



No matter where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here!

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 30, 2021

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

"To be a dynamic, welcoming, and caring community of Christian faith by weaving the thread of Christ into the tapestry of our lives."



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Maybe it does not feel like it, or feel like it has felt before, but even though it doesn't feel exactly the same, Easter is coming. And regardless of what happens regarding the pandemic or anything else on this planet, Easter is coming. A virus can't stop that. No government can stop that. Nothing on the earth or anything above can stop it either. We will once again observe the resurrection of our Lord. Perhaps for some of us it will be at home or maybe we will be in person, together again. But no matter where or how, Easter is coming.



So, that being said, even though we are in the middle of Holy Week, I am wondering if we need a little more hope. I wonder if we need a little Easter now. You may not know this, but the 40 Days in Lent do not count Sundays. Why is that? Each Sunday in Lent is supposed to be a "little Easter" of sorts, pointing towards that day of hope.

So, here's what I want each of us to do when you read this: Think of things to look forward to. Think of things you miss. And then think of what it will be like when you actually get to do them again. Maybe it's something as simple and easy as grabbing an ice cream. Maybe it's a big house project you all of a sudden have the time to do. Maybe it's a ministry project you have dreamt about for our church. If you have any of those, I'd love to hear about it!

Like we did with Christmas, let's decorate even more for Easter. Create something that brings hope and joy! Let's collectively let the world know, the community know and everyone who needs to know that hope never dies, that joy comes in morning, Easter morning.

We are people of the resurrection. And before we know it, we're going to get to show the world what that means, because we do it every day in the way we live in light of this gift of life from God. Easter will be here soon...praise God for that.

Blessings,

Pastor Malcolm

Psalm 30:5

“For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime,
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

New Friends and Visitors: If you are interested in exploring joining South Britain Congregational, please reach out to Pastor Malcolm. pastor@southbritainchurch.org

BIBLE STUDIES

Daytime bible study is every Tuesday at 1:00 pm and is open to all, even if you've never been before. We will meet in person in the Gathering Room beginning March 30th, and Pastor Malcolm will send a Zoom link for those still wanting to participate in that manner. **Evening** bible study will be held the second and fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm, also in the Gathering Room. Pastor will also send a zoom link for that session for those who wish to participate in that manner. The next evening session will be April 8th. Please contact Pastor Malcolm if you wish to join either group.

**The Parish has reopened for use of facilities.
Please check with your committee or group
to confirm.**

Maundy Thursday-April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday, Covenant Thursday, Great and Holy Thursday (also Holy and Great Thursday), Sheer Thursday, and Thursday of Mysteries, among other names) is **the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter**. It commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the canonical gospels. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, preceded by Holy Wednesday (Spy Wednesday) and followed by Good Friday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word mandatum, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words "I give you a new commandment." The day comes always between March 19 and April 22, inclusive, and will vary according to whether the Gregorian calendar or the Julian calendar is used. Eastern churches generally use the Julian system. Maundy Thursday initiates the Easter Triduum, the period which commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus; this period includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday and ends on the evening of Easter. The Mass of the Lord's Supper or service of worship is normally celebrated in the evening, when Friday begins according to Jewish tradition, as the Last Supper was held on the feast of Passover, according to the three Synoptic Gospels.

Holy Week

(Please remember to call the church to register for all in-person services)

Maundy Thursday services will be held Thursday, April 1st, online only. The recording will be emailed as usual and can also be accessed on the church website.

Good Friday April 2nd. We regret the Meetinghouse will not be open as in years past due to Covid restrictions.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Services 8 a.m. April 4th. Join us at Bent of the River. (see below)

Easter Sunday Services 10 a.m. April 4th. Worship in the Meetinghouse with Wayne Gunther, June Bennett, and Ann Ferraro performing beloved Easter hymns.

Easter Sunday April 4th. There will be the **Flowering of the Cross and Heart**, to celebrate leaving the sadness of the crucifixion to the Joy of the resurrection and Jesus' unending Love. Flowers will be left on the church steps after the 10 o'clock service for those who are unable to attend services.



Join us at Bent of the River for our "sunrise" service featuring beautiful guitar music played by Jacob Krauss, a young artist and music scholar from Amawalk, NY.

