

# 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 2025  
Volume 297 / #9

## Message from Your Moderator.

Hi All,

I wanted to give all of you an update on Pastoral Transition. Since Pastor Scotts announcement in early July, many things have happened to move us to new leadership. The very first step was to meet with the SNEUCC conference. I met with the Reverend Charlotte Wright, our ACM (Associate Conference Minister) and her recommendation was that we as a church, should have a transition group to start the process and make recommendations to council as to how we should proceed. That group was formed, and accepted by council and consisted of myself, Jeff Roig (Vice-Moderator) as well as Deb Barry and Karen McCarthy.

This group met multiple times with themselves as well as multiple times with Reverend Charlotte Wright. We discussed some of the challenges we have as a church—things such as budget deficits, declining membership and so forth. In our conversations we also discussed the various forms of transitional ministry a UCC Church may have, and what might best serve us at Somers Congregational. The common forms are roles such as bridge pastor that lasts just a few months, an interim, which most of you should be familiar with from our time with David Fountain and Deborah Breault, and there is also a third kind, referred to as a Designated Term Minister.

The purpose of a Designated Term Minister is to guide a congregation through concerns that make calling a Settled Pastor not immediately appropriate. These could be things like strife within the church, the closing down of a church or wanting to explore different pastoral leadership other than a full-time pastor. In the discussions with our group and Reverend Wright, we felt like we were in that last category—wanting to explore different pastoral leadership.

As most of us know, while our endowment has grown with the robust stock market of the last few years, our budget deficits have also grown. The concern amongst our group, and council, is whether we should call a full time settled pastor because with our growing deficits, can we still afford this. Or do we need to consider other options, such as ½ time or ¾ time pastoral leadership, or do we try to merge with another church or do “yoking” which is where a pastor has a full-time position that would be shared between multiple churches. A designated term minister’s role is to help church’s work through such concerns and one could help us to decide what leadership model would serve us best with what we can afford as a congregation.

The transition group met with council in early August to make the recommendation to try and hire a Designated Term Minister and laid out the pros and cons of such leadership. Council then met with Reverend Wright, also last week, so she could further help answer questions or concerns amongst council members. After that, a motion was put forward to have the church form a search committee to hire this type of Minister.

Council has approved this motion with 8 members voting yes, one voting no, and one member absent from voting.

Our next step was to form an ad-hoc committee that will formerly search for and nominate the actual Pastoral Search Committee. Per our by-laws, the members of this group will consist of two Council members, one Deacon, and one other church member. The group was formed and approved by council, and the members are:

Carla Smith (Deacon)  
Laura Mckiernan (Council)  
Sharon Renzoni (Council)  
Sue Moak (Church Member)

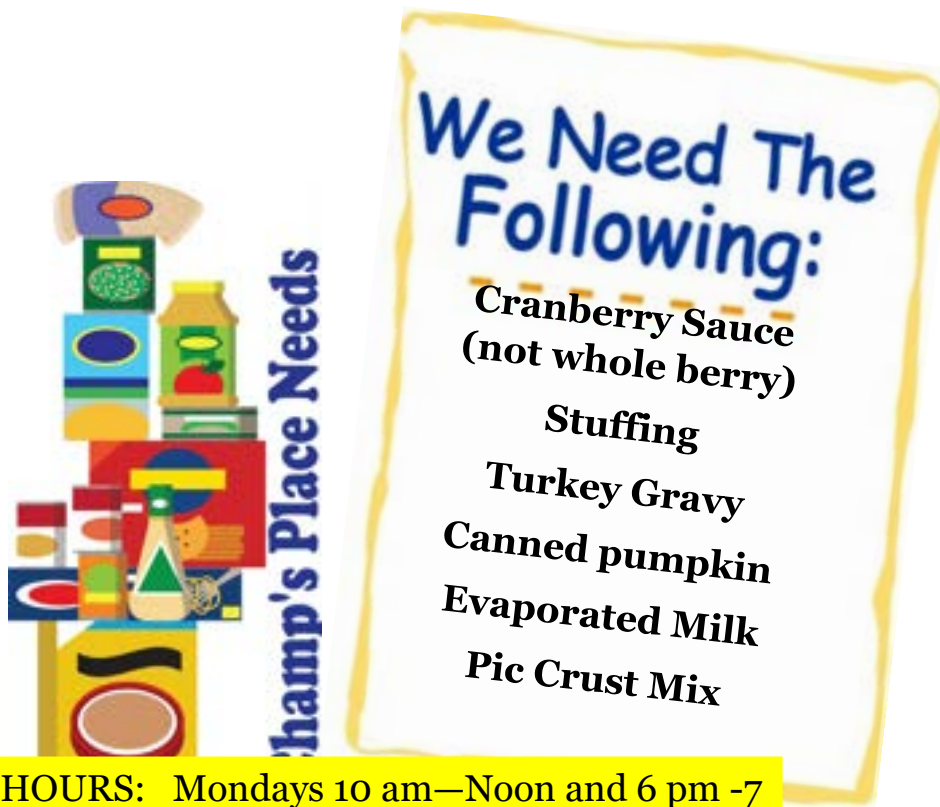
While this ad-hoc committee will look for members to be on the search committee, I also want people to realize that if they are interested in serving on this committee, please do approach members of this group to let them know your interest.

