

scc Highlights

SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WORSHIPING AND SERVING SINCE 1727

599 Main St. PO Box 295 Somers, CT 06071 (860) 763- 4021

September 2026

Volume 298 / #9

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here



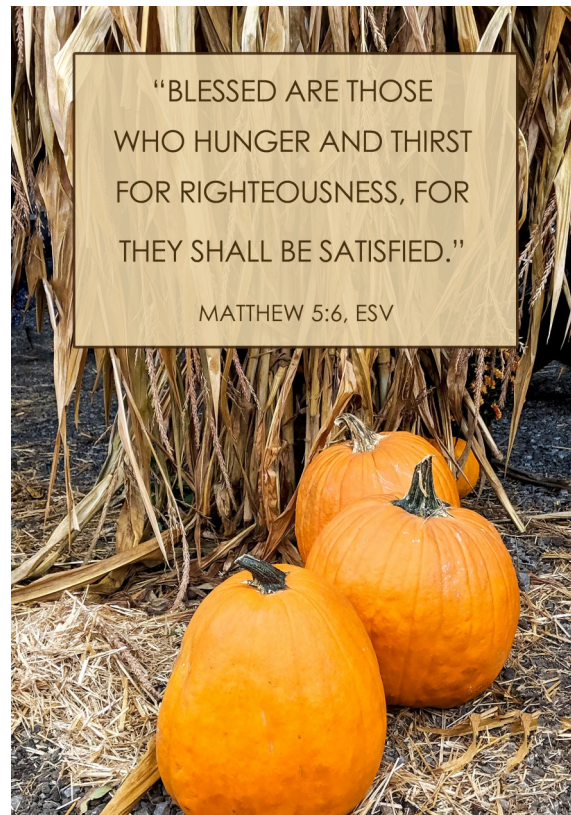
SEPTEMBER 13th!!!!

See you SUNDAY!

September 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	28	30			



Sep 9	Community Supper	5:30
Sep 13	Homecoming Sunday	9:45
Sep 13	Fall Congregational Meeting	10:45
Sep 14	Communications & Marketing (Zoom)	7:00
Sep 15	Council Meeting	6:00
Sep 17	Bible Study	10:00
Sep 24	Bible Study	10:00
Sep 27	Loaves and Fishes	





There Our Hearts Will Be

Our Stewardship theme for the coming year **There Our Hearts Will Be** is rooted in Mathew 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there is where your heart will be also".

Deuteronomy 6 is set after the escape from enslavement, a generation in exile, and the discovery of the Promised Land Israel. Having been given directives about what behavior would and would not be acceptable; Moses addresses the community and speaks the words every

faithful covenant partner would enshrine upon their doorstep forevermore.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

These lines lay bare the essence of what God is asking of those who worship God. What stands out is the centrality of love in the fulfillment of covenant.

We, too, are invited to offer our contributions of time, talent, and treasure not through the lens of obligation but love.

As you consider your pledge of support for the church you love, start with a reminder to yourself about what the mission of the church is. Prayerfully reflect on why that mission matters to you. Think about the ways it has made a difference in your life or about how it matters to the community you live in. Invite yourself to consider how in the past year this church has blessed you, comforted you, or transformed you.

When you make your pledge, pause for just a second to offer a prayer of thanks to God for the ways our church fulfills its mission in the world.

Let us place our hearts in God's hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices, and resources will follow.

Your time, talents, skills, expertise, knowledge, presence, influence, volunteerism and financial pledge all make expanding our Christian Community possible for our church.

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,

Your Stewardship Team

Jeff Roig (Chair) & Tyler Cass



Celebrating Our 300th Anniversary

1727 - 2027

Three Centuries of Faith, Fellowship and Service

Can you believe that our church has been meeting almost every Sunday, and many days in between, for 300 continuous years. What a wonderful accomplishment!

Pastor Don and the 300th Anniversary Committee have been meeting to put together a year of celebration that will be a tribute to generations past and an inspiration for the future.

Please come and join us on September 13, 2026, Homecoming Sunday, as we kick off a year of celebration.

Our Anniversary Theme: Glorifying God and Serving the Community for 300 Years.

Our Anniversary Bible Verse: Romans 8: 28: All things work together for good to those who love God.

Our Anniversary Hymn: The Church's One Foundation.

Our Covenant: We have a copy of the covenant signed in 1727 as the founding of our church. We also have a revised version written in 1977 at our 250th anniversary, and we have again updated this for our 300th anniversary.

Anniversary Banner: Megan Jewell has designed a beautiful and meaningful set of banners that will be displayed at the front of the church for the entire year inviting the community to join us.

Anniversary Church History Book: Our church historian, Ailene Henry, has compiled a church history book which will be on sale starting on Homecoming Sunday. (\$20.00)
All of the proceeds of the sale of the book will go to the church and a mission project to be decided.

