

# scc Highlights

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here*

SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WORSHIPING AND SERVING SINCE 1727  
599 Main St. PO Box 295 Somers, CT 06071 (860) 763- 4021

August 2025  
Volume 297 / #8

Dear Somers Congregational UCC Community:

Sunday, August 31st, my last day in worship with you, is fast approaching. As it does, I find myself absolutely flooded with memories and gratitude for all the fun, funny, heartfelt, difficult, and sad things we've been through together in the time that I have been your Pastor and Teacher. Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives.

Leaving can be a painful but also sacred process. The pain of separation and the discombobulation of losing someone in your orbit are very real. There is a grief process including all those feelings of sadness, anger, bargaining, denial, and acceptance.

It is also a time to get to the heart of why someone or something is so important to you, and what that says about what you need and want for the future. That can be the seed of a new beginning.

Although we will soon be apart, know that I am thinking of you and praying for you daily. And when I leave, I trust that we will each continue to cherish our time together and to hold it as a gift of grace received in gratitude.

*Bound by the UCC Ministerial Code of Ethics, there are a few boundaries I must set as I leave my professional relationship with you all and become your former Pastor with the purpose of making space for the new ministry that will continue after I leave.*

1. **I will need to be out of contact with you until at least twelve months have passed and you are well into building relationships with your new leadership.** This includes social media, which has become almost a second form of church. I will need to disconnect from you there for the same amount of time. On Facebook, this has the unfortunate term of "unfollowing." It does not mean that you are not my friends or that I don't love you dearly! But it does mean that we will need to separate our daily lives from each other in a way that social media connections make difficult.
2. **As a former pastor, I can no longer be your pastor.** That means I can't lead worship, do pastoral care, lead weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other things that I would have done as your pastor.

3. Because my family is still living in the area for the next year, it is quite possible that you will cross paths. **I know they will be delighted to run into you, but they won't be able to discuss with you things about SCUCC; the future of your church remains with you.** Please understand that if they need to put a limit on the conversations, it is out of love for the church and its health.

I know boundaries can be hard and can sharpen the pain of separation. But a church cannot move forward with a former pastor lurking in the background. **Your focus needs to be on your future together, seeking out your next leaders and vision.** You can count on my prayers for you, and a love that endures all, even from afar.



Finally, I ask your forgiveness, for things I’ve done poorly and things I’ve left undone. I offer my forgiveness freely to you as well, and feel deeply grateful for God’s grace guiding us through all of this.

Somers Congregational UCC, you are gifted with a history to be proud of and a community to take pride in. You have an amazing and talented staff and strong lay leadership to guide you on your future path. God is with you and will always be ready to inspire you further toward justice and joy. The Southern New England Conference, the Tolland Association and the wider UCC stand ready to assist and encourage you.

With deep gratitude for all the time and experiences we’ve shared together,

Rev. Scott Spence

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

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## August Worship Schedule

August 3rd	<b><u>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> <i>Start of Isaiah Summer Sermon Series</i> Isaiah 6:1-8 & Luke 5:8-10  <i>Communion and Deacon's Fund Sunday</i>
August 10th	<b><u>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> Isaiah 9:1-7 & John 8:12
August 17th	<b><u>August 17th: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-4
August 24th	<b><u>August 24th: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> <i>End of Isaiah Summer Sermon Series</i> Isaiah 61:1-11 & Luke 4:16-21
August 31st	<b><u>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> <i>Pastor Scott's Final Sunday</i> <i>Liturgy of Farewell with Guests from Southern New England Conference</i> Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 & Luke 14:1, 7-14

# IT'S TIME FOR VBS!



Aug 4 - 8, 9am - 12pm



Champ's Place Needs

## We Need The Following:

Tomato Soup  
Soups  
Mac n' Cheese  
Cereal  
Pasta  
Shelf-Stable Milk

### Did you know. . . .

Champ's regularly provides food for approximately **80** families. Donations come in through various local organizations as well as deliveries from Food Share.

