



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

February 2025
Volume 297 / #2

Letter from the Pastor

“If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers... February is for doers.”

-Marc Parent

Peace and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ! The temperatures outside are still quite chilly, the snow in the yard is holding on, and holiday decorations have been put away for another year. We are fully in February mode: that in-between season where winter's cold has not left and we may wonder when spring's warmth and growth are going to return. Some of us are struggling with seasonal allergies and colds. You might need a sun lamp or some extra exercise to stay balanced.

But know this: here at 599 Main Street we are doing our part to help you get through this time of year. Over the past several weeks we have celebrated Epiphany, baptized a new member of the Body of Christ, celebrated Communion, and had our 298th Annual Congregational Meeting. At this meeting we heard from our committees and teams about their plans for the year ahead, passed the 2025 Annual Budget, and approved a Behavioral Covenant for our congregation. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated either in person or online!

I also invite you to hear these words from the Psalms: *The Lord your God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

Gracious. Merciful. Loving.

Somehow, those values have become political hot-buttons lately.

As a community of faith, we know that members of our congregation and also our neighbors are frightened by the political developments of the last few weeks. We do not — and we cannot — ignore this fear. SCUCC remains committed to grace, love, and mercy - especially for the most vulnerable.

Our Open and Affirming statement proclaims the following: *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.*



Those who would seek to divide us would have us debate about who is created in the divine image; who deserves mercy; who deserves love and compassion. Instead of playing that game our faith reminds us that...All people are made in God's image. All people deserve mercy, grace, and love.

I don't know what will come in the weeks and months ahead. And I don't know what holy work we will be called to. But I do know that it begins with mercy, grace, and love. It begins with our friends and neighbors who are scared and vulnerable, and walking beside them with love. Let's do that work together.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Scott

February Worship Schedule

February 2nd

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac*
Communion & Deacon's Fund Sunday

February 9th

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 5:21-43 *Jairus' Daughter Healed*

February 16th

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 6:1-29 *Death of John the Baptist*

February 23rd

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 6:30-56 *Feeding of the Five Thousand & Jesus Walks on Water*

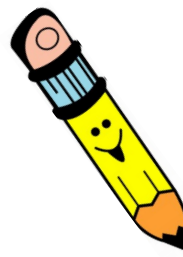


February 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 10am

Feb 2	Music and Arts Meeting	10:45 am
Feb 2	Finance Committee Meeting	10:45 am
Feb 3	Caring Committee Meeting	3:30 pm
Feb 3	Christian Education Meeting—Zoom	7:00 pm
Feb 4	Missions Meeting (Offsite)	7:00 pm
Feb 5	Fellowship Committee—Zoom	7:00 pm
Feb 6	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Feb 8	Chocolate Sale	9am—1pm
Feb 9	Facilities Meeting	8:30 am
Feb 9	Deacon’s Meeting	11:30 am
Feb 10	CMC Meeting	7:00 pm
Feb 13	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Feb 17	President’s Day—OFFICE CLOSED	
Feb 18	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Feb 20	Friendship Kitchen	
Feb 20	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Feb 27	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm



February 21st



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 **80** families. Donations come in through various local organizations as well as deliveries from Food Share.

HOURS: Mondays 10 am—Noon and 6 pm -7

Anything Chocolate BAKE SALE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH | 9:00AM - 1:00PM
SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - 599 MAIN STREET

10 Amazing Crafters!

*Salts ♥ Toys ♥ Candles
Decor ♥ Baskets ♥ Coasters
Lotions ♥ Scarves ♥ Jewelry
and more!*

You'll find...

*Bars ♥ Breads ♥ Cakes
Candy ♥ Cookies ♥ Pies*

decorated for that special Valentine!

Questions? Contact our church office at:
860-763-4021 | office@thesomerschurch.org





Founding of Our Church and Our First Pastor

Our Church History

In 1723, a vote at the Enfield church allowed the establishment of a separate precinct in East Enfield (Somers) with the power to levy a tax to support our own minister.

