



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.*

October 2021



On a beautiful September Sunday afternoon, ten South Church members went to Mont Marie Senior Residence in Holyoke and walked a beautiful outdoor labyrinth. More on p. 7.

From the Pastor

Dear South,

As a lifelong New Englander, I am indeed a lover of fall. The weather changing awakens my senses; my brain seems to function better, I have more energy with the increasing coolness. And I do love wearing my favorite everyday fall boots (we're not talking winter boots yet)!

Seasons incarnate change. When we live in a place like New England with such pronounced seasons, when we pay attention, we learn that change is part of the ordinary deal and cycle of life.

Today, I went out into the church parking lot around 1pm. Elliott, Glenn, Gordon and Cheryl, were gathered in the corner of the building, protecting themselves from the breeze, in a small communion service. A much larger circle of chairs was set up closer to Temple Street in the back parking lot; Pioneer Valley Project, which has its offices at South, was gathered with their state-wide partners from their umbrella organization - Massachusetts Communities Action Network - for a big meeting.

As Elliott was offering the words of communion *the bread of heaven, for you; the cup of salvation*, from across the parking lot, Lizzo's [Good as Hell](#) started playing. PVPs cohort was filming something and Lizzo was the soundtrack. Try not dancing when that song is playing! Lizzo's *Good as Hell* incarnates good feelings and movement.

"For the bread of God...gives life to the world" - John 6:33. The bread of God, the nourishment of God, gives life. It incarnates being itself. Vibrancy, aliveness, action in spite of all that pushes us into the inaction of fear; God incarnates movement, the energy of possibility, the joy of being alive.

I know that life is not always joyful; and God is not absent in those dulled spaces. Sometimes, life is in the rest, and the fallowness. At the same time, *the bread of God gives life to the world*. In the midst of this long and ongoing season of Covid, many of us are in depressed spaces. Many of our organizations are as well.

As the leaves fall, I ask myself what I need to let go to let God's life force work through me in new ways, changed as I am. As the weather cools, I listen to where the energy of movements, of people in action for just and loving change are, and I release some of my own fears to join in their work however I can; to be warmed by participation.

As church, may we see the bread of life, the cup of salvation being broken and poured out in places we might not think to look and join in the celebration of life there.

"Dance then, wherever you may be, I am [the Lord of the dance](#) said he, and I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance said he."

In the dance - *Rev. Lindsey*

SOUTH CHURCH LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

It was decided at the Annual Meeting held on September 19, 2021 that the Leadership Circle for the year will consist of:

Moderator: Nick Lentino
Treasurer: Jill Hartnett
Clerk/ Registrar: Nancy Montagna

At-Large Members:

Karen Buske
Betty Jack
Polly Southworth
Karen Kress
Deborah Price
Elliott Stratton
Nate Valez

The Leadership Circle will meet, using Zoom, on the first Wednesday of the month at 7: 00 p.m. Additional meetings will be held as needed. If you have any questions or input, please contact Nick (413-567-6486) or nicklentino@hotmail.com or any team member. We pray that God guides our work and we accomplish His will.

