

# THE STEEPLE

## JUNE 2025



### **SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

An open and affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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The Rev. Sally E. Norris, Senior Minister

Karen Crosby, Minister of Music

Mary George, Soloist

Karen Morin, Office Administrator

Tony DeFazio, Sexton

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Pentecost...” sang no one ever. Actually, this is a shame because Pentecost – from the church year perspective – really is “the most wonderful time of the year...”

Pentecost is the third big feast day on the church calendar. But after the joyous wonder of Christmas, and “Alleluias” of Easter, Pentecost just doesn’t garner the same passion.

This is understandable. We can relate to the sublime mystery of Jesus’ birth. We are captivated by the Resurrection of Jesus in all the ways it relates to our lives, even if we are unsure about the Resurrection stories in the Gospels. But Pentecost – that’s another matter. It’s hard to quantify and explain the Holy Spirit. Exactly! The Holy Spirit is unpredictable, but when it’s alive and well in church, you know it. The energy and imagination are palpable.

Henri Nouwen, the treasured 20 th century spiritual writer, wrote about Pentecost: “Without Pentecost, the Christ event – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – becomes imprisoned in history...(At Pentecost), the Spirit comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.”

Pentecost is the longest church season – it goes all the way to the beginning of Advent! It’s also called “Ordinary Time.” But there’s nothing ordinary about it. Pentecost the day and Pentecost the season invite us to live more fully and imaginatively in the world. Think of the possibilities! An exciting way to celebrate the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is through God’s amazing gift of music! How glorious that Pentecost and Music Sunday are the same Sunday – June 8! We will inaugurate our “Negro Spirituals Royalties Initiative” and celebrate the joy of South Church music.

Love,  
Sally



## Music Sunday – Karen Crosby

Sir John Rutter, renowned English choral composer, said about music...”It is not one of life’s frills. It’s something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community and our souls... performing music is more than the sum of its parts. People pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony is an emblem for what we need in the world, when so much of the world is at odds with itself”.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of Pentecost, our worship theme will also include music. I feel incredibly fortunate and privileged to serve as the facilitator of the music program here at South Congregational Church. However, this program is not a solo effort. As John Rutter said, it is more than the sum of its parts... it is people pouring their hearts and souls in perfect harmony. Together, we create music that enriches our worship experience every Sunday.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who brings our music into harmony. To the handbell and vocal choirs: your unwavering commitment and talent elevate our worship to a dynamic and organic experience. I am deeply grateful for your invaluable contributions. A special thank you to Tony DeFazio, our sexton, whose help in setting up and breaking down the handbell equipment each week is indispensable.

Sally, your support and inspiration fuel my creative energy and enable me to do my best work. You are an integral part of this program, and I am so thankful for your encouragement.

To the congregation: your energy and engagement reflect the music we share, creating a dynamic and uplifting experience for all. Your participation is vital to the spirit of our worship, and I am grateful for the role you play in making our music program so special.

Finally, I want to recognize Mary George, our soprano soloist and section leader. Mary, your incredible talent and dedication make my job so much easier and elevate our music program to new heights. Thank you all for being part of this vibrant and inspiring music program. Together, we create something truly special every Sunday.

**Let us pray...**

**God of all creation, Music is not merely an accessory to life; it is central to our humanity, our sense of community, and the depths of our souls. Performing music is more than the sum of its parts—it is a powerful emblem of unity, a reminder of what the world needs when so much of it is divided.**

**Today, we thank you for the gift of musicians. We acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from you, and we honor the dedication and effort it takes to bring these gifts to life. May musicians create music that glorifies you and transcends the barriers of race, class, gender, denomination, ethnicity, and geography.**

**May music bring light to dark places, restore hope to the oppressed, and bring comfort and healing to those who suffer. Today, Lord, we offer our worship through music. May it serve as a platform for your Spirit to renew our lives and strengthen your church. In your name, we pray. Amen.**

**Vocal Choir Members:**

Nancy Beauchamp, Jon Carruth, Ellen Corey, Jane de Groot, Dan Dray, Ruth French, Mary George, Suzanne Johnson, Barb Valenti

**Handbell Choir Members (that have participated during the 2024/2025 season):**

Nancy Beauchamp, Laura Bete, Cindy Brackett, Nancy Callahan, Bill Coughlin, Pat Coughlin, Dawn Dennen, Marty Field, Fran Merton, Ginger Mochen, Barb Valenti, Deb Weinstein





## From the Pastoral Relations Team

During the pandemic, we all segued into a 24/7 world, in particular our communication. This made sense, given the limitations on public gatherings. We honed connections with family, friends, church, and work through our iPhones, Androids, and zoom. But being “on” 24/7 can lead to “burnout” and we don’t want to see that with Pastor Sally and Karen Crosby.

