

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

November 2025
Volume 297 / #11

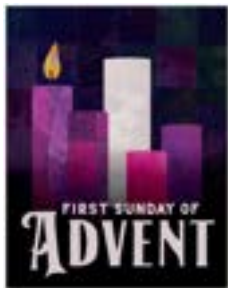


Trunk or Treat



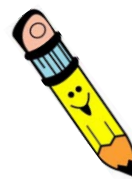


November 2025						
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November
30th

Nov 2	Finance Meeting (Room 201)	10:45 am
Nov 3	Caring Committee Meeting (Room 206)	3:30 pm
Nov 7	Christian Education Meeting	7:00 pm
Nov 4	Election Day	
Nov. 4	Blood Drive	10:00 am
Nov 4	Missions Committee Meeting—Offsite	7:00 pm
Nov 5	Fellowship Committee Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 pm
Nov 9	Facilities Committee Meeting	8:30 am
Nov 9	Deacon's Meeting	11:30 am
Nov 9	Fellowship Movie	4:00 pm
Nov 10	Communications & Marketing	7:00 pm
Nov 18	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service	5:00 pm
Nov 27	Thanksgiving - OFFICE CLOSED	



November 24th



Our numbers have increased amid the Government Shut-down. Please remember our folks that experience food insecurity when you go to the store

HOURS: Mondays 10 am—Noon and 6 pm -7



Sunday School in Somers in the Early 1900's

Our Church History

Our church was given a wonderful packet of church memorabilia by Claudia and Richard Steele. Claudia is the daughter of Priscilla Converse Couch and the granddaughter of Wilbur and Priscilla Converse who owned the house at 603 Main Street before it was purchased by the church in 1972. Claudia remembers living in the house when she was in kindergarten and playing in the back yard which is now our church parking lot.

Of particular note in the packet is a reminiscence of the church by Verna Converse, aunt of Claudia. Verna had a twin sister, Vina. The following is about Sunday School.

“While we were growing up, Church and Sunday School meant a great deal to us. We were not allowed to go to movies and other such scandalous things. We had to be polite ladies on Sunday and not play as hard as we did on other days.

We were about six years old when we started going to Sunday School. We walked to the chapel, which was across the street from Somers Congregational Church. The chapel (Pilgrim Hall) was moved to the back of the church around 1950 when the Town Hall was built on the adjoining property owned by the Galbraith family. As we entered the front door of the chapel there was an entry way with doors on either side. As I remember, we usually entered the door on the left. We hung our coats on the wall above the woodbox. In the center of the room was a circle of children's chairs. In the right hand corner was a big wood burning stove which was stoked up by Mr. Welch, the sexton of the church. On the left side there was a piano and in the center of the back wall there was a pulpit with a large Bible on it.

Mrs. Walter Bliss was the Superintendent of the Sunday School. She was a short lady always dressed in a long black skirt and a black taffeta shirtwaist. They never called them blouses in those days. Mother helped teach a class. She always wore a long black skirt and a white shirtwaist. We had to learn pieces to speak at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Children's Day.

I remember the first time Vina and I had to speak at a Children's Day program. The poem was “We Are the Sunbonnet Twins”. Everything went fine until I put on my bonnet. I put mine on backwards and the whole audience broke out in laughter and applauded. I was so embarrassed. Church-going was a serious business in the early 1900's. It seemed to me that everyone had a long face and it hurt them to laugh.

From the Primary Department in the chapel, we went to the Junior Department, which was in the basement of the church. There were four classes held there. I forgot to mention the classes were segregated – boys in one class, girls in another.

After we finished the Junior Department, we went up to the Senior Department which was held in the church. Sunday School classes were held after the church service from 11:00 to 12:00.

By the time we were in the Senior Department some of the girls were dating. Most of us were still not “running around wild” as it was called in those days. The teachers were strict and didn't allow talking in the class. I remember one girl was asked to leave because she kept whispering to another girl about her boyfriend.

People today can't imagine how our classes were conducted in the corners of the church. Before the church was remodeled (1947) there were seats under the balcony at the side of the stage. These were placed in the opposite direction of the pews. The piano was on the right side placed in a strategic place to close off the view from the rest of the church. Our teachers were Mrs. Fannie Kibbe and Mrs. Dwight Percival. The opening part of the service was conducted from the front pews of the church, with everyone taking part. Pianists for the service were Helene Percival Carpenter, Helen Pease and myself. After this part of the service was over we went to our classes in our respective corners. For a while there was a class for men led by the minister. Mr. Fred Davis filled in when he was unable to do it.”

