



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

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

May 11, 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,

"Welcome!"

Welcome is a truly happy word with multiple uses and can be used as many parts of speech. No matter how we use the word, "welcome", it lies at the very heart and essence of who we are as a church.



Why is this so important to us? Well, because we follow the Jesus who welcomed lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors, foreigners, the unclean, the despised, the forgotten, and any and all who were rejected by society. Jesus welcomed everyone without judgment, with unconditional regard, and He lived the spirit of welcome. He did this because He knew that everyone was made in the very image of the living God. That is why **all** people are valued and loved. Because Jesus did this, so do we. That means that, by definition, we are not a closed community. We are the ones called to follow the radically inclusive ministry of Jesus, each of us called to share His spirit of welcome. I am so grateful to everyone who helps to create a welcoming atmosphere in our church, but we need even more of it.

If this is what we aspire to be, then everyday let's try to find ways to reach out to another person in love. Let's reach out with the welcoming spirit of Jesus. As we worship together, let's make it a point to reach out with a welcoming spirit, especially to someone we don't know. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself and connect with them. If you see someone



standing alone, say hello. The first church I went to visit in seminary I didn't know anyone. I sat down after service and had coffee, and not many people came over to greet me. There was one older gentleman who sat down next to me and introduced himself. He had the same first name as me, Malcolm. I, for the life of me, don't remember anything else we talked about, though we talked for a while. But I remember that feeling of connection. That stuck with me and he was one of the reasons I went back to plug into that church.

It feels great when we are greeted with a warm word of welcome. Think how good it will feel to be the one extending that greeting, on behalf of Jesus, Who welcomes everyone, each and every day. Let us really try as a church to embrace and find new ways to incorporate radical welcome as an intrinsic part of who we are as followers of Jesus. I think we will be amazed at how God uses us.

Blessings,

Pastor Malcolm

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

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, 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 May 13th. Please contact Pastor Malcolm if you wish to join either group.

The next **Loom Service** will be **Tuesday, June 8th at 7 p.m.** We are planning to have the **Loom Services on the 2nd Tuesday** each month.

We are now fully open for services. The Parish House has reopened for use of facilities. Please check with your committee or group to confirm.

Apple Festival

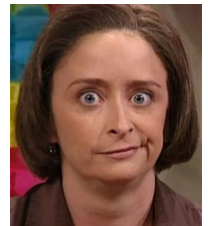


The "Crushing It" Toddler...

Doesn't it seem like this kid is showing up everywhere lately?!?!

The "Crushing It" Toddler knows that it will take a lot of planning, and a lot of help, to put on our annual Apple Festival this year. His look of satisfaction is there because despite all that COVID threw at us, WE DID IT SO WELL LAST YEAR!

While we don't know exactly what our festival will look like this year, we can assume there will be restrictions that will impact our operations, **"and like last year, probably our bottom line... better get ready for a budget deficit..."**



predicted the ominous Debbie Downer in an unsolicited comment last week.

NOTED PESSIMIST

DEBBIE DOWNER

EDITOR'S NOTE: if you don't know Debbie, you can meet her here, if you can stand it:

[Debbie Downer: Disney World - SNL - Bing video](#)

However, Unlike Debbie Downer, "Crushing It" Toddler knows that if we adjust a little, adapt a little, and are willing to try some new things, our festival this year will be as successful (and profitable) as in past years, and hopefully even more so!

If you are willing to lend a hand, your creativity, and want to have some FUN doing it, "Crushing It" Toddler wants to hear from you! You don't even have to know what you want to do...just that you want to CRUSH IT too!

He can be reached at sbcc.applefestival693@gmail.com with ideas, suggestions, or to welcome volunteers who want to help.



STEWARDSHIP

Thank you!!!!

for all the pledges that have been received so far. Your statement of your giving intention is helping our financial leaders plan for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge, there is still time! Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and may be submitted in the office. As always, pledges remain confidential and may be changed at any time by contacting our financial secretary. We invite you to experience the **JOY** that comes from **mindful** generosity as we consider how we will use the treasure with which God has blessed us in the coming year.

