



Crossroads

*News from South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ*

*45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 732-0117 www.sococh.org*

*We are an inclusive community of faith; courageously following Christ;
serving our neighbors in love.*

April 2019



The Sundays of April, 2019: Join us on April 7 for Benevolence Sunday, on April 14 for Palm Sunday, on April 21 for Easter Sunday and on April 28 for Jazz Sunday.

From the Pastor

*Luke 4:¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

"Martin Luther King didn't say I have a plan. He said I have a dream." - Simon Sinek

Over the years I have led workshops on church growth. Before I would get into the mechanics of being a welcoming church I always began by asking, "Why do you want to grow?" In almost every case the answer was something like, "We need more people so we can fill our committees and meet our budget." I would then have to deliver the bad news. I would have to tell them that no one was going to join their church to work on their committees or give them money.

Simon Sinek in a speech to a business conference says that "People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it." He goes on to say, "What you do simply serves as the proof of what you believe."* It is my experience that people join a church because they are moved by the congregation's "why." They catch the excitement and want to be a part of what is going on.

Peter Senge says, "In the presence of greatness, pettiness disappears. In the absence of a great dream, pettiness prevails." A congregation that is clear about its "why" usually doesn't get bogged down by the small stuff. But when they forget their "why" that is when "pettiness prevails".

Jesus entered the synagogue at the beginning of his ministry and made his "why" perfectly clear. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor - proclaim release to the captives - recovery of sight to the blind - to let the oppressed go free - to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." His ministry and life were rooted in this vision. And from that day in the synagogue to this day people have joined him because of his "why".

"We are an inclusive community of faith, courageously following Christ, serving our neighbors in love." Sound familiar? It should because it is South Church's mission statement. It is our "why". And let me tell you that I experience it as an exciting vision. I know there are people in the community who want to be a part of a church that is pursuing such a vision. I hope over the next few months we can continue to hold that "why" up and make it the focus of all our work together. I also hope we can get the news out that a church with such a powerful vision is in their community.

- **Rev. Peter Wells**

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15Tw0PGcyN0>

From the Moderator

What is South's WHY?

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 New International Version (NIV)

Imagine a South Congregational Church where the vast majority of those who are engaged wake up inspired every day, focused on advancing the word of God, and feel encouraged and confident sharing our message of great, welcoming, abundant love.

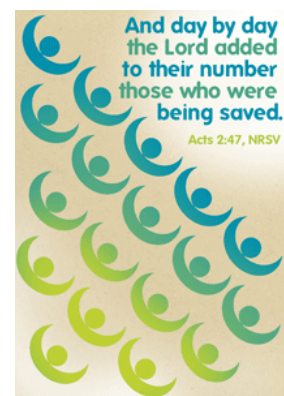
Imagine being so grounded in your faith that you can't but help demonstrate the love of Christ through generosity, forgiveness, listening to understand, connecting with our neighbors and living in gratitude. Where communication is bound by covenant with each other and with the Holy Spirit.

Imagine Sunday mornings, buzzing with excitement about the service, the pews full of guests, new people and well-known members sharing worship together, so full of joy that even outside, in the parking lot and on Maple, Temple and High Streets, the air vibrates with sound and energy, drawing others in. And the laughter of children fills in all of the spaces between the adults.

And, after service, fellowship, programs, outreach activities take place Sunday afternoon and throughout the week, providing touchpoints for our faith community and taking us into our city to share our faith filled passion. Breaking bread with one another, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

WHY, on earth, would this be happening? No longer is church attendance a hallmark of being a good citizen. And "faith" and "spirituality" come in any number of different flavors. WHY would anyone new come through our doors? Finding an online or TV service is so easy in our modern times. WHY would South be their destination? Our rainbow flag? Our Sanctuary status? Jazz Sunday? (These are all good reasons!)

There are many possible reasons WHY people could/should/would come to South. I want to invite all of you to consider the following questions: WHY does South do what it does? WHY does/should South exist? WHY is this an important community to me? As a member of a church (Old First) whose doors were shut forever, I'm committed to excavating South's WHY in order to move us forward. I pray this passage from ACTS inspires you as much as it inspires me to grow our "fellowship of believers!"



- **Kimberly Figueroa**

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE (All services except Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary)

April 7 (Lent 5/Communion)	Rev. Peter Wells
April 14 (Palm Sunday)	Rev. Peter Wells
April 18 at 7 p.m. (Maundy Thursday)	Rev. Peter Wells
April 19 at noon (Good Friday)	Rev. Peter Wells
April 21 (Easter Sunday)	Rev. Peter Wells
April 28 (Jazz Sunday)	Larry Picard

Please Pray For... Rev. Louis Mitchell's mom, Mrs. Joyce L. Irving, Beverly Lynch, Silvio Vasquez and his family in Venezuela, Peter Nelson, Renee Silva, Thomas Wright, Pastor Clemmons, Anthony Wysocki, Karen Buske, Sue Wood, Ginny McCray, Don Russell, Roland Fenton, Bert Montagna, Deborah Price, Dan Myers, Irene Rappa, Jeff Weed, Dot Strelbel, Stella Boulware, Shirley McCready, Beryl Kress, Ginny Robbins, John Burris, Marybeth Marlow, Jan McDonald and her friend, Cathy Wesson, Rev. Bart and Valerie Cochran.

