



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

September 2024
Volume 296 / #9

Letter from the Pastor

"By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."

Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885)

Peace and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I am writing this letter to you in the calm before the storm, that in between time where summer is wrapping up and fall has yet to officially begin. It's still light out for quite some time, trips to the beach still seem like a good idea, but we also see ads for Back to School and pumpkin lattes for sale at the coffee shop. **Fall...and a new season of activities and events here at 599 Main Street are just about to start!**

In that spirit of business and new beginnings, my letter to you will be more of the bullet points and *mark your calendars* than my usual writing. So buckle up and here we go...

***Thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered at Somers National Night Out on August 27th.** The event was well attended and was a great chance for our church to engage with the larger community. **Along those lines-SCUCC will also have a presence on our front lawn during the Four Town Fair Parade on September 14th.** Keep an eye out for us as we give out treats and share the Good News about our church.

***Our Summer Sermon Series on *I Believe...* concludes September 1st.** Thank you to everyone who has engaged with the questions and ideas discussed during this series. I have enjoyed being able to dive into UCC history and theology with you as well as discussing what it means to *Be the Church* in 2024 and beyond. This series has been one part of the larger effort of revitalization and engagement SCUCC has been undertaking with our friends from Convergence as well as small group conversations and brainstorming. Let's keep this momentum going!

***Homecoming Sunday is September 8th!** Make plans to attend the Community Breakfast starting at 8:30 in the Foundation Room (please RSVP to the Church Office). After fueling up with food and fellowship, make your upstairs for 9:30 worship as we start a new year in the Narrative

Lectionary. We will also welcome the Church Choir back to worship.

***September 22nd marks the start of Stewardship Season.** Join us in worship and conversation as we *Imagine Together* the church that God is calling us to be and how we can support it in that mission.

***And last but certainly not least, the Fall Informational Meeting will be after worship on September 29th.** This is a great chance to learn about all the amazing things occurring in the life of our church. See you there!

God bless.

Pastor Scott

September Worship Schedule

September 1st	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Conclusion of "I Believe..." Summer Sermon Series</i> Acts 2:1-18, Matthew 28:17-20, & <i>The UCC Statement of Faith</i> <i>Communion & Deacon's Fund Sunday</i>
September 8th	Homecoming Sunday <i>Start of a New Church Year!</i> Genesis 2:4b-25 & Mark 1:16-20 <i>The Garden of Eden</i>
September 15th	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 & Mark 10:27 <i>Isaac Born to Sarah</i>
September 22nd	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 32:22-30 & Mark 14:32-36 <i>Jacob Wrestles God</i>
September 29th	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 1:8-14, 3:1-15 & Mark 12:26-27a <i>Moses and God's Name</i>

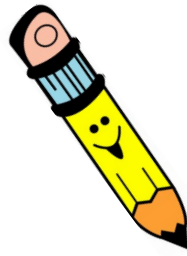


SEPTEMBER

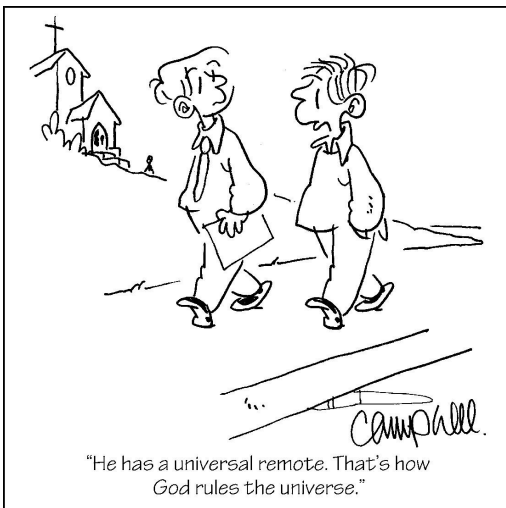
September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 10am