Joyfully,
Your Stewardship Committee

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

- "From the inimitable Maya Angelou:" Dr. Maya Angelou: "Be a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud"

Video: <https://youtu.be/IgTFhijrXgQ>

- By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. - Galatians 5:22-23

Due to some technical glitches, you may have noticed that you did not receive the promised survey on May 4th. We are working out the kinks and anticipate that you will receive the survey the week of May 17th. You will have two weeks to respond to the five



questions and we would like to have all responses back by May 31st. Thanks for providing your valuable feedback to the ONA team.

Judy, Francesca, Sue, Cathy, and Joe

OUTREACH

Soups.....Soups.....Soups

Though the weather is improving the need for CREAM Soup or CHOWDERs remains in high demand!


With your help we can meet the need,
Drop off is at the parish house M-F between 10 & 2 pm.
Thank you all for helping to meet a great need!
Lainie

MAY IS DIAPER DRIVE MONTH



Every May, our church family collects and donates diapers to GWIM (Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries). Diapers are always needed and much appreciated. Diapers sizes



3,4,5 are always in demand as well. A table for diaper donation collection will be set up in the Gathering Room through the month of May. If you'd rather send a monetary donation to the church office, please mark it for Outreach "Diapers". Many, many thanks for your generous support as always. 

Outreach – heads up!



The month of June is devoted to men. Father's Day is June 20th this year and Outreach has typically supported men's organizations and needs during June.



This year we will be collecting new, packaged underwear and socks to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul shelter, along with men's toiletries (shaving cream, disposable razors, deodorant, fungal powder, etc.).

A table will be in the gathering room, so if you are out and about, please consider

picking up a few items to provide some dignity to those who need it so very much. I am sure Costco has jumbo packages of everything we need!

Thank You!



HomeFront Day 2021 Details:

Date: **Saturday, June 5** rain or shine

Time: 7:00 AM or as soon as you can arrive

Home Location: **5 Brookbridge Dr., Sandy Hook**

06482 – The house has a green fence, but the house itself is not very visible from the road. Look for the

HomeFront sign. **Park along Fairview Dr. &**

Brookbridge Dr. There will be signs from the Sacred Heart Church intersection to the home. For

volunteers 14-17, there is a **"Young Adult Waiver of Liability"** form that needs to be filled out by a

parent/guardian, and you can sign and bring it with you that day. There will be no planning meeting this

year. **Signup sheets and Waivers are available in the**

church office or by email homefrontsofia@gmail.com. Please **RSVP by Sunday, May**

16, 2021, either by the sign-up sheet or email. **This is a change in date** from previous notices, as response has been very limited thus far. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED, AS**





SIGN-UPS HAVE BEEN VERY SLOW. Thank you for your service.

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

CHURCH LIBRARY



Progress continues on our library and with some rainy, cool days last week it was nice to be down there next to a “roaring” fire that warmed the whole room. Have you seen it? Be sure to stop in and see what’s going on, maybe sit for a bit with a book and just relax. More news coming - along with the opportunity for our members to add their personal touch to this special place. Stay tuned!



FLOWER COMMITTEE



Now that we are meeting in-person in the sanctuary, flowers play such an important role in beautifying our service. Please call Nancy in the office (203) 264-5890 if you want to provide flowers for an upcoming service. She can let you know what dates are available and you can let her know what you’d like in the bulletin.

FAITH FORMATION

Every year we celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. A day set aside to show our gratitude and love to our mothers.

As I was cutting the grass today, I remembered something I did as a child not just on Mother's Day. I looked at the lawn and saw some real treasures and began picking them. There were wild violets, buttercups, dandelions, lily of the valley, purple daisy flower and a stem of lilac. Oh, and I can't forget the "seeded" dandelion head. I went into the house and got a jelly/juice glass and put them all in water. I could just picture my mom smiling as I gave them to her. We would take the seeded head and blow on it and make a wish. What a wonderful gift that was as a child many times over. As a mom I received many of those bouquets, sometimes with a card signed "Love, Your Son John. He still signs his cards this way today. Miss those wildflower bouquets.



Happy Mother's Day. May God bless and protect all mothers. Give them your strength and guidance. Bless all mothers, moms, and mommies throughout the world.

Blessings, Ms. Krista

A Child's Prayer

Dear Lord,

Please watch over my mother.

She is so loving and gives so much.

*I think sometimes she is afraid
that I don't love her as much as she loves me.*

*Please help me show her how much
she means to me.*

I love her very much, God.

Thank you for my mom.

Amen.



