



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

October 2024
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Letter from the Pastor



You can't escape it. You see the yard signs on your drive through town, you hear the ads on TV or the radio, you know it is that time of year: election season. I know that politics has become a bit of a dirty word in some corners, but pushing aside all of the hype we are reminded that it comes from the Greek word *politika* or "of citizens and the state." **In the United States, politics is how we discern the path of our lives together. It's a process.**

And on one level, political processes are just simply the ways communities organize their common life. But for people and communities of faith...I think it goes deeper.

For Christians, public policy either helps or hinders our community from living out the commandment *to love our neighbor as ourselves*. I believe that the involvement of Christians in the political process is vital – vital for our society and vital for the living out of God's call on our lives.

There are many ways to be involved in this process-One of the simplest ways is to vote. So, if you're eligible to vote (you're a U.S. citizen and there aren't any reasons your right to vote was suspended or revoked), this letter is for you.

It's been said that the best way to get people to vote is to ask them to create a voting plan. This letter is being written to help you (and anyone you share it with) create your voting plan. **Here are the steps I think a solid plan needs:**

***Register to vote.** In Connecticut, you can register to vote online, by mail or in person. There are different deadline for each option.

***If you're already registered, check your registration status.** If you've changed your address or if you haven't voted for several elections – or just to make sure you're listed correctly on the voter rolls – do this to make sure everything is right.

All the information on registering and your registration status can be found online at the CT Secretary of State website.

***Find your voting place.** Because polling places are organized by a local jurisdiction, you may have to do some web searching. In Somers, voting occurs at the Town Hall Auditorium (600 Main St). Questions? Contact the Registrar of Voters at Somers.registrar@gmail.com or 860.763.8207

***Decide when you will cast your ballot.** Tell a friend what your plan is and have your friend tell you their plan. Then hold each other accountable to vote. It turns out that if you have an “only sometimes voter” friend, this act can get them to cast their ballot!

***Study!** Get to know what's on your ballot.

***Learn about the candidates and issues.** Most candidates have websites. You can check the positions organizations you trust have taken. Schedule a couple social events with close friends to talk about what's on the ballot, maybe asking each person to do some research on a race or issue.

***Pray and talk about it:** The UCC has a program called *Our Faith Our Vote* (<https://www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote/>) that contains issue guides, worship and prayer materials, and suggestions for having faithful and respectful conversations.

And last but not least...VOTE!

God bless.

Pastor Scott

October Worship Schedule

October 6th	<i>Imagine Together Stewardship Sunday</i> <i>Communion & Deacon's Fund Sunday</i> <i>Neighbors in Need UCC National Offering</i> Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Mark 12:28-31
October 13th	Twenty-first Sunday in after Pentecost <i>David Anointed King</i> 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5, Psalm 150 and Mark 11:8-10
October 20th	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Guest Preacher Rev. Jack Zapulla
October 27nd	Reformation Sunday Guest Preacher Rev. Gregg Carlson <i>Wear Red -the color of the Holy Spirit-to worship!</i>

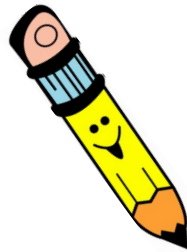


OCTOBER

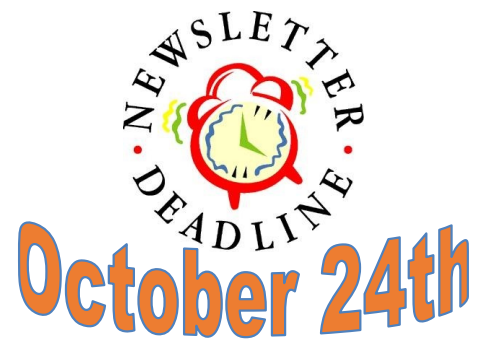
October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 10am



- Oct. 1 Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
(Offsite)
- Oct. 2 Fellowship Committee—Zoom 7:00 pm
- Oct. 3 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- Oct. 6 Music and Arts Committee Meeting 10:45 am
- Oct. 6 Finance Committee Meeting 10:45 am
- Oct 7 Caring Committee Meeting 4:30 pm
- Oct. 7 Christian Education Meeting—Zoom 7:00 pm
- Oct. 10 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- Oct. 13 Facilities Meeting 8:30 am
- Oct. 13 Deacon’s Meeting 10:45 am
- Oct. 14 Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- Oct. 14 CMC Meeting 7:00 pm
- Oct. 15 Council 6:00 pm
- Oct. 17 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- Oct. 24 Caring Party 11:30 am
- Oct. 24 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- Oct. 26 **TRUNK TREAT** 4-5 pm
- Oct.31 Happy Halloween
- Oct. 31 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm





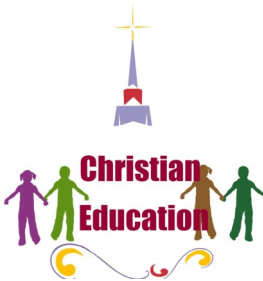
We Need The Following:

- 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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Kim, you were a wonderful friend, mentor, and inspiration. As we go forward, we will keep your love close to us feeling you embrace every day.