The other immediate next step is to have Pulpit supply so that we have Sunday ministry until we hire a Designated Term Minister. Mary Ellen from the Deacons already has Sunday's confirmed through mid-October, so that is covered for the next month and a half.

Please reach out to me, or Jeff Roig if you have questions and concerns through this period.

Thank you,

Todd Weigel Moderator



## 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

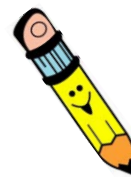
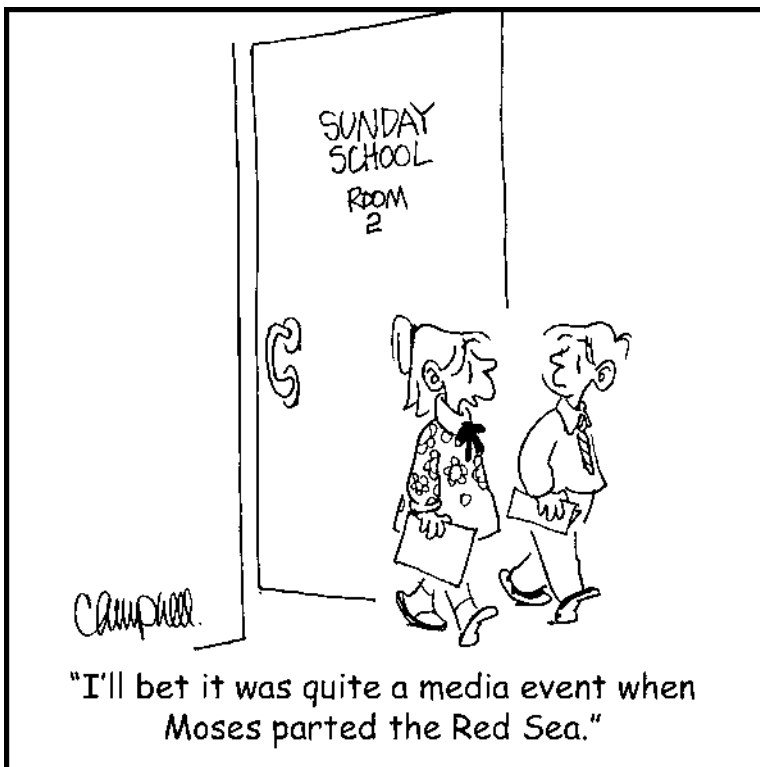


### September 2025

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				



Sep 1	Labor Day—OFFICE CLOSED	
Sep 2	Missions Committee Meeting—Offsite	7:00 pm
Sep 3	Fellowship Meeting (Zoom)	:00 pm
Sep 7	HOMECOMING SUNDAY	
Sep 8	Communications & Marketing	7:00 pm
Sep 9	Community Supper	5:30– 6:30
Sep 14	Deacon's Meeting	11:30 am
Sep 16	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Sep 28	Loaves and Fishes	



September 23rd





## 2025 ROAD TRIP – ON THE GO WITH GOD

Road Trip VBS was based on Joshua 1:9, “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” This verse reminds us that God’s presence is always near, no matter where the journey of life takes us.