**HOURS:** Mondays 10 am—Noon and 6 pm -7

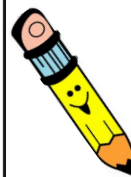
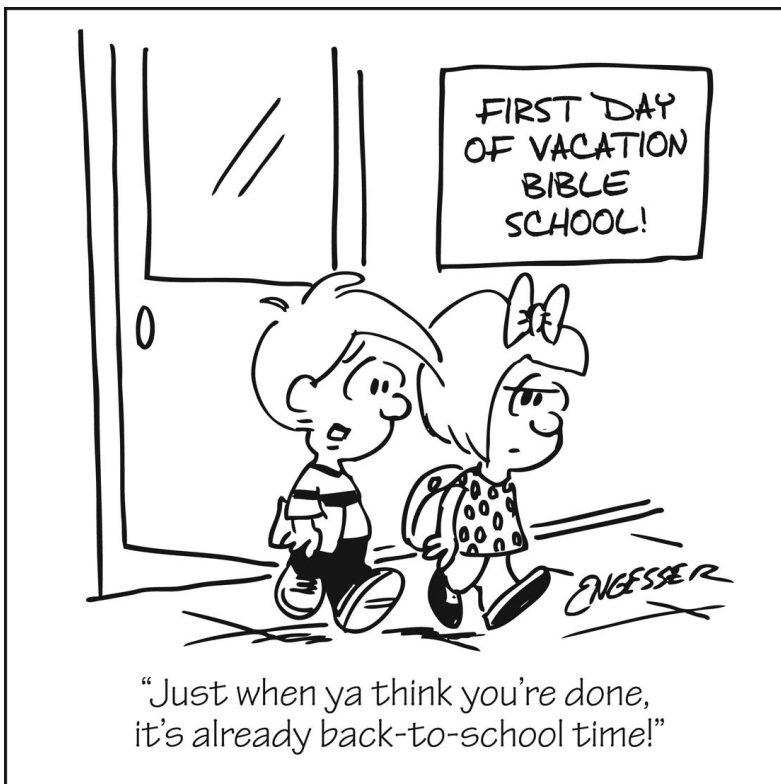


August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 4	Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 pm
August 4	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
August 4— August 8	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	
August 10	Deacon's Meeting	11:30 am
August 11	Communications & Marketing	7:00 pm
August 13	Community Supper	5:30 pm
August 19	Council	6:00 pm
August 24	Loaves and Fishes	



Bible Study – 10am



August 23rd



## MISSIONS' CORNER

We hope everyone is having an amazing and relaxing summer. It is hard to believe the year is half over already. Below is our Mission news for June & July:

No allocated donations for June or July

Unallocated donations for June & July:

- **Somers Rotary Club:** A donation was made in memory of Ed Sullivan, a long-term member of our church.
- **Somer's Beautification Group:** A donation was made to the Somers Beautification Group. That donation was generously matched by the Antonacci family. Contributions like ours directly improve the aesthetic appeal and overall beauty of our town with such things as flowers, miscellaneous plantings, adding benches as well as organization of town-wide clean-up events. Every donation plays a crucial role in the success of those efforts! Please consider donating to keep our town beautiful.

### Thank You Notes:

- **From Somers SafeGrad:** "Thank you for the donation to Somers SafeGrad from the Tag Sale! Your continued support of SafeGrad is so amazing to me, especially since you know how much this program means to me." ~All the best, Sharon & Somers SafeGrad
- **From Somers Beautification:** Taking care of the Somers gardens is our way of contributing to the town we call home. It is a joy for us when we get support from caring people like you. You make it possible for us to continue maintaining gardens that we hope make people smile. Thank you for your donation. ~Joan Rivard & and the members of Somers Beautification

### Mission Outreach News:

- The annual back-to-school backpack drive started on **July 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. You will find information on what school supplies are needed in the weekly bulletin and in the weekly newsletter on Thursday via email. We hope you will consider picking up an item or 2 to help fill a backpack. Along with Sue Zdebski, our Covenant to Care liaison, we thank you so much for supporting this year's Mission Outreach to help children in need get off to a great start to begin their school year.
- Sue has also indicated to Missions that Covenant to Care can use donations of baby gates and Pack n' Play yards. If you or someone you know can help, please contact Sue.

### Misc:

- Missions enjoyed hosting Community Supper on July 9<sup>th</sup>! We had a great turnout. Thanks to all who attended.
- Missions will also host the annual Veteran's breakfast this year on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. More details about how you can help in the months to follow.

**Thought to Ponder:** "You will never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret of your success is in your daily routine." – John C. Maxwell.

As always, please reach out if you have an organization that you would like us to consider donating to. If you have any questions about anything we do on Missions, please feel free to ask. From all of us on your Missions Committee, be well and above all else, **always be kind**. We look forward to continuing the good work that we do on behalf of all of our congregation and our community.

