

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



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Can You Preach to Your Heart?

We live in an instant world. Instant information is available to us at the touch of a keyboard. We can research all kinds of information, catch the weather and news and socialize on social media all in 10 minutes.

This has caused me to wonder: How is social media or any media feeding our souls?

We know that God is a profoundly social being with the intimate relationship we read in the Triune God: Father Son and Holy Spirit. And God wants a social relationship with us too.

Made in the image and likeness of God, we are also very

social beings. But once the snake entered into things, we are sadly prone to harm our communities as often as we help them. We have struggled with this throughout time. And with the onset of the 'insta' world, we are perhaps even more prone to harming one another.

Especially on social media where we 'engage' many people, often people we don't really know but are considered in our "friend network". We are easily influenced there, makes us feel like we are escaping time, makes us feel like we can be everywhere and know everything and be friends with everyone.

For me the question is: how can I use social media in ways that



make me look more like Christ?

A couple of days ago, I spoke to a friend in California about branding. I told her I don't like that word and she agreed. She described branding as how we show up on social media and in the world. Are we presenting something good and helpful to those who see our posts or see us in social circles?

How might this look? Have

Cont.

you ever had a personal loss and then suddenly you see someone who has what you lost and are showing it off on one of the digital platforms? I have. It has caused me to be completely drained and lose my joy in a nanosecond. Grief and longing overwhelmed my soul.

Sometimes I see women presenting their beautiful newborns and wonder: what about a woman who just lost hers?

Or I see someone who is taking the most enviable vacation and wonder about those who are scraping by to feed their children.

Our day can be derailed in minutes. Now to be certain, some days I leave the scrolls feeling great and motivated. Other times, especially in this contentious world we live in, I leave sad, disappointed, anxious and overwhelmed.

As God's image-bearers, we are made with strong emotions. We can be happy, sad and mad all within 10 minutes.

The question is not: "Is social media affecting my emotions"? but

"Am I aware of the influence social media is having?"

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flows the springs of life". God wants us to pay attention to what we see through our eye gates, hear through our ear gates and what we think about and believe.

How do we do that well? The Psalms teach us.

1. "Why are you cast down, O my soul and why are you in turmoil within me?" (Psalm 42:5). Instead of judging your emotions, seek exactly where they are coming from.

2. Tell God how you feel and we will be met with his grace, peace, comfort, joy and wisdom. (Read Romans 15:13, Philippians 4:4-8)

3. Remember processing our emotions is not the same as letting them lead us to God. Psalm 42 continues, "Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God."

This can change our whole life. Instead of being wrapped up in our own social media usage and emotional turmoil, we can find out what God's word has to say. Let God's word clarify our emotions as we seek where the emotions come from. Share them with the Lord and then "preach them into your heart."

David did. The results are amazing and will keep you on level and solid ground. Let God's word then nourish, strengthen and restore our souls in these days we live in.

On the journey,

Pastor Donna

B I B L E S T U D Y

DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY is now on Summer recess. Plans for Autumn to be announced in September. Have a wonderful Summer, everyone!

Our Next Loss and Grief Group -Wednesday, August 10th, 9:30 -10:30.

D E A C O N S

Well, your freedom of Speech, and Freedom of Religion has to stop at the point where it infringes on other Freedoms and the welfare of the people is more important than pushing your particular desire for freedom.

-Lillian Hicock Wentworth

This is what Lillian Wentworth said as she spoke during the filming of “The Home of the Brave” a film of the Nazi Bund attempting to build a camp near Kettletown Rd. in Southbury.

As we prepare to mark a milestone of 85 years by placing a marker on the property (South Britain Congregational Church) there are questions whether the church, specifically Reverend Lindsay played a pivotal role.

Some Question whether or not South Britain Church was simply a meeting house where the towns folk met to change the zoning laws blocking the Bunds from developing a camp on the property.

After listening to peoples concerns, watching the movie, reading newspaper articles, reading letters, watching newsreels, and the holocaust museum highlighting our church along with papers from Reverend Lindsay, and displaying his actual typewriter. I have no question whether Rev. Lindsay as our pastor was instrumental in driving out the Bund. I voted in favor of placing the plaque 7/27/2022

-Joseph Simpson, Lead Deacon



OPEN AND AFFIRMING

Thank you to everyone who completed the follow-up survey to our Panel Discussion; every voice matters. If you are a voting member of the congregation, please take two minutes to take the survey.

