024
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Letter from the Pastor

The world's favorite season is spring. All things seem possible in May.

-Edwin Teale (1899-1980)

Peace and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I am writing this letter to you from my office at the church. Behind me we have fresh mulch being added to the Memorial Garden. Outside my front window I can see items from the recently completed Tag Sale being distributed to non-profit groups in our area. All around me I can hear the laughter and singing of children from our friends at the Somers Cooperative Preschool. It's a busy time of activity and transition here at church!

In that spirit of activity, endings, and transitions to new beginnings, this letter is more a "bits and bobs" collection than the usual ramblings from my desk. Welcome to spring!

So without further ado, here we go:

***Our May Sermon Series will be a deep dive into Romans.** Written by the Apostle Paul to a church trying to find its way in the greatest city of the ancient world, this letter still holds a place of great importance in our faith today. What is faith? Where and in what do we find salvation? What does it mean to be *church* in a culture that is ever more diverse and rapidly changing by the day? Where can we-as believers and and as a church-find hope and reassurance in the midst of trying times?

***Starting May 5th, you will notice two changes to our worship time together. The first is that you will be invited to fill out a pew pad during the announcements.** This is another opportunity for you to let the Church Office and I know about any changes in contact information, prayer requests, or other information. **The second new addition is that Communion will be served by intinction-which comes from the Latin *intinctio* or "dipping in" of the bread into the cup.** A Deacon will also be available for those who wish to be served in their pews. Our Communion bread will be gluten-free.

From the
desk of
Pastor Scott



These changes came as a result of our work with Convergence and their suggestions to explore ways to strengthen our connections and grow spiritually in worship. Thank you to the Deacons for their prayerful discernment about our worship life.

***Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19th!** We will celebrate the birth of the Church through the Pentecost story (*please wear red-the color of the*

Holy Spirit-to worship). It is also Confirmation Sunday and a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the new Sanctuary! After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour to help us celebrate all these events.

*** May will mark the start of a new way of sharing all of the great things occurring here at SCUCC.** The CMC team and our Office Manager Sharon Midyette have been working hard at crafting a *Church E-Update* that will go out once a week. Think of this as one-stop shopping for all your church news, notes, and events. Thank you!

***And finally, I wanted to briefly update you on our Convergence journey.** Pastor Gregg and the Team have been hard at work implementing and exploring the findings from our Community Surveys, his visit last fall, the Communications Workshop, and Congregational Surveys from January. The group has engaged in further dialogue with the Somers Senior Center, community leaders, the general public, and Somers Public Schools about their impressions of our church and their hopes and dreams for Somers. All of that information combined has shown that there is a deep need for a community gathering space for both religious and support events—a *third space* that is not school or work.

The good news is that SCUCC is equipped to be that space. The team is now engaging in the work to make that occur here-and stay tuned for more news on that process. The work is hard but needed-and I want to personally thank the Team and this congregation for doing this. We can do hard things!

God bless.



Pastor Scott

May Worship Schedule

May 5th	Six Sunday of Easter <i>Communion & Deacon's Fund Sunday</i> Romans 1:1-17 "I Am Not Ashamed"
May 12th	Seventh Sunday of Easter Romans 5:1-11 "We Are Justified"
May 19th	Pentecost Sunday (Wear Red!) <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> <i>10th Anniversary Celebraton of New Sanctuary</i> Romans 6:1-14 "United with Jesus"
May 26th	First Sunday after Pentecost Romans 8:14-39 "Nothing Can Separate Us"

May Calendar of Church Events



May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Bible Study – 10am Wednesdays



May 1	Fellowship Committee (Zoom)	7:00 pm
May 2	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
May 5	Finance Committee Meeting	10:45 am
May 5	Music and Arts	10:45 am
May 6	Caring Committee Meeting	5:00 pm
May 6	Christian Education (Zoom)	7:00 pm
May 8	Community Supper	5:30 pm
May 9	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
May 12	 Facilities	8:30 am
May 13	Missions Committee Mtg. (Offsite)	7:00 pm
May 13	CMC Meeting	7:00 pm
May 14	Blood Drive	11:00am-4:00pm
May 14	Council	6:00 pm
May 16	Caring Lunch	11:30am
May 16	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
May 23	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
May 26	Loaves and Fishes	
May 27	Memorial Day—OFFICE CLOSED	
May 30	Choir Practice	7:00 pm





Imagine Together: What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: "We all do theology. Theology is God-talk." A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithe in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates

an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Imagine Together





2024 Vacation Bible School is August 5-9.

Our theme this year is **Scuba – Diving into Friendship with God**. We will be taking between 40 & 60 kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever flowing, never ending love of God. Kids will be immersed in the

Word and discover what living water is really all about.

