



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

March 2025
Volume 297 / #3

Letter from the Pastor

March, when days are getting long, Let thy growing hours be strong to set right some wintry wrong.

-Caroline May

There are three elements that are almost always part of Lent: prayer, giving something up and giving something back.

-Elizabeth Hyndman

Peace and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I'm writing to you as the temperatures are slowly starting to warm up and the snow in the yard is gradually melting away. The sun is out a little bit more each and every day and the sky is not nearly as grey as it was before. A New England spring is almost here...so very close.

All of this new life and renewed activity is mirrored here at SCUCC. Looking at the March calendar, I'm finding it difficult to focus on just one or two pieces. So this letter is more of a "news & notes" format than usual:

March 2nd is *Mardi Gras Sunday! We will celebrate the last Sunday before Lent by wearing Mardi Gras colors (purple, gold and black), collecting a special offering for Back Bay Mission in Mississippi, and enjoying King Cake and treats after worship. *Let the Good Times Roll!*

March 5th is *Ash Wednesday. We will mark the start of Lent with a service of reflection, Communion and the imposition of ashes. The service starts at 7PM in the Chapel.

Starting *March 9th, our Lent 2025 theme is *I Have a Question....*

Jesus at his heart was a teacher and people consistently came to him with their problems and ideas. As we journey through the season, each of our sermon texts will focus on these great questions. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to see what SCUCC is all about.



March 9th: Mark 10: 17-31 *What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?*

March 16th: Mark 10: 35-45 *May I Sit at Your Right Hand?*

March 23rd: Mark 12: 1-12 *What Will the Vineyard Owner Do?*

March 30th: Mark 12: 35-40 *Whose Son is the Messiah?*

April 6th: Mark 13: 1-8, 24-37 *When Will These Things Happen?*

April 13th: (Palm Sunday) Mark 14: 3-9 *May I Anoint Your Feet?*

The 2025 Southern New England Conference Regional Gatherings are taking place over the next several months. Our region (South Central) will be meeting at First Church of Christ-UCC in New Britain on Saturday, March 29th from 2-5. These events are a great chance to learn from and collaborate with Conference staff and local churches. **Please contact the Church Office or Pastor Scott if you are interested in attending.**

***And finally, the UCC will be collecting *The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)* special offering on March 30th.** This special offering assists the disaster, refugee, and resettlement ministries of our denomination.

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Scott

March Worship Schedule

March 2nd	Mark 8:27-9:8 <i>Transfiguration</i> Communion & Deacon's Fund Sunday
March 9th	Mark 10: 17-31 <i>What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?</i>
March 16th	Mark 10: 35-45 <i>May I Sit at Your Right Hand?</i>
March 23rd	Mark 12: 1-12 <i>What Will the Vineyard Owner Do?</i>
March 30th	Mark 12: 35-40 <i>Whose Son is the Messiah?</i>

March



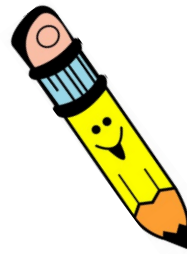
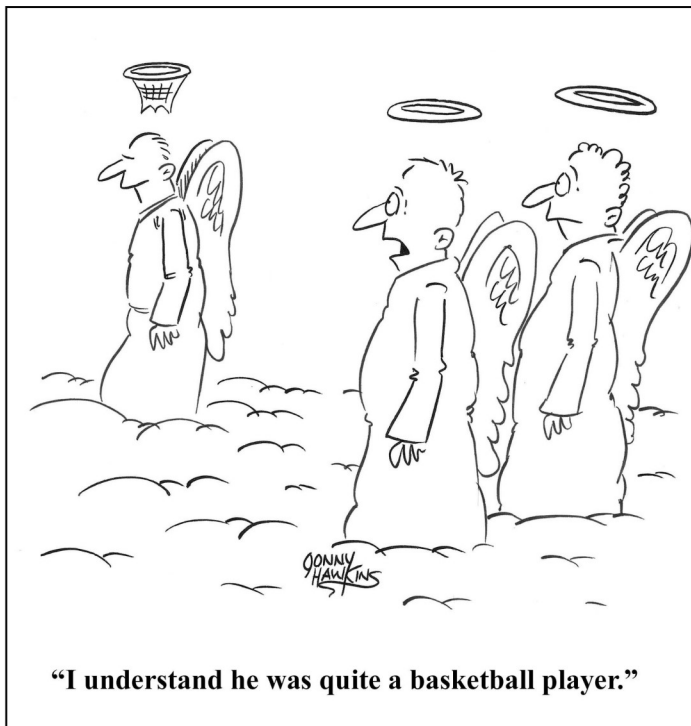
March 2025