OUTREACH

We continue to collect either \$25 gift cards to Target/Walmart or any monetary donations for the back to school backpack program we support through Covenant to Care. The last date to support this Outreach project will be August 14th; they will be picking the cards up on that Monday. You can drop off a gift card or donation in the office or place in the collection plate during services. Our contact at Covenant to Care appreciates our contribution each year to fill backpacks for those students who would not otherwise have what they need to start off the school year in a good place.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who brought in a variety of toiletries for St. Vincent DePaul's men's and women's shelters in our spontaneous collection! The volume of items we collected was phenomenal and will go a long way to make a difference in someone's life. Thank you to Dean and Char Moll for loading up their car and making the delivery for us.

We always need cream soups and chowders to keep our adopted shelf stocked at the Food Bank, so keep your eyes open for sales!

Our friend, Mary Sullivan, will be moving to Florida very soon, leaving a vacancy on the Outreach Committee. If you are interested in learning more about what we do, or if you are interested in joining us, please reach out to anyone on the committee. Many hands make light work and we have the best and most rewarding job – being God's hands in our community, our country and the world. Prayerfully consider if this is the right spot for your time and talents.

Upcoming: we will be needing PB&J for our final sandwich brigade in October, so if you see a good sale, pick up some creamy peanut butter and some jam (not jelly or preserves please) and bring them to the gathering room during fellowship hour.

FAITH FORMATION



Garden Update

Our garden started slow, but with many hands and Mother Nature, the tomatoes are flourishing. The zucchini and squash are bountiful and the green peppers are almost ready for a fresh salad or some pasta and sausage. The cucumber may just take over the garden soon. The aroma of fresh basil and parsley are delightful. Thank you all for your help and support. The Southbury Food bank is so grateful for our weekly donations of fresh vegetables. Thank you to all those hands helping our garden grow.

“Dear God, I gratefully bow my head
To thank you for this daily bread;
And there be a goodly share
On every table everywhere. Amen

- Dixie Willson





Church school news:

Sunday church school with our group of children has been fun with a variety of activities. John and Tracy read Bible comics and then created their own. Two are hanging on the bulletin board in the gathering room. The following week Tracy and Krista tackled two church community

projects. We filled the parish hall planters with beautiful flowers and organized the Little Food Pantry(above). Luna Gibson was a big help in organizing the canned goods on the bottom shelf. Then Cheri Fickett taught weaving to Lynn Plourde and Layla Gibson. Pot holders were the end result. Last week KathySue and Krista continued with the theme of sharing. There was a nice discussion. Olivia and Emily O'Meara agreed that "Sharing is Caring". Craft project followed with designing greeting cards. This will be continued in August in preparation for sale at the Apple Festival Country Store.





The Faith Formation Committee will be losing John Erickson at the end of the summer. Jodi Mitchell, Tracy Watson, and JoAnn Bolin are looking forward to the 22/23 church season. If you have questions and/or maybe interested, please contact Krista or Jodi.

Blessings,

Miss Krista

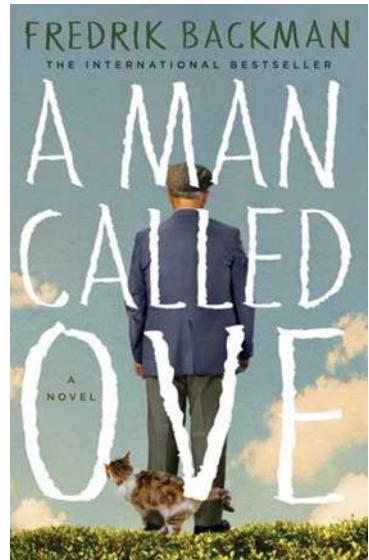


We are excited to share the launch of a **Faith Formation Book Club** to be held a few times throughout the year. We plan to choose books that are uplifting and that will encourage lively discussion. We will get together and have a discussion and refreshments to tie in with the theme of the book.

From the website: www.Goodreads.com

A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell, but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?



Behind the cranky exterior, there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.

We have two copies in the church library, or it should be easy to find a copy in the Southbury Library or purchase it from Amazon or betterworldbooks.com

Watch the Post for the details about the discussion date in early October, the date is to be determined.

Happy Reading!

PERSONNEL

Important Update from Personnel – August 2022

As sometimes happens in our church lives, things change. In June, Sue Torrey was voted Council Chair at the annual meeting, but has had to step down from that role. According to our bylaws, the Vice-Chair must move up to fill that vacancy and Nominating must work to find a replacement Vice-Chair.