Blessings to all,

Nick Lentino

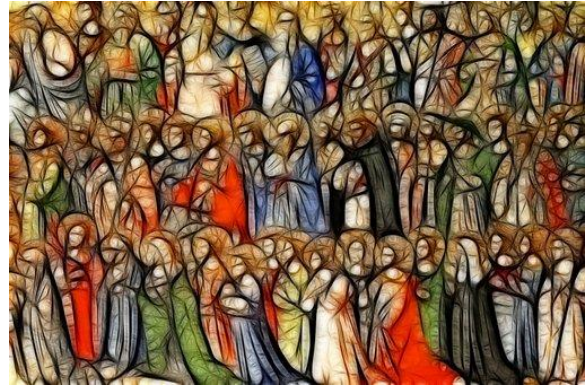
Please Pray for

Tanya Dudley, John Burris, Karen Buske, Dan Myers, Carol Stewart, Bruce Wright, Karen Kress, Peter and Margie Nelson, Raj Ramaswamy, Stella Boulware, Oboya Omot, Sue Wood's friends, Jodi Clements and her mom, Kastle and Cynthia, Sue Wood's cousin, Diane O'Hara, Bert Montagna, Shirley McCready, Betty Eaton, Jean Steup, her family and her grandmother, Ruth Kilcoyne, Rev. Lindsey's father, Bob Peterson, Merle Olson, Ginny Robbins, Gordon Dodge, Winfield Moore, Marjorie Munroe, Leila Cohen, Timmy Miller, Priscilla Price, Deborah Price, Silvia Walker, Julius Dixon, Jan McDonald, Mike Wright, Rev. Louis Mitchell, Jeff Johnson, Jane Closson, Rubin Reyes, Bob Stack, Beverly Lynch, Silvio Vasquez and his family in Venezuela, Renee Silva, Pastor Clemmons, Anthony Wysocki, Roland Fenton, Irene Rappa, the Pharo Family, Simone Normand, Joanne Henry, all those suffering with Covid-19.

If you would like to be added or removed from the Prayer List, please reach out to Jackie at: secretary@sococh.org or call/text her at: 413-654-8086

Director of Music

And now we are in my favorite time of year. I know many people are already starting to think about the Christmas holiday season, already less than three months away, but I prefer to swim in the musical waters of the lesser-known fall festivals, particular those of the Christian sort. They start this Sunday with World Communion Sunday and continue into December with stops along the way at the Feast of St. Francis (often used as a reason to have a blessing of animals), Reformation Sunday, All Saint's Day and All Souls Day. Then, after Thanksgiving, the period of *anticipation* known as Advent is so full of the hope and wonder that has been written into great pieces of music. To be sure, the old, beloved Christmas carols are great, but singing them too early in the season is like opening your presents before Christmas. The excitement created from a period of self-control and waiting makes the big event all the more celebratory.



This year, of course, these events will not be celebrated in the way I would prefer, but, like the Whos in Whoville, we can still experience the spirit of the season. It will just be a leaner experience than we had gotten used to. We are continuing to err on the side of caution by having soloists, and, on occasion, two singers in worship through the end of October. If the spread of the COVID virus continues to slow, we will start adding singers in November so that there will be a full quartet each Sunday. Then, who knows? A full choir by December? Maybe?

I also have an update on the alternate service formats you may have heard spoken of from Rev. Lindsey and me. We are postponing the debut of our second-Sunday Latinx service and the fourth-Sunday Creative Calling services. This is not just pandemic related, but also because we are livestreaming the services and there are a number of technical and *legal* issues that need to be resolved before we can comfortably return to a full worship format with the amount of music we would like to present in those special services. So, worship will continue to feature prelude music, chanting, an anthem or solo and postlude music. I hope soon to also add a closing hymn.

In a conversation with one of my colleagues yesterday he lamented that the return of live music was still a "moving target." To be sure, the South Church Chancel Choir is finding the constant changing of plans on my part tiresome, but they all agree that nothing can be set in stone for the time being. That said, we are looking forward to another Zoom Halloween Concert, this year to be held on Friday, October 29 at 7 p.m. Once again, our talented singers and instrumentalists will be offering recordings of themselves performing music that is mildly frightening but mostly humorous, and once again, the delightful Jayne Newirth will narrate.



I will end by saying thank you to everyone at South Church. You've been very patient and accepting of the changes that have been and continue to be made in order to bring music to our Sunday worship services. I wish I could say the time of trial is ending, but let's just pray and let God's will be done.

- *Larry*

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE (Worship is accessible remotely via Facebook Live and YouTube)

October 3 (Communion): Worship outdoors in front of the church at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

October 10: Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

October 17: Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

October 24: Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

October 31: Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson

Facebook live: go to the South Congregational Church Facebook page (make sure it has this logo



) and click on the video.

YouTube: type bit.ly/SouthonMaple in your browser, for the South Church YouTube channel.

A Condensed October Calendar

- Sundays at 10 a.m. – Worship and Nursery Care in the Sanctuary. Service is accessible via Facebook Live or YouTube.
- Mondays at 10 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Group in the Guild Room
- Mondays at 4 p.m. – Quilting Group in the Music Lounge
- Tuesdays at 7 p.m. – Zoom Bible Study (use the Sunday worship login)
- Wednesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. – Leadership Circle
- Friday, October 29 at 7 p.m. – Zoom Halloween Concert (use worship login)
- October 8 & 26 at 10:30 a.m. – South Church Cooks
- Every day except Wednesday – Loaves & Fishes at noon & 5 p.m.