Claudia's packet also included large colorful certificates of graduation from the various Sunday School departments. Many thanks to Claudia and Richard for their gift to our archives.



MISSIONS' CORNER

Reflecting on October and looking ahead:

The month of October has been a quieter month for our Missions Committee, allowing us time to prepare for the busy holiday season that lies ahead. As November and December approach, there will be increase in church activities and outreach opportunities. Below, we share mission updates from October as well as details on upcoming events.

ALLOCATED DONATIONS October 2025:

The Network: The Network is a non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and to assist adult victims and their children to live free of violence. Founded in 1985, it was incorporated as the Battered Spouses Network. Its name was changed to The Network Against Domestic Abuse of North Central CT in the summer of 1985 with its catchment towns to include East Windsor, Enfield, Somers, Suffield, Stafford and Windsor Locks. Every October, the Missions committee contributes to The Network supporting their ongoing work in providing safe environments and resources for individuals affected by domestic violence. Our support, along with others, help fund vital programs such as emergency shelter, counseling, and advocacy services, ensuring that those in need receive compassionate assistance during difficult times. We are happy to continue to donate to organizations like The Network and remain committed to making a positive impact in our local community.

UNALLOCATED DONATIONS October 2025: None.

THANK YOU NOTES: Our donations truly make a difference in the lives of others!

From Our Companions Animal Rescue & Sanctuary: “Allow me to thank you for your generous gift and welcome you to Our Companions Animal Rescue’s family of donors!” Nearly 100% of our funding comes from donations. This support makes every aspect of our work possible. Thanks to your investment, our dedicated staff and team of over 300 volunteers have the resources to meet the needs of pets and people we serve 365 days a year in Connecticut. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.” ~Warm regards, Susan Linker, Founder & CEO

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS:

Christmas Gift Giving: Missions, again this year is partnering with Sue Zdebski, our liaison with Covenant to Care (CTC), to help brighten the holidays for children in need. Through the Adopt a Social Worker program via DCF, we invite you to participate by purchasing a Christmas gift for a child. A list of children, their ages, and their specific wish gift or gift card request will be available for selection at Coffee Hour on 11/02/2025 and 11/09/2025. Gifts may be dropped off at the church office any time after 11/10/2025 with a final deadline of **12/01/2025**. Please ensure gifts are placed in gift bags and clearly marked with the child’s name. For more information or questions, contact Sue Zdebski at 860-836-9702, via email at suezdebski@gmail.com, or reach out to any member of the Missions Committee. Information will also be available via the church’s weekly email sent out on Thursday. As always, we thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of this mission outreach, and, of course, for making a child’s holiday a little brighter!

Turkey Supper Buffet- partnering with Somersville Church: The turkey supper is returning this year on 11/22/2025 from 5:00-6:30 in our Foundation Room. The goal is to have members from both churches come together for fellowship, outreach in the community and perhaps to make a small profit to be split between the two churches. Missions will help with this fundraiser. Stay tuned for

more information in the coming weeks in ways you can volunteer to help make this as big a success as it has been in past years!

Veterans Breakfast: This year, Missions is happy to take the reins for this beloved church and community annual tradition. With the help of Anne Kirkpatrick & Joann Hornyak, the Veterans breakfast will be held this year on Saturday, 12/13/2025 at 8:30 a.m. We hope you will consider volunteering for a few hours of your time on this day, the day before, or perhaps consider donating something that we are requesting under the food item donation list. This is an extremely rewarding event, in which we honor those who have served our country to say thank you. Please keep a watch for the sign-up board at Coffee Hour for various jobs as well as food donations at the middle to end of November. Below are food items we are looking for and some volunteer opportunities to consider. Thank you!

Volunteer opportunities:

Set up tables and chairs 12/12
Table place setting 12/12
Serving 12/13
Clean-up 12/13

Food item requests:

13 dozen eggs
12 boxes hash brown patties (Walmart 10-count box)
5 boxes Brown & Serve sausage links (Walmart 50-count box)
4 lbs butter
6 boxes chopped frozen spinach (12 oz)
96 ounces shredded cheddar cheese (any size)
64 ounces half & half
2 lbs regular coffee
Whole milk (2 gallons)
Pumpkin, cranberry, banana bread (12 loaves in total)
Tropicana orange juice original (8- 89-ounce jugs)

Thought to Ponder: “Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.” ~ Dalai Lama

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 one of us. From all of us, be well and above all else, **always be kind.** We look forward to continuing the good work that we do on behalf of our congregation and our community.