Effective immediately, Carl Dunn will move into the position of Council Chair. Carl was also a member of the Personnel Committee and cannot maintain both positions to avoid any conflict of interest. We are blessed that JoAnn Bolin has agreed to step in and join the Personnel Committee.

CHURCH LIBRARY

There have been a few new additions (editions?) to our Church Library over the past couple of weeks. We've received another book in the Joan Medlicott fiction series - "A Blue and Gray Christmas". Unfortunately, it isn't Volume Two, but the last in the series. I'm on the hunt for Volumes 2-8.

Look for two volumes of Faith Formations' book club offering, "A Man Called Ove". They are waiting for you on the library table. I've read this book and it's a winner!

If you haven't had a chance to read "For A New Generation" by Lee Kricher (recommended reading from our Pastor Donna), we currently have three copies available to borrow - two are on the library table and one is on our library bookshelf in the Gathering Room.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

There are many blank weeks on the flower calendar. Please consider signing up for one of them and providing flowers or a plant to add to our weekly worship service. It doesn't have to be expensive or fancy. You can pick in your own garden or on the side of the road! Just be sure to let Nancy know what you'd like in the bulletin the week you sign up.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

NEEDED - YOUR CROCKPOT! The Apple Festival Luncheon team will be making our famous pulled pork on August 8th and freezing it for the festival. We need crockpots for that day. If you have one we can borrow, just make sure your name is on both the unit and the lid so we can get it back to you. You can leave it in the office so it will be under lock and key until the 8th. Thank you!

And speaking of luncheon... If you want to dip your toes into the world of apple crisp and sandwiches, please consider joining the luncheon team this year. We have a lot of fun and we can always use more hands.



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UNSUNG HERO

Hi Jesse (Shepherd),

The other night we were meeting in the Bassett Room for Apple Festival and there was a knock on the door. A woman told me she wanted to thank us for having the donation box outside, and that she had used it twice this week. She was very nice and grateful.

Thanks for doing this great project!

-Submitted by Amy Smith

SBCC families enjoyed a bountiful Fourth of July Fellowship Hour!



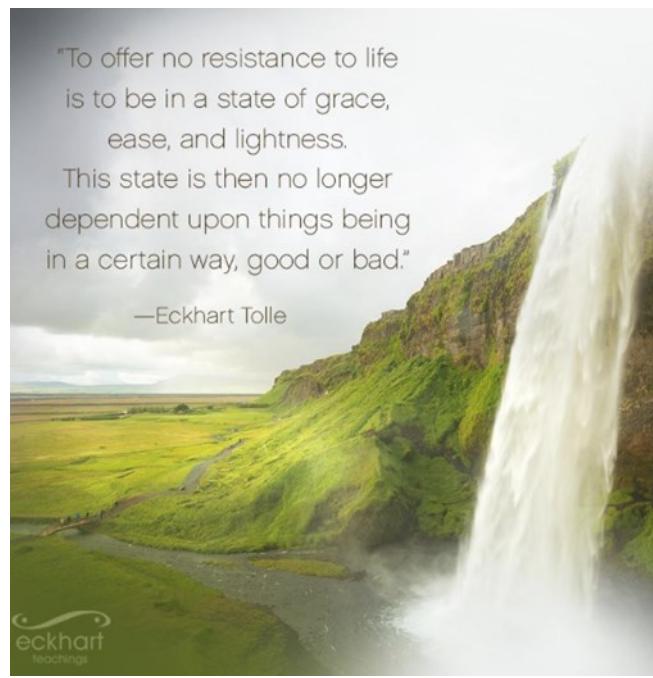
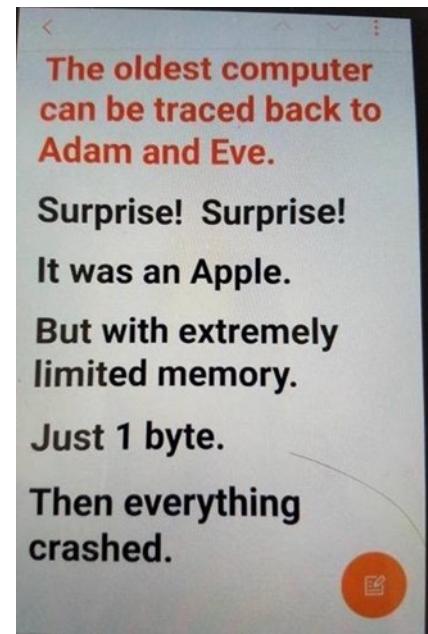
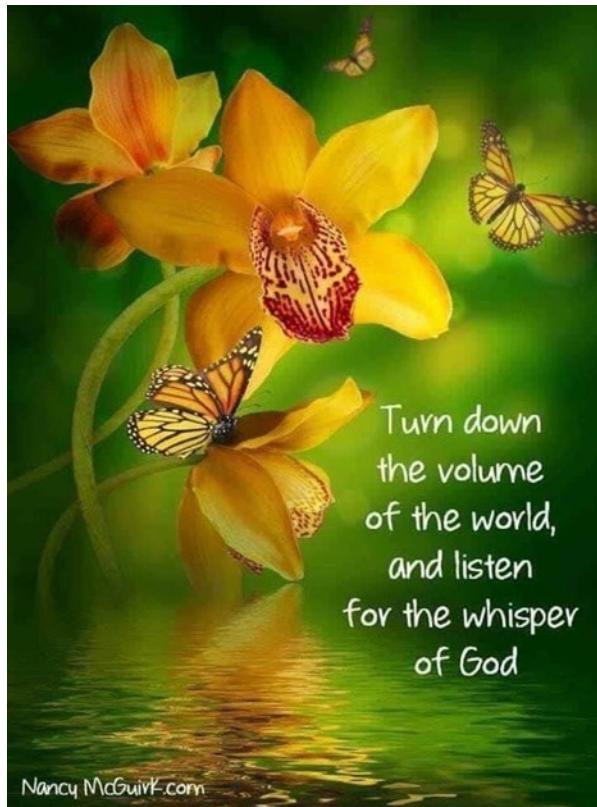
Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise.

