



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 2022



Holy Week services at South Church:

- Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday worship at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Thursday, April 14: Play and Pray outside in front of the church at noon.
- Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday Meditation on Zoom at 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 15: Good Friday service at noon in the sanctuary with music and reflections.
- Sunday, April 17: Easter celebration outside in front of the church at 10 a.m.

From the Pastor

Dear South,

As you may know, our Music Director, Larry Picard, will be going on sabbatical starting May 16. He will be returning on Sunday, September 11. I cannot quite believe how quickly this date is approaching and I am already anticipating how much I will miss Larry!

At the same time, I am thrilled for Larry and for South. This sabbatical will provide Larry with a chance to step back from the daily work of Music Ministry that he has been doing with South for 15 years. That's a long time! Larry and I have had many rich conversations about what comes next for Larry, and for South in all aspects of our life as a church and more specifically in the music life of South. I value Larry's perspective immensely and his presence as a colleague in ministry. The idea of a sabbatical emerged as part of these conversations about what is next for South generally and musically. As Larry gets closer to retirement time, he has been wondering what is next for him, personally, professionally, musically. This sabbatical will provide some time for that discernment.

For South, this sabbatical time is an opportunity for us to know ourselves differently. Folks who have been a part of South for many years know that Larry has also taken on many aspects beyond music, like church communication and administration and congregational care components. It will be an adjustment for all of us this summer, during worship and during the week, noticing the gaps made by Larry's absence and also experiencing the music life of the church differently.

We have put together a mix of some familiar music over the summer as well as something new. There is more information about those details in the *Director of Music* article in this Crossroads.

When Larry returns, we will not be the same South as when he left; nor will he be the same Larry! This is a good thing. This is part of the process of growing, evolving. My hope is that we *enjoy* this time and learn new things about ourselves. In the long memory of South, music has been a central part of this church's identity; I am excited about how we expand that music to express our evolving identity and ministry.

Gratefully - *Rev. Lindsey Peterson*

A Condensed April Calendar

- Sundays at 10 a.m. – Worship in the sanctuary and on Zoom (see login information under worship schedule)
- Mondays at 10 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Group
- Mondays at 4 p.m. – Quilting Group
- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. – Zoom Bible Study (use the Sunday worship login)
- Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. – Leadership Circle on Zoom
- April 8 & 26 at 10:30 a.m. – South Church Cooks
- Every day except Wednesday – Loaves & Fishes at noon & 5 p.m.

From the Moderator

As I begin to share my thoughts with you, it is very cold, but when you read this (hopefully) we will be in April and warmer. More plants will be making their way out of the soil.

I was reminded of a very important lesson last night. I received a phone call from Sally Sorenson and her son, Jim. Her husband, Carl, had died.

I lived in Canton, Ohio for about 5 years working for Republic Steel, my first job out of Bethany College. Most of the time, Carl and I shared an apartment and became very close friends. I returned to Canton to become their best man. I experienced so many things because of Carl. An Army buddy of mine, who knew Carl, told Carl that I was in Canton and that was the beginning of a fabulous relationship.

Some years ago, I bought a box of Coney Island postcards that were really neat. I came across them a few weeks ago and sent some out to friends.

Unfortunately, the postcard that I sent to Sally and Carl arrived a few days after Carl passed. He would have enjoyed the surprise card. I wish I had mailed it sooner. A lesson learned. Never hesitate showing love to someone. JUST DO IT!

At our next leadership meeting, Thursday April 7, we will chat with Nancy about the mission of the Benevolence Team. With Rev. Lindsey, we have begun the search for an Office Administrator and Communication Specialist.

Elaine and the Care team will be delivering Easter plants to the In-Care group before Easter.

Betty Jack is the coordinator for Easter dinners that will be offered to those requesting them. They are to be picked up or delivered on April 16.

See you on Jazz Sunday.

I wish you and your family a joyful Easter. - *Nick*

Please Pray for...

Betty Jack, Jan Ziegler, The family of Chad Alexander, Tanya Dudley, John Burris, Karen Buske, Dan Myers, Bruce Wright, Karen Kress, Peter and Margie Nelson, Raj Ramaswamy, Stella Boulware, 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, Deborah Price, Silvia Walker, Jan McDonald, Mike Wright, Rev. Louis Mitchell, Jeff Johnson, Jane Closson, Ruben Reyes, Bob Stack, Beverly Lynch, Silvio Vasquez and his family in Venezuela, Renee Silva, Pastor Clemmons, Anthony Wysocki, Roland Fenton, Irene Rappa and all those suffering with Covid-19.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Prayer List, please reach out to Elaine Lentino, Coordinator of South's Congregational Care Team. 413-567-6486, elentino@msn.com

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE (Worship is at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary or on Zoom – see access information below.)

April 3 (Lent 5/Jazz Sunday/Benevolence Fair): Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

April 10 (Palm Sunday/Communion): Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

April 14 (Maundy Thursday): Play and Pray at noon outside the church, then Zoom worship at 7 p.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

April 15 (Good Friday): Zoom worship at noon with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

April 17 (Easter Sunday): Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

April 24: Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

Zoom: Call-in number: 1-929-205-6099; MTG: 975 811 240; Password: 041663

What Does South Church Mean to You?

How does South Church make a difference in your life?

