

The Parishioner's Post

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."

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
693 SOUTH BRITAIN RD.
SOUTHBURY, CT 06488

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. -Acts 1:8



Easter greetings!

Dear Family in Christ,

Over the last 10 weeks, our bible study has been focusing on God's Presence, God's Purpose and God's Power in our lives. We have been studying how these three aspects of God affect our personal lives and the life of the church as we understand how to become more of a blessed church.

We understand that we have been a blessing to many for generations and now we are seeking how to bring God's presence, purpose and power into all our decisions so that future generations continue to be blessed.

It's been a wonderful study to-

gether and we've learned a lot about ourselves and God's call in our lives. Bible study has enriched our learning and understanding how God's word impacts our lives.

The church council under the leadership of Carl Dunn, has committed to reading and discussing more about how to *Become a Blessed Church* -N. Standish, as leaders and in how we discern God's will in our church.

N. Standish writes,

"The important thing I learned from Rick Warren's A Purpose Driven Church, Saddleback Valley Community Church, is not how to build a church of 5,000... What I learned is when we respond to God's purpose and rely



on God's presence, the Spirit's power flows through everything we do."

To become a blessed church, a congregation must become a place that is open to the Holy Spirit; but to do so means understanding the nature of the Holy Spirit...as one of the three persons of the Trinity (especially in mainline Protestant churches)." (p.111 *Becoming a Blessed Church*)

(cont.)

(Cont.)

Questions to ponder:

1. To what extent do you sense that our church is truly open to God's power?
2. To what extent do you think our church is willing to experience the power of the Holy Spirit?"

I believe as we tune more into the Holy Spirit, we will see some powerful changes in the year ahead as we endeavor to be a blessing to others. As we discern through the eyes and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and spend time in prayer at our meetings, I believe God will open our eyes and hearts to new, powerful and meaningful ways for this community.

Today, be blessed and give a blessing!

Pastor Donna

BIBLE STUDIES

- Daytime Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 9:30 in the Bassett Room.
- Our next Loss and Grief Group: Wednesday, May 10, 11:00 a.m.

LECTIONARY READINGS - May 2023

May 7: Acts 7: 55-60; Ps. 31: 1-5, 15-16; 1 Pet. 3:13-22; John 14: 15-21

May 14: Acts 17: 22-31; Ps. 66: 8-20; 1 Pet. 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21

May 21: Acts 1: 6-14; Ps. 68: 1-10, 32-35; 1 Pet. 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11;
John 17: 1-11

May 28: Pentecost Sunday; Acts 2: 1-21; Ps. 104: 24-34, 35b;
1 Cor. 12: 3b - 13; John 20: 19-23

DEACONS

- You will notice additions to our Sunday service.

A Passing of Peace was initiated last Sunday and will continue as time permits.

We will place blank name tags in the Narthex to be filled out for our guests.

- Our last Church Directory was published in 2015 and an updated one is long overdue.
We are planning to take pictures, update directory, publish in the near future.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

The ONA team is proposing changes to our current by-laws to reflect our new Open and Affirming status for our Annual Meeting on June 4, 2023. The changes being proposed are as follows:

Under Name and affiliation add: This church is open and affirming by vote on October 16, 2022

Add article 1A – The ONA Covenant

Preamble - add: To affirm “ALL” God’s children

Preamble - add to statement: To honor and respect the beauty of God’s world and people



Excerpt From Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation April 14, 2023

Seeing and Recognizing Are Not the Same

Christ is the light that allows people to see things in their fullness. The precise and intended effect of such a light is to see Christ everywhere else. In fact, that is my only definition of a true Christian. A mature Christian sees Christ in everything and everyone else. That is a definition that will never fail us, always demand more of us, and give us no reason to fight, exclude, or reject anyone.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *[The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe](#)* (New York: Convergent, 2021), 29–30, 33.

