



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 2025
Volume 297 / #10

Message from Your Moderator.

Hi All. The Ad-Hoc Committee to nominate the Pastoral Search Committee has completed their work and presented their nominees to council, and council unanimously approved the choices.

I hope you can all join me in thanking the Ad-Hoc Committee. They had a tougher job than expected as they had a very large number of people who volunteered to be on the Pastoral Search Committee: they had 13 names to choose from. This unfortunately means that not all who volunteered were able to be selected, and the committee had the difficult task of choosing who would be on the committee. After they finished their work, I think they did a great job getting a good cross section church members to be present on the committee.

I do wish to give a big thank you as well to all who volunteered, whether selected or not. It bodes well for our church to have had so many people willing to participate in this process.

Now, please see below, the message from the Ad-hoc committee on the results of their search with the names they selected and again that Council has approved:

Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation 9/16/25

Committee Members: Sharon Renzoni, Sue Moak, Carla Smith and Laura McKiernan

We had an overwhelming response to our request for volunteers to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. We prayerfully considered and discussed each volunteer. It was a difficult decision, but we feel that the Pastoral Search Committee we are recommending for review by Council is an excellent cross section of our church. We feel that they will work well together to complete the search process.

Pastoral Search Committee Members:

Deb Barry	Jim Jewell	Carole Lietz
Karen McCarthy	Paul McKiernan	Larry Urbon
	Todd Weigel	

The Ad-Hoc Committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered to be considered for the Pastoral Search Committee.

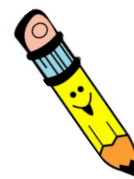
Thank you,

Todd Weigel Moderator



October 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	

Oct 1	Fellowship Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 pm
Oct 6	Caring Committee Meeting	3:30 pm
Oct 6	Christian Education (Zoom)	7:00 pm
Oct 7	Missions Committee Meeting—Offsite	7:00 pm
Oct 13	Communications & Marketing	7:00 pm
Oct 21	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Oct 23	Caring Room Lunch	11:30 am
Oct 25	Trunk or Treat (rain date Oct 26)	4:00 pm



October 23rd



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.



Our Third Meeting House

Our Church History

This information is taken from a history of our church written by Rev. Ransom Hammond, our Pastor from 1973 to 1987.

By the year 1840, our second meeting house was in such need of repair that it was decided to build a new church on Main Street which was by then “conceded to be the center of importance.” This new church was finished in 1842 at a cost of \$6000. The basement of the church was the town hall and there, town meetings were held over the years and indeed until the erection of our present town hall in 1948.

In 1892 extensive repairs were made and from a report of the rededication ceremonies held at that time we learn that “the galleries and vestibule have been ceiled; the old windows and blinds have been replaced with the modern cathedral glass windows, the walls repapered and decorated, a polished brass chandelier and two elegant candelabra for the pulpit take the place of the old lamps and the whole inside thoroughly painted.”

In 1925, an electrically operated pipe organ was presented as a memorial and dedicated with impressive ceremony.

In 1945, the church decided that extensive repairs were again needed and the Christian Heritage Fund, with a goal of \$12,000, was inaugurated. Finished in 1947, the repairs included a complete renovation of the exterior, alterations to the basement, extensive changes in the auditorium and chancel and refurbishing of the whole interior. The organ console was moved to the front of the church. At this time the town offered to move the chapel which stood across the street, to the rear of the church in exchange for a deed to the land on which it stood. A foundation was erected and the chapel known as “Pilgrim Hall” was moved to its present location, once again with an impressive rededication service.

During the following years the church continued to grow until it became necessary to plan for the erection of an educational building. In 1959, we formally dedicated our new Parish House, a two story building of colonial design in keeping with the architecture of the church. This was named “The Bugbee Center” to honor Emily Bugbee our much beloved church school superintendent.

