

# 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

February 2026  
Volume 298 / #2



## Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 18th, 2026 | 7:00pm  
In the chapel

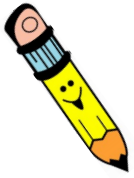
We begin the Season of Lent with a time of repentance, worship,  
and the imposition of ashes. All Are Welcome.



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



Feb 1	Annual Meeting	10:45
Feb 2	Caring Committee Meeting (Room 206)	3:30 pm
Feb 3	Missions Committee Meeting—Offsite	7:00 pm
Feb 4	Fellowship Committee Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 pm
Feb 8	Facilities Committee Meeting	8:30 am
Feb 8	Deacon’s Meeting	11:30 am
Feb 9	Communications & Marketing (Zoom)	7:00 pm
Feb 14	Chocolate Sale	9am-1pm
Feb 16	Presidents’ Day—OFFICE CLOSED	
Feb 17	Shrove Tuesday	
Feb 17	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday	
Feb 22	Loaves and Fishes	



**February 21st**

February 2026						
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





Save the date  
March 15, 5-8 pm

A Flick, Food, and Finding  
Faith movie

More information coming  
soon!



**Champ's Place Needs**



**HOURS: Mondays 10 am—Noon and 6 pm -7**



**A Trip Down Memory Lane  
These are memories of Ruth Finley Bell  
who was a First Grader in 1925  
Written in 2014 when Ruth was 96  
The Finley family lived at 611 Main Street**

*Our Church History*

What a momentous change for this little first grader going from Bolton to Somers. Making new friends and getting used to a new community and church was quite an experience.

My family was readily made to feel at home. We settled in for many years to come at the Finley home on Main Street – now the Colonial Flower Shop.

Miss Harriet Pease, the former owner, wanted us to have the church pew her family had for so many years. It was way up front and I got a good view of the choir as I looked back and up. Back then each family had its own pew (not paid for). To this day I can remember where the different families sat – the Fullers, Bugbees, Ellises, Davis.

Easter and Christmas irritated me as far as our pew was concerned. All year we sat in that pew weekly. Then comes Easter and Christmas and “seldom church goers” took our seat.

I recall an interesting little incident that happened at church. Harriet Ellis Pease and Catherine Pomeroy, who lived a distance away on Main Street, were down in the center of town. They decided they’d go to church. The church door was unlocked. They went in and decided to have a church service. They took out the hymn books and whatever else they felt they needed. I would say they were 10 or 11 years old. Looking back to that incident makes me think of how much church meant to them.

Another interesting incident – A Swedish parishioner, Mr. Otto Lindell, was a regular at church. He sat in the back seat. The only time he wore glasses was at the Sunday church services. After church he stored the glasses under the seat cushion where they would be next Sunday.

My family had not been in town long before a new minister was hired – the Rev. Thomas Jones. He was an exceptional man with many ideas that settled well with both young and old. He was of Welsh descent – just out of seminary. The church hosted a large reception for Rev. Jones and his wife. Just about everyone was there.

Rev. Jones was responsible for the first vacation summer school at Somers church. It was a rousing success. This was around 1927. The attendance was large. A few Catholic children joined us. Several local women contributed their “know how” in teaching crafts. What a great time we had. I believe the vacation school lasted a few years after Rev. Jones and thrived under Rev. Sumner Johnson.

For Sunday School, all kindergarten through second or third grade children went to the chapel across the street from the church. How well I remember playing the various parts in the Bible stories. Sally Billings made the stories live for us. She will long be remembered.

It was a wonder no one was hit by oncoming traffic as we shot across the street. We were all anxious to get there.

As we got older, Sunday School was held in the basement of the church. We’d go to Sunday School right after church.

There were many activities taking place over the years. I’m uncertain of the dates. There were Christmas pageants, Christmas parties with a tree.

The basement of the church was used as a Town Hall. The grange held their meetings there. In 1936 (or thereabout) there was a strike at the Somersville Mill – Union vs. others. At that time we were having religious instruction prior to being church members. We couldn’t wait to get out of the chapel and over to the fireworks at Town Hall.