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets periodically with Pastor Sally as an advisory group to the pastor and as a support group for her leadership. An ongoing concern of this committee is that Pastor Sally improve her work/life balance so that she is not responding to calls, texts, and emails on a 24/7 basis. We desire this for Karen Crosby also. This expectation of 24/7 communication is detrimental to a healthy church life, and needs to be re-aligned with our values of respecting boundaries and supporting both our Pastor and our Minister of Music.

Rev. Sally is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time pastor (i.e. averaging 35 hours per week). The Pastoral Relations Committee has recommended to Leadership Circle that we all adhere to the following business hours in texting, emailing, or phoning the staff (as well as other church members after 5 pm)

- Monday - (Sally’s day off)
- Tuesday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm
- Sat/Sun: weekend – Saturday is the day for worship preparation and community events. Please limit emails, texts and calls. For pastoral emergencies or a sensitive matter, please phone.

Please note:

1. Dial 911 in case of an emergency. Rev. Sally (or her substitute during vacation) is of course available in case of an emergency in which she is needed.
2. Rev. Sally will write in her emails and voicemail when to expect a response. Please understand that she cannot always respond to texts and emails immediately.
3. Your emails can be written anytime, but after 5 pm, please plan to schedule your emails to be sent at 8:00 am the next morning (or another time). This is possible to do on any computer or cell phone, all of which have “schedule

send” options. (Please contact the Pastoral Relations Committee on how to activate a ‘schedule send.’)

4. Consider your fellow church volunteers and committee members! Plan to communicate with them during the day, unless it is a time sensitive matter.

Karen Crosby is a half-time Music Minister (i.e., 20 hrs per week). Karen’s time is also spent on worship preparation, rehearsals, and Sunday services. She is available for emails or calls during these times:

Tuesday - Thursday: 12-5

Also,

Office Hours for Karen Morin:

Mon thru Thursday 8:00am-1:00pm

Research has shown that setting boundaries when sending texts or emails provides numerous benefits, including improved mental health, stronger relationships, and increased productivity. If we abide by communication flows that respect needs and limits, we can prevent burnout, enhance self-esteem, and reduce stress. This also fosters more respectful and fulfilling interactions, both online and offline.



# **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

<b>6/05</b>	<b>Bonnie Johnson</b>	<b>6/07</b>	<b>Marty Field</b>
<b>6/11</b>	<b>Jane de Groot</b>	<b>6/12</b>	<b>Charlotte Davis</b>
<b>6/16</b>	<b>Meg Bross</b>	<b>6/16</b>	<b>Barbara Valenti</b>
<b>6/20</b>	<b>Deborah Hart</b>	<b>6/21</b>	<b>Sarah Fachada</b>
<b>6/22</b>	<b>Karen Crosby</b>	<b>6/29</b>	<b>Hally McLaughlin</b>



**May this summer bring you...**  
**Sunshine that makes you glow**  
**Smiles that never get old**  
**Breezes that kiss your face**  
**Waves that wash your worries away**  
**Memories that never fade**

**(mindfulpoem.com)**

## June Happenings

Sunday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	11:00am Pot Luck 1:00pm Walk for Hope
Tuesday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting
Wednesday, June 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am Morning prayer on Zoom
Sunday, June 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Music Sunday and Pentecost</b> 9:15am Handbell Rehearsal 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship Hour
Wednesday, June 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am Men's Breakfast * 8:00am Morning prayer on Zoom* *Last ones for Season resume in September 11:00am Caregivers Support Group 2:00pm Cape Regency Worship Service
Thursday, June 12 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm Leadership Circle
Sunday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Lemonade on the Lawn  5:15pm Harbor Hawks Opening Game – COME WATCH SALLY PITCH THE OPENING BALL!

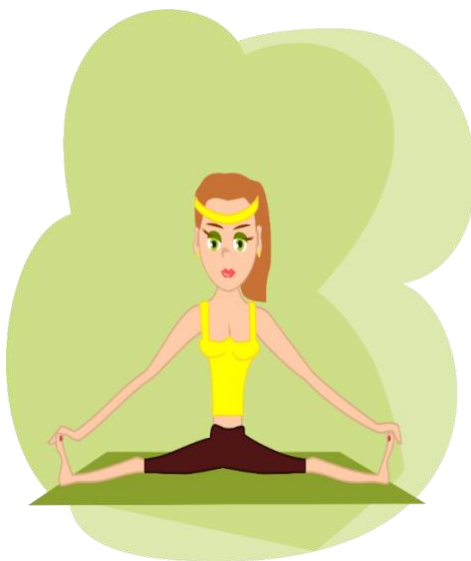




Sunday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00am Worship Service – guest Rev. Bob Naylor Guest Musician – Barbara Valenti 11:00am Lemonade on the Lawn
Monday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2:00-6:00pm St. Joseph's Cook and Serve
Tuesday, June 24 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm Reiki Circle – Library
Wednesday, June 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am Caregivers Support Group
Friday, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	6:00-8:00pm Concert with Formerly Famous Let's Rock and Roll with music and refreshments Outside on the lawn, the weather permitting
Sunday, June 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Worship Service Guest Musician – Barbara Valenti 11:00am Lemonade on the Lawn