Judy Grimes, Francesca Sergi, Joe Simpson, Cathy Somers

OUTREACH

April was a very busy month for Outreach. Our pop-up boutique was a huge success and not only are many of us sporting new wardrobes, so are members of the community who dropped in during the week to shop. We were able to raise \$686, which will be split between Carolyn's Place and adding stock to our little free pantries. The remaining men's clothing will be saved and donated to St. Vincent DePaul in our annual June collection of men's t-shirts, socks and underwear. The women's clothing will be donated between Safe Haven, the Training School and the Veterans.

With lots of help from the congregation, we provided 440 sandwiches to the Soup Kitchen in Waterbury, raised \$300 for the Homefront project, and donated water and soda to them.

May will be our annual collection of diapers and money for GWIM. Women with children in the shelter are always in need of diapers in all sizes. If you choose to make a cash/check donation, make sure to label the envelope that it is designated for Outreach - thank you!

Char Moll, Jean Mitchell, JoAnn Bolin, Lillian Groody, Lynn Plourde, Pam Hein, Cathy Somers (chair)



LIBRARY

The SBCC Church Library will be hosting Fellowship Hour after church on Sunday, May 28. Join us upstairs in the Gathering Room for coffee and snacks and if you can, take a moment to drop into the Library and take a look around. We have so much to offer - fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, games, Chromebook for your use, coffee and most times the candy jar is filled! See you on May 28!

Cathy Somers and Chris Dreton

FAITH FORMATION

The kids have been making drawings to put on greeting cards for the residents of the Watermark. Krista printed some and they look great. The designs include: Get Well Soon, Happy Birthday, Congratulations, and Thinking of You.

(Cont.)

(Cont,)



The kids made cookies for GWIM this month.



- Saturday, May 6th, is our first garden work day for our plot; planting will be in mid-May.
- Everyone is invited to attend Emily O'Meara's Confirmation on Sunday, May 21st, at 9:30 at UCC. We will all celebrate together at our Fellowship Hour later that morning with cake and the laying of hands by Pastor Donna.
- Sunday School will be on the 14th and the 28th of May.

THE SBCC GARDEN RETURNS

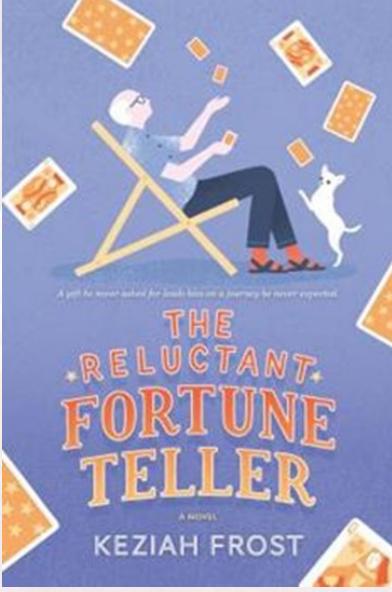
We will be planting our garden again in May. Our crop this year will be cucumbers, squash, zucchini, peppers and tomatoes. Preparation of the garden will be happening in between the raindrops, of which we have had many. The garden has been a success over the past years as many hands have helped with planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. If you are looking and able to help out with watering, weeding or helping out with a donation that would be wonderful.

Please contact Krista Judson. I would like to set up a weekly schedule. I want to thank Chris Dreton for her tomato donation.

-Blessings Krista



BOOK CLUB

- For our next book, we've chosen a light and quick read with a sweet message. There are a few copies available at our library (even two in large print), as well as through Amazon, or any used online book store such as betterworldbooks.com or thriftbooks.com. Our discussion will be on Wed., June 7th at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome! We'll discuss this book as well as our favorites.
- 
- Norbert Zelenka has always lived life on the sidelines. It's why at seventy-three years old he's broke and alone except for the company of a Chihuahua. But when "Carlotta's Club"—three strong-willed seniors with plenty of time on their hands—decide to make Norbert their latest project, he reluctantly agrees to their scheme: establishing himself as the town's fortune-teller. Soon his life begins changing in unexpected ways.
- It turns out that years of observing other people make Norbert an excellent card reader. As Norbert's lonesome world expands with new friendships and a new found self-confidence, he finally finds himself in a place where he belongs. But disaster looms on the horizon. When a troubled young woman goes missing after a bad reading, Norbert must find a strength beyond the cards to bring her home safely.
- A heartfelt story of coming-of-age late in life, "The Reluctant Fortune-Teller" is a poignant reminder that we're never too old to learn new tricks.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Watch out for the ad that will be in the Heritage Village Bulletin this month:

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL



WORSHIP SERVICES – SUNDAYS, 10 AM
BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAYS, 9:30 AM
LOSS & GRIEF GROUP – MAY 10, 11 AM
KNIT-WITS – TUESDAYS, 10 AM – 12 NOON
SPRING FLING (VENDOR FAIR) – SAT, MAY 6, 10-3 PM
KARAOKE AND PIZZA – FRIDAY, MAY 26, 7-9 PM (FREE)
 No matter where you are on life's journey, **YOU** are welcome here!
693 South Britain Rd • Southbury CT 06488
www.SouthBritainChurch.org • (203) 264-5890

PLEASE support our karaoke activity on May 26 from 7–9 pm. There were a lot of community members who joined us the last time, so it's our golden opportunity to welcome new people and show them that we are a fun-loving, blessed congregation!

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES
COME ON!!!
KARAOKE  PROFESSIONAL DJ
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 7-9 PM
ALL AGES | FREE ADMISSION | FREE FOOD
SOUTH BRITAIN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
693 South Britain Rd (Rt 172) Southbury CT

Use **CROSSWALKS** provided from **PARKING LOT**;
HALL is across from church.



**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

**PIZZA, SNACKS,
BEVERAGES
(no booze)**

MORE INFORMATION: 203-264-5890

Submitted by Lissa Pine, Chair, PR Committee: Gary Tolin, Francesca Sergi,
Krista Judson

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who donated towards gracing our sanctuary with flowers for Easter this year. It was colorful and beautiful. There are plenty of open Sundays on the calendar for you to sign up. Just be sure to let Nancy know what you would like in the bulletin.

Cathy Crowdus, Linda Long, Cathy Somers



MEMORIAL GARDEN

Looking great from all the hard work.

Call Bud Bennett, Krista Judson, Ralph Kubista, Lainie Jedlinsky, Sharon Stiles or the office for information.



SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Awards will be presented in church on Sunday, May 14th.



Committee Members this year are Joan Kubista, Margie Nichols, Barbara Quinn, Judy Pierpont and June Bennett, Chair.

STEWARDSHIP

- * The Stewardship Committee thanks everybody for their attention and participation in this year's formal campaign, "In God We Trust." Special thanks go out to Pastor Donna, Carl Dunn and Nancy Kerley for their support and assistance, and to KathySue Roberts for delivering remarks during week 2 of our campaign.
- * If you have not turned in your pledge for the 2023-24 fiscal year, it is not too late! Pledge forms will be available in the Church office. You can also submit pledges electronically by following this link:

<https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/sbcc/forms/19>

- * We leave you with this: God entrusts us to be good and faithful stewards of all with which we have been blessed. Through our prayers and acts of faith, we in turn place our trust in God. It is through the strength of the trust between us and God, that we can then trust one another. This "circle of trust" is one of the greatest rewards that come from being part of a church family. We are blessed.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" Hebrews 10:24

*Your Stewardship Committee,
Laurie Hornbecker, Amy Smith*



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SBCC's boards and committees are made up of many diverse members who give their time and their talent to the church. Every year prior to the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee looks to fill open positions. Anyone who has an interest in joining a board or committee is invited to reach out to Nominating.

Committees welcome long-time church members as well as those who have recently joined. Friends of the church who are not yet official members may not chair a board or committee but they are otherwise welcome to participate. New eyes, new ideas and new enthusiasm are always appreciated.