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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	29
30	31					

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 10am

Mar 2	Music and Arts Meeting	10:45 am
Mar 2	Finance Committee Meeting	10:45 am
Mar 3	Caring Committee Meeting	3:30 pm
Mar 3	Christian Education Meeting—Zoom	7:00 pm
Mar 4	Missions Meeting (Offsite)	7:00 pm
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Service	
Mar 5	Fellowship Committee—Zoom	7:00 pm
Mar 6	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Mar 9	Facilities Meeting	8:30 am
Mar 9	Deacon’s Meeting	11:30 am
Mar 10	CMC Meeting	7:00 pm
Mar 13	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Mar 16	Fellowship Movie Night	5:00 pm
Mar 18	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Mar 20	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Mar 23	Loaves and Fishes	
Mar 27	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm



March 21st



We Need The Following:

- Instant or Box Potatoes
- Fruit Snacks**
- Mac & Cheese
- Toilet Paper
- Peanut Butter
- Rice**
- Tomato Sauce**

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



March 9

DID YOU KNOW??????? We have a lost and found? If you have lost something here, please let us know. Currently we have coats, hats, scarfs, glasses, water bottles.





Four Reasons for Making a Financial Commitment

Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our pledge is an expression of love. In our hearts we feel our commitment to the congregation when we name what we intend to give. In our minds, we know the congregation needs to plan and budget for the future. In our souls, we experience the hope that comes from making a commitment to the future. And with our strength, we do what we can to help support our community. All of which connects us to the mission and ministry of our congregation – its work to engage us in loving all our neighbors.

Your time, talents and financial pledge make anything possible. The Stewardship Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider pledging if you have not already done so for 2025. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7.

As always, if you have any questions about giving or about how your offerings become ministry, please feel free to contact the Stewardship Committee.

Blessings

You're Stewardship Team

Jeff Roig & Tyler Cass



Building the First Meeting House

Our Church History

The next few articles will be about our meeting houses, our church buildings. Although these are important, as the hymn reminds us, “The church is not a building”.

We are reminded of this in a sermon given in 1892 by our pastor, Rev. Charles Ricketts, at the rededication of the third meeting house after a major renovation.

“Our success in the future will not depend on a beautiful church to worship in, nor in our freedom from debt and absence of all disquieting factions. The material temple is not the essential church of the living God. The real church is only the place where the gospel of faith and good works is dispensed.”

It is now 1729. For two and a half years, since March 15, 1727, when our church was first gathered and our first Pastor was ordained, we had been meeting in the homes of church members.

By Oct. 9, 1729 we had gathered some money and voted to build a meeting house. It wasn't easy! There was much discussion and dissension about where and how big to build it. By the Dec. 28, 1730 town meeting we were still discussing. Davis calls it “an unholy row”.

Finally, in March 1731, an outside committee of “disinterested people” had to be called in. They decided to build it in the northern part of our North Cemetery (corner of Stebbins Road and Springfield Road) 45 feet long, 38 feet wide and 20 feet between the joyns (floor to ceiling).