We continue to prepare our garden plot at the Community Garden at Settler's park. We could really use:

1. **Help** planting as well as ongoing maintenance and harvesting (If you would like to lend a hand for a day, a week, or multiple weeks, please contact Krista or Amy. **Next step is planting our garden, May 22nd at 10am at Settlers park. A garden grows with tender loving care and hands.**
2. **Donations** to defray the cost of soil amendments and plants. Donations may be submitted in the church office (marked "Community Garden"), or online at [Online Giving – South Britain Congregational Church \(southbritainchurch.org\)](https://southbritainchurch.org) by selecting "Community Garden". Many thanks for all the support we have received for this important project!



Well on our way. Cathy Schade, Amy Smith, Anna Lowell, and Krista

PROPERTY

- Parking lot repair is being budgeted and repaired. We have met with a paving company to repair (replace) the catch basins as well as repave the parking lot.
- The carpets were cleaned on Friday, April 30th.

- How do you like our new Bollard Covers in front of the Parish House?

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

The Personnel Committee will be conducting annual conversations with the church staff over the coming weeks to ensure that their needs as well as the needs of the church are being met. This is one of the important roles that the Personnel Committee plays in the life of the church.

One Church Steering Committee

If you have not connected with our Member Portal powered by One Church, let us know by phone call, email, or text. You can contact me directly. We encourage everyone to go into their profile and update their basic information. Also, let's all strive to at least update our birth day and month. Also schedule a time with the church office to take your picture so we can update the church directory.

Carl Dunn

203-464-4457


carletondunn@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

- We are hosting the **Litchfield South Association Meeting on Tuesday, May 18, @ 7 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.

- Notice is hereby given of the **Annual Meeting** of South Britain Congregational Church, following worship **Sunday, June 6th at 11 a.m.** Zoom meeting information to follow. Annual reports are due **Wednesday, May 12th.**

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- The next **Loom Service** will be **Tuesday, June 8th at 7 p.m.** We are planning to have the **Loom Services on the 2nd Tuesday** each month.
 - **SAVE THE DATE: June 13th @ 1 p.m., Pastor Malcolm's Installation.** More details to follow.

INSPIRATION FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Many thanks to all those who called, brought food, sent cards and gifts, lent invalid apparatus, and said prayers while Carl and I were laid up with our assorted ailments. We are both on the mend and hugely appreciative of our church family.
-Jean Dunn
- Thanks to all those who helped during these trying times providing support and meals to the Humiston's and Simpson's. Marge fell on 5/2 and is currently at the Lutheran Home rehabilitating, while Judy was hospitalized at Danbury Hospital 4/30, released on 5/4, and hospitalized 5/09 at Bridgeport Hospital, and progressing after surgery 5/10, and hopefully released 5/12.
-Joe Simpson, and Hugh Humiston

TEAMWORK

Coming together is a BLESSING
Keeping together is PROGRESS
Working together is SUCCESS!

Author Unknown

-submitted by Bambi Engelman



Newsy Nuggets

Abigail Locke, daughter of James and Sara Locke, was noted in this May 5th article which appeared in Voices:

NVCC Student Presents at Psychology Conference

WATERBURY — Abigail Locke, a second-year student at Naugatuck Valley Community College, presented at the annual Eastern Psychological Association conference. This competitive conference provides an opportunity for scholars, practitioners, and students of psychology to share research and ideas that foster the development of the field.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 meeting of the EPA was held virtually on March 5-6, and it continued the tradition of offering innovative developments in psychological science, application, and teaching in the form of exciting lectures, symposia, and posters. Ms. Locke's poster featured a study she had done in NVCC's two-sequenced Mentored Research Experience courses last year with Dr. Kim O'Donnell. Her study, Physical Disability, and the Presentation of Anxiety, was designed to determine the relationship between physical disability and each of the cognitive-behavior model of anxiety's symptom clusters.

According to Dr. O'Donnell, this sequence of two courses prepares students to participate in conferences like the EPA.

Starting in September, students generate an idea for a research project and spend the fall semester developing specific hypotheses and a detailed plan for data collection.

In the spring semester, they submit their proposal to the college's Institutional Review Board committee and then collect, analyze, and form conclusions about their data.

The course gives students a great amount of intellectual freedom while also providing



significant mentoring and other support.

