



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 2025
Volume 297 / #4

Letter from the Pastor

"Spring is the time for plans and projects." - Leo Tolstoy

Peace and greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ! As I write this letter to you the cleanup and breakdown from Tag Sale is happening, our facility is being looked at for a potential community event, and the Memorial Garden is looking greener by the day. Spring has officially arrived!

And with that new life comes a lot of activity and events occurring here at SCUCC. In many ways it seems like May is one of the busiest months of the church calendar. With that in mind, think of this as more of a “bits and bobs” or “checklist” message than usual. Bring out your calendar and a #2 pencil and away we go...

***First and foremost, many thanks to everyone and anyone who helped out in any way with the Community Tag Sale!** By all indications we had quite the crowd for both days and this event couldn't be done without all of our great volunteers. Thank you!

***Thank you also to everyone who helped with the Community Clean Up on April 27th!** Creation care and keeping Somers clean is one way that we can *Be the Church*.

***Mark your calendars!** Our next Community Supper is May 14th at 5:30 in the Foundation Room. Please RSVP to the Church Office or the sign up sheet in the Foyer.

***The Spring Informational Meeting is after worship on May 18th.** This is a great chance to hear from our committees and teams about what is going on in the life of our church.

***The Season of Eastertide begins on Easter Sunday and concludes on June 1st.** All during this season, our sermons will be going *On the Road with the early church. Christ has risen and ascended to Heaven so...not what do we do? Follow along as we join the apostles as they share the Good News, encounter resistance to their message, found churches, and try to figure out what it really means to be a Follower of The Way. Our schedule is:*

May 4th: *Look at Me Acts 3:1-16*

May 11th: *Built On a Rock Acts 17:1-9*

May 18th: *Going to Corinth Acts 18:1-4*

May 25th: *Not a Wedding Sermon 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

June 1st: *Death Swallowed in Life 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57*



***The 6th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference is from 9-1 on Saturday, June 7th.**
This year's meeting is online only and our theme is *Into the Deep: Living and Leading at the Intersections*.
Please contact me if you are interested in being one of our delegates.

I'm sure I'm forgetting something but I hope that's enough for your calendars for now. See you Sunday!

Pastor Scott

May Worship Schedule

May 4th	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3:1-16 <i>Look at Me</i> Communion & Deacon's Fund Sunday
May 11th	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:1-9 <i>Built On a Rock</i>
May 18th	Fifth Sunday of Easter 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 <i>Not a Wedding Sermon</i>
May 25th	Sixth Sunday of Easter 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57 <i>Death Swallowed in Life</i>



May 2025

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

“I have been reminded
of your sincere faith,
which first lived in
your grandmother ...
and in your mother ...
and... now lives in
you also.”

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV



May 1	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
May 4	Music and Arts Meeting	10:45 am
May 4	Finance Meeting	10:45 am
May 5	Christian Education Meeting—Zoom	7:00 pm
May 6	Missions Meeting (Offsite)	7:00 pm
May 7	Fellowship Committee—Zoom	7:00 pm
May 8	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
May 11		
May 11	Facilities	8:30 am
May 11	Deacon's Meeting	6:30 pm
May 12	Caring Committee Meeting	3:30 pm
May 12	CMC Meeting	7:00 pm
May 13	Blood Drive	11:00am-4:00pm
May 14	Community Supper	5:30 pm
May 15	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
May 20	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
May 22	Caring Party	11:00 am
May 22	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
May 26	Memorial Day—OFFICE CLOSED	
May 29	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Jun 1	ALL CHURCH PICNIC	11:00 am



Rev. Charles Backus



Our Church History

From the time our second Pastor, Rev. Freegrace Leavitt, died in 1761, through the turbulent times with the “Old Lights” (conservatives) and “New Lights” (evangelicals) and the dismissal of Rev. Samuel Ely in 1773, our church was in turmoil.

It was not until Rev. Charles Backus arrived in Somers in 1773 and was ordained on Aug. 10, 1774, that peace and harmony returned to our Somers church.

