

# 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."*



## Dear Church Family,

As I sit and work on this letter (which will be my last for the Post) I am thinking of so many of you. I think about your smiles and laughs. I think of the hard work and the fun that we have had. It is all a gift.

The community and family of faith is a gift to each of us. It is there for us no matter what is happening in our lives. If it was not for the support and care, we wouldn't be able to make it day to day. We lean on each other. God

knew that we would need strength, so he gave us one another to help. It has been a time in the larger world like no other and we have been able to navigate it together because we have done it together.

I know that God is in this place, and I am grateful for being able to be called your pastor and teacher. I carry so many fond memories of our times together and have enjoyed each day. I leave you with the benediction that Aaron gave to the faithful. It is my hope for you all. Know that this place and this com-

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

693 SOUTH BRITAIN RD.

SOUTHBURY, CT 06488



munity will be in my heart and prayers.

Blessings,

**Pastor Malcolm**

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." —Numbers 6:24–26

## B I B L E   S T U D Y

**Daytime Bible Study is every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** Questions, Contact Pastor Malcolm.

**Our Loss and Grief Group** led by Pastor Malcolm will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, **May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30**, in the library.

## C O U N C I L

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Pastor Malcolm. We are blessed to have had such a wonderful minister these past two years. His flexibility and creativity got us through a very difficult time. Through this hectic period, he was able to bring us new programs such as evening Bible study, Loss and Grief group and The Loom, a contemporary service. He will truly be missed. Let us wish him well as we say our goodbyes on May 22 after service.

## O P E N   A N D   A F F I R M I N G

Because we want everyone to have access to all the available information on the topic of ONA, below is a quick summary of both "Bible and ONA" presentations:

- *How do you frame up your exploration of the Bible? For example, do you ask, "What does the Bible teach us about our relationship with God and each other? How does God want us to live together as a community?" Or do you ask, "What does the Bible say about LGBTQIA?"*
- *UCC's Reformed tradition uses 2 concepts for Biblical interpretation: **CONTEXT** and **CHRIST**.*
- *CONTEXT: The multiple writers of the Bible lived in a very different time and place than we do. It's a*

Cont.

*mistake to assume we've found the answer to our question when the Biblical person or community was asking a different question. When we seek the meaning of a text we need to inquire into the context.*

- *Our Reformation ancestors were not biblical “literalists.” If we were to read the bible literally, women would not be allowed to talk in church (Corinthians). We wouldn’t be allowed to eat shellfish or anything with split hooves such as pork, nor would we be able to wear clothing made of two kinds of material (Leviticus).*
- *CHRIST: “What Would Jesus Do?” is a good rule for interpreting Scripture. Follow the commandment “Love thy neighbor as thyself” and “Love one another as I have loved you.”*
- *THE DIFFICULT TEXTS: Question: Does the Bible say anything about loving same-sex relationships between equal partners?*
- *CONTEXT: The importance, the sacredness of the ancient Biblical code of hospitality.*
- *Genesis 19: 1-25, The “sin of Sodom” has nothing to do with a consensual, self-giving relationship between two men or two women as equal partners. It is about breaking the code of hospitality and trying to do violence against strangers.*
- *CONTEXT: What are the same-sex relationships Paul is describing?*
- *Romans 1: 18-27 takes place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. There was no concept of partnerships between two men, or two women based on fidelity and equality. The word “homosexual” did not exist.*
- *Paul is not condemning loving same-sex relationships; he is condemning same-sex relationships in the Roman Empire:*
  1. *Sacred prostitution in the context of pagan worship; 2. Sex trade based on the enslavement of conquered peoples; 3. Pederasty; 4. The excesses of the Imperial Court in Rome.*
- *These sexual practices centered on idol worship, slavery, exploitation or violence. This is Paul’s context.*
- *God has made it very clear that all people are God’s people, and all are welcome with God... and we are to welcome one another as God has welcomed us.*
- *Welcomed and embraced extravagantly by God, we are urged to extend extravagant welcome and embrace to one another... and all others.*

Cont.