Professor O'Donnell explained that in addition to the mentoring she provides, "students learn to work as a research team, supporting and helping each other as they learn new skills. In fact, they develop high level academic skills, on par with what many will be asked to do at the end of a four-year degree.

"By the end of the course, students understand how to develop a research question in response to existing literature, how to develop valid data collection methods, how to analyze data using inferential statistics, and how to write up the results and conclusions." The course will be offered again this fall, followed in spring 2022 with RES 112.

Professor O'Donnell elaborated: "I've known Abbi through several courses at the college and she consistently performs at the highest level. However, her academic engagement and performance last year was particularly noteworthy because of the Covid-related disruption that occurred halfway through the spring 2020 semester.

"The move to online learning challenged everyone, but the shift impacted this research course in the middle of our data collection and that meant students had to function much more independently while learning and executing data analysis.

"Despite these extra challenges, Abbi completed all the work with extreme competence and immediately committed to applying to present at the conference when I sent the Call for Proposals to students during the fall 2020 semester. She developed a poster using the conference's guidelines, and then went beyond the minimum requirement and offered a live question and answer session during the virtual conference."

Abbi described the impact of the research courses on her academic and professional goals. "My experience in the Mentored Research classes substantially changed my career and educational goals.

"Before I started, I was afraid of conducting scientific research. Now I want to work towards getting a Ph.D. in psychology to perform psychology research!

"I am fascinated by the intersection between the physical and psychological, and my experience in this class with Professor O'Donnell allowed that interest to blossom and begin to produce fruit.

"The conference itself was amazing. I attended multiple lectures by such established researchers that made me feel like I was standing among giants! Viewing other posters was fascinating as well."


Article from "Voices" submitted by Audrey Sharpe



Submitted by Francesca Sergi

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Judy
- Rob Mitchell
- Marge
- Sue Naylor
- Eva H.
- Rutledge Family
- Jerry Crane
- Robert
- Nancy G.
- Darlene
- Jean D.
- Jim D.
- Rev. Peter Meister
- Lillian G.
- George S.
- Dean T.
- Nancy M.
- Dave
- David
- Bob's Family
- Caroline
- Joseph
- Continued prayers for Eileen
- Chad
- Bert
- Cathy
- All those serving this country in the armed forces and all veterans.
- All those suffering with the effects of Covid-19, directly, indirectly, family, friends, all frontline workers, medical personnel, firefighters, & police.

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- Prayers for all victims of violence.
 - All those going in for medical procedures.
 - Prayers for those who have lost loved ones.

Please help keep us informed of any changes to the prayer list. We are trying extremely 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. After one month on the list, we will remove names, but are happy to keep any on the list longer, just please let our church office know.

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

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS, and ANNIVERSARIES:

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

MAY:

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Don & Sue Torrey will be celebrating 31 years on May 19th



SBCC Knit Wits: Do you knit, crochet, needlepoint or want to learn, why not come, and join us on Tuesday mornings 10 to 12 in the gathering room. Come for coffee and conversation. Bring a friend.

Bodymind Ballwork workshops

with instructor Megan Boyd



Using a variety of different sized balls, learn how to relax and restore your body through guided self-massage to promote the release of bound muscles, increase circulation, and ignite a sense of tranquility through deep breathing and softening of your mental state.

June 7 and 21 at 5:00 pm

Donation: \$5.00


All proceeds go directly to the South Britain Congregational Church for use of space.

Space is limited.

Pre-registration required.

Register Here: <https://www.mbdancetheater.com/other-virtual-dance-options>

Submitted by Krista



In Coordination with National Prevention Week 2021

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 101

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
5:30-8:30PM
ON ZOOM

Participants will
receive a \$20 Panera
Bread e-gift card!

**Join us to learn about important substance misuse and
mental health issues including:**

- Addiction as a brain disease, the importance of prevention, recent substance use trends
- Mental illness and other behavioral health disorders defined, impact of mental illness, stigma
- Problem gambling defined, emerging trends and prevalence

Plus:

- How to identify and respond to signs and symptoms of problematic substance use, problematic gambling, and other mental health concerns
- Resources to support those who are experiencing behavioral health issues, how to get help and where

RSVP HERE



#PreventionHappensHereCT


WESTERN CT COALITION
promoting best practices in prevention and behavioral health



Questions? Contact Kathy Hanley at khanley@wctcoalition.org