

The Steeple

June 2023

A monthly newsletter from South
Congregational Church
Centerville, MA



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A Message from Pastor Terry...



Dear Members and Friend,

We are getting close. The Pastoral Search Committee has done a great job in searching, searching for clarity about who we are, who our neighbor is, and who God is calling us to be. Part two of the search is identifying a pastor who may be a good match for us.

A good match is not the same as looking for “the ideal candidate.” That is like finding the “ideal spouse.” I am not one. Thinking you married the ideal person is a set up for disappointment. There are no ideal pastors. Expecting that is a set up for disappointment. And, by the way, this is not an ideal congregation. There are none.

Like any marriage, when two less than ideal people chose to marry, they make a promise to each other in the presence of God and assembled folks. What keeps them together is not being two ideal people. It is the promise they have made and the promise they keep working to keep.

I too have made a promise to this congregation. I promised to be around and help in the process of seeking a new settled pastor. And when that new pastor is here, I promised to leave and not in any way interfere.

I would like to quote the words of Rev. Alex Shea Will, Area Minister of the Northeast Region of the Southern New England Conference, UCC. He wrote, “As the Northeast Region Area Conference Minister, I’ve learned a lot about true ‘goodbyes.’ As part of faithful boundary keeping, I often explain to congregations (and pastors) that the ‘goodbye’ between pastor and church is not like most of the ‘goodbyes’ we experience around us.

“The departing pastor will no longer be available for phone calls or quick text messages. You won’t be able to jump on Facetime to say hello. They won’t be there for the highs and lows of this human journey anymore. And because we don’t really say goodbye anymore, it all seems silly and unfair – cruel, even.

Continued page 2....

“Yet, true ‘goodbyes’ are healthy for individuals and churches. Among many other reasons, it means that in those weeks and months leading up to the final ‘goodbye’ we get time for celebration and thanks. Together, we can tell one another how we really feel, because one day very soon, we won’t be able to do that. I pray that we all embrace the spiritual practice of a ‘good’ bye. And in doing so, we might discover that which God is inviting us into through the release of what has been.”

Well said, Rev. Will. Let me add that I do not look forward to goodbyes. They can be difficult for me. But it does seem necessary. Elise and I will still live a short distance from the church. We may run into each other from time to time. You can ask about our grandkids, and I can ask about yours. We can all complain about all the road construction. We just can’t talk about church unless you want to tell me what a great job the new pastor is doing.

As for me and mine, we will be off to whatever grand adventure God has for us.

Blessings,
John



A Musical Note from Karen...

Music Appreciation Sunday – June 11th

“We are what we repeatedly do, excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.” Perhaps you have heard that quote from Aristotle before, I’d like to repeat it... “We are what we repeatedly do, excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.”

The performance of music requires repetition... the members of both the vocal choir and bell choir can attest to that. That repetition requires dedication and devotion. I’d like to thank both choirs for their commitment to excellence, by rehearsing weekly... showing up and giving me their complete and undivided attention to the task at hand; by focusing and following my instructions; practicing at home for some; and finally, by giving 100% during performances. I couldn’t ask for more from either group, and I am humbled by their faithfulness.

Excellence isn’t perfection, that’s not what we’re chasing... an offering doesn’t have to be perfect for it to have excellence. Again, I can’t thank the members of each group enough for their commitment to excellence. And while I’m thanking the performers in each group, I want to thank Tony, the sexton, for his help in our reaching our goals, by setting up and breaking down the bell tables weekly, it is a huge help.

I also, want to acknowledge Mary George, our soprano section leader and soloist. We are truly blessed to have her here with us. I enjoy working with her so much. Her talent and skill make it so much fun, and I’ve absolutely had the most wonderful time every single offering that we have done.

Here is a list of our Excellent Musicians at South Church:

Adult Choir Sopranos: Mary George and Suzanne Johnson; **Adult Choir Altos:** Nancy Beauchamp, Jane de Groot, and Ruth French.

Bell Choir (in standing order from lowest to highest notes): Nancy Beauchamp, Bill Coughlin, Dawn Dennen, Deb Weinstein, Fran Merton, Pat Coughlin, Ginger Mochen, Nancy Callahan and Cindy Brackett.

Bell Choir Stage Manager: Tony deFazio

Let us pray.

God of all creation, we thank you today for your gift of musicians. WE know that every good and perfect gift comes from you, and we recognize the effort that bringing your gifts to fruition takes. May musicians facilitate music that brings you glory. Music that transcends barriers that divide race, class, gender, denominationalism, ethnicity, or geography. Generous Spirit, we pray for musicians' commitment to excellence. We ask that you continue to cause them to create and share the gift of music through instrument and voice. May they find joy in their work and may it fill them with peace, comfort, and purpose. Fill musicians with your light and love as they generously share with the world. May they bring light into dark places, restore hope and vision to all who are oppressed, and well-being and health to all those who suffer. Today, Lord, we give you our worship in music. May it be a platform for you, Heavenly Sprit, to touch our lives afresh and build your church. Bless musicians as only you can. In your name we pray. Amen.



5 ~ Bonnie Johnson
7 ~ Marty Field
10 ~ Dylan Byrnes
11 ~ Dylan Mazzeo
11 ~ Jane de Groot
12 ~ Charlotte Davis
16 ~ Meg Bross
16 ~ Kathryn Byrnes
21 ~ Sarah Fachada
21 ~ Aaron Steele
22 ~ Karen Crosby
29 ~ Hally McLaughlin

Happy Anniversary
12 ~ Bill & Pat Coughlin



In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>June 2023</h1> 				1. AL ANON 8am AA ~ 5:30pm	2. O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	3. Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
4. Choir 9 am Worship Service Communion 10am Pot Luck 11:00am  Music Appreciation Sunday	5. Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	6. OA ~ 10am Building & Grounds 6:30pm	7. OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10- 3pm AL ANON 9am Girl Scouts 4- 5:30pm Bell Choir 5:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30- 8pm	8. AL ANON 8am Book Club 12:30-1:30 pm Leadership Circle 2pm AA ~ 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm	9. O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	10. Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
11. <u>Bell Choir</u> 9:15am <u>Choir</u> 9:30 am Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	12. Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	13. Men's Breakfast 8:00 am OA ~ 10am	14. OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10- 3pm AL ANON 9am Boy Scouts 6:30- 8pm  Flag Day	15. AL ANON 8am AA ~ 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm	16. O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	17. Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
18. Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am  Father's Day	19. Thrifty Niche 10-3pm <u>Reminder</u> <u>Steeple</u> <u>Deadline</u>	20. OA ~ 10am	21. OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10- 3pm AL ANON 9am Girl Scouts 4- 5:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30- 8pm  First Day of Summer	22. AL ANON 8am Book Club 12:30-1:30 pm AA ~ 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm	23. O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	24. Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
25. Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	26. Thrifty Niche 10-3pm <u>St. Joseph's</u> <u>Casserole</u> <u>Drop Off</u>	27. OA ~ 10am	28. OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10- 3pm AL ANON 9am Boy Scouts 6:30- 8pm	29. AL ANON 8am AA ~ 5:30pm Cub Scouts 6-7pm	30. O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	