



# Crossroads

*News from South Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ*

*45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105  
(413) 732-0117 [www.sococh.org](http://www.sococh.org)*

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

## May 2022



April 3 was a big day at South Church, with the jazz band providing the music and a ceremony to award Benevolence grants. While the rays of light may appear to be a trick of photography, they appear to add an extra blessing to the day.

## From the Pastor

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Dear South,

We are emerging. The warmer weather is arriving. Flowering trees are blooming. Green shoots are wiggling their strong way up toward the sun, called out of their protective slumbers. Or maybe they were awake all winter underground there, in the cave of beginnings, just in different forms. Along the concrete sidewalks more grass is peeping. Some neighbors have planted rows of tulip bulbs which have popped up looking like soccer teams giving each other high fives. The forsythia is wearing her hair natural and bright; she knows how to live yes to life's emergence. It is Eastertide, the season between Easter and Pentecost.



Eastertide asks: How do I live yes to life's emergence in me, through me, with me?

Eastertide asks: How do you live yes to life's emergence in you, through you, with you?

Eastertide asks: South Church, how do we live yes to life's emergence in us, through us, with us?

We will soon be in a new season at South: Larry will commence his sabbatical, taking time apart from the routines of being South's Music Director, which he has done for 15 years, on May 16th. Anita Cooper, a guest musician also named Larry, and Julissa Lee Rodriguez will be our music leaders while Larry's away. A new person, yet unknown, will be joining the staff at some point soon as a part-time Communications Coordinator and Office Administrator. Kim Figueroa, Natanael Velez and Janice Hills are the Hiring Team in this process.

This week, the last week in April, a group of women have been gathering with me over Zoom for a 7:00 am Writing as Spiritual Practice group. We start with a free write then do a longer writing session on a poem-prompt. After writing, we share some of what we have found in the process. One poem was by Walter Brueggeman, called "Yes."

I share the poem here as a prompt for you in praying through the Eastertide questions. How do we **live yes to God** is the overarching question of the poem. This is also the overarching question for South in this new season.

### **Yes by Walter Brueggeman**

You are the God who is simple, direct, clear with us and for us.

You have committed yourself to us.

You have said

*yes* to us in creation,

*yes* to us in our birth,

*yes* to us in our baptism,

*yes* to us in our awakening this day.

But we are of another kind,  
more accustomed to “perhaps, maybe, we’ll see,”  
left in wonderment and ambiguity.

We live our lives not back to your yes,  
but out of our endless “perhaps.”

So we pray for your mercy this day that we may live yes back to you,  
*yes* with our time,  
*yes* with our money,  
*yes* with our sexuality,  
*yes* with our strength and with our weakness,  
*yes* to our neighbor,  
*yes* and no longer, “perhaps.”

In the name of your enfleshed yes to us,  
even Jesus who is our yes into your future.  
Amen.



South Church, how do we need to change in order to **live yes** to life’s emergence in us, through us, with us, today and into tomorrow? Pray with this poem.

Reflect on the experience of vitality of South and where the energy of life in South actually *is* today, not yesterday. Allow the feelings of where it *should be* fall away. Allow the nostalgia of how it *was* bring its bittersweetness. Allow the feelings of fear, tightness, anxiousness in - they are there because you anticipate the change that is required. You can endure change, survive it, maybe even lead it. Even more so, like Jesus the one who comes through, we can *come through change* into resurrected life.

We are entering into a deeply spiritual season in the life of South. A season of decisions we’d rather not make, conversations we’d rather not have, uncertainties abounding we’d rather not feel. These are all already present and they will be even more so. The changes at South already in process are preparing ground; let us not waste the fertile soil in fear or procrastination but instead choose to deepen into faith in our God who turns the tomb into a womb.

How do we live yes to God?

Hopefully,  
**Rev. Lindsey Peterson**

## From the Moderator

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and are still feeling the joy of the resurrection. Christ is Risen!

Elaine and I watched a Russian Orthodox Easter service online streaming on April 24. Why the different dates? Different calendars are used. Elaine is Czech, not Russian.

April was a busy, wonderful month at South. The In-Care Team delivered 19 Easter plants to the in-care parishioners. The Leadership Circle members distributed 27 Easter dinners. Jazz Sunday/Benevolence Fair and Easter Sunday were all wonderful with excellent attendance.

