



The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville
United Church of Christ

October, 2013



Soup-a-thon (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

A "SOUPATHON" featuring many (hopefully) members and friends of the church will be held in the church social room at 6 PM on Saturday, November 2. This is a free fun event for those who want to participate and bring a large crock of their favorite soup to share with others .

Participants need to register by October 27; the registration form (sign up sheet) is posted in the social room.

Soup Entry Rules:

1. Entry to be submitted in a crock pot on the day of the event
2. Recipe must be entrants' original
3. Give your soup a name
4. Written recipe must accompany the soup



Soup entries will be taste-tested by those in attendance and evaluated in the following categories:

1. Taste
2. Originality, creativity of recipe
3. Appearance

Even if you're not entering the Cook-Off/Taste Test, please come along and bring at least two non-perishable canned goods as your admission to the event; the donations will be given to a local food shelf. It's recommended that "go-with" food also be brought so we can all enjoy a dinner together.

From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

You know what holiday falls on October 31st, right?

Yes, that's right, it's Reformation Day! It's the day we celebrate the many reformers of the church who have sought to make Christ's church more faithful, pure and holy.

Reformation Day is celebrated on October 31st because that's the day in 1517 that Martin Luther, one of the key early figures in the Protestant Reformation, nailed his 95 theses, or objections to the church practices of the day, on the door of All Saints Church in Wittenburg, Germany. Luther's disputations with the way the pope and his bishops ran the church were widely copied and distributed through the use of a new invention, the printing press. Following Luther's lead, many other reformers-in-waiting soon stepped up and proposed their own reformations of the church, including the Swiss pastors Ulrich Zwingli of Zurich and John Calvin of Geneva. Our own United Church of Christ is descended in large part from the theological work of these two Swiss reformers.

In our worship we will mark Reformation Day on the Sunday before – October 27th. Please join us for worship on that day and every Sunday in October. And if you want to mark Reformation Day in the home, why not dress up as your favorite reformer when you go to a costume



Reformation Sunday

party or take the kids out trick-or-treating? Think of how many people would ask you who you are supposed to be for Halloween! If you have kids, instead of playing "pin the tail on the donkey," play "pin the theses on the door."

Well... I don't really expect anyone to supplant their Halloween decorations and festivities with ones for Reformation Day (but if you do, please take pictures and send them to the church for inclusion in the *Spire*!) But I do hope you will join me in giving thanks this month for the faithful and brave saints of God who have gone before, struggling for a more faithful church, and upon whose shoulders we in the United Church of Christ stand.

Happy Reformation Day to you all,

Graham Van Kewen

Thanks to ..

- .. those who volunteered to take part in service opportunities this past month..
- .. those who supported the 2nd mile missions to benefit Heifer International.
- .. all who contributed to the success of our fun luau fundraising supper.
- .. Syd Cohen for donating mums that were “raffled off” at our Luau supper and Victorian Tea.



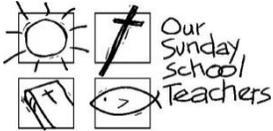
Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study

This group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15 in the social room. All are welcome to attend.

Teachers Needed (submitted by Pat Scully)

The Christian Ed board seeks Sunday School teachers. In order for the CE program to provide a quality experience for our children, and ensure a safe and age appropriate classroom environment, more teachers are needed. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to contribute to this very worthwhile program.



Opportunities in October

Volunteers needed!

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Host</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
10/6		Donna P.	Yvonne W.	Ed & Lois S.	
10/13		Donna P. Patrick F.	Ardie C.		
10/20		Donna P. Patrick F.	Marj B.		
10/27		Donna P.	Dave P.	Tom & Elaine H.	

Finance Reminder



As a church we will vote on the 2014 budget in December, 2013 ... therefore, church boards and committees are reminded that budget requests are to be submitted to finance October 8, so that an annual budget can be prepared.

Report of the Treasurer (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

	August 2013	Monthly Budget	YTD	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$5,560.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$54,213.00	\$90,000.00
Income	\$6,360.80	\$10,485.00	\$75,873.46	\$125,820.00
Expenses	\$7,859.11	\$11,256.00	\$88,281.50	\$135,550.00

Pledges and income were down for August, as well as the expenses. This is typical for a month of vacation time.



Collections for August

Fundraiser- No fundraiser for August
 Flow Through Missions Collections- There was no missions collection for August.
 Property Fund Donations- for August was \$200.00. Total collected so far is \$29,538.00.

Flow through Expenses for August

Loaves & Fishes- \$183.00
 Property Fund- \$48.25- Total cost of the social room to date, \$28,205.87.

Missions

Heifer's Global Harvest Festival (submitted by Pastor Graham)

Meet at church October 5th at 10 a.m. to carpool to Heifer International's Global Harvest Festival at their Overlook Farm in Rutland, MA (a little north of Worcester.) We will tour international homesteads representative of Heifer's work around the globe, sample foreign cuisine, meet the animals, and try our hands at activities like roasting coffee and digging potatoes. Kids can hop a hayride to the pumpkin patch, get their faces painted, and go for the gold in the

potato sack race. Price of admission is \$10/car. Lunch is available on-site for a modest cost or you can pack your own. We will return to church around 5:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to RSVP to Graham by Tuesday, October 1st.