- *If your kids/grandkids are age 4-11, ask if they are interested in participating.
- *If your kids/grandkids are 12 and older, ask if they are interested in helping.
- *We need underwater props for decorating the foundation room – sea animals, scuba equipment, coral, underwater plants.
- *We can use help decorating Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4.

Please reach out if you can help or know someone interested in participating.

~~ your CE committee is Debbi J., Kathy F., Kim K., Lois M. and Tara S.



A big **THANK YOU** to all of the

80+ people that helped with the Tag Sale. If you priced, boxed, cashiered, moved furniture, unboxed, sorted And all the other things that make our Tag Sale a success.

THANK YOU.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Did you know?

- Every two seconds someone in America needs blood.
- Over 38,000 pints of blood are needed daily in the U.S.
- Only 38% of the population is eligible to donate.
- The need for blood is constant and the blood supply must be regularly replenished.

Thursday, May 14th

11:00 pm – 4:00 pm

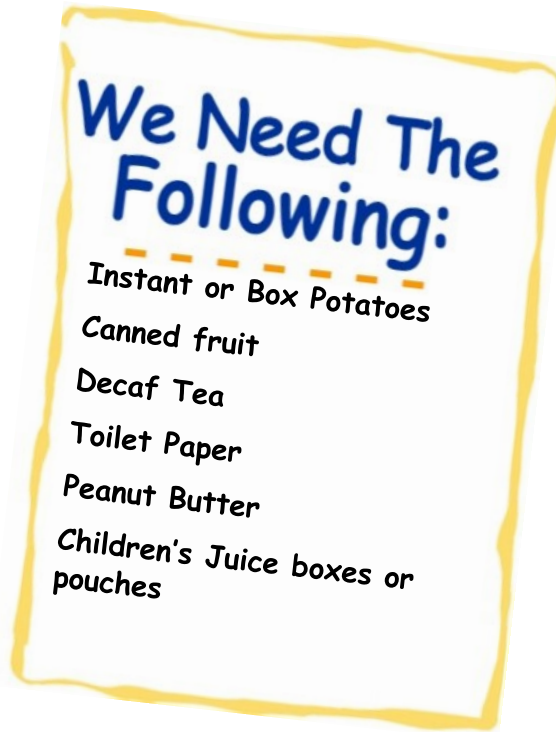
For an appointment please contact:

1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

or visit [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org)

Somers Congregational Church

599 Main Street
Somers, CT 06071



Did you know. . . .

Champ's regularly provides food for approximately 64 families. Donations come in through various local organizations as well as deliveries from Food Share.

HOURS: Mondays 10 am—Noon and 6 pm -7 pm
 (* closed Monday holidays)

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank the participants of the Somers Community Cleanup!

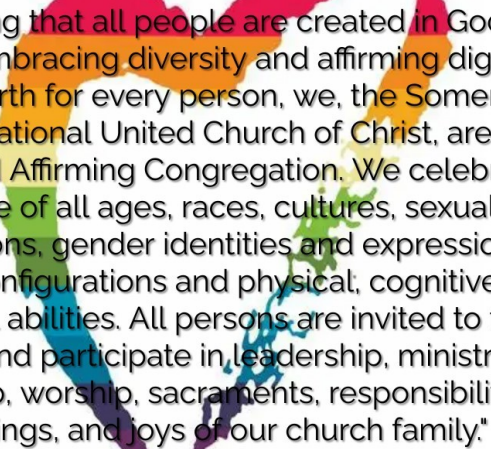
Congregational Community Cleaners (our team name) picked up 21 bags of trash along with a large stack of clay tiles from Four Bridges Road and a section of Field Road near NETTS.

Our team members were Pastor Scott Spence, Carole Lietz, Jan Martin, Laura McKiernan, Paul McKiernan, the McKernan's dog Eddie, Mary Ellen Donnell, Gary Donnell, Carla Smith, Margaret Festi, Cliff Martin, and Deb Barry.

The town of Somers is a bit cleaner because of your efforts!



Somers Congregational United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant



"Believing that all people are created in God's image, embracing diversity and affirming dignity and worth for every person, we, the Somers Congregational United Church of Christ, are an Open and Affirming Congregation. We celebrate people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations and physical, cognitive or emotional abilities. All persons are invited to fully share and participate in leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family."



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Our Church Administrative Assistant edits and publishes the Church Newsletter, Highlights.

Please be aware of deadlines and send your articles to
Highlights@thesomerschurch.org