Please call the church office to reserve your place.

APPLE FESTIVAL

While it is still a long way off, preparations are already underway for this year's Apple Festival, to take place on September 25.

Here are some opportunities to get involved!

ASSISTANT Exhibitors Chair: We are looking for somebody to assist the chair with the following: planning the exhibitors' areas and coordinating with Property/Set-up, coordinating communications with Exhibitors, and supervising arrival, set-up and break down of the Exhibitor areas with a team of volunteers. The process of securing Exhibitors is going on now and is well underway. It is hoped that the Assistant Exhibitors Chair will take over the chair position next year with assistance from the prior chair.

Flower Arrangement Competition Chair: Use your creativity to help conceive and implement a new revenue-generating event for Apple Festival! Secure participants to create and donate arrangements for display in a designated area or as an extension of pick-a-prize. Arrange for the sale of tickets, perhaps in conjunction with pick-a-prize, to be used as votes. **This would be an easy, fun area for somebody who would like to try chairing for the first time.**

COVID-19 Implementation Chair: Work closely with Festival Director to ensure that all COVID-19 guidelines are followed. Along with the Festival Chair, become knowledgeable about the sector guidelines and requirements for all areas of the festival (these will be provided). Supervise dedicated team of volunteers on the day of the Festival. Coordinate signage placement throughout festival areas to communicate requirements and to direct foot traffic flow as part of festival set-up. Help inventory cleaning and sanitizing products and distribute to all areas on the morning of festival. Help to ensure all volunteers who are not already trained participate in the education and training presentation (already created). **This job will generally consist of implementing a program that was designed last year, along with the Festival Chair. While not difficult, we cannot have our festival without this position in place!**

THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY



"Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice." (Psalm 105:3)

Bambi Engelman

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 31:24

STEWARDSHIP

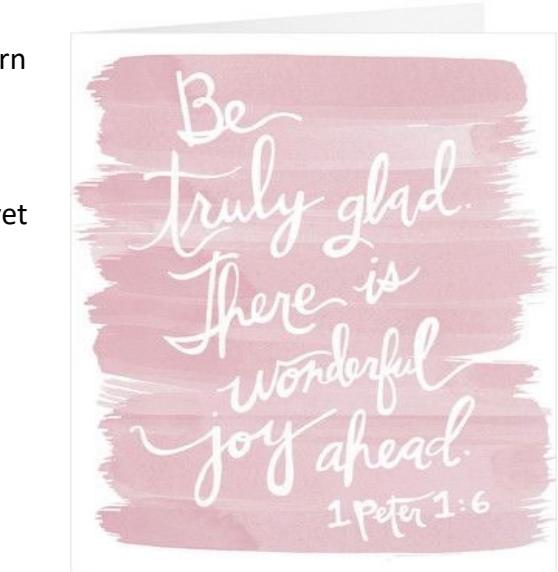
We have come full circle from Joy to gratitude to Joy again through our pledge campaign journey. And just in time, as we turn to preparing to celebrate the ultimate Joy of the resurrection!

We are about half-way toward our pledge goal. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please consider doing so. You can enter your pledge in One Church; submit it via email to our Financial Secretary at Ihornbecker@aol.com or by mailing in your pledge card.

We invite you to experience the Joy that comes from *mindful* generosity. This leads us to conclude our campaign as we began, with Paul's words to the Corinthians:

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a joyful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7



-Your Stewardship Committee

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

-YOUR FAITHFUL ONA COMMITTEE



DEACONS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON [SBCC's WEBSITE HOME PAGE](#) AND HARD COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS ARE PERSONS ACTIVELY AFFILIATED WITH THE SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WHO WILL BE ATTENDING COLLEGE, TECHNICAL SCHOOL OR ARE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CAREER ENHANCEMENT OR FOR CAREER CHANGE. PERSONAL OR FAMILY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021. AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY MAY 16, 2021.