Timothy Dwight, president of Yale, said of him, “I have not known a wiser man. He was excessive in nothing: firm in everything: preeminently upright and benevolent, always taking the direction of sound common sense.”

Mr. Backus was born in Franklin (a part of Norwich) Nov. 5, 1749 and was left an orphan at an early age. He came from a family known for its ministers and relatives provided him with an excellent education. After graduation from Yale in 1769, he spent the next few years reading theology with a pastor in Preston CT. Somers was his first parish and he remained at our church until his death from tuberculosis in 1803 age 54.

At that time there were no theological seminaries in the country so it was the custom for young men interested in theology to study with pastors recognized for their faith and ability. Mr. Backus was such a man. When the first divinity student arrived in Somers, Mr. Backus was about 49 years old and had been the pastor in Somers for about 14 years.

Over 50 students studied with him and from one class at Yale, 9 graduates found their way to the “School of the Prophets” in Somers.

His method of instruction was to assign questions for discussion and written treatises and these were judged on form and substance. When they showed readiness, he allowed his students to preach at our Somers church and instructed them in methods of pastoral service and church leadership.

Many of his students went on to become eminent clergymen or educators, including two presidents of Hamilton College, a president of Middlebury College, a president of Williams College and a president of Amherst.

I can imagine that our church members took a great interest in these young students and Davis points out that “the young men were supposed to have caused a great deal of prinking among the female population, and thus to have given the street on which the seminary was located its name.” Mr. Backus’ home was on Prink Street which is now Springfield Road.

The inscription on his monument which is in the North Cemetery reads “Sacred to the memory of Rev. Charles Backus who died December 30 1803 aetat 54. As a minister of Christ he faithfully declared his counsel and was wise to win souls to God. As an ecclesiastical counselor, he was skillful and as a theological preceptor he was deservedly celebrated. As a Husband, Father and Friend he has few equals and perhaps no superiors. He expired repeating the angelic song Luke 2nd, 14th Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to men.”

Information taken from:

History of Tolland County 1888

Somers, the History of a Connecticut Town, Davis and Davis

An address by Rev. Dr. Sherrod Soule, Superintendent of the CT Missionary Society given at the bicentennial celebration of our church in 1927.

Ailene Henry, Church Historian



Caring Committee Thank You

The Caring Committee and the Deacons would like to express their appreciation for the recent donations of prayer shawls and baby blankets. We received several donations from members of the Chat and Craft group that meets at the Somers Public Library. We also received prayer shawls from a choir member's sister. We have now replenished our supply for both prayer shawls and baby blankets. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions.



Our mother's instructions

God gives us parents to help us learn about following his ways. Cherishing our mothers means valuing their guidance.

Use the boxed word codes below to complete Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV.

walk speak fathers sleep keep always
guide awake son forsake teaching
around heart neck mothers fasten watch

“My your ’s command
and do not your ’s .

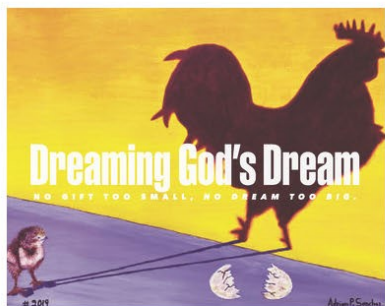
Bind them on your ;
 them your .

When you , they will you;
when you , they will over you;
when you , they will to you.”

Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV

Answers: “My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.”





Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.



As we continue Dreaming God's Dream - No Gift too Small, No Dream too Big let us reflect on the story of the Good Samaritan who rescued a wounded stranger. The Good Samaritan brought the stranger to an Inn, where the innkeeper nursed him back to health until the Good Samaritan returned. What would it mean to understand our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our church as a place where we open ourselves up to caring for those in our community and as a place where healing happens?