How does South Church speak and live out values that are important to you?

Consider these questions as you consider pledging to support and expand the ministries of South Church this year.

Our fiscal year is July 1 - June 30. We ask that pledges be made by/in June to help us plan.

We will have more information about how to make a pledge in the May Crossroads and in the weekly email and in worship communications. In the meantime, share your reflections on [these questions here](#). And reach out to South's Treasurer, Jill Hartnett, or any of the members of Leadership Circle if you have questions.

South is blessed with a substantial endowment. We are able to continue to operate as we do largely because of the generosity of generations past. This is a blessing, and also a responsibility. We want to be just stewards of these resources; investing them in movements of love and justice in the time and place we find ourselves now. Current investment from the community that *is* South today will help us to be a living church, not sitting back and relying only on the generosity of generations past, but engaging in a living, changing ministry for today and tomorrow.



Director of Music

Sabbatical: *“a break or change from a normal routine (as of employment)” – Merriam Webster’s Dictionary*

Merriam Webster’s goes on to say this:

We tend to think of sabbatical in academic terms, as a school year free from teaching duties that can be devoted to research, travel, and writing. Traditionally, this occurs every seventh year. Because of this scholarly context, we may easily miss what is hiding in plain sight: that sabbatical is related to Sabbath, which refers to the Biblical day of rest, or the seventh day. We trace the origins of both sabbatical and Sabbath to the Greek word sabbaton. Sabbaton itself traces to the Hebrew word shabbāth, meaning “rest.”

I first came up with the idea of taking an extended period of time off sometime last year as I was approaching the 15th anniversary of my tenure at South Church. Colleagues of mine in this area and around the country would speak of taking sabbaticals periodically. While there were no stipulations to how they used the time away, some did spend all or part of it traveling or focusing on an area of study that interested them. For others, it was just a time to step back and examine the paths they were on, perhaps to develop more of an understanding of how to serve their congregations while investigating areas of interest that had been neglected for lack of time. The hope was to return to their posts refreshed and with a new sense of purpose.

That is certainly my hope, and I’ve been putting a lot of thought into what I will do with this time that has been so generously granted to me. Here are a few thoughts I’ve had so far:

- I plan to spend a week at the Chatauqua Institution in New York State. For those of you who don’t know about it, here is the website: chq.org. Every week there is a full roster of lectures, concerts, opera, theater and recreational activities. In addition, many religious denominations maintain “houses” on the campus, so I may be lodging at the UCC House.
- I’ve enjoyed studying languages over the course of my life and I hope to enroll in a Spanish immersion program for a few weeks in a Latin American or South American country. This would involve volunteer work, and I won’t elaborate any further since I’m still early in the research and planning stages, but it could be very exciting.
- You’ve all heard me attempt to play stringed instruments in worship, and I plan to pay more attention to that area of my musicianship to see what I can achieve.
- I would like to take some shorter trips and have some new experiences, but wherever I find myself on a Sunday morning I will find a church to go to, not just to go to church, but also to experience what other musicians are presenting to their congregations.

This will also be a sabbatical for all of you, in a way, as you experience worship music from a different perspective. I hope you will have as much to tell me about what you’ve learned as I will have to tell you. I will say good-bye to you in worship on May 15, but four months is going to fly by quickly. Let’s make the most of it! - **Larry**

Sabbatical Music

Larry and I have been planning the summer music offerings while Larry is on sabbatical. Music on Sundays will be coordinated and provided by a mix of familiar and new. Anita will be the point person for some Sundays, and guest musician Larry Schipull will provide music on others. Julissa Lee Rodríguez will be joining Rev. Lindsey in leading *Creative Calling Sunday* worships four times over the summer, plus three *Play and Pray* opportunities after worship during which you will have an opportunity to drum and pray in the parking lot with the community. More specifics to come, but know you will be in good hands! – *Rev. Lindsey*

Jazz! April 3 at 10 a.m.



Join us in worship this **Sunday, April 3 at 10 a.m.** for a rollicking good time. **The Hot Cat Jazz Band** plays our hymns, jams with our choir and delights us with their own arrangements of great songs of the church.

Zoom Bible Studies!

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

- April 6 – Luke 19:28-40
- April 13 – John 20:1-18
- April 20 – Acts 5:27-32
- April 27 – John 21:1-19

Happy April Birthday!



11 Janet Burdewik
16 Alberta Montagna

South Church Cares

Easter Dinner

If you would like an Easter dinner contact Betty Jack at (413) 784-3872. Call no later than April 11, 2022, by 5pm. Dinners may be picked up on Saturday, April 16, 2022, between 1:30 and 2:30 pm. If you need your dinner delivered please let Betty know upon placing your order. Deliveries will be done on Saturday, April 16, 2022, between 2pm and 3pm. Enjoy and peace!



Donations from the Heart!

On a recent Thursday morning members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Buckingham Street came to South Church laden with gifts. They wanted to help Maximé and Katiana, the Haitian couple living in the church apartment, with supplies and gifts in anticipation of the birth of their baby. Many thanks are due these wonderful people! And congratulations to Katiana and Maximé, who just welcomed their baby boy into the world!

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

Rev. Lindsey Peterson

Designated Term Minister

Larry Picard

Director of Music Ministries

Jared Spencer

Custodian and Property Manager

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,**