OUTREACH



The **April Outreach Offering** will benefit **HomeFront**, a one-day effort to make a neighbor's home safe, warm and dry. This year's event is scheduled for June 5. Drawn from various local congregations, the Southbury HomeFront Team is a mix of amateurs and professionals who volunteer their time and talents to provide free repairs to a homeowner who lacks the means to complete the work themselves. Team captains are currently reviewing applications for a suitable project in Southbury or a nearby town. This year, to provide a Covid-safe environment, volunteers will complete outdoor tasks only, such as carpentry, painting, and yard work. Our congregation's gift will help fund the cost of supplies. Sign-up sheets will be available soon for those who would like to lend a hand on HomeFront Day.

We are eager to work on a house that is local. If you are in financial need and require outside work on your home such as painting, repairing woodwork, replacing windows etc. Homefront welcomes you to fill out an application. See link below.

<http://www.homefrontprogram.org/drupal7/sites/default/files/2021-homeowner-application.pdf>



Thanks to all who contributed to provide these 25 Walmart gift cards for our friends in Waterbury.

In addition to the 325 cans of soup we donated to the Southbury Food Bank in February, we gave a monetary donation of \$300!



Jodi Mitchell, Chris Dreton, Jeannie Mitchell, Char Moll, Lynn Plourde, Jean Dunn, JoAnn Bolin, and Cathy Somers



Friends Working Together Can-Do Wonderful Things!

Thank you to all our March **Sandwich Brigade** volunteers: **June, Tracy, Krista, Jeannie, Jean, Lynn, JoAnn, Cathy and Lainie**, and a special thanks to Lainie, our wonderful delivery person. Our "at home" brigade is working so well and getting better with each passing month. We already have 3 volunteers lined up for April and would love to hear from 7 more people who would like to help. Supply bags will be ready for pickup in the Gathering Room on Tuesday, April 13 from 12-2 and Wednesday, April 14, 10-2. Completed sandwiches need to be returned in the supply bag by Thursday, April 15, 12 Noon. If you return them on Wednesday, please leave them in the kitchen refrigerator. Everything is supplied except for the sandwich wrap. If you have any questions or would like to sign up as a volunteer - please call or email Chris Dreton (203-405-1052, holly422@gmail.com).



FLOWER COMMITTEE



Thank you to those who donated flowers for the Easter altar. You are free to take yours home after the 10:00 am service if you wish to. Any that remain will be delivered by the Deacons to our homebound parishioners.

If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for a weekly service, please call the church office at 203-264-5890 and let Nancy know which week and what you would like to put in the bulletin. Flowers can be from your garden, picked on the side of the road, from a grocery store or from a florist. The only 'rule'? They

have to be in place by 10:00 am Sunday morning!

FAITH FORMATION

Growing your garden pizza. We have our garden plot at Settlers Park again for 2021. Soon we will be preparing the plot and planting a variety of veggies. Last summer we grew tomatoes, peppers, onions, leeks, cucumbers, and squash along with rhubarb. All produce goes to the Southbury Food Bank. A schedule for watering and weeding will be set up. If you are interested in participating and helping our garden grow, please contact Amy Smith or Krista Judson. Stay tune for starting date.



FLOWERING OF THE CROSS AND HEART

On Easter Sunday we will be placing fresh flowers in a heart and cross at the end of each service. The heart will be hung on the church door and the cross placed on the front step. A vase with flowers will be left there for those who would like to drive by later in the day and place in your own flower.

Looking for clean, small, and medium clay flowerpots for an April/May faith formation project. Pots can be left on labeled table in the parish hall Monday through Friday 10-2, or you can contact Krista @203 231-4176. Will pick up if you are unable to drop off.

Following the Footsteps of Jesus from Poems and Prayers for Children

Lord, open our eyes,
That we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears,
That we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold,
The frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts,
That we love each other
As You love us.

Renew in us Your spirit,
Lord, free us and make us one.

Mother Teresa

Lord, grant me a simple,
Kind, open, believing,
Loving, and generous heart,
worthy of being Your dwelling place.

John Sergieff

Blessings,

Krista and the faith formation team

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The church office is open from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Pine Meadow Gardens is planning to do their work during the third week of April. They will be planting Eleven 6/7' Arborvitae evergreen trees, one 5/6' Norway Spruce and one Rhododendron. They will also expand some of the planting bed outward and transplant

four or five existing shrubs into that area.