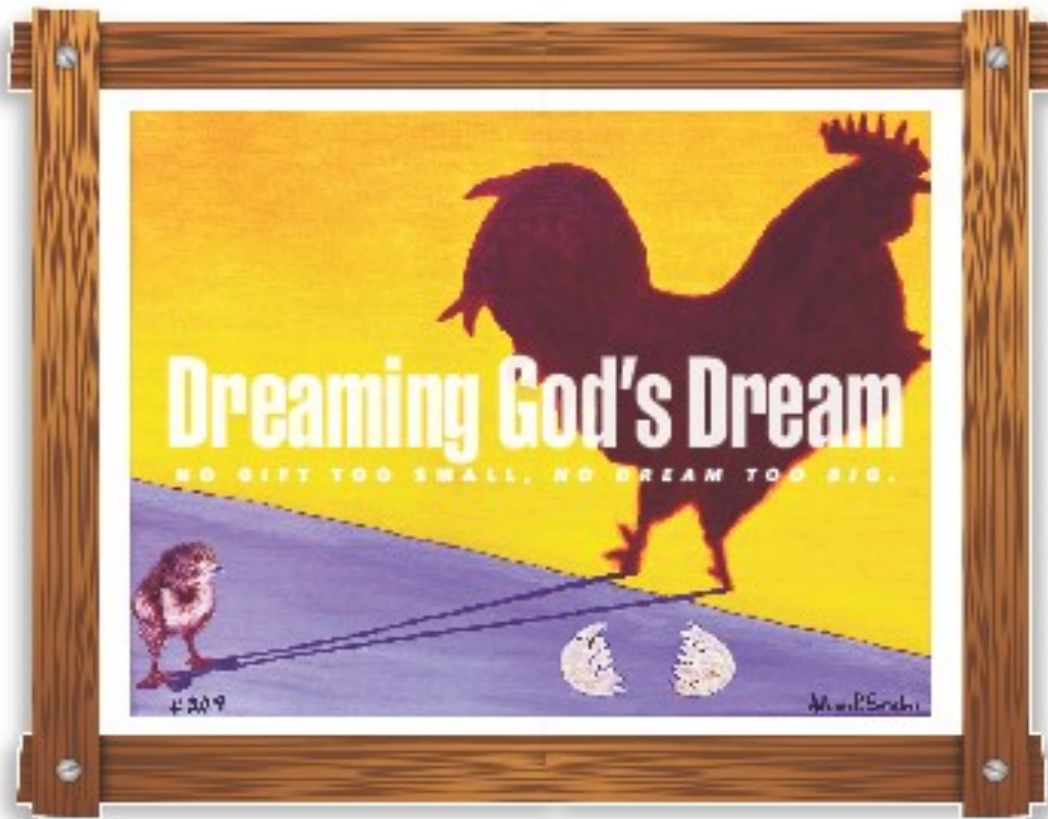
What might God do with what you have to offer? Your time, talents and financial pledge make all of our dreams possible for our church. The Stewardship Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider pledging if you have not already done so for 2025. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, 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 (Chair) & Tyler Cass



The Church as Innkeeper

"All humanity are our neighbors."

St. Augustine of Hippo

The familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the Priest and the Levite who walked past a person in the ditch and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help. We often overlook another character in the story: the innkeeper. The Good Samaritan brought the wounded person to the inn, where the innkeeper nursed them to health until the Good Samaritan returned.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this parable, highlights the unique role of the innkeeper, who provided a place where healing could happen. What would it mean to understand our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our community as a place where healing happens?

The innkeeper's role included managing resources, ensuring the inn's readiness, and extending mercy and help – roles we mirror when we care for one another and open ourselves up to caring for those in our community.

Focusing on the innkeeper can also challenge the ways we operate our building. Having a building is not the point of church. Rather, the building serves as a tool of our ministry. A church facility matters only because it can *facilitate our mission*.

Your gifts to our congregation help us provide a place of healing in our community, an "inn" where Good Samaritan ministry can happen.

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.





"...For I was I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me..."
Matthew 25:35,36

Our Spring/Summer Mission outreach this year will be to support Power-in-A-Shower, whose goal is "to provide reliable access to mobile showers and basic hygienic services for individuals without access to these essential facilities. They partner with faith-based and community organizations to bring about real change to those who need it most."



