

THE STEEPLE

JANUARY 2025



South Congregational Church

An Open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

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Website: <https://southcongregationalchurch-centerville.org/>

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The Rev. Sally Norris, Senior Minister

Karen Crosby, Minister of Music

Mary George, Soloist

Tony de Fazio, Sexton

Karen Morin, Office Administrator

WELCOME TO 2025

In January we begin a new season of the church year: Epiphany!

Practically speaking, Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas – January 6. According to tradition, Epiphany is the day that the Magi – guided by the Star - arrived at the manger bearing gifts for the newborn Child Jesus. This is why we sing “We Three Kings” on Epiphany Sunday even though it seems like we are beyond Christmas carol season!

But the full season of Epiphany has deeper significance. The word “Epiphany” derives from an ancient Greek word meaning “reveal” or “manifest.” So, theologically-speaking, Epiphany – both the day and the season – teaches about how God is revealed to us through Jesus Christ. Symbols of Epiphany are “star” and “light.” Just as the Magi were led by the Star to the manger, so also we are led by the light of God to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and how the light of faith is manifest in the our lives and in the world.

The theme of “light” actually makes sense with the earth’s rhythm. The days gradually are getting longer – there is a bit more daylight each day as we go through the Epiphany.

Our Sunday worship during this Epiphany season (from January 5 – March 2) will reflect these themes, in particular the theme of “light.” Hope you will join with us each Sunday at 10:00 am:

Sunday January 5 Epiphany Sunday

Holy Communion

We will each receive a “Star Word” –

come and find out what this means!

Sunday January 12 The Light of Baptism

Sunday January 19 The Light of Martin Luther King, Jr

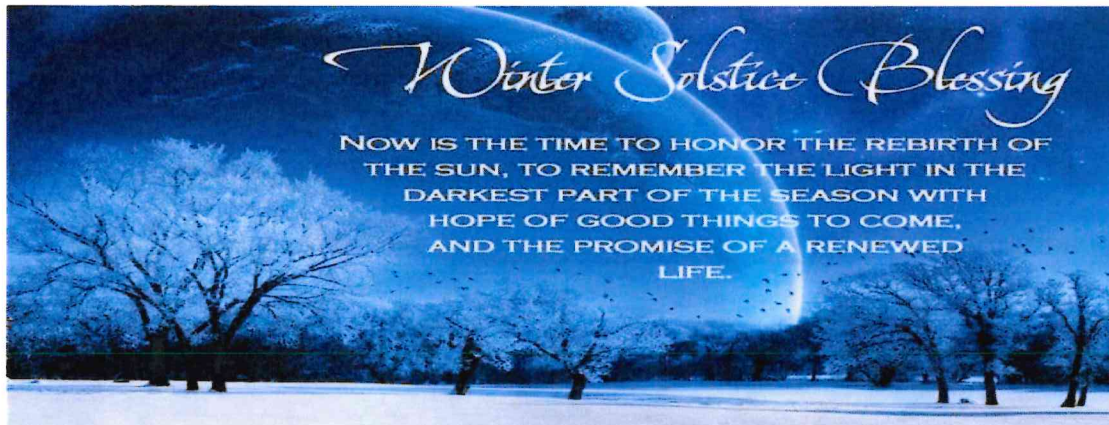
- Sunday January 26** **The Light of You**
New Members
- Sunday February 2** **The Light of the Church**
Holy Communion
Annual Meeting
- Sunday February 9** **The Light of Scouts (Annual Scout Sunday)**
Breakfast followed by worship in Fellowship Hall
Message offered by Bill Monroe
- Sunday February 16** **The Light of *tba***
The Rev Pat Coughlin, preaching
- Sunday February 23** **The Light of Jesus' Hard Sayings**
- Sunday March 2** **The Light of Humor – Mardi Gras!**
Holy Communion and Party!

There are also several study opportunities in January and February which we hope will interest you. Details are in this Steeple.

May God's light shine on you!

Love,

Sally





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

JANUARY

January 2nd

Bill Coughlin

January 7th

Rick Mee

January 8th

Laura Bete

January 10th

Deb Weinstein

January 16th

Susan Lague

January 27th

Sue Wahl

KAREN'S CORNER

We have just realized that Karen Crosby's Email address is incorrect in the Directory!! The one in the directory is missing her middle initial. If you have Emailed to Karen and she has not gotten back to you is because of this.

Please send the email to her again. She looks forward to hearing from you.

Her email address should be karenecrosby@me.com Sorry for any confusion.



