



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.*

September 2021



We grow again! Six new members were welcomed into the South Church community on Sunday, August 29. From left to right, Rev. Lindsey, Jonathan and Aura Geoffrey (and daughter), Bobbie and Chuck Morkin, and Denise and Dennis Badger.

From the Pastor

Covid 2021

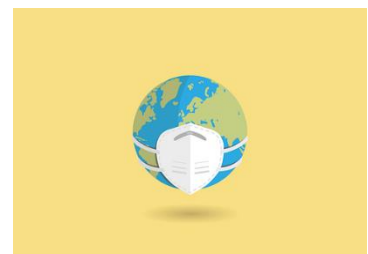
We are in a new phase of our lives and our life together with Covid. South, you have been so good about getting vaccinated. You have worn your masks without complaint. You continue to hold patience around eating together and singing hymns together. I feel so grateful for our shared understanding that we do this for the well-being of all; that we make these accommodations so that we can protect one another. As a church community, we have stayed remarkably healthy through this very challenging time. My intention is to continue to make decisions that sustain and protect the health of our community.

Unfortunately, Covid has not gone away. And, as you know, positive cases of Covid are indeed spreading in Springfield and nationwide. Back in March 2020, we made a quick, hard but also somewhat easy decision to go completely remote in our worship and church life. We did that so well, South! Thank you.

September 2021 feels quite different and the decisions about how we gather are more layered. For the time being, we will continue to gather for in-person worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall, while also streaming through Facebook and YouTube. The Zoom worship room will be opened also, but in a pared-back form, primarily for folks calling in and wanting to listen to the service. As of this writing (August 31), in Hampden County the rate of Covid cases is 36 per 100,000 residents. While this rate is significantly lower than in those areas of the county experiencing surges, it is still the highest case rate in the state, and is quickly increasing.

With the return to school this week, we can anticipate an increase in the coming days and weeks. The science is showing multiple things:

- The vaccines are still very effective at stopping severe cases of Covid and hospitalization. So, getting more folks in the community vaccinated is a priority.
- Masks are an effective additional protection, along with the vaccine, against severe Covid.
- Vaccinated people are still able to spread Covid.



All to say, I intend to keep the worshipping community of South as safe as possible, following the science and making decisions for safety. Thank you for your adaptability, your patience, and your commitment to the health and well-being of this community.

Rev. Lindsey

SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

45 MAPLE STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

To the members of South Congregational Church:

You are hereby notified of the Annual Meeting of the Members of South Congregational Church on Sunday, September 19, 2021 to be called to order following the 10 AM service.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

To consider and act upon the reports of the Designated Term Minister, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Benevolence Team, Deacons Team, Investment Team, Property Manager and reports from any other staff members or teams which shall be presented at the meeting. Elections for vacant positions on the Leadership Circle will be made.

Nancy Montagna Clerk/ Registrar September 1, 2021

Please Pray for

John Burris, Karen Buske, Dan Myers, Carol Stewart, Bruce Wright, Karen Kress, Peter and Margie Nelson, Raj Ramaswamy, Stella Boulware, Oboyo 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

A Condensed September Calendar

- Sundays at 10 a.m. – Worship and Nursery Care in the Parish Hall. 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, September 7 & 21 at 7 p.m. – Leadership Circle
- September 10 & 28 at 10:30 a.m. – South Church Cooks
- Every day except Wednesday – Loaves & Fishes at noon & 5 p.m.

Director of Music



It looks as though a cage has been built to keep the organist from getting away, doesn't it? Well, it's actually scaffolding that was assembled on the chancel and in each balcony in order to replace the fire sensors way up in the ceiling. The equipment has been installed and the scaffolding is gone now. Meanwhile, the organ has had its annual tuning and maintenance and it is ready to liven up our hymn singing, as soon as it is safe to sing hymns again.