An account of the changing physical properties of the church, while they are not all-important in themselves, do give a very graphic indication of the vigor, vitality and growth of the Somers Congregational Church over the years. We think of ourselves as a truly community church serving the spiritual interests of the community and offering to all the opportunity to freely worship God and to join with others in actively carrying forward the work of the church.



MISSIONS' CORNER

It is hard to believe fall is now upon us, as this year continues to go so quickly. Below is our Mission news for September:

Allocated donations for September

- **Covenant to Care:** CTC is an organization which has been serving children in CT for more than 30 years. They partner with the community, individuals, faith-based organizations, state agencies, businesses and social workers to provide a safety net for abused, neglected and impoverished children in our state. Key values like generosity, compassion, family unity, dependability, and consistency help children thrive and keep families together. Our church congregation continues to support their mission every year by generously filling backpacks and providing gifts at Christmastime. Our liaison, Sue Zdebski, does an amazing job working with CCC, and we appreciate all she does.
- **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):** AFSP 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 (Local Contingency) for September:

- **Covenant to Care:** A donation was made in memory of Thelma Davidson, mother of our liaison to Covenant to Care, Sue Zdebski. Thelma was a long-term member of our church and Missions is happy to donate to Thelma's memory.
- **Where Angels Play Foundation:** A donation was made for the construction of a new playscape at the Grammar School in Somersville in memory of Lukas, Genevieve, Benjamin and Archer Koropatkin, 4 beautiful children who tragically lost their lives in the devastating Somers fire of January 2024. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 20th

Founded in late 2012 by retired firefighter Bill Lavin with its first tribute initiative called the Sandy Ground Project: *Building 26 playgrounds in 26 storm-ravaged communities in honor of 26 angels taken too soon... Hurricane Sandy 10/29/2014 & Sandy Hook 12/14/2014.* Twenty-six playgrounds were constructed along the coast of 3 states and built by firefighters, police officers, teachers, school administrators and community volunteers. Each playground reflects the personality of the teacher or child for whom it is named. This was completed in just 18 months.

Thank You Notes:

- **From Shriners Children's:** "Thank you for choosing to make a gift to Shriners Children's, and for activating miracles large and small." We could not do this work without you. Our gratitude for your generosity is boundless." ~~With sincerest gratitude, Stuart Sullivan, Chief Philanthropy Officer