We are pleased to announce the next information and education session: a panel with guests from the LGBTQIA community who will share their life experiences and perspectives with us. Please mark your calendars for June 12 at Fellowship Hour for this event.

In September or October, we will host a panel with representatives of other nearby UCC churches that have recently become Open and Affirming. They will share their churches' stories and processes, and the net effects being Open, and Affirming has had on their congregations.

## OUTREACH

### Sandwich Brigade



Our LAST Sandwich Brigade for the summer will be held in a couple of weeks and we need volunteers!! The pickup date for the supply bags will be any time after 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 19, and drop off will be Sunday, May 22, before church. Don't miss this last opportunity to help with Outreach's commitment to GWIM. There won't be another chance until October! Please call or email Chris at 203-405-1052/ [holly422@gmail.com](mailto:holly422@gmail.com) to volunteer..



### Southbury Food Bank

Our delivery of the small canisters of oatmeal and regular tea (not green or herbal) was so well received. Amy at the Food Bank appreciates our ability to be flexible in our collection of items for them.

I will alert you all when we switch back to our 'designated' soups.

Thank you all for making this process so easy and for your generosity.

- Lainie



Our **Outreach Offering is for GWIM in honor of Mother's Day**. We will be collecting diapers (the larger sizes are needed the most), and a monetary donation for GWIM. Diapers can be left in the marked bin in the table in the Gathering Room through Sunday, May 29th.





**Homefront Day for 2022 is May 21st**, at the home of a 101-year-old veteran from Southbury. The project will be exclusively outdoors, and many hands are needed. There are sign-up sheets for supplies and/or volunteering in the Gathering Room, but for more details please contact [homefrontsofia@gmail.com](mailto:homefrontsofia@gmail.com).



Please start collecting your clean plastic bottles (no glass) and aluminum cans for our collection at the Annual Meeting on June 5th. We will accept donations starting on Sunday, May 29th and throughout that week. We will sort them for you, but please wash them thoroughly.





Outreach chair Jodi Mitchell presented a check for \$600 to Traci O'Brien, founder of Senior Wishes CT, an organization that grants wishes to improve the lives of seniors in need. The gift represents the proceeds of "Stop and Shop," the women's clothing sale hosted recently by the Outreach Committee, and the March Outreach offering. Committee members hope to host another sale in the fall. Information about Senior Wishes can be found at [www.seniorwishesct.org](http://www.seniorwishesct.org).

## FAITH FORMATION

Dear Lord,

Teachers are so important to us in our lives. Put your arms around them and support them through their positive **and** difficult times as we move forward in our journey to a better world.

Help them to guide our children, both young and old, as they are the future and the light of this world. Our children are the clay in the hands of the Master Potter.

I salute Amy Smith, Tracy Watson, and Cathy Schade and all who have volunteered to help during our Faith Formation year. I look forward to working with current and new members in our new church year.

Blessings,

Krista



Updates on Hiking and the Garden will be forthcoming Soon.



## STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everybody for the enthusiasm with which you joined along in our pledge campaign this year. It was gratifying watching our congregation bring life to our "bucket fill-osophy" by creating a visual representation of (just a portion) of the strength of our amazing church community. We are blessed!



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

We are about two-thirds of the way toward our pledge campaign goal for the year!

If you have not returned your pledge yet, it is not too late! Pledges can be submitted quickly and confidentially by following the link to our electronic pledge form. <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/sbcc/forms/13>

### DID YOU KNOW....

Pledges make up about 70 % of our annual budgeted income This is why, large or small

***Every Pledge Matters...***

***Thank you*** for your commitment to the stewardship of our church and its missions and ministries for the coming year. Good things are in store for SBCC!

## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee will be working on exit procedures with Pastor Mac as well as bridging the gap for staff until an Interim Pastor has been hired.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

A hearty thank you to everyone who helped with or attended the first ever (and we hope annual!) "Faith Off" ping-pong tournament on Sunday, April 24. Not only did we have raucous, masked fun and hilarity, but together with B'Nai Israel we collected over 175 non-perishables and \$170 in cash donations for the Southbury Food Pantry.