It strikes me that I haven't talked about the South Church organ, or organs, I should say, in a while, so here's a little background. The pipes of the current instrument, which was installed in 1970-71 by Austin Organs of Hartford, lie in three stories of chambers behind the pipes you see in this picture. The pipes you see no longer play, but are what remain from the original organ installed by Hook and Hastings in 1875. The keyboard, or console of that first organ, sat in an alcove behind the current choir pews and the wind would have been produced by actual human beings pumping a bellows in the room behind the chancel. An electric motor was installed

during one of several overhauls of that instrument that happened in the 1890s and 1909. Then in 1925, a brand new organ replaced the first one. It was built by the Skinner Organ Company of Boston and it boasted four keyboards plus pedal and many orchestral sounds.

By doing a little math, you can deduce that each organ lasted 45 to 50 years, and the current Austin organ turned 50 this year. That by no means indicates that it is time to get a new instrument, in fact, this one is in pretty good shape for its age. While a major re-leathering project will be necessary at some point in the future, it should serve us well for some time to come. Meanwhile, the small organ in the chapel is also an Austin product, built around 1989, I believe. It is identified as a "unit" organ, which means one set, or rank of pipes can be used for multiple stops, or sounds.

The red organ in the back of the sanctuary has been with us for some time now, but it actually belongs to Grant Moss, who some of you will remember was a frequent substitute for past organists here at South. He rescued it from being junked by Amherst College, and, recognizing that it was a valuable instrument, asked if we could give it a foster home while he looked for a buyer. That was some years ago, and meanwhile there is a glut on the market for used organs with so many churches closing their doors, so it may be with us for some time to come. It was built by the Berkshire Organ Company and is "self-contained," meaning that the blower, the pipes, the keyboard, the pedal board, and all of the actions are contained in the unit you see. By comparison, looking at the big organ in front, the blower is in the church basement, the wind chest is in a room behind the chancel, and the pipes are in three separate chambers on two levels above that.

I just happened to look at the monthly newsletter that was published in September of 1971, fifty years ago. There was a little paragraph that announced that the "new" Austin organ would not be completely installed when services resumed on September 12. What a coincidence that, fifty years later, we are delaying our start of services in the sanctuary that would have happened on the very same date. One day, hopefully soon, we will hear the South Church instruments again. The future is so hazy, thanks to variants, but hang in there! As the article said, it will have been well worth the wait! - *Larry*


SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE (Worship is accessible remotely via Facebook Live, YouTube, or Zoom)

September 5 (Communion): Worship in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. with Rev. Chris Mereschuk.

September 12: Worship in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

September 19 (Annual Meeting follows): Worship in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

September 26: Worship in the Parish Hall 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.

Zoom: from your phone, dial **1-929-205-6099**. At the prompt, enter access code 975 811 240 followed by the # key. Then enter the password: 041663 and the # key again. From your computer, tablet or smart phone, log on to **zoom.us**. Click on “join a meeting” and enter the access code and password.

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:

- September 7 – Mark 8:27-38 (led by Betty Jack)
- September 14 – Mark 9:30-37 (led by Elliott Stratton)
- September 21 – Mark 9:38-50 (led by Polly Southworth)
- September 28 – Mark 10:2-16 (led by Larry Picard)

Benevolence Team Opportunity

Would you like to be involved in deciding which agencies in our community should receive support from our church mission/grant money? If so, please come to the first Benevolence Team meeting on Sunday, September 26, immediately after the church service in the Guild Room. We will meet again in November and February after the church service. It is a small commitment to benefit our local agencies who do so much for our community. All members and friends of South Church are welcome. Please contact Nancy Montagna if you have any questions.

The Rossi's have moved their pink porch pizza party to the South Church parking lot this year. Scheduled for Sunday, September 5, 2021 following the 10 a.m. service. If you feel predisposed to do so, bring a food item with a name containing the letter “P” in it. - Cathy

Happy September Birthday!

2 Kelleen Weed
7 David Bowerman
7 Donna Dunn

7 James Hutchinson
13 William Conley
13 Janice Hills

22 Maryann Scussel
25 Karen Buske
30 Timothy Scussel

The Elusive Labyrinth Roadtrips (part 2)



It sure has rained a lot this summer, especially on Sundays. We were to do a labyrinth outing on July 18 and it rained. We tried again on July 25 and it rained. Then there was one scheduled for August 15 and it had to be postponed by the host, although I think it may have rained that day, too. We postponed until August 22 and...well, rain, rain, rain. That time the rain had a name – Henri.