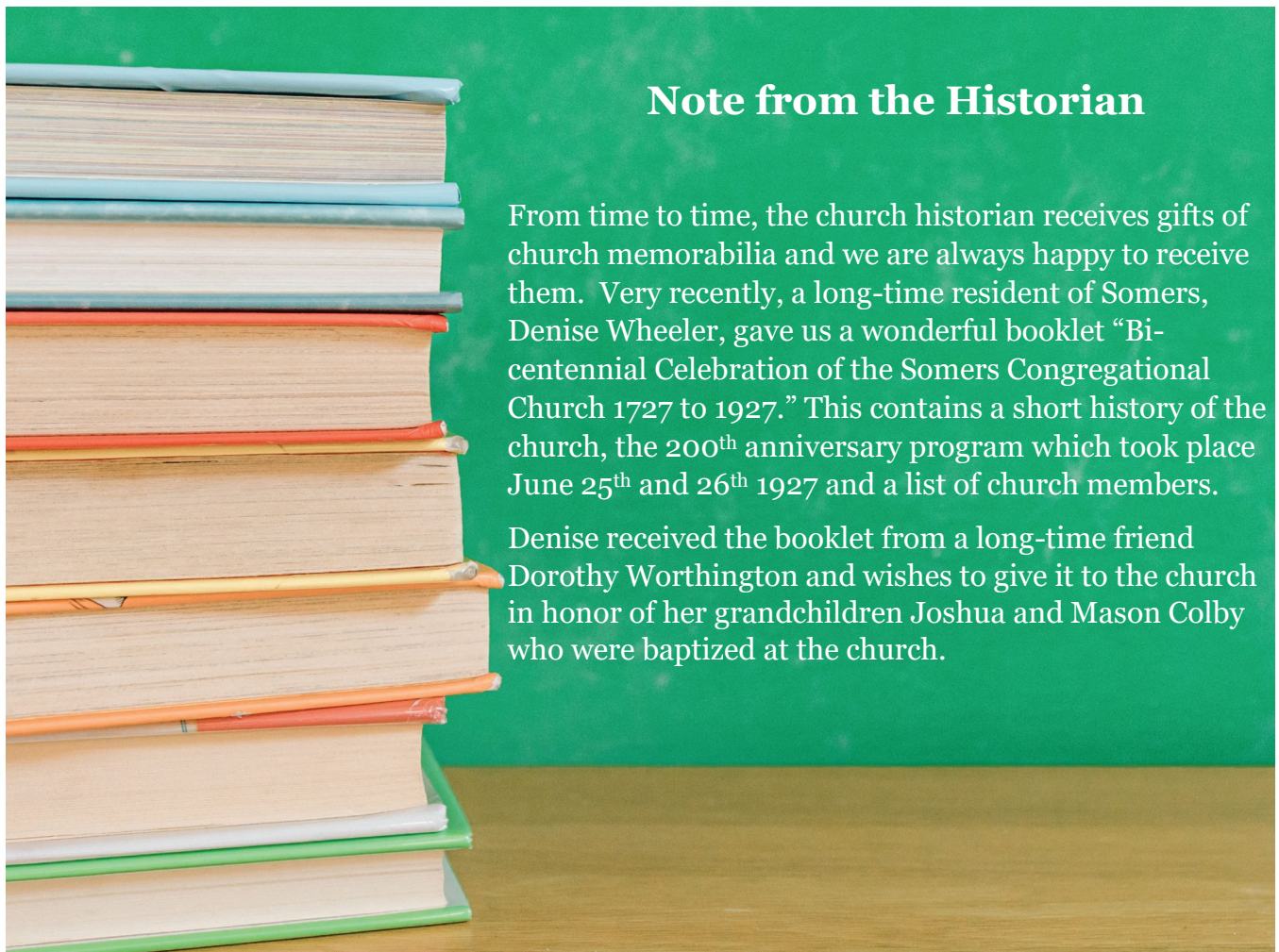
Misc:

- Missions will be hosting the annual Veteran's breakfast this year on Saturday, December 13th. More details in the coming weeks on how you can help whether it be an hour or 2 of your time or a food donation. Stay tuned!

Thought to Ponder: "Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." ~~Dr. Seuss

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.

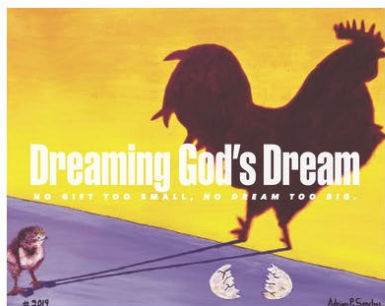
Laura, Jill, Ellen, Bev ~~ Your Missions Committee



Note from the Historian

From time to time, the church historian receives gifts of church memorabilia and we are always happy to receive them. Very recently, a long-time resident of Somers, Denise Wheeler, gave us a wonderful booklet "Bi-centennial Celebration of the Somers Congregational Church 1727 to 1927." This contains a short history of the church, the 200th anniversary program which took place June 25th and 26th 1927 and a list of church members.

Denise received the booklet from a long-time friend Dorothy Worthington and wishes to give it to the church in honor of her grandchildren Joshua and Mason Colby who were baptized at the church.



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?