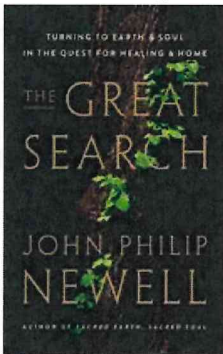


MEN' S BREAKFAST – WEDNESDAY January 8th 8:00AM Fellowship Hall

Please join in with us for some coffee, breakfast and great conversations!!

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is starting again in January. We will meet at 12:30-1:30pm every other Thursday starting January 9th in the library. The book we have chosen to start the season with is –“The Great Search” – Turning Earth and Soul in the quest for healing and home – John Philip Newell (sold on Amazon)



We will be discussing the introduction to chapters 1 & 2 at our first meeting on January 9th. Please contact Bev Fogg to join the book group.

Reading books is beneficial for several reasons, including improving memory, reducing stress, expanding vocabulary, enhancing critical thinking skills, developing empathy, increasing knowledge, boosting creativity, and improving focus and concentration.

Reflective January Quotes

“January is a perfect time to reflect on where you’ve been and where you’re going” - Unknown

“What the new year brings to you will depend on a great deal of what you bring to the new year.” – Vern McLellan

“Sometimes, the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths.” – Etty Hillesum

“The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all.” – Josiyah Martin

REIKI – PLEASE JOIN US ON JANUARY 21ST 1:00PM LIBRARY



LUNCH AND LEARN BIBLE STUDY

with Retired Rear Admiral Rabbi Harold Robinson

Wednesdays January 15, 22, and 29 at 12:00 noon

Fellowship Hall

Bring a brown-bag lunch Beverages and dessert provided

Rabbi Robinson will lead us on a study of the book of Genesis.

Bring your favorite translation of the Bible and an eager, curious mind.

Rabbi Robinson & his wife are residents of Centerville. He earned a BA degree from Coe College and a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters in 1972, a Master of Arts and ordination as a Rabbi in 1974 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In 1999 the College Institute awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Following ordination, he was Rabbi of Temple Israel of Gary, Ind., 1974-1977, the Cape Cod Synagogue (1977-1998) and B'nai Zion Congregation in Shreveport, La, 1998-2006. He has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, the Resolutions Committee of Reform Judaism and the Commission on Religious Living of Reform Judaism. He served as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Cape and Islands Advisory Council. As a Rear Admiral in the US Naval Reserve he served as Chaplain and then Chief of Naval Chaplains. Personal awards include The Distinguished Service Medal and the Naval Commendation Medal.

Inquirers' Session /Sunday January 12 at 11:15 am

Curious about South Church? Interested in learning more about our many programs and the United Church of Christ? Thinking about becoming a member of South Church?

Join Rev. Sally and the Membership Team for an Inquirers' Session.

Questions? Feel free to contact Rev. Sally –

pastor.sochurch@gmail.com or 508-775-8332, ext 11

(We anticipate new members joining on Sunday January 26!)

A poem for the New Year by Howard Thurman (20th century)

“I will sing a new song”

The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out.

It has long ago been learned by my heart;

It repeats itself over and over,

bringing no added joy to my days or lift to my spirit.

I will sing a new song.

I must learn the new song for the new needs.

I must fashion new words born of all the new growth
of my life – of my mind – of my spirit.

I must prepare for new melodies
that have never been mine before.

That all that is within me may lift my voice unto God.

Therefore, I shall rejoice with each new day
and delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding.

I will sing, this day, a new song unto the Lord.

We will be scheduling a discussion of the film “Bonhoeffer” soon –

Watch for details

LOOKING AHEAD

Martin Luther King, Jr's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Led by the Rev. Wesley Williams

Lunch provided

Rev. Williams is a retired United Methodist minister and graduate of Harvard Divinity School. His career has included racial justice advocacy in Boston and New York. He is a Cape Cod resident and has served churches on the Cape and in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He is active in the Cape NAACP, United Methodist justice committees, and he co-founded – along with Rev. Sally Norris and Rev. Ken Campbell – the MLK Action Team on Cape Cod. He is also a scholar of African American music, film, and art.

