

# 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**

*So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. - John 5:19-21*



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new church school year and the many opportunities to serve God throughout the year, this verse reminds us that we are able to do even more than Jesus did when the Son gives life to whomever he wants. God has chosen to give us life and now we must be faithful to that life given to us.

The fall activities line up with many activities and opportunities in the life of the church to serve God in new ways. I want to hear from you in October. What are your disappointments? Once we can recognize and heal the losses of the last 3 years, then we can move to the

Dreaming phase: What are your hopes? What are your dreams? What are your visions? We will have our first Congregational Holy Conversation on October 16 to move into the Discovery phase of our journey. As we move through the various Holy Conversations just know this: God wants to be a part of everything we do.

In the days ahead, as we choose our activities each day, choose them with this in mind. Remember that God in Christ Jesus has given us life. Choose to be thankful. Choose joy. Choose love. Choose kindness. Choose forgiveness. Choose peace. In this busy season we are coming into, may we slow down and listen



deeply to one another and to the Holy Spirit. God will sustain and give us strength for the sharing of the gospel which is our primary purpose. And the Creator will show us how to do even greater works than even miraculous healings in the days, months and years ahead..

On the journey,

*Pastor Donna*

## B I B L E   S T U D Y

**Daytime bible study is set to resume on Tuesday, September 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the gathering room.**

**Our next loss and grief group - Wednesday, September 14th, 9:30 -10:30.**

### LECTIONARY READINGS SEPTEMBER 2022

September 4.

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1:1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalm 14

Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Psalm 79: 1-9

I Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15

Psalm 91:16, 14-16

I Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13



**Rally Sunday is Sunday, September 11th! We look forward to seeing everyone fresh from their summer vacations and ready for the new year!**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Change is constant, and churches are no exception. Some people move away, others move to town. Circumstances change and people find they have more – or less – time to devote to church life. Several vacancies have or will soon occur on a number of SBCC's boards and committees. Please read these basic descriptions of available openings and consider how you might wish to serve.

**Vice Chair of Council:** The Church Council is the representative governing body of the church. The vice chair is a full voting member and advances to Moderator/Chair following a one-year term.

**Board of Christian Outreach:** This board coordinates support for outreach initiatives locally, nationally and worldwide, as well as mission activities of the United Church of Christ.

**Board of Faith Formation:** This board supervises and promotes educational activities for all ages within the church.

**Finance Committee:** This committee provides oversight of the financial affairs of the church, including preparation of budgets, authorization of disbursements and investment decisions.

**Stewardship Committee:** This committee plans an annual campaign to encourage the congregation to use their time, talents and monetary resources in support of the church.

**Music Committee:** This committee helps to develop and support the music programs of the church for morning worship and special services.

**Public Relations Committee:** This committee promotes church activities, cultivates community involvement and shares SBCC's message in a variety of ways.

**Historian:** The Historian records significant events in the life of the church and arranges for the preservation of church records of historical interest.

**Delegate:** Delegates represent the church at meetings of the Litchfield South Association and the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Any member of Nominating would be happy to discuss these openings with you. In most cases, the only qualifications are an interest and a willingness to serve. Additional information can be found in the by-laws or by speaking with a member of the appropriate board or committee.

Laura Bennett - Jean Dunn - Sal Graziano

## DEACONS

### Deacons Mtg. notes

- From suggestions by parishioners and Deacons comments, there have been some changes to our bulletin.
- A small group is reviewing the donation for funerals, and weddings, as well as fees for use of our gathering hall.
- Bible Study will meet every Tuesday beginning Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm. Evening Bible Study will be every other week possibly on Tues or Weds at 7pm. It would be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.
- New member meetings will be 12/4 and 12/11 with welcome service on 12/18.
- Congregational Holy Conversation#1 will be 10/2. There will be a potluck that day. Sign-up sheet to follow.
- Jenny is officially back as our music director.

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING

The following feedback was provided in the ONA survey related to the June Speaker Panel:

“What did you take away from the speaker panel”

*Thank you for being so open and frank.* These comments were copied verbatim from the survey itself.