Benevolence Team

The Benevolence Team invites you to join us on April 7 as we recognize the agencies which we have decided to support this year. Each agency will have a display in the Parish Hall after the service in which you may visit and learn more about the wonderful work they are doing in our community. The following agencies will be present:

Action Centered Tutoring (ACTS)
Baystate Health Foundation
Big Brothers, Big Sisters
The Children's Study Home
Community Music School
Divine Faith Ministries
Drama Studio
Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation
Gardening the Community
The Gray House

New North Citizens Council
Open Pantry
The Performance Project/First Generation
Springfield Boys & Girls Club
Springfield Rescue Mission
Square One
Suzuki Talent Education Partnership (STEP)
Valley Eye Radio
Youth Social Educational Training (YSET)



Do you love a parade? On Saturday, May 4, South Church will join other UCC churches in the valley to march in the NOHO Pride Parade. The parade begins in the parking lot on Hampton Ave, which is directly across from the Northampton Brewery. This year we will line up at 10 a.m. in the **GREEN FLAG** staging area. The parade begins at 11 a.m. Contact Larry Picard (lpicard@sococh.org) or Adam MacRae (adammac408@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Director of Music

Below you'll see a picture of members of the South Church choir at a recent Bach event at Christ Church Cathedral. For those of you who were unable to attend, the choirs of South Church, St. Michael's Cathedral and Christ Church Cathedral joined forces to present Cantata 182 by J. S. Bach. Our choir members participated and two, George Eisenhauer and Tabor Fisher, sang solos. I played a few Bach organ pieces, as did Lad Pfeifer and Bob Hansler, the music directors of the other two churches. There was a great audience and a real feeling of support and community among the three choirs. We look forward to future collaborations.



April is a month of Sunday morning happenings, beginning with our first-Sunday communion service and the awarding of Benevolence grants in the service. April 14 & 21 are Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, respectively, and you can be sure there will be brass instruments to help celebrate the resurrection. April 28, as the Sunday after Easter, has historically been known as a "low" Sunday, when attendance in worship seems sparser than the rest of the month, maybe because the weather is getting nice and folks prefer to be outdoors. As my mother used to say when asked why she wasn't in church on a particular Sunday during the spring or summer – "I'm communing with nature."



Well, I hope you'll break with tradition and make a special effort to be there on the 28th. Not only will we have music by the Hot Cat Jazz Band, but I will be taking over the lectern that day to deliver the sermon I was supposed to give you on January 20, had we not been snowed out. As you might expect, it will have a lot about singing in it and some about angels, too. I've got another surprise in store, though, so mark the date in your calendar.

Then, stick around after the service for the next installment in our hymn series, where we'll look at the hymns that were "changed" in the New Century Hymnal to be more inclusive of everyone. If you're someone who thought they went too far with the changes to some of your beloved hymns, this meeting might be for you. – **Larry**

Happy April Birthday!



3 Donald Russell
5 Krysia Villon
11 Janet Burdewyk
14 Diana Hayes

16 Alberta Montagna
17 Jonathan Rice
22 Evendelisse Maylee
Caro-Figueroa

23 Lisa Herlihy
26 Allen Steiger

Pink in the Rink – South Church goes to the Hockey Game



Several dozen South Church members and friends came together on March 9 for a congenial evening of pizza and hockey. Breast cancer awareness was the focus of the evening and there was a sell-out crowd at the Mass Mutual Center as the Springfield Thunderbirds played the Hartford Wolf Pack.

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Lent 4 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM Resource Circle (GR) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	1 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous* (PH)	2 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	3 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) 5:30 PM Rejoice Night (PH)	4 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves/Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	5 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	6 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
7 Lent 5/Communion 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Benevolence Fair (PH) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Ch.* (CH) 1:30 PM Baptism (SA)	8 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Leadership (GR)	9 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	10 8:45 AM Brkst Prep* 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) NO Rejoice Night	11 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves/Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	12 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	13 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
14 Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	15 Patriots Day – Office closed 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	16 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	17 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (ML)(GS) 7:30 PM Choir (SA)	18 Maundy Thursday 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves/Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR) 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service (CH)	19 12:00 PM Good Friday service (SA) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	20 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
21 Easter 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	22 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	23 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	24 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (SA)	25 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves/Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	26 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	27 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)
28 10:00 AM Jazz Sunday Service (SA) 10:00 AM Sunday School (SA)(N) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM Little Rock Church* (CH)	29 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 6:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (GR)	30 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (K) 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 4:00 PM Quilting (ML) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM AA* (PH)	1 8:45 AM Breakfast Prep* (Kitchen) 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl (GR) 3:00 PM STEP* (SA) 7:30 PM Choir (SA)	2 11:45 AM Brief Communion Svc (CH) 12:00 PM Loaves/Fishes* (PH) 2:30 PM STEP* (ML) 4:00 PM PVP (SA) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 7:00 PM Spanish AA* (GR)	3 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)	4 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes* (PH)

**SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
45 MAPLE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105**

Rev. Peter Wells

Larry Picard

Jacqueline Fredenburgh

Cynthia Lage

Jared Spencer

Polly Southworth

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music Ministries

Office Manager

Bookkeeper

Custodian

Sunday School Superintendent

Crossroads is the newsletter of South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Stories and items of Church interest are welcome and are due by the 20th of the month for the next month's issue. Submissions should be sent to Larry Picard at lpicard@sococh.org or by post to his attention at the church address.

South Congregational Church UCC www.sococh.org

A Jesus-centered, Open & Affirming Community