To prepare for that work, Bob's Tree Service is presently removing all the existing maple trees along the property line between the planting bed and the Old Methodist Church. Most of these trees were compromised in some way and did not have a promising future. This will allow for much needed sunlight for the new plantings. This portion of the project is being funded through the Bassett Minor Maintenance Fund.

Holly Bucciarelli, the owner of the Old Methodist Church, has provided us with a source of water for the new plantings. I am hoping that we can set up a schedule of volunteers to carry that out without over-burdening any one person.

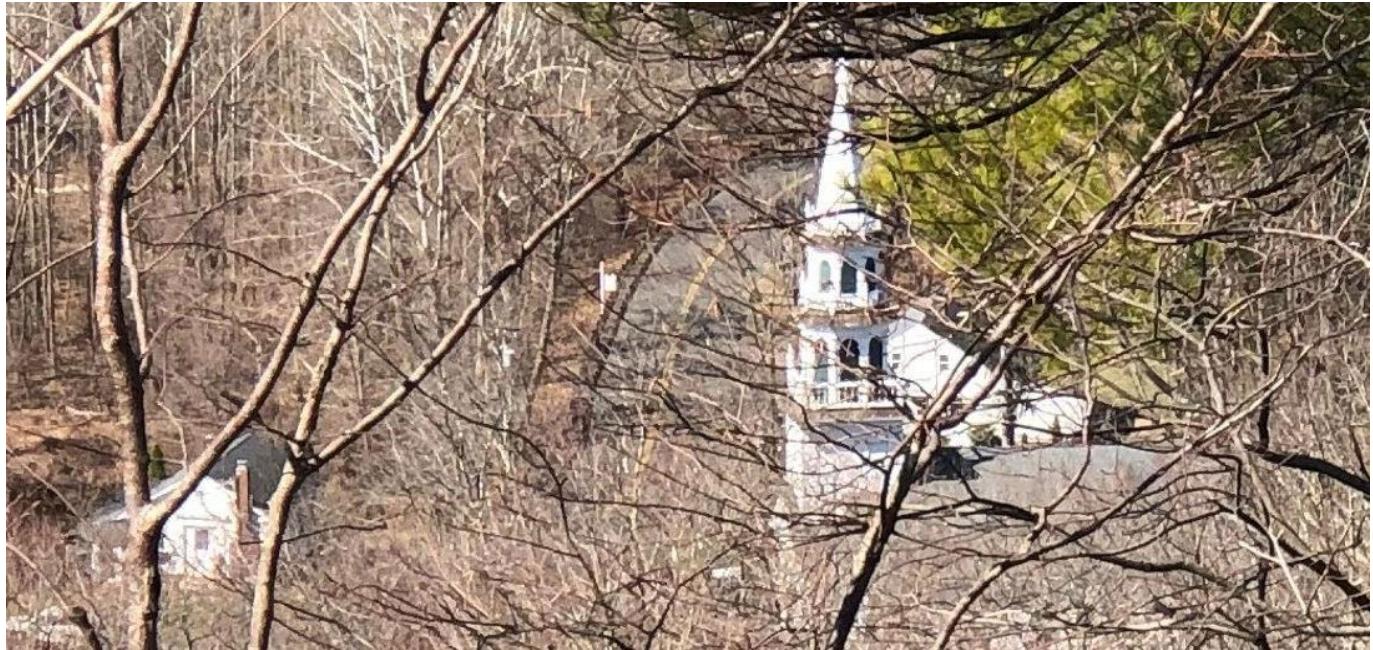
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Praying for continued recovery of Eileen
- David, Bert, and Albin
- Prayers for Nancy
- Darlene
- Thinking of Tatyana & Baby Ahlani
- Krista's nephew Joseph
- Krista's son John
- The Bolin's daughter's friend Bob
- Linda Long's niece, Cathy
- Chris' friends David and Ann
- Lillian G.
- Prayers for Jennifer's parents Caroline & Joe
- Prayers for Asian people who have been mistreated in our country.
- For all frontline workers, medical personnel, firefighters, police
- And those serving our country in the armed forces.
- All those going for medical procedures.
- For all those suffering with the effects of covid-19 either directly, indirectly, family, friends, or neighbors
- George S.
- Bob's Family
- Jean D.
- Marti is a Great Grandmother
- Laurie's grandson, Declan
- Continued prayers for Jerry Crain
- Prayers for all those who are victims of violence.
- Lissa Pine's grandbaby

We are trying very hard to include everyone in need of our thoughts, and prayers, yet sometimes an omission occurs. We are sorry if this happens and will modify, resend, or include in the next publication. Please keep us updated as our intent is genuine.