-Richard Rohr-

-submitted by KathySue Roberts

*“Music is the art of the Prophets,
the only art that can calm the
agitations of the soul: it is one
of the most magnificent and delightful
present God has given us. Martin Luther*

-submitted by Krista



APPLE FESTIVAL

Planning is already well underway for our Apple Festival, which will be on
September 24, 2022.

“HEY EVERYBODDYYYYYYYYY!!!!”



THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED NOW!

Snack Bar

Pick a Prize

“Waste Management Engineer”

And much more...

There are co-chairs in place already for all these areas but they need hands to help make it work. Nobody will be asked to work alone!!!

Apple Festival is an all-hands-on-deck event. We need your help now! If you have never been a part of the Apple Festival you are in for a good time!

Not sure how you want to be involved? Contact Amy, Krista or Tracy for more information.

DONATIONS are gratefully being accepted in the Parish Hall for White Elephant, Man Cave, Jewelry and Accessories. Thank you for donating somebody's next treasure.



Searching For...

We are currently searching for a golf cart to use to move trash and other items around for the Apple Festival. Please let us know if you have any leads.



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy G.	Tracy Groody	Judy M.	Jennifer G.
Franny	Cathy in Texas	Glen	Jenny
Al	Robert Kalbaugh	Evelyn	Judy
Joyce	Andrea	Maria	Paul
Megan, Ray	Maria	Karen	Wendy
Sergienko Family	Christopher L.	Burghoff Family	John Fleming
Lillian Groody	Frank Groody	Johanna Metzler	

The Gracy Family in the passing of Jennifer.

The Ludorf Family in the passing of Esther. Services are Saturday, Aug. 6th at 9:30 a.m.

The Clair Family in the passing of Bettye. Services are Tuesday, Aug. 9th, 10 a.m.

Safe journey for the Quinns to Europe

The Gunther Family in the passing of Darlene.

Prayers for Ukraine and Russia.



BULLETIN BOARD

August		
	John Erickson	1
	Ginni Garis (Virginia)	5
	Carol Cutrona	8
	Tyler Ferraro	10
	Alexandra Wilds	11
	Steven DeWitt	14
	H. Newton Hudson	14
	Val Grobnagger	17
	Andy Kubista	19
	Laurie Hornbecker	20
	John Shepherd	21
	Sue Wilson (moved to AZ)	21
	Hugh Humiston	29
	JoAnn Bolin	30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Judy and Joe Simpson 50 years

August 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.

Every Month

1st Sunday Outreach

3rd Sunday Deacons (following services)

4th Wednesday Church Council, 7 p.m.

2nd Wednesday Loss and Grief, 9:30 - 10:30

3rd Wednesday Trustee's Meeting

1st Thursday Property, 7 p.m.

2nd Thursday ONA, 10 a.m.

2nd Thursday Public Relations

1st Friday Parishioner's Post published (Submissions due the Monday prior)

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!