Laura, Jill, Ellen, Bev ~ Your Missions Committee



Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone who donated a food item or helped with the funeral reception for Thelma Davidson on Sept. 27. We appreciate everyone's contribution of food or assistance. Providing funeral receptions at Somers Congregational UCC would not be possible without the assistance of members and friends of 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

A Flick, Food, & Finding Faith

SUNDAY, NOV 9TH

5:00PM - 8:00PM

Somers Congregation Church Foundation Room

Viewing of the movie

FLOW

with pizza & soft drinks.

A donation of \$5 is suggested.

Please RSVP to jan.martin13@gmail.com by

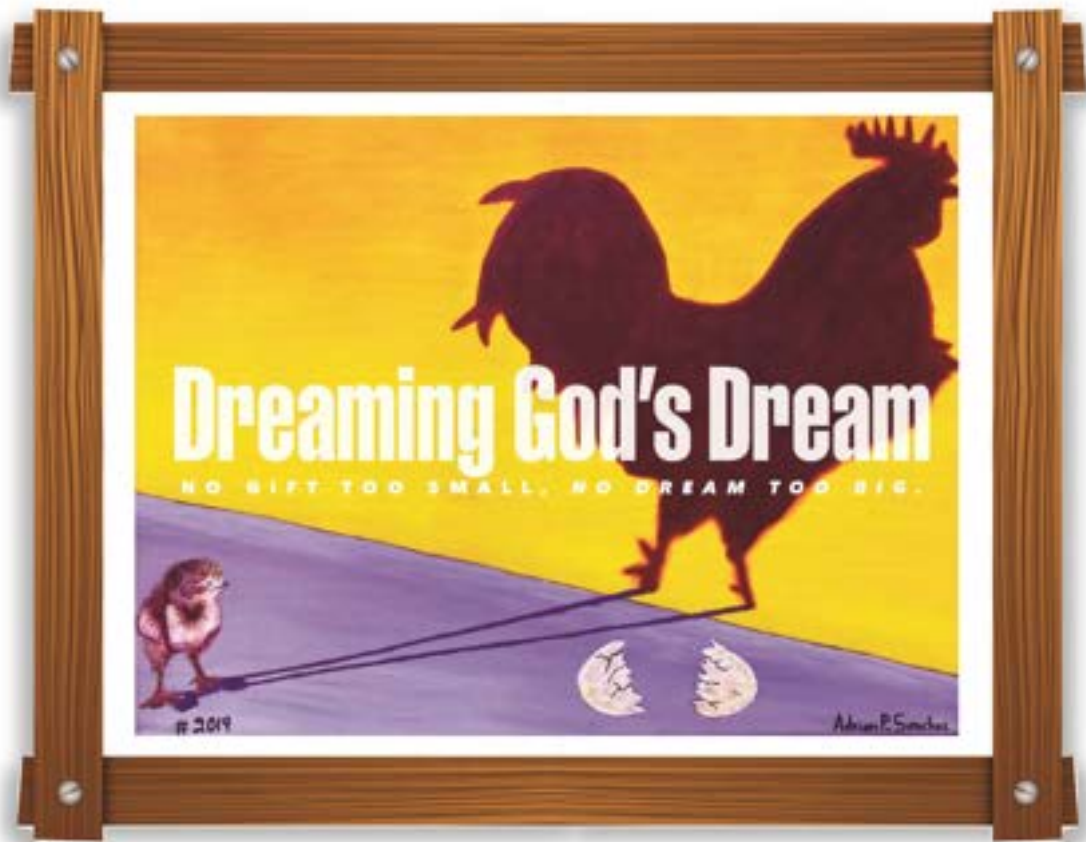
Nov 7th to reserve your seat!



Vintage Christmas Bazaar

With thoughts of Christmas before us the Women's Fellowship is seeking donations of nearly new or usable Christmas decorations and items. If you would like to donate any of these items you will not be using in your home this Christmas please leave them in the church office labeled "Women's Fellowship." Kathy Lombard (860-749-0111) may be contacted for further information.