At a town meeting on Nov. 1, 1731, the town meeting voted to provide 4 bushels of wheat, 2 barrels of cider and 4 gallons of rum for the raising of the meeting house. At a later meeting they voted to eliminate the wheat and just have the cider and the rum. Although it isn't mentioned in the meeting minutes, I would guess that the ladies of the church provided food to go with the liquid refreshments.

The church was raised between Nov. 10 and Dec. 27, 1731. It was a good time, after the harvest work was done and before the snows of winter.

Davis states that “yearly grants were needed for ten years before the building was finished.” A note in 1736 says 40 pounds was raised to glaze the meeting house, build the pulpit and start the body of the seats.

“The History of Tolland County” says that two and a half acres of land was set aside around the meeting house and “it was voted that any inhabitant in the precinct should have liberty to build a small house for himself, his family and also shelter for his horse upon the land purchased by the society around the meeting house.”

Additional Town History:

In 1727, the Enfield town meeting voted to allow the East Precinct (Somers) money for starting a school which was built near the meeting house.

In 1734 our town was incorporated under the name of Somers, named after Lord Somers.

In 1747 the town of Somers voted “to be dismissed from ye government of Massachusetts and be brought under ye government of Connecticut.” In 1749 the town began to do business under the laws of Connecticut.

In 1750 the town meeting voted to build a bridge over the Scantic at the county road. There are many mentions in town meeting minutes of money being paid to various town members for the use of their “bulls”, which I guess to be oxen, for the improvement of town roads.

Ailene Henry Church Historian



Memorial Easter Lilies

It is time to order lilies to beautify our worship space for Easter. You are invited to specify individuals or events that you would like remembered. Please indicate the number of lilies you wish to purchase and note if you are giving them in Honor or Memory of a specific person. Also indicate if you will be taking the lily after Easter worship for yourself, delivering it to one of our shut-ins, or leaving it for our Caring Committee to deliver. The cost of donating lilies is **\$7.00** per plant.

DEADLINE for Ordering Lilies is April 7, 2025.

Please make checks payable to “Somers Congregational UCC”

Name of lily Donor as it should appear in bulletin (please print): _____

Given: ___ In Memory of _____
___ In Honor of _____

Given: ___ In Memory of _____
___ In Honor of _____

Total Number of lilies _____ X \$7.00 = Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Following worship on Easter:

___ Please deliver to shut-in or individual on caring list

___ I will help deliver other plants. Yes No

___ I will take the Easter lily with me after Easter Service.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____



Missions committee is ready to start our important work for 2025. With the help of our congregation and community, we are able to continue our efforts to give back to our local organizations, as well as pay it forward with our outreach mission drives to help those most in need and hope to make this year as successful as last. Below is our Mission News for January and February:

Allocated donations for January/February 2025:

Enfield Warming Center: A donation for January and a donation for February. Enfield Safe Warming Center/Safe Harbor is a non-denominational faith-based organization whose mission is to serve the homeless of the Enfield community. They serve by helping anyone in need by offering a warm place to stay, essential personal items, and connections to community resources. Whenever Missions has called upon our congregation to provide various donations in the past, we could always count on you. A warm, safe space and everyday essential items are things we tend to take for granted, so please know that you have made a difference for the people who need help during the coldest months of the year. We also give in the months of November and December, as well. Thank you for your continued support.

LiveWell: Formally named the Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut, this organization provides services that improve the lives of individuals and their families who are impacted by dementia, including education, access to resources that improve health, opportunities for social connection and growth, a sense of belonging, and a continued purpose. Missions added LiveWell as a February allocated donation in 2024 after having made a one-time donation in honor of our church member, Joan McCarthy, who talked to the congregation about LiveWell while bravely sharing her personal story and how this organization has greatly benefited her and her family. Missions is glad to support wonderful local organizations such as this one.

Unallocated donations for February:

Global HOPE- United Church of Christ: For disaster relief. Two separate donations were made for February, including a donation for the wildfires in California and a donation for North Carolina Hurricane Helene. So many have been impacted by these terrible disasters, and we are glad to help with each one providing assistance where it might be needed most.