As Senior High and Junior High students we had much activity on Sunday evenings in the chapel. We took turns being in charge of the religious services. We all enjoyed the camaraderie of getting together. I remember one of the big times was going to Narragansett Pier in RI for a day at the beach.


Another time I recall a Wedding Gown Recital at church. Those of us of the right age were outfitted with previous wedding gowns of the church women. It was a lovely affair. We even walked down the aisle on the arm of a wonderful man (Mr. Cook) to the tune of the wedding march. The gowns were from early times to the 1930's.

I left out an important part of the Christian Endeavor (youth group) – socially and religiously it was an important part of our lives. We had committees to take fruit and goodies to the sick and shut-ins. On one occasion I remember a sick lady in her last days wanted the four of us on the committee to sing Christmas hymns to her. All the recipients were so appreciative of our calls. Christian Endeavor stressed helping people.

My thoughts are about gone of this era as I left for college in 1936. My life and friends parted and our getting together was less frequent.

Through all the past years the memories of Somers Congregational Church will always be a real special memory and I'm happy to have had them.

Ruth Finley Bell Age 96  
October 2014



We will again be offering Easter Lillies to adorn our sanctuary. Keep an eye out for the order form which will be coming soon!



# Anything Chocolate BAKE SALE



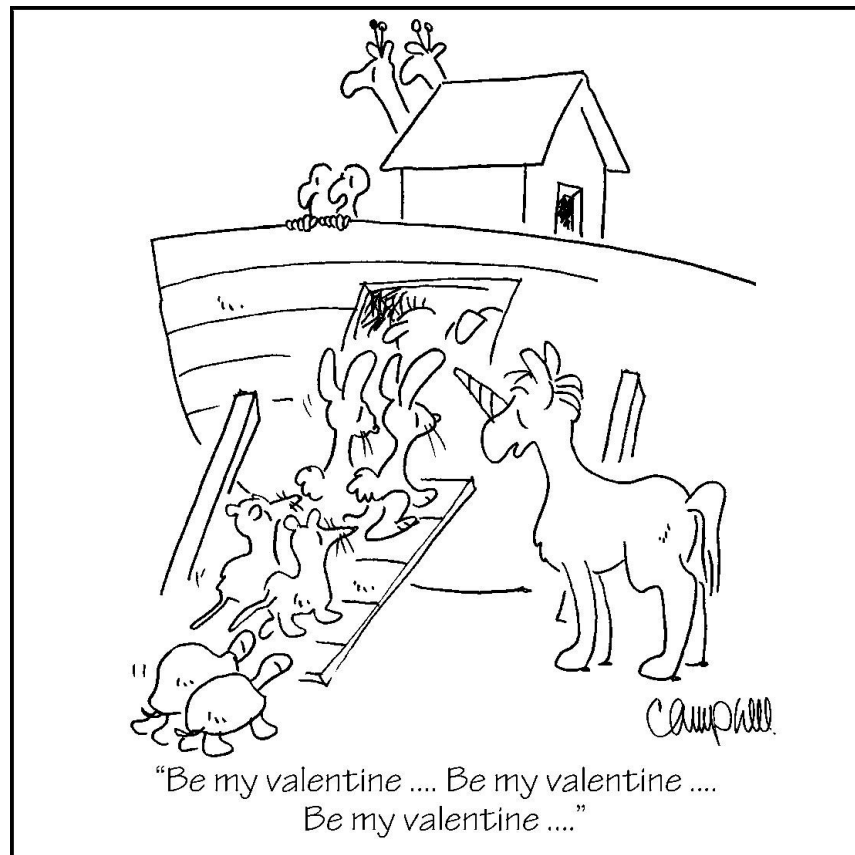
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> | 9:00AM - 1:00PM  
SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - 599 MAIN STREET