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 photograph of a plate of food, likely a turkey supper, featuring a large piece of turkey, green beans, and a side of cranberry sauce. The text is overlaid on this image.

We need your help!!!

Turkey Supper Volunteers

Please check the sign up poster to volunteer to make our joint Turkey Supper a success.

There are many opportunities to sign up to work hand in hand with our sister church.

Opportunities from Nov. 18th to Nov. 22nd

THANK YOU!!!



Turkey Supper

Brought to you by both *Somers Congregational Churches*

November 22, 2025 5:00PM- 6:30PM

Continuous Buffet Reserve for 5PM or 6PM

Bring your family and friends for a hearty turkey supper with all the classic fixings! Enjoy great food, community, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Location: **Somers Congregational Church**

599 Main St. Somers

To reserve your ticket please call: 860-749-7741

Payment needed by November 19th

Adult \$20.00

Children (under 12) \$10.00

Bible Scavenger Hunt

FOR ADVENT

Prepare for Christmas with this Bible-based Advent activity. Each day in December, look up the answer to one question.



1 What will God's Son be called?
(Isaiah 7:14)

2 Where will Jesus reign?
(Isaiah 9:7)

3 Where will Jesus be born?
(Micah 5:2)

4 How many generations are between Abraham and the Christ?
(Matthew 1:17)

5 Who tells Mary she is having a baby?
(Luke 1:26-31)

6 Who issues the decree about a census?
(Luke 2:1)

7 What does Jesus' name mean?
(Matthew 1:21)

8 Until his son John the Baptist is born, what can Zechariah not do?
(Luke 1:20, 64)

9 What does Mary say that God has done for her?
(Luke 1:49)

10 Which relative of Mary is also having a baby?
(Luke 1:41)

11 From where do Joseph and Mary start their journey to Bethlehem?
(Luke 2:4)

12 What does Mary use to wrap up baby Jesus?
(Luke 2:7)

13 What serves as Jesus' first bed?
(Luke 2:7)

14 Who tells the shepherds the good news about Jesus' birth?
(Luke 2:8-12)

15 When the shepherds tell others about Jesus, how do people react?
(Luke 2:8-12)

16 Where does Joseph flee with his family for safety?
(Matthew 2:14)

17 What three gifts does Jesus receive from the wise men?
(Matthew 2:11)

18 Who is upset to hear about a newborn King?
(Matthew 2:3)

19 From what direction do the wise men (or Magi) come to worship Jesus?
(Matthew 2:1-2)

20 On what day is Jesus presented in the temple?
(Luke 2:21)

21 When does Jesus' family return to Israel?
(Matthew 2:19-21)

22 In what district does Jesus grow up?
(Matthew 2:22)

23 What free gift does God give us through Jesus, his Son?
(1 John 5:11)

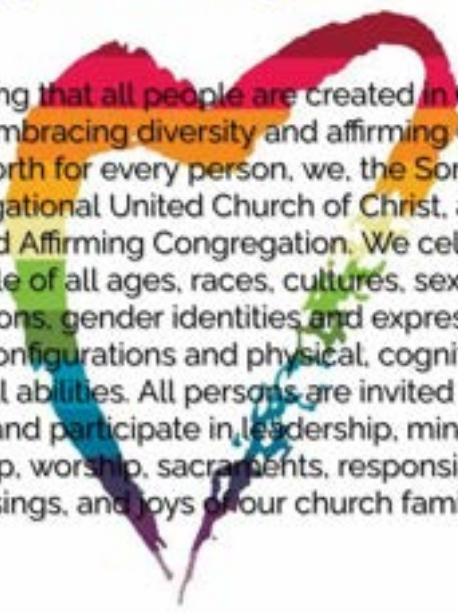
24 Where do all our gifts come from?
(James 1:17)

25 How should we respond to our gifts?
(2 Corinthians 9:15)



Answers: 1. Emmanuel 2. On Christmas Eve 3. Bethlehem 4. 42 5. The angel Gabriel 6. Elizabeth 7. Great things 8. Spirit 9. He will save his people from their sins 10. Caesar Augustus 11. Nazareth 12. Census 13. A messenger 14. An angel of the Lord 15. They are amazed, or in wonder 16. The east 17. The east 18. Herod 19. Gold, frankincense and myrror 20. Egypt 21. After Herod dies 22. Galilee 23. Christmas 24. From the Father of lights 25. Give thanks to God

**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