Sept 1	Music and Arts Committee Meeting	10:45 am
Sept 1	Finance Committee Meeting	10:45 am
Sept 2	OFFICE CLOSED—HOLIDAY	
Sept 2	Caring Committee Meeting	4:30 pm
Sept 2	Christian Education Meeting—Zoom	7:00 pm
Sept 3	Missions Committee Meeting—Offsite	7:00 pm
Sept 4	Fellowship Committee—Zoom	7:00 pm
Sept 5	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Sept 8	HOMECOMING SUNDAY	
Sept 8	Deacon's Meeting	10:45 am
Sept. 9	CMC Meeting	7:00 pm
Sept 12	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Sept 11	Community Supper	5:30 pm
Sept 17	Council	6:00 pm
Sept 19	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Sept 22	Loaves and Fishes	
Sept 26	Choir Practice	7:00 pm



NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
September 22nd



We Need The Following:

Instant or Box Potatoes
Fruit Snacks
 Mac & Cheese
 Toilet Paper
 Peanut Butter
Children's Juice boxes or pouches

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



“Musical Musings ” 9:15- 9:25

Before each service, beginning September 15th, Boyd will share insights about the music chosen, as well as connections between the music and other facets of our worship service.

With the aim of making it more meaningful to both the people singing and to those actively listening, he will include excerpts from the music, stories about our hymns and anthem, and the organ music.

Come a bit early to hear the day's musical musings.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the our final Community Supper of the season on Wednesday, September 11th at 5:30pm.

Donations are greatly appreciated. Menus will be announced beforehand, please let the office know if you plan to attend!



Community Supper

Imagine Together

Imagine: God speaks to us through prophets of ages past and through visionaries and leaders today. God speaks in our hearts “with sighs too deep for human words” (Romans 8). And God speaks through spirited debate as we seek to discern the right thing to do. In all these ways, God stretches our imagination for what’s possible and what’s necessary.

Together: God calls us into community. We follow Jesus as siblings in faith. United with other believers, we form a Christian movement living the way of Jesus. Faith is not a solitary life but one that brings our hearts close to others. As a statement of faith from the United Church of Canada affirms, “we are not alone; we live in God’s world.”

The spiritual practice of generosity arises from imagining all that God calls us to do as a community. Our donations to our congregation make it possible to turn what we imagine into a reality. Through our annual commitments to our congregation, we imagine together all that we can do.



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 'SCUBA diving into friendship with God'

As you approach the church entrance you are aware of the beach theme. You look thru the porthole at sea animals. Open the hatch and you are under the sea. Colorful fish, bubbles, the coral reef and sea weed along with many sea animals greet you. Above your head you see a swimmer in a tube. The colorful snack tables are shaped like coral. You are submerged into the SCUBA theme at VBS.

The ocean currents led 8 deck officers and their crew of ten, ages 4 - 11, in and out of four underwater stations. 6 young mates with 2 adult assistants brought the Bible to life each day. The morning skit, with Pastor Scott as Sydney Shore and Ms. Tara navigating the adventure, brought singing, deep discussions and a bit of humor to start each day. God sightings were shared, daily activity photos floated on the screen and friendships bloomed. A treasured week was had by all.

A school of thanks: *for all the underwater props inside the building and beach items outside the entrance door *for the waves of snacks provided by women's fellowship *for "all hands on deck" help we had decorating *for the SCUBA themed coffee hour and community supper *and especially for the two churches who had SCUBA decorations, Vernon Congregational and Suffield Second Baptist.

Your CE committee, jumps out of the deep sea, til next year...
Debbi, Kathy, Kim, Lois, Tara





At the end of this year I will be stepping down as your room rental coordinator. As they say all good things must come to an end although I hope that my end is a new beginning for someone else. We are looking for a new coordinator starting in January as well as event volunteers. The coordinator role has evolved over the years so it is very possible to tailor the position to make it work for you.

I would be happy to talk to anyone potentially interested in one of these openings. Over these 4 years we have opened our doors to many different folks and have developed some great relationships, not to mention the income stream that has been generated.

Please feel free to reach out to me about the coordinator position. If you are interested in being an event volunteer, I will connect you with one of our current volunteers.

Thank you. Laura Driscoll

New Roof Installed on Bugbee Center

The roof project was completed on August 23rd. Only a few sheets of plywood had to be replaced, which helped the cost of the project.

The total cost for the roof was \$30,175.00. We are thankful for Women's Fellowship for their donation of \$2,000.00. The remaining \$28,175.00 was taken from the Endowment Fund.