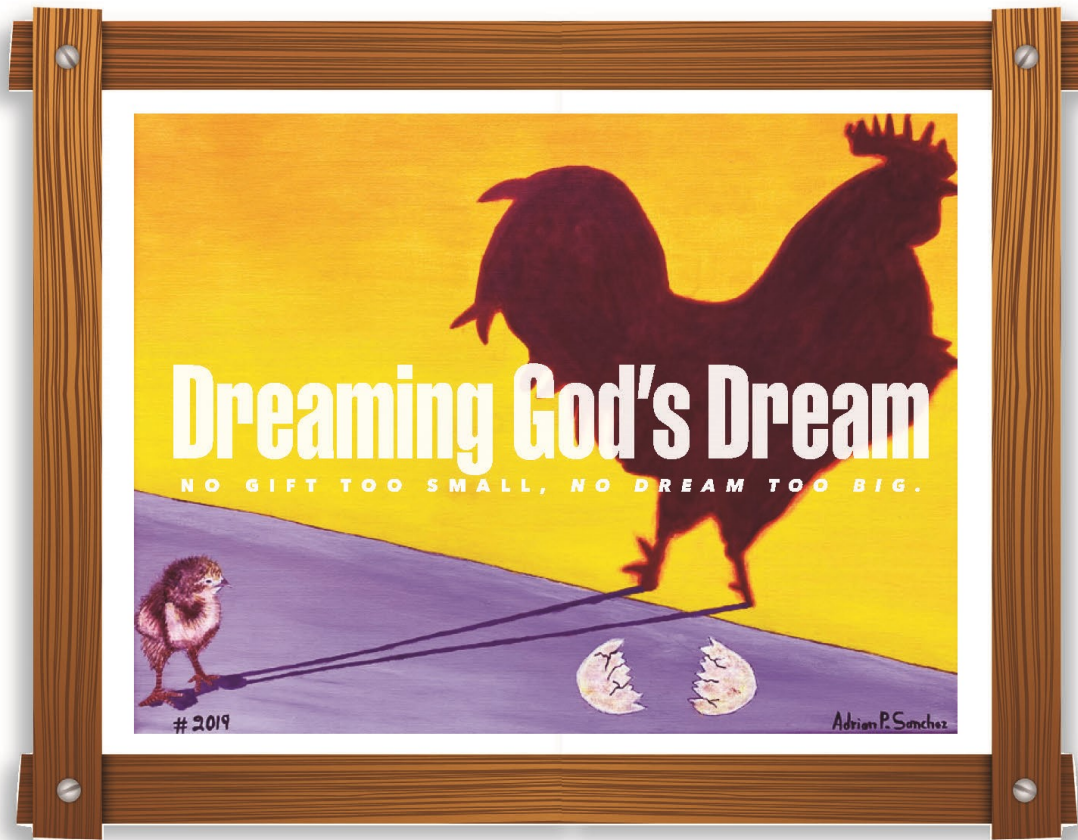
Your time, talents and financial pledge make all of our dreams possible for our church. The Stewardship Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider pledging if you have not already done so. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful 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

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% 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.



A FLICK, FOOD, AND FINDING FAITH RETURNS!