Dual 2nd Miles Missions Collections (submitted by Gen Farnham)

As I write this I'm reminded that fall has arrived and what will be coming soon? Halloween – Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

The 2nd Mile Mission for the last two weeks of October (UNICEF). Perhaps you would like to take a Unicef box and see what you could place in that box during that 2 week period. A little goes a long way and when we combine our offerings, it really helps.

\$25 can provide a first aid kit containing a host of equipment to be used at health care facilities or mobile health centers

\$34 provides immunizations to protect two children for life against child-killing diseases such as measles, polio, whooping cough and tuberculosis

\$75 provides 75 packets of high energy biscuits specially developed for malnourished children.
Your support is appreciated.

Neighbors in Need answers the call for justice to enhance the lives of children and families by providing clothing for infants and children – strollers, diapers and assorted needs – all with the goal of helping families to better care for their children.



While these contacts are made, opportunities are offered for the adults in these families to register to vote - healthy eating tips are given along with recipes – also an understanding of how to soothe their child when he or she is crying.

This is all done in Jackson, MI along with the Partnership Park Downtown Neighborhood Association – just one of the many ways NIN reaches out. This is our 2nd Mile Mission for the first two weeks in October.



Food-Share

The Congregational Church of Somersville and Somers Congregational Church, sponsor a perishable food stop every other Wednesday from 1:15-1:45.



Distribution takes place in the parking lot of Somers Congregational Church on October 9 and 23; anyone willing to assist with the distribution should speak with Marge Morgan..

Pumpkin Sale (submitted by Ulysses Orduz)

Missions will be selling pumpkins in the Wood Chapel – church entrance on Sunday October 6th, 2013. This will take place before and after our Sunday Service. We will be offering various sizes. We hope you can come and support our Missions Program.



Kiva Update (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

During September, we made our 19th loan through KIVA. The recipient of this loan is Hovhannes from Armenia. Hovhannes rents out a small booth where he makes men's and women's shoes. He applied for a loan to purchase leather and materials to continue his craft. Hovhannes uses his income to support his wife and two small children. As always, you can see his story on the Missions Outreach bulletin board or by viewing the KIVA History notebook.

With the initial \$1225 we deposited into our KIVA account, we have loaned \$3800 to people in 17 countries. Lately, we have been able to make a new loan every month.



Prayer Shawl Ministry (submitted by Lois Sharpless)

Anyone is welcome to participate in the prayer shawl ministry. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, please contact me and a quick lesson can be given and some yarn is available. Knitters will gather on Thursday, October 24 at 6 PM in the church library. Come join us in this most rewarding ministry.

Property Update (submitted by Rich Carey)

Soon it will be time for our annual fall clean-up and, as usual, we will need help. Your property committee will prepare a list of tasks to be accomplished and post it in the social room. Anyone who has some free time and would be willing to help out can choose a task and work on it at a time convenient to you.

The church is in serious need of a reliable cleaning person. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in this position, please speak with Everett Morrill or me. The church budget has set pay for 3 hours a week.



"I thought you invited me to be a Premises Keeper!"

Music Notes

Attention all singers! (submitted by Jason Stefanik)

The choir here at the Congregational Church of Somersville is trying out a new practice schedule. If you have ever given a thought to perhaps joining the choir but were unable to commit to a weekly evening rehearsal, then now is your chance to give it a try. For the rest of 2013, we will be holding a single monthly rehearsal on the last

Saturday of each month from 10am to 12:30. All levels of musical ability are welcome at this fun, pressure-free opportunity to lead the church in

making music for the glory of god. Reading music is NOT a requirement. If you have ever thought about singing with the choir but just couldn't fit in your schedule, now is your chance to give it a try! Rehearsals will be held on the last Saturday of each month for the rest of the year. Come sing with us!



Note about Our Hymns in Sunday Worship

(submitted by Pastor Graham)

Recognizing that the New Century Hymnal includes almost all the "old favorites" folks have enjoyed singing in the Pilgrim Hymnal... plus has lots of more "old favorites" not found in the Pilgrim Hymnal (such as *Amazing Grace* and *In the Garden*)... plus has lots of new

favorites (such as *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*) we have lately been using the New Century Hymnal in worship as our "go-to" hymnal for music planning. But should you find a beloved hymn in the Pilgrim Hymnal that is not in the New Century Hymnal, know that we can accommodate you! Please see Graham or Jason with your hymn suggestion and we will work it into our worship together just as soon as we can fit it in with the scripture themes guiding the service each Sunday. Additionally, a few people have asked if they can take a copy of the Pilgrim Hymnal home to look through or even keep. The answer to that question is "Absolutely!" We have plenty of Pilgrim Hymnals to share and we will still have enough for our own worship use. Please see Graham or Jason if you'd like a copy of the Pilgrim Hymnal for yourself.