Heifer Project FINAL DETAILS

Our final count from special offerings and VBS this year our donations will provide:

- a Milk Menagerie which includes four milk-producing animals: two goats, a water buffalo and a quality-breed heifer;
- a Gardener's Gift Basket which includes tree seedlings, rabbits, chickens and a hive of bees; and
- a flock of ducks.

What a great way to make a difference!





“No one can believe that God is not good when the August gardens are in their heyday.” – Gladys Taber

Allocated Donations for August, 2024 - None

Unallocated Donations for August, 2024

Caring Hearts Free Clinic of Patrick County, Stuart, Virginia – A donation was made in memory of Pastor Spence’s Father, Mr. Bruce Spence.

Covenant to Care Backpack Drive

Missions Board members worked with Sue Zdebski and Dominic from the Department of Children and Families to collect and fill 30 new backpacks with necessary school supplies. Thank you very much to Church members who generously donated the specific types of backpacks that the school children requested as well as the items needed for school. We appreciate your help in making this year’s backpack drive successful as in previous years.

Thank You Notes - Our recent donations to the Department of Human Services, Somers and Parkway Pavilion will make an important difference.

Department of Human Services – “On behalf of the Somers Department of Human Services, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of \$300 to our back-to-school program. Your support in providing backpacks, school supplies, and gift cards for new school clothing is invaluable in ensuring that all children in our community return to school this Fall feeling confident and ready to learn.

Thanks to your kindness, coupled with the contributions of other generous donors, we will be able to supply more than 40 students with the essential items they need to start the school year right. The impact of your generosity goes beyond just the material support; it fosters a sense of pride and excitement in these children as they embark on their educational journeys.

Your contribution helps us create an environment where every child feels valued and equipped to succeed. We have already received wonderful feedback from families who have expressed their gratitude for the much-needed support. One parent recently shared, “Thank you for caring about me and my family. It feels so good to know that my daughter can have the same back-to-school experience as families with more resources.”

We deeply appreciate your commitment to supporting our community and investing in the future of our children. Together, we are making a significant difference in their lives and helping to build a brighter future for all.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for partnering with us in this important work. We look forward to continuing our work together and keeping you informed about the positive outcomes your support is achieving.” – With Sincere Thanks, Matthew Cox, Director of Human Services

Parkway Pavilion, Enfield, CT – “Missions Board – Thank you to all of you and your parishioners for the generous donation for our residents at Parkway. Everything will be put to good use.” – Suzanne Moriarty, Director of Recreation.

We on the Missions Board thank you for supporting us in the many causes we work on and donate to. We could not do these good works without you. Please reach out to us if you have an organization that you would like us to consider donating to or if you have any questions about the Missions Board. We wish you a joyful and blessed end of Summer.Board

Lisa, Abbie, Jill, Ellen, Bev, Laura
Your Missions Committee

TRUNK OR TREAT

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting its 4th annual Halloween Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26th from 4-5pm in the church parking lot. (Raindate: Sunday, October 27th. 4-5 pm)

We are requesting volunteers to host their decorated car trunks for this event. Here is an overview of what would be involved:

Arrive at 3:15pm for setup

Decorate your trunk to be "scare-minimum," for kids of all ages. Feel free to find a theme, such as in the picture below and get creative! Dress up and have fun with it!

Bring some individually wrapped candy, treats or Halloween trinkets (pencils, stickers) for children... and possibly adults

If you are interested in participating with your vehicle or have further questions, contact a Fellowship Committee Member:

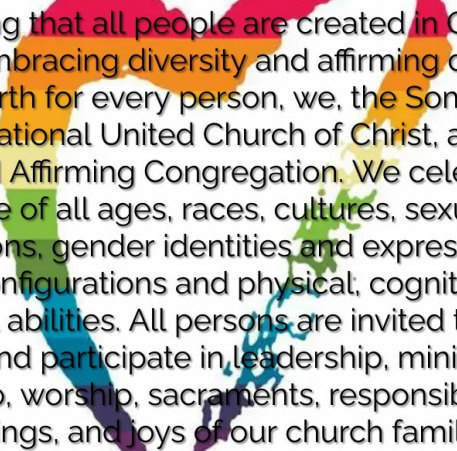
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Somers Congregational United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant



"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."



Somers Congregational Church
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Our Church Administrative Assistant edits and publishes the
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Please be aware of deadlines and send your articles to
Highlights@thesomerschurch.org