Blessings Joe Simpson

FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Thanks Amy S. for the picture.

Some kind comments from Sunday.

- I just wanted to say thank you all for the help in all the steps to get us to this morning and with the service. Each of you made it happen and It took a village. It went wonderfully and people were excited and encouraged and not importantly God was praised in and through it all.

Good Holy Week to you and yours.

Blessings and gratitude,
Pastor Malcolm

- Indeed, there was a lot of energy! What a great start to Holy Week.

Ed Naylor

- Most Importantly God was praised!!!

Blessing,
Pastor Malcolm

- It was our pleasure to sing this morning. My intention to blast the last verse of The Palms was thwarted by an unexpected surge of emotion that came over me between verses. Just to be standing in the church again with everyone, listening to Wayne play live and enjoying this special day, choked me up.

Much Love and Peace,
Laura Bennett

- Thank you. A beautiful service in a beautiful sanctuary. A pleasure to provide music and I look forward to when the congregation can join in.

With gratitude,
June Bennett

- It was great to be back! Lovely service and obviously enjoyed by all! Thank you for all you have done to make this difficult time less difficult!

Marti Swift

DAYDREAMING WHEN THE EBB AND FLOW OF GOD'S CHURCH
WILL RETURN TO REAL SMILES REVEALED AND SMALL TOUCHES
ARE MORE FREQUENT WITH PALPABLE ENCOURAGEMENT.

Daydream I

Starting with the clanging of pots and pans and dishes.
And a chorus of easy banter and instruction
From the preparers and servers,
While the buzz in the gathering room around tables rises in forte,
All anxiously looking for Pastor and signaling prayer.
And finally, all moving like an ocean of lemmings.
All challenged by the many aromas and eyes anticipating--
The joyful giving will be more than the need.

Daydream II

Peace and quiet in the church settle the mind,
When in flow with the Good Shepherd.
Praise first for God's Being and Christ's Gift
Confession -- caught daydreaming nature and world.
Intersession with prayer and asking forgiveness.
Inquiring for Jesus' face and God's strength.
Music lifted grit and God's pentimento into
Richly cherished blossoms from Holy Spirit, and
Joy in the giving moves to the hope of God's Grace.

-Carlton Dunn

Bulletin Board

If you would like to submit an article, birthday, anniversary, prayer request for the Parishioners Post please send us an email along with pictures to sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

Occasionally you will see words that are dark blue and underlined. The significance is either an email address, a link to a video, audio, etc.... Please while pressing the CONTROL button, click with your mouse. ENJOY

NOTE:

If you know someone that is missing out on the Parishioners Post because they do not have access to email, please drop a note to Nancy so we might include them in our mailing. sbcc.secretary@yahoo.com

• **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

Please wish them a very "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" (we are using a new database for Birthdays, Anniversaries. If there are errors or omissions please contact. sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

Deb Morehouse	1	Andrew Beard	24
Emily Hein	12	Sal Graziano	24
Fay DeForest	13	Luke Naylor	24
Christopher Lewis	14	Emmett Mitchell	26
Allison Mitchell	16	Marti Swift	29
Ralph Kubista	17	Ann Lowell	30
Audrey Sharpe	18	Cathy Schade	30
Dean Moll	19		
Eileen Major	20		
Christopher Potz	20		
Christine Dreton	22		
Dennis Jedlinsky	22		

The Parish has reopened for Use of facilities. Please check with your committee or group to confirm.



Our SBCC Library wish list for books/media is being worked on and we need your suggestions! Do you have a favorite book or DVD you would like to see in our church library? Also, we'd love to hear your ideas for special events sponsored by your library. Please call or email Chris Dreton with any ideas/suggestions/questions: 203-405-1052 or holly422@gmail.com

Help us make this a library you would like to visit and spend time in.

Some Guidelines from CDC