Thank you notes: Our donations make a difference!

From Enfield Safe Harbor: "On behalf of Enfield People for People, Safe Harbor for the Homeless, please accept our thanks for your generous contribution." Our mission is to serve the homeless of the Enfield community. We serve by helping anyone in need by offering warmth and connections to community resources. We serve every guest with compassion and respect. Your contribution will provide critical support to that mission." ~~Deacon Paul Robert, Treasurer

From Town of Somers Emergency Fund: “Thank you for your support of the Town Emergency Fund! Your contribution is a testament to the spirit of compassion and community that defines Somers, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to helping your neighbors in times of need.” Whether it helps with housing, heat, or food, this vital resource ensures that those experiencing hardship have the support they need to regain stability and find hope for the future. Your contribution directly impacts lives here in Somers, offering a lifeline for those who need it most. Your gift makes a profound difference in the lives of our neighbors, and we are proud to have you as a partner in this important work. ~~ Timothy Keeney, First Selectman Town of Somers

From The Network: Your generous contributions this year have been a beacon of hope and progress. ~~Karen and The Network staff

A handwritten note from Somers Department of Veterans Affairs: Dear Somers Congregational Church Congregants, “We would like to thank you for your generous gift. Without the support of giving folks like yourselves, we would not be able to continue our mission and outreach to local military and our community. Thank you so much for your support and financial charitable gifts enabling us to look out for the interests of others as Jesus would do! We are grateful for your help in touching the lives of many in our community in areas of health, finance and camaraderie.” ~~ Sherri Marquis, Deputy Director. “Thanks so much for your kindness and generosity.” ~~ Dave McCaffrey, Director

Mission Outreach News:

Stay tuned for our spring/summer outreach mission drive to be announced soon.

Misc:

We are looking for 1 or 2 more to join Missions, and we would love it to be you! No experience required!

Thought to Ponder: “Fill my heart with kindness toward others, Lord. Remove the desire to judge others. Soften my heart and humble me so that I will not be a harsh critic of those whose stories I haven’t read. Let me be slow to assumption and quick to love”. ~~ *Be Still & Know*, Monday, February 17, 2025

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.

Laura, Bev, Ellen & Jill

Your Missions Committee

A Flick, Food, & Finding Faith

SUNDAY, MAR. 16TH

5:00PM - 8:00PM

Somers Congregation Church Foundation Room

Viewing of the movie

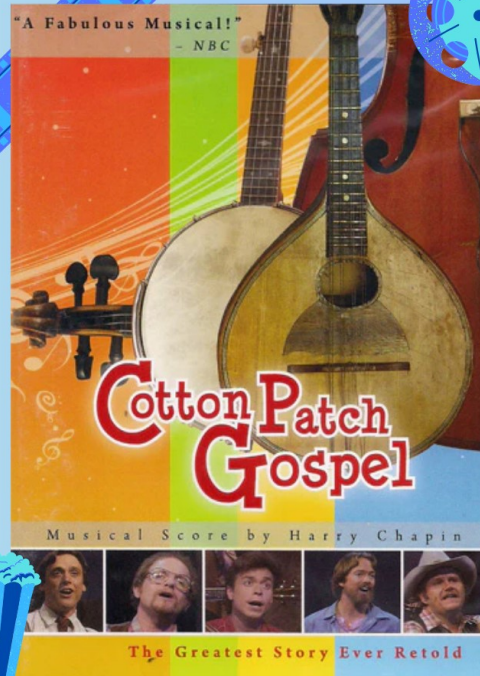
Cotton Patch Gospel

with pizza & soft drinks.

A donation of \$5 is suggested.

Please RSVP to jan.martin13@gmail.com by

Mar. 14th to reserve your seat!