- Incredibly informative, powerful testimony from people living with this discrimination. I gained an entirely new empathy by seeing and interacting with real people.
- That everyone's created equal and should be treated as such.
- A feeling of compassion for these people's struggle for their identity. Also, that God's love is inclusive for all creation.
- I appreciated that they took time to speak to us.
- How accepting other religions can be!
- That we are all vulnerable and want to be accepted as we are.
- That LGBTQ people – and their families – need and want loving, safe church spaces. Also it's ok to be awkward and ask things like what pronouns a person uses; ok to make mistakes.
- That all members in the panel's story were different, but they expressed their individual feelings about their transition and the effect it had on their life. I appreciated the candid and honest life story.
- A behind the scenes look at the difficulties the speakers have faced. The LGBTQ community is looking for the same things everyone else wants - to be understood and accepted.
- Heard sincere and heartfelt stories of their journeys and so appreciated their willingness to come and share.
- It was interesting to see & hear their stories in person instead of just reading about them.

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- A fuller understanding of the personal struggles and views that different individuals are dealing with.
- The beauty of each person's experiences, honesty and resilience.
- How to be more understanding, supportive and loving towards ALL people.
- We are more alike than we are different. Everyone deserves the opportunity to live their authentic life.
- Hearing the human side of ONA and putting real people to the situations you only hear about.
- I thought they were articulate and compelling.
- It put faces with the acronym. Very good.
- Stop, I will leave this church if we proceed with ONA. These continued "re-education" sessions are punitive.
- It was somewhat informative and somewhat helpful. As I know so little about the kinds of lives the speakers lead and the challenges they face.

We know that this process has been long (over two and a half years) and we appreciate everyone's patience and, more importantly, open engagement with us as we pursue the status of an Open and Affirming church.

We are planning to hold a final panel on September 18th with clergy/members from other UCC churches who have already gone through the process. They will share their ups and downs related to ONA. We will then plan a congregational meeting to vote on acceptance of our Covenant and applying for official ONA status. Prior to the vote, how our status will be visually presented on our Web page, Facebook page and stationery will be shared.

## OUTREACH

For September, Outreach will be collecting donations for H.O.R.S.E. of Connecticut. For additional information, please visit their website: <https://www.horseofct.org/home>

The Humane Organization Representing Suffering Equines (H.O.R.S.E.) of Connecticut Inc., is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of abused and neglected horses. Over the past years, H.O.R.S.E. has saved more than 700 lives.

H.O.R.S.E is staffed by a team of volunteers who share dedication and love of the beautiful horse. H.O.R.S.E. receives no town, state or federal funding.





## LOOKING AHEAD FOR OUTREACH

We need your shoe boxes! Last year, we participated in Operation Shoebox, where we filled shoe boxes with trinkets and toys to be sent to various countries around the world. This year, we decided that rather than purchase the pre-decorated shoeboxes, we would have our Sunday School children decorate ones we bring in from home! It will give our contribution a personal touch. Please begin bringing your shoeboxes AFTER the Apple Festival!

We were gifted a large quantity of adult diapers, which will be distributed through the Little Free Pantry locations. We are also planning a 'give away' day here at the church.

In October, our sandwich brigade provides 200 full bagged lunches along with 200 additional PB&J sandwiches for GWIM, as the soup kitchen is closed for Columbus Day. Mark your calendars for October 9th when we will have an assembly line during fellowship hour to pack the lunches with fruit cups, granola bars, a beverage, spoon, napkin and sandwich.

Prior to that, we will need your donations of creamy peanut butter and jam (not jelly or preserves please). You may leave your donations in the kitchen if no one is around. Thank you!

**FOOD BANK NEEDS:** In addition to our collection of Creamed & Chowder soups to keep our adopted shelf full, the food bank has requested: All types of soups, chicken & rice, Gumbo, chicken tortilla, lentil, minestrone etc. but not chicken noodle. Also regular coffee (not decaf.)

The Food Bank knows how resourceful and giving SBCC is. They are so very appreciative of your gifts!



The FOOD BANK serves our neighbors!

## FAITH FORMATION

### Garden Update

The garden continues to supply wonderful fresh cucumbers, peppers, yellow squash and zucchini. Let's not forget the many pounds of fresh tomatoes, red, yellow, and cherry. I discovered a few weeks ago that the three fat cucumbers were in fact cantaloupes. Jeanne crane-Shepherd had donated some plants and these were the ones she was missing. I am sad to say they were eaten by a large groundhog seen in the vicinity of the garden. We will continue to contribute our produce over the next few weeks. Many hands at work!