Movie Night for Adults

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 9th, 5-8 pm

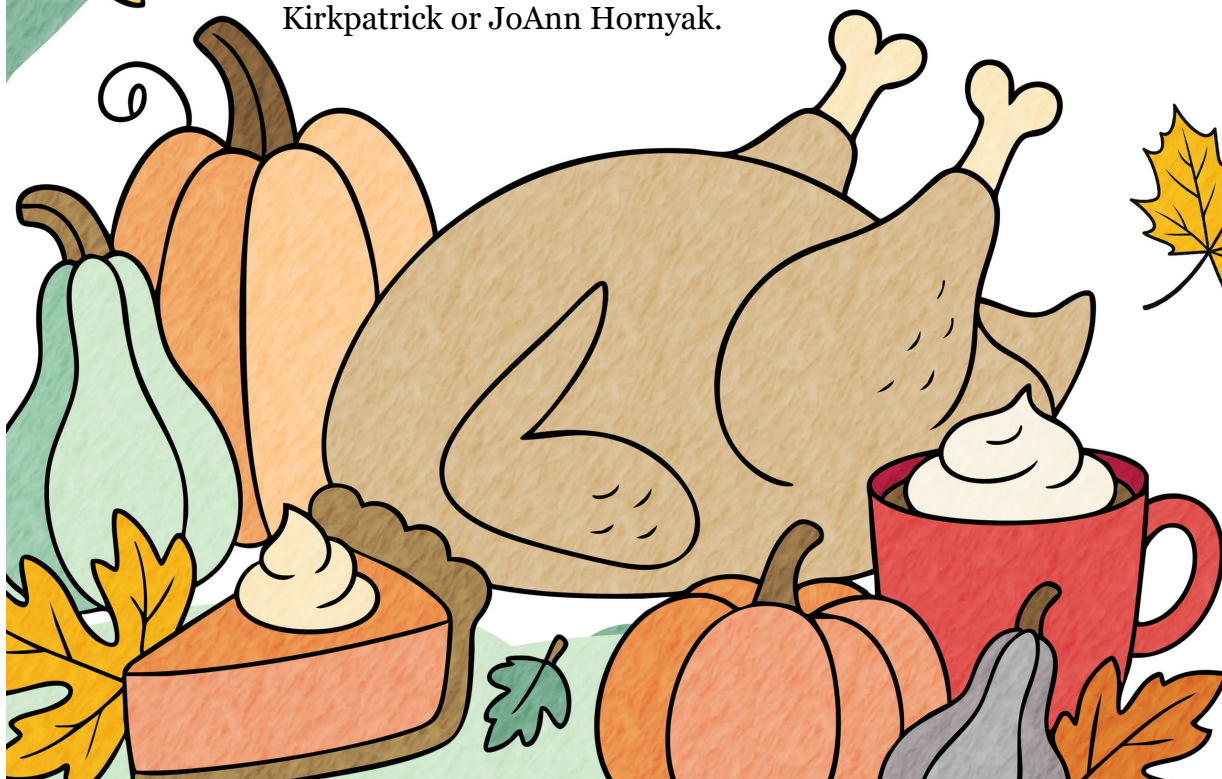
MOVIE TITLE AND DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Turkey Supper Returns

We are happy to announce that we are partnering with the Congregational Church of Somersville to co-host a Turkey Supper here on Saturday, November 22nd. We will be serving buffet style. Seating is 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. Tickets will be limited and will be sit in only. The menu will be turkey, stuffing, gravy, fresh butternut squash, peas, homemade mashed potatoes, rolls, pumpkin pie and beverage.

Future announcements will be made regarding reservations. Help will also be needed and a sign-up poster with opportunities to be a part of this joint effort will be available.

If you have any questions you can contact Judy Mehl, Anne Kirkpatrick or JoAnn Hornyak.



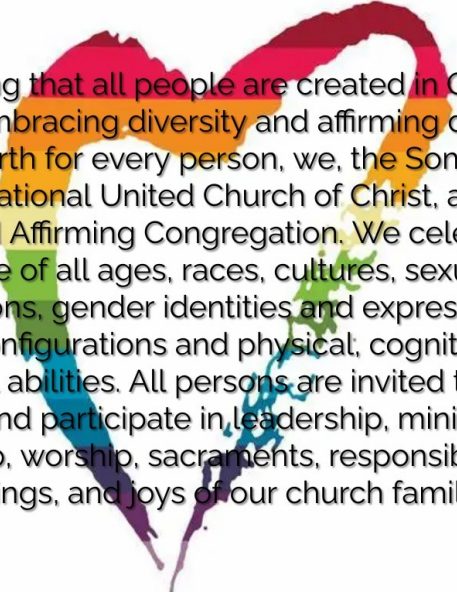
a season of thanks and praise

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
Sing praises to our God on the lyre.

Psalm 147:7, NASB



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