We would also like to do an updated church directory.

There is a special event planned for every month from September 2026 to September 2027.

September 2026: Homecoming Sunday and Anniversary Kickoff

October 2026: Potluck Fundraiser

November 2026: Host Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

December 2026: Advent and Christmas and Shoreline Ringers Concert

January 2027: Annual Meeting

February 2027: A musical concert with Jason Castonguay, 300 Years of Music

March 2027: Lent and Easter

April 2027: Actual 300th Anniversary – Invite town officials, officials from the Southern New England UCC conference, recognize 50 year members – have a big party.

May 2027: Host the Annual Tolland Association Meeting – potluck

Summer 2027: Have a church service/celebration at the North Cemetery where our first and second meeting houses were located.

September 2027: A float in the Four Town Fair Parade

If you have ideas or suggestions we would love to hear them.

Your 300th Anniversary Committee:

Geoff Hall (Chair), Deb Barry, Pastor Don Francois, Ailene Henry, Jeff Roig, Donna Snowden, Sue Zdebski



Kitchen/Pantry Update

Once again the pantry will be reorganized to satisfy Fire Marshall regulations, so please be patient if you can't find things easily for a while.

If using the kitchen and have items on the rack drying, please put them away. It is not fair for the next individuals using kitchen to have to put items away. Our rentals should not have to move our items so they can use our kitchen.

Things placed in the freezer must be sealed completely when items are moved they become unsealed or they are already unsealed, they get disposed of.

THANK YOU!

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PER-
CENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY IN-
COME

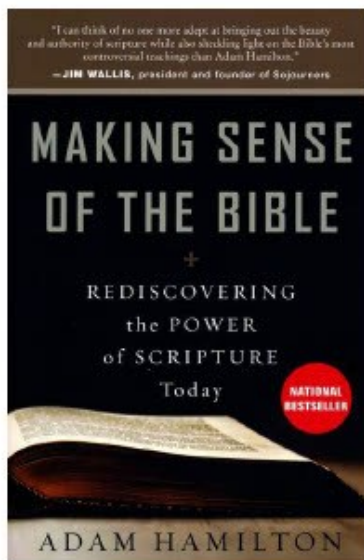
On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of our annual income would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God’s world. Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!

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

Find us on FACEBOOK!



HOURS: Mondays 10 am—Noon and 6 pm



Bible Study

Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today

By Adam Hamilton; Facilitated by Pastor Don

Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about the core of Christian faith: how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should approach biblical interpretation. The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, provides a guide for understanding the Bible that addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often-misunderstood biblical themes leading readers through a thoughtful Bible study to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving. For anyone wrestling with their faith, this book offers a clear path for making sense of the Bible's most challenging passages.

- **The Nature of Scripture:** Explore where the Bible came from, who decided which books were included, and whether its words are inerrant or inspired in this approachable guide.
- **Science and the Bible:** Tackle the tough questions about Creation, evolution, and the Flood. Were Adam and Eve real people, and how do we reconcile the Bible with modern science?
- **Old Testament Violence:** Confront the passages where God seems to command genocide and prescribe harsh punishments, seeking to understand them within their historical and theological context.
- **Women in the Church:** Ask the hard questions about why Paul commanded women to "keep silent in the church" and what that means for Christians today.
- **Interpreting Challenging Verses:** Examine what the Bible says about divisive topics like homosexuality and whether Jesus really taught that all non-Christians are assigned to hell.

Part 1: Thursdays, September 17 – November 5, 10:00-11:15 AM*

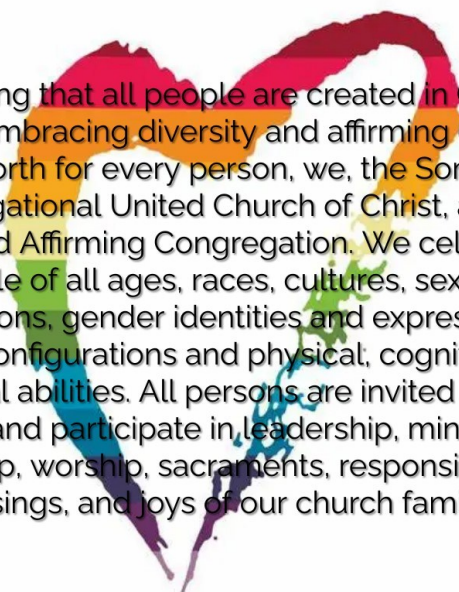
Part 2: Thursdays, January 14 – February 11, 10:00-11:15 AM*

(See overview video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL31pUOUw_U)

Book cost \$13.00 (sign up at pastordon@thesomerschurch.org)

*If there is enough interest, an evening session will be offered.

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