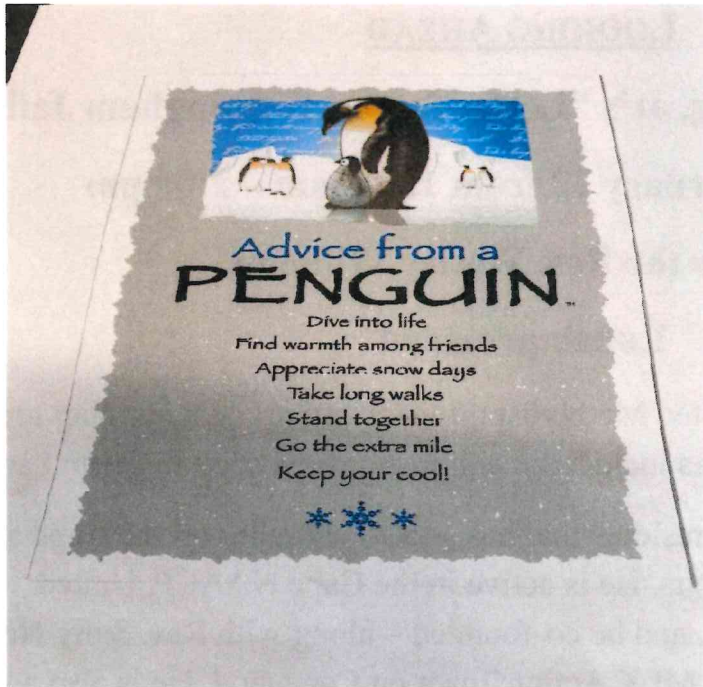
Sponsored by the South Church Social Justice Matters Team. Please let us know you are coming by calling or emailing Karen in the church office 508-775-8332 / sochurch@comcast.net We will email you a PDF of the "Letter" and have printed copies available by early February.


Every January, Cape Cod remembers the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. You may find the following event on Sunday January 19 of interest. It is sponsored by the NAACP and other organizations including the Cape Cod Council of Churches:

Celebrate the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, January 19. This special ecumenical service will begin at 3 PM at First Baptist Church, Hyannis. The service may also be accessed online at www.FBCHyannis.org.

The service will feature keynote speaker Roberto Mighty, the creator of the WGBH documentary, "Legacy of Love," which explores the early years of Dr. King's and Coretta Scott's relationship while they were students living in Boston. He will speak about their mutual dedication to advancing racial and economic equity.

Mr. Mighty is currently completing an augmented reality project about colonial African Americans, and two museum exhibits about Native American heritage and culture.



UNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
JANUARY 2025		<p>"And suddenly, you know: it's time to start something new and trust the magic of new beginnings." ~ Meister Eckhart~</p> 		<p>1. CLOSED Happy New Year 2025</p>		<p>3. Re-Open 10-3 Thrifty Niche</p>	
5. 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service/Communion 11:00am Pot Luck Hands of Hope	6. 10-3 Thrifty Niche	7. 10:00am OA	8. 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am AL ANON 10-3 Thrifty Niche 11:00am Caregivers 4:00-5:30pm Daisy Group 5:30pm Bell Choir	9. 8:00am AL ANON 12:30 Book Club 2:00pm Leadership Circle 5:30pm AA 6- 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10. 10-3 Thrifty Niche	11. 10-1 Thrifty Niche	
12. 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service Renewal of Baptism 11:00am Fellowship Hour Inquirer's Class - Library	13. 10-3 Thrifty Niche	14. 10:00am OA 6:00-7:30pm Girl Scouts	15. 9:00am AL ANON 10-3 Thrifty Niche 12:00 Bible Study 5:30 Bell Choir rehearsal	16. 8:00am AL ANON 5:30pm AA 6- 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17. 10-3 Thrifty Niche	18. 10-1 Thrifty Niche	
19. 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service Martin Luther King 11:00am Fellowship Hour	20. 10-3 Thrifty Niche	21. 10:00am OA 1:00-2:00pm Reiki Library	22. 9:00am AL ANON 10-3 Thrifty Niche 11:00am Caregivers 12:00 Bible Study 4:00-5:30pm Daisy Group 5:30 Bell Choir rehearsal	23. 8:00am AL ANON 12:30 Book Club 5:30pm AA 6- 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24. 10-3 Thrifty Niche	25. 10-1 Thrifty Niche	
26. 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Handbell Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service Light of People 11:00am Fellowship Hour New Membership Sunday	27. 10-3 Thrifty Niche 2:00pm St. Joseph's Cook & Serve	28. 10:00am OA 6:00-7:30pm Girl Scouts	29. 9:00am AL ANON 10-3 Thrifty Niche 12:00 Bible Study 5:30 Bell Choir rehearsal	30. 8:00am AL ANON 5:30pm AA 6- 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31. 10-3 Thrifty Niche		