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Dear God,

Many children of all ages will begin school soon. Some for the very first time. Some are entering the next grade or a new school and some are going away from home to return for another year. Help make that first day special. Help them to be strong when missing their families, to be kind and smile to everyone they meet. Guide them in making new friends and greeting old ones. Please let them know that you are always there watching over and sending your love to all. Amen!



Mark your calendars for Rally Day on September 11, during Fellowship Hour. Rally Day is not just for the kids to return to Sunday School, it's for EVERYONE. The following article from [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net) explains the concept.

Webster's Dictionary defines "rally" as: 1) a verb "to draw or call together for a common purpose" 2) a noun meaning "a renewal of energy in joint action".

During the summer, our many activities and vacations and events continually draw congregation members away from each other - especially on weekends. Summer can also be a spiritually draining time. You start

the summer with the good intentions of sticking to your Bible-reading schedules. Good intentions of worshiping regularly. Good intentions of attending Bible class. But the reality is that summer's hectic schedules can easily derail us from those good intentions.



Come the end of summer, we need "a renewal of energy" when it comes to



spiritual matters. It's hard to renew your energy on your own. But it's much easier in a group. That's why we set aside one special day at the end of the summer to "rally" - to "draw together for a common purpose" seeking the Holy Spirit's power to "renew our energy" for worship, for digging into God's Word, for praying, for serving, and for witnessing.

Please join us on the 11th to kick off the new church year with your renewed energy! We'll have refreshments and displays of all of our ongoing projects as well as our fresh, new ideas.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Our committee is in need of new members!

In particular, we need someone to take over the Welcome Letters Initiative that was spearheaded by Sue Torrey. Sue will train the new person on how to gather the names of new residents in Southbury and a few neighboring towns. I provide the letters and we have a nice group that stuffs, stamps, and sends them out. These letters have brought several new visitors to our church.

Our big news is the inauguration of a monthly PING PONG AND... activity.

It will be the 1st Sunday of every month in the early evening, beginning on OCTOBER 2. We are still ironing out the details of the "AND." Will we be able to provide pizza? Or just popcorn? We have TWO EXCELLENT PING PONG TABLES thanks to donations by two parishioners! This activity is open to all ages – family and friends, and there will be a coach on site (Jim Pine)

PR Group: Lissa Pine, Chair; Gary Tolin; Bambi Engelman; Pastor Donna; (Curt Perry – website).

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 pm. Our next meeting is on September 8.



## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee welcomes JoAnn Bolin, who replaced Carl Dunn when he moved into the role of Council Chair. Feel free to reach out to JoAnn, Cathy Somers or Tracy Watson with any concerns.

## CHURCH LIBRARY

FREE STUFF! Help yourself to any of the magazines and calendars (2023) on the Library table. They're older magazine issues but still good reading.



With the cooler weather coming (hopefully), take advantage of the lawn furniture just outside of the library. Pick a book (or magazine), get a cup of coffee, raise the umbrella and relax for a bit.

## FLOWER COMMITTEE

Please sign up in the gathering room to provide flowers for the sanctuary some upcoming Sunday. This can be in memory or honor of someone or for no specific reason at all!



## MEMORIAL GARDEN

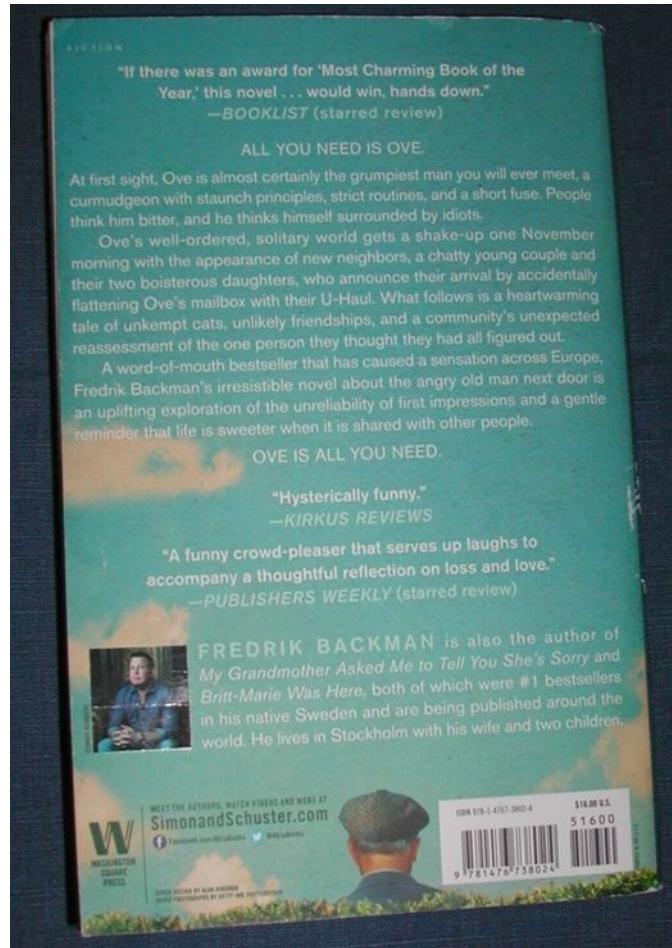
Several new plaques will be added to the memorial wall shortly. The families are so pleased to have this final place of rest and memorial.