Lisa, Abbie, Jill, Ellen, Bev, Laura ~ Your Missions Committee





## Our Third Meeting House

This information is taken from a history of our church written by Rev. Ransom Hammond, our Pastor from 1973 to 1987.

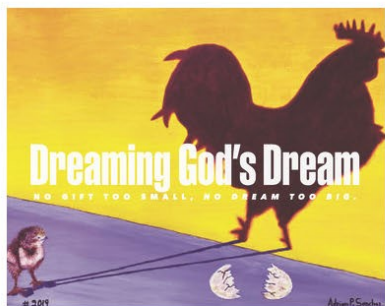
By the year 1840, our second meeting house was in such need of repair that it was decided to build a new church on Main Street which was by then “conceded to be the center of importance.” This new church was finished in 1842 at a cost of \$6000. The basement of the church was the town hall and there, town meetings were held over the years and indeed until the erection of our present town hall in 1948.

In 1892 extensive repairs were made and from a report of the rededication ceremonies held at that time we learn that “the galleries and vestibule have been ceiled; the old windows and blinds have been replaced with the modern cathedral glass windows, the walls repapered and decorated, a polished brass chandelier and two elegant candelabra for the pulpit take the place of the old lamps and the whole inside thoroughly painted.” In 1925, an electrically operated pipe organ was presented as a memorial and dedicated with impressive ceremony.

In 1945, the church decided that extensive repairs were again needed and the Christian Heritage Fund, with a goal of \$12,000, was inaugurated. Finished in 1947, the repairs included a complete renovation of the exterior, alterations to the basement, extensive changes in the auditorium and chancel and refurbishing of the whole interior. The organ console was moved to the front of the church. At this time the town offered to move the chapel which stood across the street, to the rear of the church in exchange for a deed to the land on which it stood. A foundation was erected and the chapel known as “Pilgrim Hall” was moved to its present location, once again with an impressive rededication service.

During the following years the church continued to grow until it became necessary to plan for the erection of an educational building. In 1959, we formally dedicated our new Parish House, a two story building of colonial design in keeping with the architecture of the church. This was named “The Bugbee Center” to honor Emily Bugbee our much beloved church school superintendent.

An account of the changing physical properties of the church, while they are not all-important in themselves, do give a very graphic indication of the vigor, vitality and growth of the Somers Congregational Church over the years. We think of ourselves as a truly community church serving the spiritual interests of the community and offering to all the opportunity to freely worship God and to join with others in actively carrying forward the work of the church.



# Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.



As we continue **Dreaming God's Dream - No Gift too Small, No Dream too Big**, let us reflect on ***why do we make a commitment of support to our church?***

We can give to our congregation without turning in a commitment card. So why write down our intention for the coming year? Of course, telling the church about our intention helps leaders plan. But we ask you to write down your intentions for another reason.

Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

A commitment card can engage us in all those ways as we express our love of God and neighbor.

**Heart:** We feel the love and support of people in the congregation.

This is the place where we belong.

**Mind:** We think about our resources, both our income and our accumulated assets when deciding on what commitment to make in the coming year.

**Soul:** We experience the hope that comes from making a commitment to the future. A commitment card symbolizes our confidence in God's future and makes us part of helping that future come about.

**Strength:** We do what we can to help support our community.

What might God do with what you have to offer?