EVENTS ▾ GIVE BACK VIDEOS NEWS Q

Bringing Hope one Shower at a Time

Mobile Showers

We will provide a total of (4) shower units:

- **3 units with a showering area of 36 inch x 36 inch**
Shower unit is 26 square feet.
- **1 unit with a showering area of 32 inch x 48 inch**
Shower unit is 32 square feet.
- 🚿 Of the 4 units, 2 have **detachable shower nozzles** for convenience while showering.
- 🔥 Our shower units are fitted with **heating & cooling**.
- 🧴 Each shower unit is fitted with a **shampoo & soap dispenser**.
- 🪑 All 4 units have a **face basin and a seating** with 3 of the seating areas supporting a maximum weight of 300 lbs. and 1 seating area supporting a maximum of 260 lbs.



♿ Shower unit 32 inch x 48 inch is **ADA compliant** with the following:

- **Grab bars**
- **Shower seats**
- A pressure balanced mixing valve to prevent scalding
- **Height adjustable shower head** with a minimum 59 inch long hose, it can be used as a handheld or as a fixed shower head
- Clearance space outside the shower to allow for **easy approach in a wheelchair with ramp access**
- Please note our ADA Compliant shower unit is also **Family Friendly**. It can accommodate 2 persons per Family.

The Town of Enfield Department of Social Services is working to raise money to have Power-in-A-Shower come to Enfield during the summer months of 2025.

During the month of May our goal will be to collect NEW underwear for both men and women including tee shirts, sports bras, socks, underpants, and boxers (medium, large and X large), and disposable towels. Donations can be purchased in any amount locally or on-line. Suggested web-sites are below:

<https://www.alltimetrading.com/c-151/wholesale-mens-underwear/>
<https://www.alltimetrading.com/c-5581/wholesale-panties/>
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

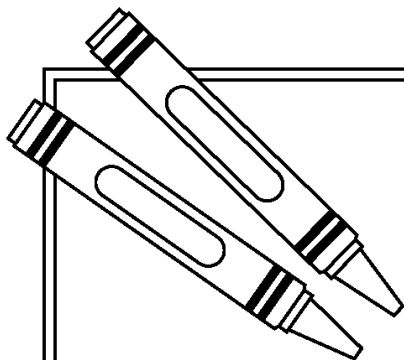
In addition, we will be collecting CLEAN, VERY LIGHTLY USED men's and women's shirts and trousers. (Please, usable clothing only!)

You can bring your donations to church on **UNDIE SUNDAY 5/18** when we will celebrate the generosity of our members and friends and the impact we can make on our community.

A Collection Box will also be provided outside the Church Office.

We know you can help us to make our next mission's and community outreach project a huge success!

If you wish to learn more, you can visit.....Powerinashower.org



Just for KIDS

A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

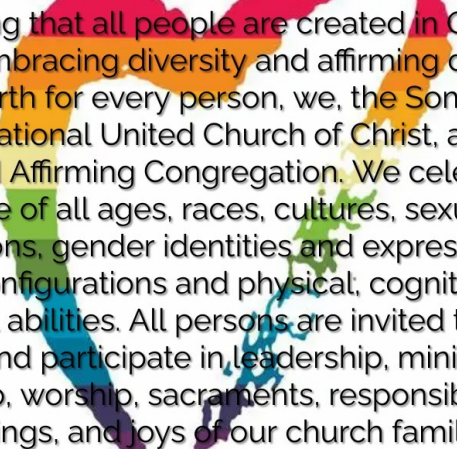
VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

“ ₃ h ₁ v ₂ b ₂ ₂ n r ₂ m ₃ nd ₂ d ₄ f
y ₄ ₅ r s ₃ nc ₂ r ₂ f ₁ ₃ th, wh ₃ ch
f ₃ rst l ₃ v ₂ d ₃ n y ₄ ₅ r gr ₁ ndm ₄ th ₂ r
L ₄ ₃ s ₁ nd ₃ n y ₄ ₅ r m ₄ th ₂ r
 ₂ ₅ n ₃ c ₂ ₁ nd, ₃ ₁ m p ₂ rs ₅ ₁ d ₂ d,
n ₄ w l ₃ v ₂ s ₃ n y ₄ ₅ ₁ ls ₄.”

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”

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