Zoom Bible Studies!

Join us for Tuesday night Bible studies at 7 p.m. Use the Sunday worship access code and password. Here is the schedule:

- October 5– Mark 10:17-31 (led by Betty Jack)
- October 12 – Mark 10:35-45 (led by Elliott Stratton)
- October 19 – Mark 10:46-50 (led by Polly Southworth)
- October 26 – Mark 12:28-34 (led by Larry Picard)

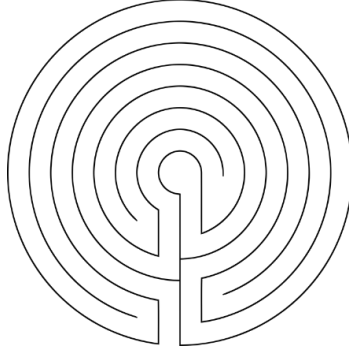


4 Teri Wilson-Hinch
18 Jayne Newirth
25 Mark Olson
25 Sapphire Hazel-Mims

27 Tony Messina
28 George Bowerman
30 Jill Hartnett

Update on the Labyrinth Project

As you can see from the cover photo, an enthusiastic group of South Church souls enjoyed a beautiful afternoon walking in circles. Well, not literally in circles, but they were following a circuitous path. It was a path lined with red bricks in a design similar to this:



If you follow the path yourself with your finger or with the point of a pen, you will see that it is continuous, and leads to the center without encountering dead ends. You will also see that it takes you farther away from the center before it moves you closer. The site of the labyrinth we enjoyed on Sunday, which was located at the Mont Marie Senior Residence in Holyoke, was already decorated for autumn with chrysanthemums and pumpkins, and the display at the center looked like this:



The inscription on the stone reads "That We May All Be One." It was an emotionally moving experience for many in our group. Our hosts, Sister Lorraine Villemaire and Cathy Rigali, gave generously of their time explaining the history of the labyrinth and its current world-wide popularity. We talked about our wish to have one at South Church and they were excited and supportive.

So here is an update on our own labyrinth project here at South. Space has been cleared in the back of the sanctuary, and three flooring companies have been consulted for bids to lay a proper surface for the design. Originally, we thought to purchase a canvas labyrinth that could be rolled up and stored, but we recently discovered that there are other methods of painting or stenciling the design directly on to the floor. The good news: those methods are also cheaper than the canvas version!

As with any major project, the process never happens as quickly as you hope. We would love to have it done by December but we are at the mercy of available professionals and the dreaded supply chain. More good news: we can still experience a labyrinth by use of a portable model that Sister Villemaire is willing to loan us.

This concept is new to many of you, I'm sure. You probably wonder why a labyrinth should be an important thing for South Church. When we have something in place, temporary or permanent, give it a try. You may be surprised!

WHERE THEY STAND

OUR SCHOOLS? JOBS? HOUSING? POLICE REFORM? COVID RECOVERY?
SYSTEMIC RACISM? COME HEAR WHERE CANDIDATES STAND ON THE
IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT IMPACT OUR LIVES.

SPRINGFIELD VIRTUAL CANDIDATES FORUMS

- Springfield School Committee At-large and District 4
Candidates- Tuesday, October 5th, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Springfield City Council Ward 1, 3 and 4 Candidates-
Wednesday, October 6th, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Springfield City Council At-large Candidates-
Wednesday, October 13th, 6 - 8 p.m.

GET ANSWERS FROM YOUR CANDIDATES.

REGISTER AT WWW.PIONEERVALLEYPROJECT.ORG.
FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT 413-214-5100.

» **VOTE NOV. 2ND** »



A Pink Porch Party (without the porch). In spite of rain, members of South Church and the surrounding neighborhood enjoyed food and fellowship at Cathy and Glenn Rossi's annual Pink Porch Party on September 5. Entertainment was provided by drummers from the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School.

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

Rev. Lindsey Peterson

Larry Picard

Jacqueline Fredenburgh

Jared Spencer

Cynthia Lage

Polly Southworth

Designated Term Minister

Director of Music Ministries

Office Administrator

Custodian and Property Manager

Bookkeeper

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

**God is still
speaking,**