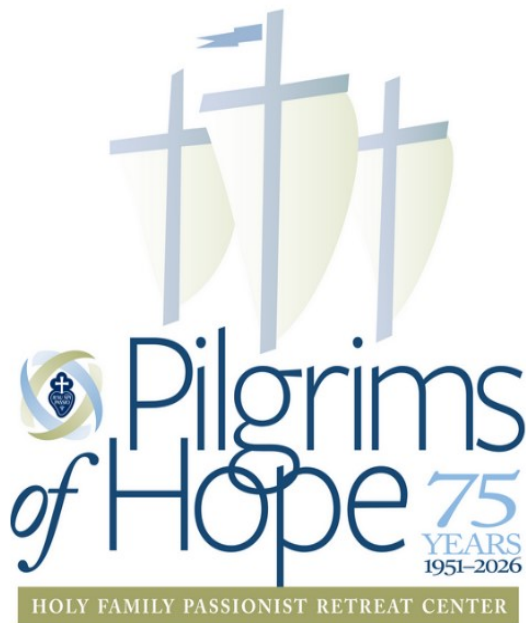
You'll find...

Bars ♥ Breads ♥ Cakes  
Candy ♥ Cookies ♥ Pies

decorated for that special Valentine!

Questions? Contact our church office at:  
860-763-4021 | office@thesomerschurch.org





## Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center West Hartford, CT

Faith is a journey! As “pilgrims of hope,” we must be willing to take risks, to make the effort to understand God’s call, and to grow in our faith. The pilgrim doesn’t travel aimlessly but allows God to be the North Star, leading us to discover that God is at the heart of our journey.

We invite you to join us this year at Holy Family for your annual retreat as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary of ministry. Together, as part of God’s beloved creation, we can pursue that blessed goal – life with God as beloved companions and pilgrims of hope.

### Men's Themed Retreat Dates

Men's Retreat  
Jan 16, 2026 – Jan 18, 2026

Men's Retreat  
Jan 30, 2026 – Feb 1, 2026

Men's Retreat  
Feb 20, 2026 – Feb 22, 2026

Men's Retreat  
Mar 6, 2026 – Mar 8, 2026

Men's Retreat  
Mar 13, 2026 – Mar 15, 2026

Men's Retreat  
Mar 27, 2026 – Mar 29, 2026

Men's Retreat  
Apr 10, 2026 – Apr 12, 2026

Men's Retreat  
May 1, 2026 – May 3, 2026

### Women's Themed Retreat Dates

Women's Retreat  
Jan 9, 2026 – Jan 11, 2026

Women's Retreat  
Jan 23, 2026 – Jan 25, 2026

Women's Retreat  
Feb 27, 2026 – Mar 1, 2026

Women's Retreat  
Mar 20, 2026 – Mar 22, 2026

Women's Retreat  
Apr 17, 2026 – Apr 19, 2026

Women's Retreat  
May 29, 2026 – May 31, 2026

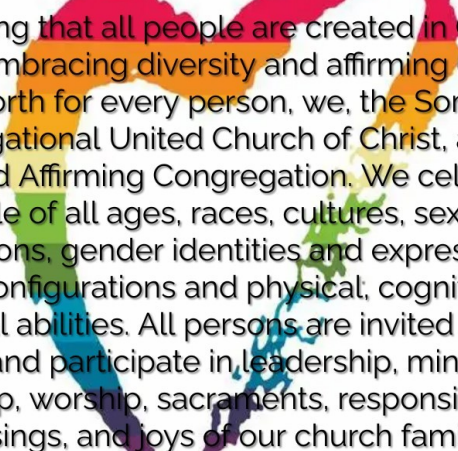
### Other Themed Retreats

Couples Retreat  
Feb 13, 2026 – Feb 15, 2026

For more information:

- Visit <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/> or call 860.760.970
- <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/promotional-videos>
- Contact Linda Gary at 860.306.5270 or [lindabakasgary@gmail.com](mailto:lindabakasgary@gmail.com)

## 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)**