Contact a committee member or the office to reserve a plaque for yourself or yours. Questions are always welcome.

Committee members are Bud Bennett, Krista Judson, Sharon Stiles, Ralph Kubista and Lainie Jedlinsky

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Summer is winding down and fall is approaching. What better time to settle with a cup of tea and a good book? We've chosen "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman for our first read of the Faith Formation Book Club. It's a quick read, very funny and yet touching. It's readily available second hand as well as through Amazon. We have two copies in our church library as well. Please join us on Wednesday, October 5th at 7 pm for a lively discussion of the book as well as some tasty refreshments.



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Congratulations to Sue and Kevin Sullivan on the birth of their first grandchild - a Boy named Grayson - born August 14th to daughter Kate. That means that Harriet and Bob Harrison are now Great-grandparents! A gift from God for sure! Wishing everyone joy at this exciting time!

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We were saddened to learn of the passing of Diane Hynd on August 7th. Diane attended here for many years and her sharp wit will be missed by all who knew her. There are no services planned at this time.

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Wishing all of our students a wonderful school year! Have fun and learn all you can while you are having all that fun!



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As many of you know, Karen and I are selling our house in Southbury and going back to live full time in New York City. We came here 28 years ago and have spent every summer here since then. SBCC has been like a second family to me, and I want to thank all of you, and the others whom I knew who have moved on, for making it that way. You are kind, you are loving and you are generous, and it has been a blessing to have known you and worshiped with you.

John Erickson



## LABONNES' RECEIPTS

We're continuing to collect receipts from LaBonne's Market for their *Cash for Charities* Program. 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've already collected over 700 receipts so far this year.

Ken Bolin



### The language we use with each other matters.

I liked what I heard at the "Pastor's Listening Session" after church two weeks ago. We need to and will repeat this session again within the next few weeks. Hopefully in the first week or two of September.

It was a dialogue not just a discussion. What grabbed me a few times was the dialogue about language. A few of you in attendance reminded us about this fact. The importance of what we say and how we say it has a big impact on our collective perceptions and the way we lead each other. The paradigms we have in our heads sometimes need to be challenged. Kindness goes a long way.

Many of you mentioned "change" for example, even some said, "there may be too much change and too quickly". While others thought we have constantly greeted change in the church with success, maybe not smoothly but with eventual success. How often have we heard someone say, "Yes we used to do this or that but for some reason we don't anymore". Some of our rituals will remain and some will leave us.

What was interesting was how some of us said things like, "why don't we use words like "improvement" or "better effort" or "different approaches may be worth a try." How we frame our circumstances has a big impact on how we address our uncertainties and our worries.

It is like the current challenges in our country. Do we have to call some of the States in

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our fine country, “battle ground States”? Or do we need to call out someone or a group as “cancel culture”? Or should we use the conquering terminology, “I slayed that situation or person”? Why do we use words that instill and repeat the negative and worse, cause our disunity?

How about we work together for the common good. What would happen if we looked for the common ground through the way we talk to each other.

I am not suggesting we abandon our passionate concerns or water down our principles. We can reach common wisdom by creating a common understanding and environment that supports each other first. We can lower the anxiety or pretense by first using our language to encourage not discourage. As it says in Proverbs 12:25 “anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.”

Let us pray, Dear God, guide us in our anxieties and help us build the church with a kind word, a clear mind, and a willingness to help. Through Your son our greatest example and our savior...AMEN.