At our recent meeting, we planned going forward with Faith Formation classes for grades K-5, Christmas Pageant, and setting dates for, believe it or not, 2025 VBS. Tara and Lisa Weigel will still co-lead the Faith Formation classes again this year, but we always are looking for more helpers. This year's Christmas Pageant will be during the church service on December 15th. We are looking for actors and actresses of all ages.

Mark your calendars! VBS dates will be August 5 – 8, 2025. Theme to be determined. Thank you to all who have kept us in your thoughts.

Kathy, Tara, Lois, and Debbi



MISSIONS' CORNER

It is hard to believe that fall is already among us. We hope everyone had an amazing and relaxing summer, and we look forward to continuing to finish out 2024 doing more to help others. Below is our Mission news for September.

Allocated donations for September:

Alex's Army- The Alex Fisher Foundation: Founded by Kelly Fisher, after her son, Alex, accidentally died from a drug overdose, the Alex Fisher Foundation educates parents and children about the dangers of substance and alcohol abuse. The foundation creates courses that educate on the effects of using drugs or alcohol in schools and in the community.

AFSP Suicide Prevention: Delivers innovative prevention programs, educates the public about risk factors and warning signs, raises funds for suicide research and programs and reaches out to individuals who have lost loved ones to suicide.

Unallocated donations for September:

Somer's Beautification Committee: A donation was made in memory of our church member and friend, Faith Gelinas.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank everyone once again who donated and helped to fill 30 personalized backpacks with school supplies for the Covenant to Care Adopt a Child Program from the Department of Children and Families. As always, special thanks to Sue Zdebski for all her hard work that she puts into this every year.

Misc:

Missions Committee enjoyed hosting coffee hour on September 22nd. Please consider signing up for a Sunday!

Thought to Ponder: "If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present...Gratefully." – Maya Angelou

As always, please reach out if you have an organization that you would like us to consider donating to. If you have any questions about anything we do on Missions, please feel free to ask. From all of us on your Missions Committee, be well and above all else, **always be kind**. We look forward to continuing the good work that we do on behalf of all of our congregation and our community.

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



Farewell to Pat Jones

On Sunday, October 20th the Caring Committee invites church members and friends to enjoy a cake at Coffee Hour recognizing Pat Jones, her membership of over forty years, and her contributions to Somers Congregational UCC. Pat has served on numerous committees and fundraisers from Stewardship and Deacons to appraising jewelry and antiques for the Tag Sale. Pat's new address is 513 31st Street, Seattle, WA 98122. Please join us to wish Pat well in this next chapter of her life.

Harvest Caring Lunch

On Thurs. Oct. 24th at 11:30 the Caring Committee is hosting a Harvest Lunch for their Caring List friends.

Somers Historical Society will be providing a presentation on the History of Somers. We look forward to gathering with our Caring List folks.



Freezer Cleanout

Please remember to tag items that you put into the freezer. On November 1st we will be throwing out items in the freezer that **ARE NOT** tagged.



A FLICK, FOOD, AND FINDING FAITH RETURNS!
MOVIE NIGHT FOR ADULTS.

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 5-8 PM

MOVIE TITLE AND DETAILS TO FOLLOW

FREE EVENT

SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Presents

TRUNK or TREAT

Join us for
**Games, Tricks & Treats &
fun for all ages!**

**Saturday, October 26
4 to 5 pm**

Raindate: Sunday, October 27

In the parking lot of Somers Congregational Church
599 Main Street, Somers

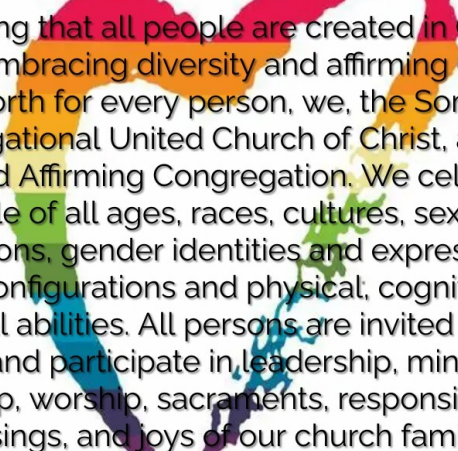
For questions, contact Jan Martin at 860-749-9241

Thank You from Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who donated a food item or helped in any way with the funeral reception for Faith Gelinis on Friday Sept. 6th. We appreciate everyone's willingness to contribute to the success of these receptions. Providing funeral receptions at Somers Congregational UCC would not be possible without the assistance of members and friends of the church.



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