Warm up your wrists for next year! We want it to become an interfaith tradition!





Welcome Letters would welcome your help!

Each month (ish), PR sends out letters to welcome new homeowners to our area. Typically on a Friday morning, we gather in the Gathering Room (where else?!) and sign, fold, stuff, stamp and mail our missives.

If you would like to help us, get these words of welcome out, please give someone on the PR team your email and you'll be notified of the next session! And thank you!

– Francesca Sergi, Bambi Edelman, Lissa Pine, Sue Torrey

## CHURCH LIBRARY



Coming Soon to our Church Library - be on the lookout over the next few months for games to be popping up in our library - something fun to do on a rainy day with a friend. If you have a board game in good condition with all the pieces but you don't need it anymore, please let me know! I'll be happy to rehome it. Call or email Chris: 203-405-1052/[holly422@gmail.com](mailto:holly422@gmail.com)

## FLOWER COMMITTEE



The flower chart is in the Gathering Room on the door to the attic. Please feel free to sign up for a Sunday to provide flowers for the sanctuary. Just let Nancy know what you'd like to put into the bulletin. Thank you!

## INTERIM MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Interim Search Committee has reviewed profiles of interested candidates and have conducted two interviews to date. We firmly believe that God will bring the right person to be with us during the transitional period until we have a new settled Pastor. If anyone has a question for the committee, please contact any one of us for a response.

- Carl Dunn, Linda Long, Judy Grimes, Krista Judson, Cathy Somers

## HOSPITALITY

### Fellowship Hour – a chance to ‘catch up’ and make new friends

Fellowship hour brings us together socially after worshiping together each Sunday. Don’t be afraid to add your name to the sign-up board for one Sunday -- it’s easy! Even though a board or committee is assigned responsibility for each month, anyone in the congregation can sign up to provide fellowship hour. If you’ve never done it before, just reach out to any ‘old timer’ for help; it really takes two people to pull it off anyway. Anyone you ask will work with you.

Arrive by 9:00 or 9:15 a.m., provide whatever ‘goodies’ you prefer (either store bought or home baked), juice for the kids, milk and half and half. Work with someone who has done it before to put the tablecloths on the tables and start the coffee perking and tea water heating. The experienced person will show you where everything is stored and how to make the coffee. All you must do is smile, pour coffee, and meet some new people. Then just clean up when fellowship hour ends, and you are on your way!

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Just a cute “behind the scenes” shot of Jenny Li as she rehearses the choir. She’s not only hip, but she’s also hip-hop!! Grateful for you and all you do, Jenny!

—Sue Torrey and the choral and bell choirs



Sunday, May 1st, SBCC welcomed our newest members during our regular worship service and followed up with a reception during Fellowship Hour. Here are some things about them to help you get to know them a little better.



Cont.



**Pam Butler:** I moved from New Milford to Heritage Village 1 year ago. My daughter lives in New Milford and my son lives in Woodbury.

Some of my hobbies are pottery, gardening, fishing and horseback riding and driving.

I volunteer at the Southbury Food Bank, and I am Treasurer of the Bridgewater Grange, Treasurer of the Heritage Village Clay Club and volunteer and foster for Companion Pet Rescue here in Southbury.



**Laura and Sean O'Meara:** Sean and I have two daughters, Emily (13) and Olivia (10). We moved from Seymour (CT) in August 2022 and have appreciated the warm welcome from all SBCC members as we transition from the Catholic Church. The girls are especially enjoying their Religious Education classes and fun activities with Krista and Tracey, and we are so thankful for them.

Sean is a retired Physical Education teacher and Dean of Discipline in both Ansonia and Derby school districts. I have been teaching for 19 years and am an Art teacher in Bridgeport Public schools. Emily is preparing to apply to High Schools with a focus on Animal sciences. She is a member of Troop 6 Scouts, enjoys horseback riding and drawing, and will train to become a volunteer in May at a Therapeutic riding farm. Olivia will be starting Middle school in the fall and will be taking dance classes. She currently is involved in horseback riding and will be in soccer camps this summer.