If you want to know more about what a board or committee does, please ask. And don't worry if you don't know any of the other members. In fact, joining a committee is a great way to meet people and feel at home in the church.

If you already know where you would like to serve, feel free to let someone on Nominating know. And if Nominating reaches out to you, please consider saying "yes" to giving your time and talent to SBCC. It's so much better when everyone gets involved!

Laura Bennett laemtay1@charter.net

Jean Dunn jdunn463@hotmail.com

Sal Graziano sjgraz88@gmail.com

PERSONNEL

While Jenny is on medical leave, we welcome Richard Carsey and Jorg Offenfuss as our organist/piano players. They will work with Dennis to continue to provide joyful music for our upcoming services.

FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Recently Choir Member Lissa Pine visited Vienna and has graciously shared some of her photos with us.

Statue of Johannes Brahms



Beautiful organ from the Karlskirche (Saint Charles Church) completed in 1739



(Cont.)

Antique mechanical band (automaton) in the Kunsthistorisches Museum and Rock star on the walk of fame



— ● —

Please welcome a familiar face to most of us, Diane Gray, who became a member in April! She has been our guest organist and pianist on many occasions and is a member of our choir.

She lived in Ansonia her whole life, where she was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, until she moved to Southbury two years ago. She was married for 49 years to William Gray, and has been a widow for twelve years. She has two daughters, Karen and Wendy, two grandchildren, Jason and Jessica, and five great grandchildren. We are so glad to have her share herself and her wonderful talents with us at SBCC.



You never know the reach we have.... A Holy Moment

A couple of weeks ago, Nancy asked me to call a gentleman back who had called the church asking about Outreach opportunities, specifically with the Homefront project. I phoned 'Dave' back and he told me that he had brought his Mother to the church when Lifeline Screening was here and afterwards he looked up our website. Exploring our website, he discovered the Knit Wits and wondered if someone in Knit Wits could help him learn how to use his little portable sewing machine so he could hem some of his pants. Two weeks ago, he came on a Tuesday morning with his little sewing machine and his pants. **Eileen Davis** spent a good hour or more with him, guiding him on his little machine and **Krista Judson** took his pants home to hem for him. This is Christian Outreach at its finest. Dave took the information for Homefront and will be volunteering to help on May 20th at the home that is this years' project. One little visit and you never know where it will lead... THIS was a holy moment.

Submitted by Cathy Somers

Another Fun Movie Outing!

SBCC enjoyed another morning at the movies followed by a fun lunch at Paneras on Saturday, April 29. 7 Church members and 4 friends watched the wonderful movie "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret". Watch for future movie outings and lunch. It's such a fun way to get to know your fellow church members better - and to see a good movie!



(Cont.)

LABONNE'S RECEIPTS



- We will continue to collect receipts from LaBonne's Market for their Cash for Charities Program in 2023. If you shop at any of the LaBonne's markets, save your receipts and drop them off in the box in the Gathering Room. If you have friends and neighbors who also shop at LaBonne's, their receipts are just as good. It's cash for the church! We collected close to 1000 receipts in 2022 and I am still working to determine the total dollar amount for the church.

-Ken Bolin

As you can see, the Knit Wits are having way to much fun.

A recent Tuesday morning saw our Knit Wits group enjoying fellowship while working on varied projects. They meet at 10:30 and welcome anyone who would like to attend.



World famous Hungarian Mushroom Soup

YIELD 4 servings

PREP TIME 20 Min

COOK TIME 45 Min

TOTAL TIME 1 H & 5 M

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 cups diced onions
- 1 pound sliced fresh white mushrooms
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill, plus additional for garnish
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon low sodium soy sauce
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté for 5 minutes. Then add the mushrooms and salt, then sauté for 5 minutes.
2. Stir in the dill, paprika, soy sauce and broth. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and cover. Simmer for 15 minutes.
3. Whisk the milk and flour together in a small bowl. Pour into the soup and stir to combine. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. In a bowl, whisk together the sour cream and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup soup broth until smooth.
5. Add the sour cream mixture, black pepper and lemon juice to the soup. Mix together and heat over low for 5 minutes. Do not boil.
6. Stir in fresh parsley and remove from heat.
7. Serve garnished with fresh dill.