This year we had 21 Travelers (kids) and 8 Travel Leaders who traveled to four stations to learn how God is with us on the journey, when we go off course, when we’re joyful, and when we’re lonely. We also had 9 Station leaders who brought the Bible to life each day. The morning skit brought to life our mascot “Scout” (played by Pastor Scott) and our Navigator Tara.

All the travelers met new friends, shared travel stories, learned new songs, learned about God, and even got to mail home a custom-made postcard about their adventures. This year’s mission project also had an animal theme – we collected items to be donated to Our Companions Animal Rescue and Sanctuary in Manchester, CT. We collected towels, food/water dishes, toys, collars and leashes, dog and cat food and monetary donations.

Many thanks for all who helped by loaning us road trip props, decorating the church, and supporting us in other countless ways. Thank you to the station leaders who came up with special ways to teach the travelers about how God is with us wherever we go. Special thank you to the Women’s Fellowship who provided our daily snacks.

Debbi Juzba, Tara Spence, and Kathy Fuller



The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.



**American  
Red Cross**



## **Somers Congregational Church**

599 Main Street, Somers

**Tuesday, September 9th**

**11:00 am – 4:00 p.m.**

For an appointment please contact:

**1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**

or visit **redcrossblood.org** – code **SOMCO**

Save up to 15 minutes at your donation. Visit [redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://redcrossblood.org/rapidpass) to get started!

**!**

**redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS**

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**Dreaming God's Dream**  
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.



## **Stewardship September Highlights 2025**

### **Dreaming God's Dream**

As we continue Dreaming God's Dream - No Gift too Small, No Dream too Big, let us reflect on Deciding on a Financial Commitment. While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

Your financial gifts make possible all the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life. Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. Our faith tradition lifts up the model of a tithe, a gift of 10%. Many think of a tithe as giving 5% of their income to the work of our congregation and 5% to the work of other charities.

We see tithing as the goal in our practice of abundant generosity. We are grateful for the leadership and example of giving for those in our community who already provide 5% or more of their annual income to our congregation. Many more of us are on the journey towards abundant generosity. As you think about your resources could you prayerfully take a step towards greater sharing and consider giving half-a-percent or one percent more of your income in the coming year?

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. 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.