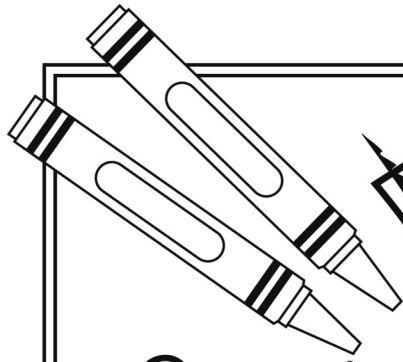


Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th, 2025 | 7:00pm

In the chapel

We begin the Season of Lent with a time of repentance, worship, and the imposition of ashes. All Are Welcome.



PUZZLE

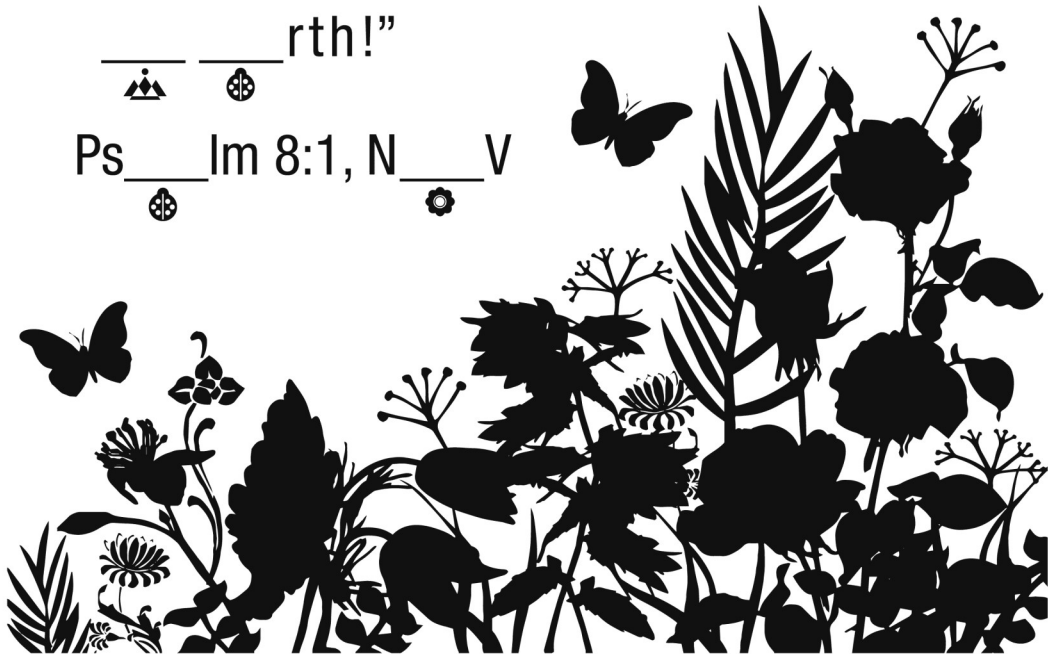
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

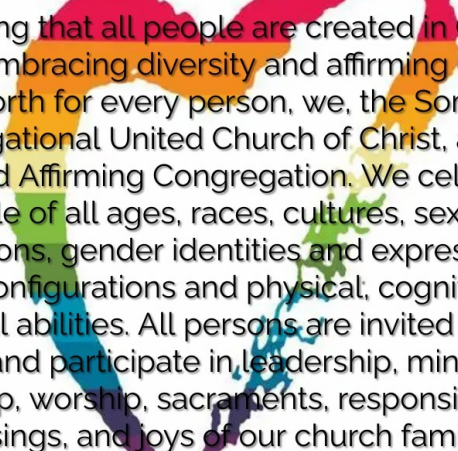
A = E = I = O = U =

"L__RD, __ __ r L__rd, h __ w
 m__ j __ st__ c __ s y __ __ r
 n__ m__ __ n __ ll th__
 __ __ rth!"
 Ps__lm 8:1, N__v



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Psalm 8:1, NIV

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
P.O. Box 295 · Somers, CT 06071

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