The only Christian holiday in the month of May is the Feast of our Lady of Fatima, the Angel of Portugal. But, there are two secular holidays in May, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Anna Jarvis is credited for starting Mother's Day in 1908 by sending flowers to her church to honor her mother. It became official in the U.S. in 1914.

May we remember the love and support of our mothers and remember the service and bravery of our military women and men.



Take care! - *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, Rubin 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](mailto:elentino@msn.com)***

## May 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, May 5 at 7 p.m. – Leadership Circle on Zoom
- May 13 & 31 at 10:30 a.m. – South Church Cooks
- Every day except Wednesday – Loaves & Fishes at noon & 5 p.m.

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

**May 1 (Communion/Labyrinth Presentation):** Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

**May 8 (Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home):** Worship at 10 a.m. with Kimberly Figueroa.

**May 15 (Larry's last Sunday before sabbatical):** Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Chuck Morkin.

**May 22:** Worship at 10 a.m. with Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

**May 29 (Memorial Day weekend):** 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?

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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 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 relying only on the generosity of generations past, but engaging in a living, changing ministry for today and tomorrow.



### Happy May Birthday!

20 Shawn Ferrari  
21 Allen Jack  
22 Larry King

22 Marisa Brown-Ludwig  
22 Virginia Robbins  
30 Roland Fenton

## Director of Music

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Last Sunday I stood up and spoke a little bit about what my sabbatical will be about, and I expressed a desire to *go to church every Sunday*. Wait, you say, don't you do that already? Well, I do, but my plan is to go to a *different* church every Sunday. We church musicians live somewhat in our own worlds that unfold at about the same time every Sunday, so we rarely experience worship the way it is done in other churches.

So, in thinking about what taking a sabbatical means, it felt like it should be more than just a time of rest, but also a time to have new experiences. In this case, it feels right to continue doing what I've done every Sunday morning, only in different places. In some cases, I will be traveling and will have the opportunity to experience worship events in those places. At other times I will travel to find a church. Here are just a few of the churches I hope to visit during the next four months:

**Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City:** Did you know that the largest cathedral in the world is only 115 miles from Springfield? It is also the fifth largest church in the world (the largest is St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City). It is the seat of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. You can see a picture of it at [www.stjohndivine.org](http://www.stjohndivine.org). The music and worship offerings vary greatly and the worship atmosphere is extraordinary.

**Old South Church, Boston:** This church broke away from First Church Boston in 1669 because of dissenters who wanted the waters of baptism to be more liberally administered. Coincidentally, the third (and current) meetinghouse was completed in 1875, the same year that the Maple Street building of South Church Springfield was also finished. Excellent music is to be heard at Old South Boston and particularly attractive to me is the Jazz Worship in the chapel on Thursday evenings. [www.OldSouth.org](http://www.OldSouth.org)

**The Church at Convergence:** I hope to fit in a visit to our nation's capital, and it would be an easy trip to this innovative church in Alexandria, VA, which takes creativity and the arts to a new level. I went to their website, [www.vergenow.org](http://www.vergenow.org), and under "about us" I found a section called Values and Beliefs that is unlike any I've seen on any other church website.

**Broadway United Church of Christ, New York City:** This congregation is led by the Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza, who some South members have encountered in one or more workshops that he has led on church revitalization. As you can imagine, being on Broadway in New York City, this church offers music that has a broad appeal. [www.broadwayucc.org](http://www.broadwayucc.org)

**Chatauqua Institution:** I'll be spending an entire week at this haven for the arts, culture, learning and religion and I will have the opportunity to go to church every morning. [www.chq.org](http://www.chq.org)

Of course, there are many churches around the country that I can attend just by turning on my computer on Sunday morning. I hope to have the resources to travel to some of them, though, at least the ones in the northeastern region of the country.

I'll miss you all this summer, and at the same time I know the summer is going to race by and before you and I know it, September will be here and I'll be with you again, hopefully laden with new ideas about how we can make music together. Until then, remember me in your prayers!