So, I'm in discussion with our hosts at Mount Marie to schedule a September date and I'm in discussion (meaning, prayer) with God to arrange for a pleasant, sunny day. Look for news about a labyrinth walk on September 12, 19 or 26. Rides to Mount Marie will be available for those who need them.

Contact Larry if you need to know anything else: lpicard@sococh.org.

And Speaking of Rain...

As this is being written, rain from Hurricane Ida is pelting down on Springfield, where the ground is already saturated from a rainy summer and the remains of Hurricane Henri just a week ago. Flooding is certainly a danger, but it is unlikely to reach the epic proportions of the Great Flood of 1936 when the Connecticut River swelled to ten feet above flood stage. Here, the South End of Springfield lies under water. The church at left is Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church on Williams Street. Being up on the hill, South Church was spared any damage. (Photo from the Holyoke Public Library)



The ACTS Giant Mum Sale is on!

South Church will again participate in the Action Centered Tutoring Service (ACTS) annual fall fundraising event with the sale of beautiful mums.

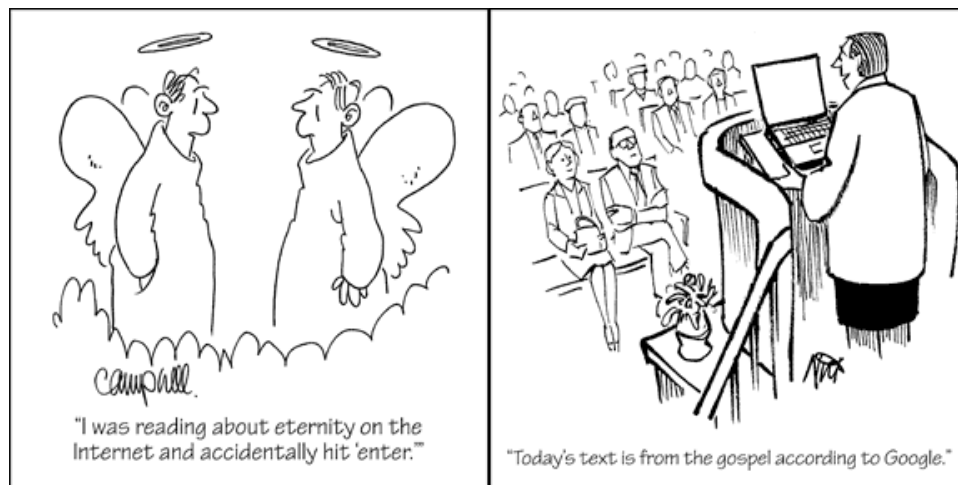


ACTS is beginning their 36th year of providing free after school tutoring services to Springfield's elementary school children. As we attempt to recover from the pandemic and deal with the variant, ACTS is planning to re-open our free after-school tutoring sites beginning in late September. We will be following all the safety protocols as required by the Springfield Public Schools and health officials.

Orders will be taken at church on Sunday, September 5 and 12. Orders also can be mailed to the church if you are unable to attend services. Order forms are available by phoning the church office 413-732-0117 or emailing secretary@sococh.org or by emailing Elliott Stratton at ecstratton@aol.com.

Completed forms along with your payment should be sent to the attention of Elliott Stratton. Payment on the day of pick-up is OK, too. Please be sure to include your telephone number and email address in case Elliott needs to contact you regarding your order. Completed order forms must be received by Monday, September 13. Mums will be available for pick-up after services on Sunday, September 19.

A Little Humor...



There was a man trying to understand God, so he asked Him, "God, how long is a million years to you?"

God answered, "A million years is like a minute."

Then the man asked, "God, how much is a million dollars to you?"

God replied, "A million dollars is like a penny."

The man thought for a short time and asked, "God, will you give me a penny?"

"In a minute," God responded.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105**

Rev. Lindsey Peterson

Designated Term Minister

Larry Picard

Director of Music Ministries

Jacqueline Fredenburgh

Office Administrator

Jared Spencer

Custodian and Property Manager

Cynthia Lage

Bookkeeper

Polly Southworth

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,**