I am on the Hospitality committee (thanks for the training, Cheri!), and Sean is helping with landscaping duties. We enjoy supporting children and families through SBCC's Outreach programs. We are looking forward to serving our church community and getting to know each and every one of you!

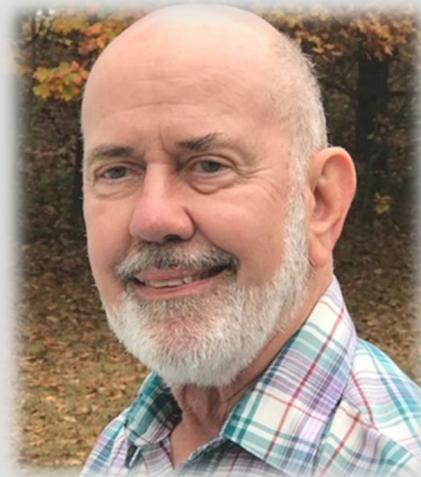
Cont.



We like to go for walks outside as a family. This one photo was taken on our hike with the alpacas from Windy Crow Farm in Stafford Springs, CT.



**Willard Revaz:** I was born in Torrington, CT where I was brought up in The Calvary Baptist Church and accepted Christ as my personal Savior at age 13. I attended the University of Connecticut and joined the Navy where I married my wife, Diane, whom I grew up with in grammar school. We had two sons; David in 1973 and Richard in 1976 while living in Prospect and were members of The Prospect Congregational Church. I was employed as an Engineer by The Southern New England Telephone Co. (SNET). I married my current wife, Barbara, in Prospect on May 7 of 1983. We moved to Oxford in 1991 and I joined the Oxford Congregational Church. After a 15-year membership there, I joined the Beacon Falls Congregational Church. In each of these churches I sang in the choir and served on several boards and committees. The reason I am seeking membership with SBCC is because I favor a more traditional worship service that is not being practiced by the current new minister in Beacon Falls. For many years I knew the Kubista's and more recently the Bolin's and have since made many new friends in the congregation as well as the choir. From my first attendance several months ago, I have been very welcomed, and I feel confident this church is where God wants me to worship and serve.



Cont.



**KathySue Roberts:** Teaching was my career until my daughter and son were born, and now there are two grandchildren.

Travel, gardening, reading, watching the birds, and going for drives tend to be my favorite things to do, besides talking.

I started a business by accident, but I suspect it was God driven, as was my introduction to SBCC, which is a perfect fit. It's time to make my membership official.

By the way, I was born among the stars surrounded by angels. My husband is in heaven, and I consider you, my angels.

Thank you for your love and support,



**Gary Tolm:** I grew up in Lancaster, PA, the oldest of three. My parents still live there, as well as my brother. My sister lives in Anchorage, AK with her family. I played a multitude of sports, and still do -- primarily baseball, basketball, soccer, golf, softball, racquetball, and tennis. I graduated from Western Maryland College. My interests/hobbies are sports, playing guitar, and reading.

My wife Cindy and I moved to Connecticut almost 30 years ago. We reside in Southbury with our three children-Julia, Jenna and Eric and dog, Brandy.



## MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden is in its glory as spring brings out the blossoms and turns the grass a lush healthy green. There are benches in the Memorial Garden and in the Meditation Garden, two quiet locations to relax. Come and see, sit awhile, enjoy your place.

More reservations have come in this past month. The Wall is filling 'a need' and 'a want'.

We would love to have a few folks to help keep the Garden at its best. Let us know you are available. Please.

For more information contact the Office at 203-264-5890 or one of the committee members.

— Bud Bennett, Lainie Jedlinsky, Krista Judson, Ralph Kubista or Sharon Stiles

## NEWSY NUGGETS



A very special shout out to the little elf who put all of the plant risers away after Easter!

It was a very nice surprise!



The 1st Spring Fling was a great success. Thank for all the help behind the scenes and on the day.

Cont.