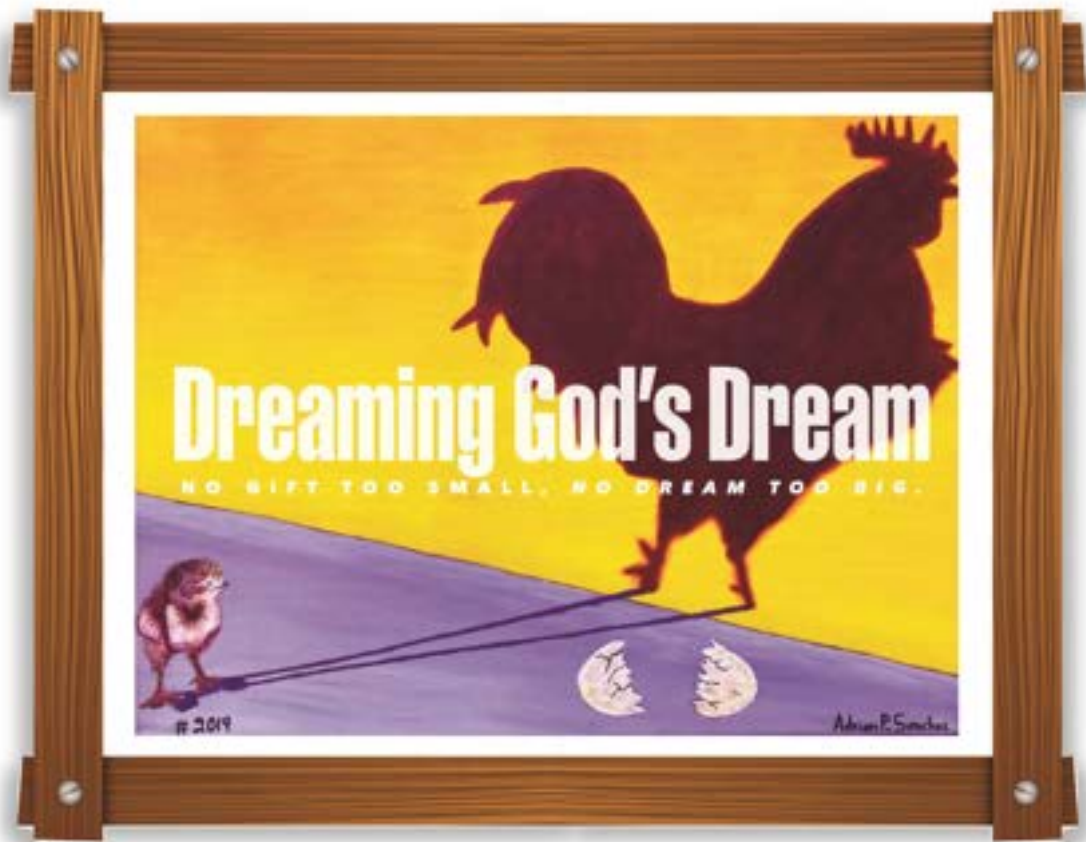
As always, if you have any questions about giving or about how your offerings become ministry, please feel free to contact the Stewardship Committee.

Blessings

You're Stewardship Team

Jeff Roig (Chair) & Tyler Cass





## Deciding on a Financial Commitment

**W**hile there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

Your financial gifts make possible all the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. Our faith tradition lifts up the model of a tithe, a gift of 10% of one's income to charity. There are a variety of ways to think about a tithe. Some view a tithe as 10% of one's income given to the church. Gifts given over and above that 10% are offerings to other meaningful organizations. Others think of a tithe as giving 5% of income to the work of our congregation and 5% to the work of other charities.



We see tithing as the goal in our practice of abundant generosity.

Some in our community already tithe, providing 5% or more of their annual income to our congregation. We are grateful for the leadership and example giving at this level sets.

Many more of us are on the journey towards abundant generosity.

As you think about your resources, could you take a step towards greater sharing? That might look like giving half-a-percent or one percent more of your income in the coming year.

### 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.



**Dreaming God's Dream**  
NO GIFT TOO SMALL. NO DREAM TOO BIG.



# Community Meal

Join us for the last Community Meal of the season

SEPTEMBER 10th

5:30 pm

Call to reserve your spot for meal planning: (860) 763-4021

please leave message if no answer

Donations are greatly appreciated and keep these community suppers running *Thank you*

# Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

## CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

## SEASON

## HOLIDAY

1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H F P P L G S

4. Winter

Festival of Rededication

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H H L E V I

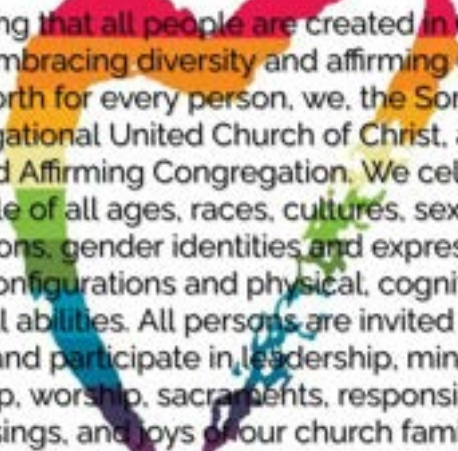
7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

Answers: 1. Rosh Hashanah, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkoth, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot

**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](mailto:Highlights@thesomerschurch.org)**