You can imagine the difficulties in communication and transportation in those days. Everything was by horseback or ox cart over roads that often were trails through the woods. Finding a Pastor was not easy and, once found, he had to have the approval of the congregation. Getting this approval was apparently not easy either.

In July 1725, a call was extended to Mr. Daniel Elmer with a day of humiliation and fasting set for Sept. 22 and his ordination for Oct. 6, with ministers and elders invited from as far away as Framingham and Marlboro. Something was amiss because Mr. Elmer was not approved. Arbiters and attorneys were called in and Mr. Elmer left with a cash settlement and a letter of recommendation. 1.

Now the process had to start all over, this time with more success.

“At a legal meeting held Oct. 12, 1726, it was voted to hire Mr. Samuel Allis upon probation and on Oct. 28 it was voted to pay Mr. Allis 20 shillings a Sabbath and his keeping of a house.” In Nov. 1726, making his approval more permanent, a town meeting voted to give Mr. Allis 80 pounds and 20 pounds in labor toward the building of a house and 60 pounds a year salary for 5 years. Sometimes this was paid in grain. 2.

On March 15, 1727, Samuel Allis was ordained and a covenant signed. This gathering of our church was our official founding. Eight men besides Mr. Allis signed the original covenant and their wives joined “at the first communion”. Four years later when the first meeting house was built, it is said that all the inhabitants of Somers, about 180, could sit on the sills of the meeting house.

Samuel Allis was born in Hatfield, MA on Dec. 5, 1705, the son of a carpenter. He graduated from Harvard in the class of 1724 and studied theology with the Rev. Solomon Stoddard in Northhampton. For the first few years, our church services were held in individual homes, often in the home of Nathaniel Horton Jr. An interesting note: Many of you know Jim and Ginny Rogers, who used to go to our church. Nathaniel Horton of Somers was an early ancestor of Jim Rogers.

Mr. Allis was our Pastor for twenty years, until 1747. Town records of Nov. 1746 report a disagreement between Mr. Allis and the town folk probably over his payment. By the spring of 1747, with the help of outside arbitration, Rev. Mr. Allis and the church and the town agreed on his dismissal from the pastorate with him receiving the house that he had built on Scully Road when first coming to Somers plus 260 acres of farmland to work.

He lived in Somers until his death in 1796 at age 91, “amiably rendering occasional services to the church in preaching and negotiation of conflicts.” 3. You can see his tombstone in the North Cemetery.

An interesting note is that Mr. Allis was the owner of 2 or 3 slaves.
 "In 1774, CT forbade further importation of slaves and provided that Negroes born after 1784 were to be free at the age of 25. The census of 1790 shows CT had 2759 slaves and 2801 free Negroes." 4.

Somers, The History of a Connecticut Town Fred C. Davis and Richard W. Davis page 8
 History of Tolland County
 History of Tolland County
 The Challenge of Change, Three Centuries of Enfield History published by the Enfield
 Historical Society page 28

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline.
 Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV



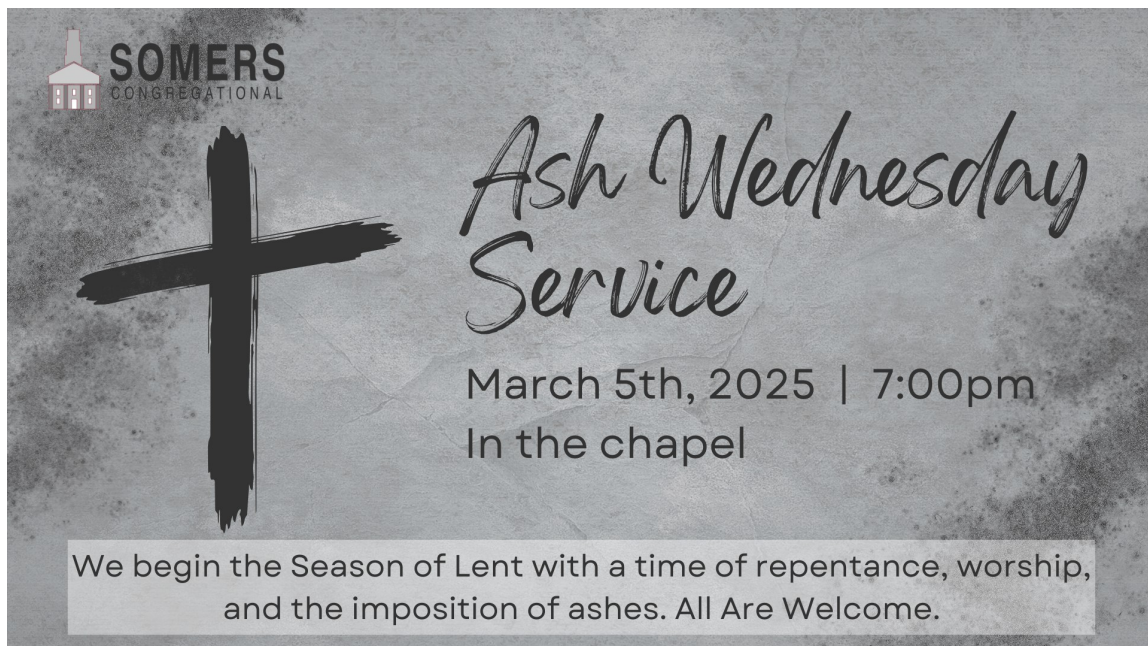
A FLICK, FOOD, AND FINDING FAITH
RETURNS!
MOVIE NIGHT FOR ADULTS.
SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 5-8 PM

Cotton Patch Gospel is a musical with music and lyrics written by [Harry Chapin](#) and produced just after Chapin's death in 1981. It ran [off-Broadway](#) at the [Lamb's Theatre](#) for 193 performances beginning on October 21, 1981. This bluegrass musical is a southern reinterpretation of the gospel story – retelling the life of Jesus in modern day rural Georgia. Though the setting and the styling of the language greatly differs from the original telling of the Gospels, the plot structure and the message of the story stays true to the historical recording in [The Gospel of Matthew](#).

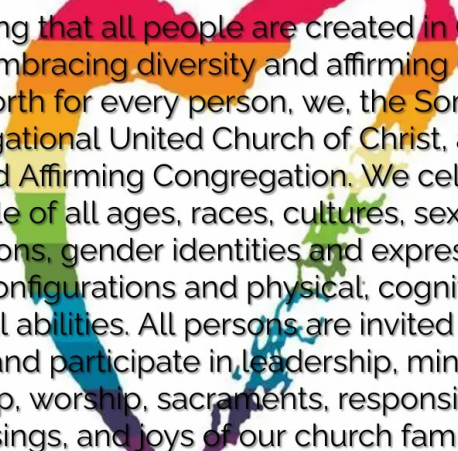
Featuring a cast of five (including four live musicians), the “Greatest Story Ever Retold” is the only Off-Broadway play to be praised by both Rolling Stone and Christianity Today, and hailed as “A Joyous Triumph” by the New York Times.

“...Features some of the best songs Harry Chapin ever wrote!” -Rolling Stone.
Running time: 110 minutes.

Pizza, soda and/or water, and dessert will be provided. Reservations will be needed since we must order the pizza for 5:00 to eat while viewing. A \$5 donation is suggested, if possible. As usual, lively discussion will take place after our viewing. Please email or talk with one of the Fellowship committee members by March 14th to reserve your spot for this enlightening evening: Sue Moak at sdmoak22@gmail.com, Carla Smith at carlachristine1261@gmail.com, or Jan Martin at jan.martin13@gmail.com.



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