**EVERY FRIDAY      JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup>, 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**Come dance and exercise with Marcia 10:00am Fellowship Hall  
(last one is 6/27 till September)**

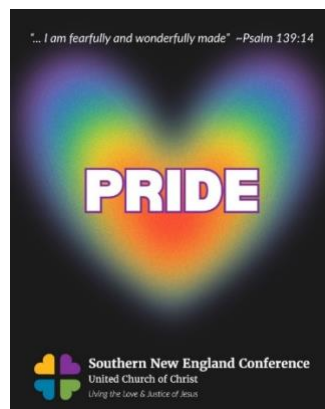




**JUNETEENTH** (Thursday, June 19, 2025) – a federal holiday in United States - recognizes the full emancipation of enslaved Black people on June 19, 1865.

Although Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves on January 1, 1963, it was not until 1865 that slaves in Texas were freed. Events honoring Juneteenth take place throughout Cape Cod. Here is one that may be of interest:

<https://web.falmouthchamber.com/events/An-Evening-with-Wampanoag-Musicians-in-Solidarity-with-Juneteenth-2025-30780/details>



**JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH** – South Church recognizes and supports our LGBTQ community on Cape Cod. There are Pride events taking place throughout the Cape in June. Click on this link to learn more: <https://www.pflagcapecod.org/pride-month-2025.html> **Let's join is some of these events!**



# Formerly Famous



Don't miss... **ROCK & ROLL**

60's, 70's and Beyond led by Jon Carruth & Band

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 / 6:00-8:00pm

South Church

565 Main Street, Centerville





South Church doing its good deeds and raised \$395.00 for Walk for Hope!!





## JULY PREVIEWS



Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Office and Thrifty Niche Closed

Independence Day Parade & Celebration Starts 10:00am

JOIN YOUR SOUTH CHURCH FRIENDS FOR THE PARADE! Wear some Red, White and Blue/decorate your bike, carriage, scooter or even your well-behaved dogs !! **Show your South Church spirit.**

Please contact the office or Sally and let us know.

Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>

Leadership Circle

Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

11:00am Caregivers Support Group

**Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30pm Peter Meyer Group with Brendan Mayer**

Peter Meyer is a guitarist, vocalist, songwriter, touring musician and recording artist. Peter creates compelling and soulful music for an electrifying live performance. He was the lead guitarist in Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band for the past 36 years, and has performed with James Taylor, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Don Henley, Dave Matthews, Joe Walsh and many others. He will be performing with his son, Brendan Mayer. Tickets (\$35.00) may be purchased online at: [petermayer.com](http://petermayer.com)



**Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Second Annual Garden Party at Sally & David's**  
66 Howes Path, Dennis /Rain Date Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-5:00pm



Monday, July 28 <sup>th</sup>	2:00-6:00pm St. Joseph's House Cook and Serve
Tuesday, July 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am Miracle Kitchen 12:00-12:30 pm Reiki Mini – Library
Wednesday, July 30 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am Caregivers Support Group

## **AUGUST PREVIEWS**

### **Old Home Week August 2<sup>nd</sup> Thru August 10<sup>th</sup>**

Saturday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Community Yard Sale 8:00-2:00pm Recreational Building
Sunday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>10:00am Worship Service</b> <b>11:00am Lemonade on the Lawn</b> 5:30-7:00pm MJ and the Gang Concert Historical Museum Gardens
Monday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>4:00-6:00pm Family Ice Cream Social</b> <b>South Church</b>
Tuesday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:00-7:00pm Strawberry Shortcake Social Centerville Public Library – Lower Level 7:00-8:00pm Centerville Summer Meeting
Wednesday, August 6 <sup>th</sup>	5:00-7:00pm – History of Centerville Lecture and slides, 3 decades of Centerville History Centerville Historical Museum
Friday, August 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7:00pm Cape Cod Surftones – South Church</b> <b>Singing best in American four-part a cappella music</b> <b>\$15.00 per person</b>
Saturday, August 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:00-2:00pm Antique and Vintage Car Show Centerville Recreation Building

6:00pm Annual Bonfire with the Moonlighters  
Craigville Beach

**Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am Worship service at Craigville Tabernacle**

**Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Caregivers Support Group**

**Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Caregivers Support Group**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**(Evening time to be announced)**  
**Summer Reading**

Enjoy an evening at Helen Nablo's house and talk about our new read *Cherished Belonging* by Gregory Boyle.

"In a world increasingly marked by division and discord, beloved Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle offers a transformative vision of community and compassion."