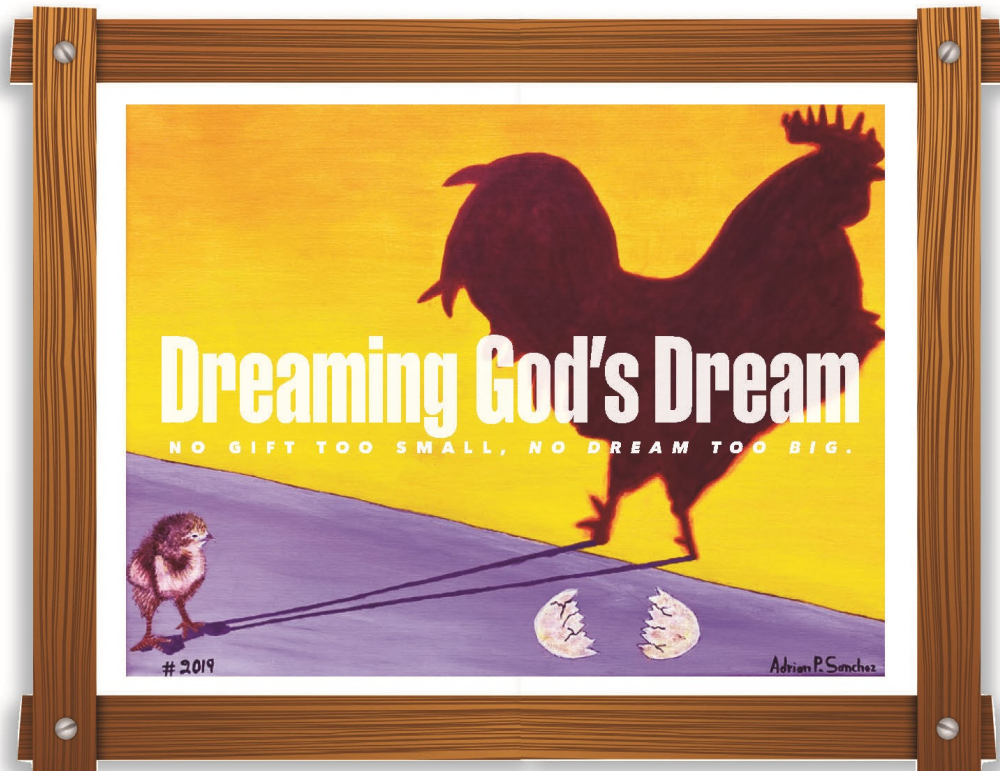
Your time, talents and financial pledge make all of our dreams possible for our church. The Stewardship Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider pledging if you have not already done so for 2025. *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7.

As always, if you have any questions about giving or about how your offerings become ministry, please feel free to contact the Stewardship Committee.

Blessings

You're Stewardship Team

Jeff Roig (Chair) & Tyler Cass



## Why Pledge

### WHY DO WE MAKE A COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT TO CHURCH?

**W**e can give to our congregation without turning in a commitment card. So, why write down our intention for the coming year? Of course, telling the church about our intention helps leaders plan. But we ask you to write down your intentions for another reason.

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**Strength:** we do what we can to help support our community.

We ask you to return a commitment card because it connects you to the mission and ministry of our congregation to our neighbors, near and far. Returning your commitment card affirms with all of your being that you are part of our response to God's dream.

### CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.  
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



# Community Supper



Join us on the second Wednesday of the month for a meal with the community in the foundation of Somers Congregational Church.

## *Calendar*

**April 9th**

**May 14th**

**June 11th**

**July 9th**

**August 13th**

**September 10th**



**All dinners begin at 5:30pm.**

Call to reserve your spot for meal planning:  
(860) 763-4021 (please leave message if no answer.)

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND KEEP THESE  
COMMUNITY SUPPERS RUNNING! Thank you.

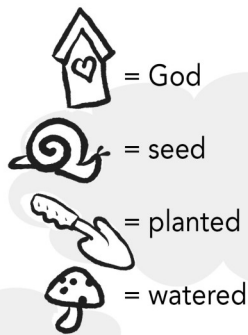


# PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

*Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.*

## KEY



I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, Apollos \_\_\_\_\_ it,

but \_\_\_\_\_ has been making it \_\_\_\_\_.

So neither the \_\_\_\_\_ who plants nor the

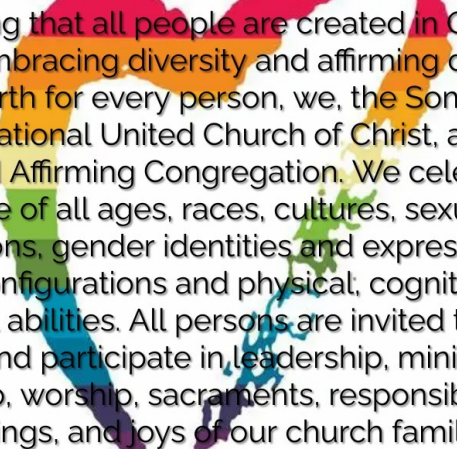
\_\_\_\_\_ who waters is \_\_\_\_\_,

but \_\_\_\_\_, who makes things \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

## Somers Congregational United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant



"Believing that all people are created in God's image, embracing diversity and affirming dignity and worth for every person, we, the Somers Congregational United Church of Christ, are an Open and Affirming Congregation. We celebrate people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations and physical, cognitive or emotional abilities. All persons are invited to fully share and participate in leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family."



Somers Congregational Church  
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Our Church Administrative Assistant edits and publishes the  
Church Newsletter, Highlights.  
Please be aware of deadlines and send your articles to  
**[Highlights@thesomerschurch.org](mailto:Highlights@thesomerschurch.org)**