Wedding Congratulations to Tyler and Alexandra Ferraro



**THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

Joseph	Renee	Beverly C.	Nancy G.
Christopher L.	David S.	Rita L.	Peter C.
Joanne P.	Cathy P.	Melissa	Scot
Gary	Kathleen	Austin	David
Frank	Elaine Merrill	Tracy Groody	Ken B.
Dennis M.	Willard R.		

- The loss of Richard Merrill's Mother
- Prayers for Ukraine and Russia.
- Prayers for Sergienko Family that live in Kyiv.
- Prayers for Horiatis Family on the loss of a loved one.
- Lynne K's friend who is having health issues.
- Ann Walters' family friend suffering from recent tragedy.
- Christopher Lewis who has left for his 2<sup>nd</sup> deployment with the Army.

## 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, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Daytime Bible Study, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- Fridays: Dance, 4 - 6 p.m.  
AA Meeting, 6 – 9 p.m.

### Every Month

- 3rd Sunday Faith Formation, 9:00 a.m..
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Deacons (Following Services)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays Loom Service, 7 p.m.
- 4th Tuesdays Church Council, 7:15 p.m.
- 1st Wednesday Stewardship, 7:00 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Loss & Grief Group, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Trustee's Meeting
- 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, 11 a.m.
- 1st Friday Parishioner's Post Published





## Upcoming Events

All are invited to the **LSA Association Spring Meeting** to be held on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**, beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Washington, 6 Kirby Road, beginning in the Parish House and later moving to the Meetinghouse. Both are handicap accessible.

**Reservations by May 11** are a must for the meal and meeting.

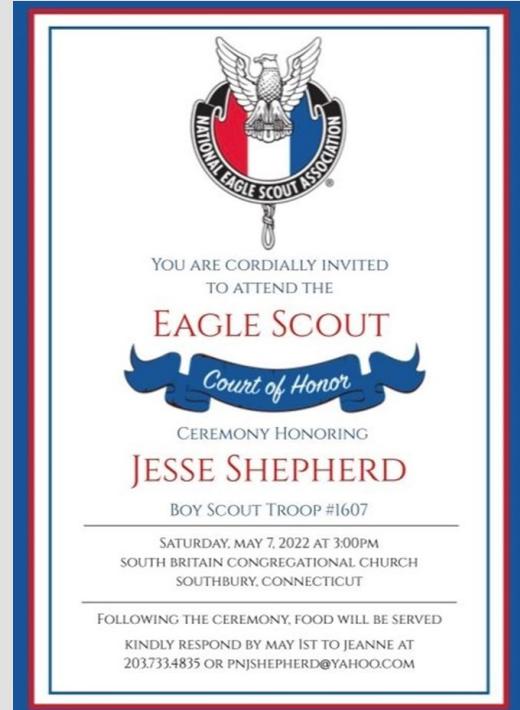
Please email the Washington Church at [admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org)

OR call the Church Office Phone: **860-868-0569**.



## **DON'T FORGET:**

Saturday, May 7, 3 p.m. - Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony Honoring **Jesse Shepherd**, Boy Scout Troop #1607. South Britain Congregational Church





**Scholarship Award Sunday, May 15, 2022**, during worship services.

**May 22, 11:00 a.m. – Pastor Mac's goodbye party**, Gathering Room

**June 5, 11:00 a.m. – Annual Meeting**, Gathering Room

**June 12, 11:15 a.m. – ONA info and education session**: LGBTQIA panel discussion, Gathering Room

**June 15: Lifeline Screening** will be at SBCC on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call 1-800-324-1851 or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HS](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HS). Any questions contact Krista 203-231-4176.



Don't forget Mothers Day Sunday May, 8 2022



## Did you know?



Mother's Day is **the third highest selling holiday** for flowers and plants.

---

It's typically **the busiest day** of the year in the restaurant industry.

The **first Mother's Day** was celebrated in **1908**. Anna Jarvis honored her mother Ann Jarvis with a memorial.

---

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, **the Mother of the Gods**.



Mother's Day is celebrated in close to **50 countries** in different parts of the world.

---

In Hindu tradition, Mother's Day is called "**Mata Tirtha Aunshi**" or "Mother Pilgrimage fortnight", and is celebrated in countries with a Hindu population.