- *Larry*

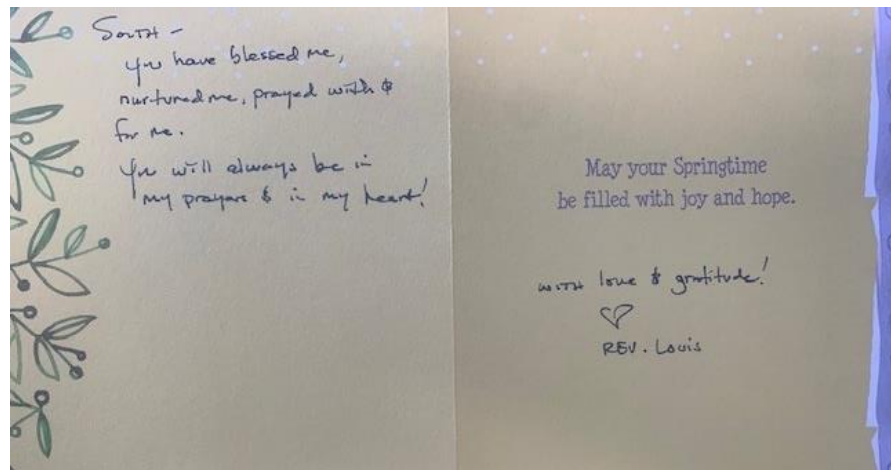
**TWO EVENTS ON MAY 1!** Walk the Labyrinth! There will be a short presentation during worship and then an opportunity to actually walk a portable labyrinth that will be set up in the back of the sanctuary. Then at 3 p.m., Larry Picard and the Fanfare Brass Choir present a concert of music for brass instruments and organ. Free admission!



We are gradually returning to in person encounters, and the South Church Quilting Group celebrated a regathering in March. They meet on Mondays at 4 p.m. Other groups that are returning to our space are the Prayer Shawl Group on Mondays at 10 a.m., and there is even a small handbell choir that is working to play in worship on May 15! Will the warmer weather bring more opportunities for fellowship?

## An Easter Wish from Louis Mitchell...

South Church received an Easter card from Rev. Louis Mitchell, shown below, and, more recently, good news for him was shared on Facebook. He has been called to be the pastor at Rincon Congregational UCC in Tucson, Arizona. You can learn more about this church by logging on to [www.rinconucc.org](http://www.rinconucc.org). Congratulations, Louis!



## 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:

- May 4 – John 10:22-30
- May 11 – John 13:31-35
- May 18 – John 14:23-29
- May 25 – John 17:20-26

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

**Rev. Lindsey Peterson**  
**Larry Picard**  
**Jared Spencer**

Designated Term Minister  
Director of Music Ministries  
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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's issue. Submissions should be sent to Larry Picard at [lpicard@sococh.org](mailto:lpicard@sococh.org) or by post to his attention at the church address.

*South Congregational Church UCC [www.sococh.org](http://www.sococh.org)  
A Jesus-centered, Open & Affirming Community*





## **SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The purpose of the South Church Scholarship Program is to assist members of the church with their undergraduate education, technical training or preparation for the ministry. Grant award decisions will be consistent with the application criteria and committee procedures described below.

### **COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES**

It is required that all colleges or universities be accredited educational institutions granting associate, bachelor, and/or advanced degrees.

### **TECHNICAL TRAINING**

It is required all programs be certified and provide a certificate or license upon graduation.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS—UNDERGRADUATE GRANTS**

1. You or your parents(s) are members of South Church and/or there is a pattern of active involvement in church life.
2. You demonstrate academic potential as evidenced by your most recent transcript.
3. If a freshman, you have been accepted by an accredited institution.
4. If second year or beyond, you are enrolled and will be attending in the fall.
5. You have financial need as indicated on the application form.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS—TECHNICAL TRAINING**

1. You or your parent(s) are members of South Church and/or there is a pattern of active involvement in church life.
2. You are able to provide proof of acceptance with an established start date.
3. You have financial need as indicated on the application form.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS—MINISTERIAL GRANTS**

1. You are a member of South Church.
2. There is a pattern of active involvement in church life.
3. You demonstrate academic potential as evidenced by your most recent transcript.
4. You are enrolled and will be attending in the fall.
5. You have financial need as indicated on the application form.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

ALL APPLICANTS: Get an application from Elaine at 567-6486 or e-mail [elentino@msn.com](mailto:elentino@msn.com). You can also get an application online at the South Church web site, [www.sococh.org](http://www.sococh.org), or in the church Parish Hall. Deadline for completing the application and for returning to the committee chair is May 31. Include a copy of a recent transcript or progress report. Be available in June for a personal interview by phone or in person. Please keep this page for your records. You are responsible for all deadlines. A new application must be completed each year a grant is requested. Checks will be sent to your institution's financial office half in early September, half in January. It is important you provide an accurate address. Send all requested materials or questions to:

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