-Carl Dunn

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New Start ministry, the local community refugee resettlement group working through IRIS in New Haven, will welcome the Bahramis, an Afghan family with special immigrant visa status, on September 6. many meetings will be scheduled during the early weeks and New Start is seeking volunteers to help care for the two children, a 6-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl, in their Waterbury apartment while the parents meet with IRIS staff and NSM members. IRIS rules require that two unrelated adults be present for childcare and all volunteers undergo a basic background check, paid for by NSM.

IRIS guidelines include a goal of self-sufficiency after six months in the U. S., and learning English plays a huge role in meeting that goal. New Start is seeking volunteers to join its ESL team. those wishing to learn more about either volunteer opportunity may speak to Jean Dunn, 203-217-5711 or [jdunn463@hotmail.com](mailto:jdunn463@hotmail.com).



## UNSUNG HERO

Chuck Crowdus is an unsung hero for sure. He's in church every Sunday, recording the service, operating multiple cameras and sound levels and then editing everything together into what we view on-line as one continuous video of the Sunday worship service.

Chuck is also our 'I.T. Guy' who keeps all the electronics up to date, backed up, and running smoothly. When the church lightning rod was struck by lightning on August 23rd, a lot of damage was done to our electronics. Chuck was the one working with Spectrum and our phone system support to get everything back up and running again, as always quietly behind the scenes with no fanfare. Thank you, Chuck, for your dedication to and love for this church. We appreciate you Chuck Crowdus - our unsung hero.

## APPLE FESTIVAL

There is still **ONE** crockpot left in the Bassett Room, so if it is yours, please claim it before it accidentally gets sold at the Apple Festival!

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You may remember the “Crushing it Toddler” from prior years. He is back and is

**SO READY to CRUSH APPLE FESTIVAL!**

He would like us all to know how awesome he feels when he volunteers to get involved in one of our biggest events of the year.

We hope you will follow his lead and join in and help us **Crush IT** at Apple Festival.

If you are not yet signed up to help, please contact Amy Smith, Krista Judson or Tracy Watson. Any of us can help you get involved. There are many opportunities!





## THE APPLE OF MY EYE....



It is so hard to choose one person to recognize here because so many people do so much to make our Apple Festival come together each year.

**THE “APPLE OF MY EYE”** This week is Laurie Hornbecker, who found us a golf cart to use for trash removal this year. It was a tricky ask and she came through!

Thanks Laurie!



## Apple Pie Makers Wanted for Friday, September 23

Starting at 7:00am we need apple inspectors, pie fillers, and pie crimpers. Yes - 7:00am - we are looking to increase our apple pie output. In the past we have had all our pies assembled by noon. Any pie help is appreciated, come whatever time fits your schedule.. Come and learn how to make our famous apple pies!



## Baked Goods wanted for the day of the Apple Festival!

Please consider baking something yummy (savory or sweet) to sell alongside our apple pies. You may drop off your baked goods starting Friday September 23. Please make sure the baked goods are wrapped to sell. We do not have the resources to accommodate wrapping of baked goods.

## THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Nancy G.
- Tracy Groody
- Johanna Metzler
- Bob
- Annette
- Bob Petersen

The Clair Family in the passing of Bettye  
The Gracy Family in the passing of Jennifer.  
The Ludorf Family in the passing of Ester.  
The Family of Diane Hynd.



## BULLETIN BOARD



September		
	Celia Torrey	5
	Abigail Locke	12
	Gabby Cruz (Ricardo's daughter)	14
	Nancy Dahl	15
	Judith Bookis	16
	Holly Bucciarelli	17
	Cathy Crowdis	17
	Bob Harrison	20
	Linda Morehouse	22
	Tatyana Graziano	24
	Ed Harney	25
	Annika Hughes	25
	Margie Nichols	27
	Kim Lowell	30

## September Calendar

### Every Week

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

### Every Month

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

### Upcoming Events

**The Apple Festival for 2022 is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th. Check the Post for areas you can serve in this annual event!**

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**Take a step toward staying Healthy and Active! Life Line Screening will be here at SBCC on October 6, 2022. To register for an appointment and to receive the special discount please call 1-800-324-1851 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HS. Any questions or if interested in one of the 2 complimentary screenings valued at \$70, please contact Krista either in person or at 203-231-4176.**

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**The Judson Jazz Quartet will be performing at The Redding Beer Company 7 Main St. Redding, CT on Saturday September 3rd, 5pm-8pm. Hope you are up for great Jazz and Fun. For a sample click on the link: <https://m.facebook.com/100084108256423/>**