NOTES

- We used regular paprika in this recipe instead of Hungarian paprika, since we couldn't find it locally,
- Might consider 2% milk, and Low Fat Sour Cream (felt the whole milk, and higher quality sour cream pulled away the mushroom flavor slightly)
- Use fresh dill, otherwise halve if dried, then add more in the end to adjust flavor.

-Joe Simpson

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Judy S.
Kathy
Matthew
Roberta
Kevin G.
Nora
Joan & Carl.
Denise.
Ginny

Jeanne
Melissa & Paula
Jenny L.
Fred
Marrissa
Karen
Uncle Chuck
David

Prayers for our country.

Prayers for the Congregational Church in Eastford that
burned to the ground on April 22nd.

Ralph K.
Evelyn
Anthony
Baby Kilian
Cheri F.
Steven
Marie S.
Pam B.
Tracy G.

Jillian
Randy
Jake
Maria
Lindsey
Jean
Leslie
Faye D.

BULLETIN BOARD



May		
	Sue Sullivan (Harrison's daughter)	1
	Geoff Beard	3
	Bud Bennett	3
	Pam Hein	3
	Harriett Harrison	4
	Dennis Mitchell	5
	Jeanne Crane-Shepherd	7
	Kaitlin Sullivan (Sue and Kevin's daughter)	10
	Rebecca Beard	11
	Ann Ferraro	14
	Marge Mitchell	14
	Kathleen Blersch	15
	Jacob Hartman	15
	MacKenzie Hartman	17
	Zachary Hartman	17
	Greg Kuehn	17
	Cheri Fickett	18
	Ricardo Cruz	19
	Ed Naylor	19
	Todd Thompson	24
	Micah Locke	25
	Seth Warner (Rick's son, Maggie's brother)	29
	Mark Mitchell	31

CALENDAR

Every Week

Sundays:	Worship, 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesdays:	Knit-Wits, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Fridays:	AA Meeting, 6 - 9 p.m. Dance, 4 - 6 p.m.

Every Month

1st Sunday	Outreach
3 rd Sunday	Deacons (following services)
2nd Tuesday	Finance Committee, 4 - 5 p.m.
1st Wednesday	Faith Formation 5:30p.m.
1st Wednesday	Stewardship 7 p.m.
2nd Wednesday	Loss and Grief, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
3 rd Wednesday	Trustee's Meeting
4th Wednesday	Church Council, 7:00 p.m.
1 st Thursday	Property, 7 p.m.
2 nd Thursday	ONA, 10 a.m.
2 nd Thursday	Public Relations, 5:30 p.m.
1st Friday	Parishioner's Post published.

May 6, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. We're getting ready to welcome spring with our annual craft and vendor fair. We'll host vendors inside the Gathering Hall as well as on the church green. Please invite anyone who may be interested to apply to join our wonderful variety of goods, hand crafted items and unique offerings. The vendor registration link is available on the church website.

South Britain Congregational Church

Spring Fling

CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR
SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

693 SOUTH BRITAIN ROAD
SOUTHBURY CT 06488

SWAG BAG FOR FIRST 50 GUESTS!
SHOP FOR MOM!



For more info contact sbcc.events693@gmail.com



As an additional reminder

- Another fun night is planned for Karaoke in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, May 26th, 7-9 p.m.
- Come out and enjoy some pizza, snacks and beverages and join in the fun. All ages are welcome.



Considerations underway for Men's lunch at Leo's, Maggie's or someplace else. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (majority rules) (May 10, 11 or 12). Please contact me as soon as possible.

-Ken