Ladies Aide Society (submitted by Ardie Carey)

Our luncheon at Sofia's Restaurant in E. Windsor on Sept. 10th was a fun time in which we shared camaraderie and good food. Mavis Collins brought along her cousin, Helen, who was visiting from England and we totally enjoyed hearing about her visit and adventures here and in England. We were a bit spread out as a group so I know many of you didn't get to share the conversation with her as we did so I'm sorry about that! However, I'm sure you heard the laughter at the table she was sitting at and it was due to her great sense of humor!

The next Ladies Aide meeting will be on October 8th at 1:00 in the church social room and will be hosted by Donna Pendleton and she tells me she will make it a Halloween theme! All ladies of the church are welcome. Please join us.



Victorian Tea Report

I would like to thank everyone who donated, baked, worked in the kitchen, waited on tables, helped prepare, set-up and clean up during our first Victorian Tea! Special thanks to Carol Webb who organized the putting together of our lovely Silent Auction tea basket. Ann Bouchelle from Somers, was the generous high bidder that won the basket. Additional thanks to the awesome young ladies who helped seat and wait on tables! Michaella Doyon, Cassie Speight,

Grace Keeney, Ashlie Delsky, Lauren Eastwood, and Hadleigh Eastman were a huge hit not only with our guests, but with our Ladies Aide group. All of you girls "ROCK" and we so appreciated your help! We are so blessed to have such a dedicated group of people who always come through to make our events successful. Our heartfelt thanks to ALL of you!

Blacksmith Shoppe (submitted by Barbara Abbe)

Ye Olde Blacksmith Shoppe will be open each Saturday in October from 10 AM – 3 PM. Help would be appreciated at 9 AM on Saturdays to help set items out on the lawn for display and again at 3 PM to return unsold items into the Shoppe. We're always grateful for donations of new or gently used items – please speak with me or Marge Morgan to arrange drop off. Baked goods are always a big sell – please continue to contribute baked goods.

Nominating Looking for Candidates

The Nominating committee hopes to make the best matches possible between church members and the boards and committees of the church. Think about your talents and interests and how you might best contribute to the work of the church. You don't necessarily have to wait to be approached by a member of nominating. Speak with one of them and let them know how and where you might like to serve. There will be openings on each board. Those serving on Nominating this year are Ardie Carey, Judy Liberty, Gen Farnham, Lois Sharpless, Sue Comparetto-Wavada and Elaine Hancock.



Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

Luuu Theme Supper

The social room was decorated with festive cut-outs, lanterns, a palm tree, a little tiki hut for our cashier and more. Servers wore an assortment of grass skirts, Hawaiian shirts or 6 pack ab vests (for the guys), flowers in their hair (girls), leis ~ each diner was also adorned with a lei as they entered. Several diners also came attired in Hawaiian shirts, a few in muumuus, and some had their own leis. A Hawaiian steel guitar cd was played as folks entered. It was festive!

Attendance in September is always down slightly, and with the new ramp wall, our seating had to be altered so we don't have as many tables or seats. We did take in \$2017 and our expenses were \$250. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this fun evening.



Pot Roast Supper Up Next

The sign up sheet for our October 19 Pot Roast Supper has been posted and there are still a number of ways to contribute. Here is a partial list of what's still needed and how you can assist:

- 6 heads of lettuce
- 4 pints of grape tomatoes
- \$ donation for onions and carrots (\$80 total)
- 5 lbs. butter
- 1 gal. whole milk
- 6 canisters of lemonade powder (making 8 qts. each or equivalent)
- 3 gal. vanilla ice cream (large tubs can be bought at Aldis or Big Y)
- 12 apple crisps 9x13 – including 2 sugar free (recipe posted in social room)
- Kitchen help and dining room servers



Our annual Turkey supper will be held November 16.

Religious diversity is increasing at the office, and so are pitfalls

September 9, 2013 Religion News Service David Gibson

WASHINGTON

The American workplace, like the rest of U.S. society, is becoming more religiously diverse and that is raising concerns about employer accommodations for believers — and increasing the odds for uncomfortable moments around the water cooler.

Yet one potential flashpoint among workers does not involve new immigrant faiths but rather two indigenous communities: white evangelicals and unaffiliated Americans who constitute one of the fastest-growing segments of the population.

A major factor contributing to workplace conflict, according to a survey released on Friday (Aug. 30), is that evangelicals — whose religious identity is tied to sharing their beliefs — are much more likely to talk about their faith at work than other religious and nonreligious groups.

In fact, half of white evangelical Protestants said they share their beliefs with co-workers, compared to 22 percent of workers overall, according to the 2013 Survey of American Workers and Religion, sponsored by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding. And one-third of evangelicals said they discuss religion frequently, compared to 14 percent of non-Christian believers, 10 percent of Catholics and 7 percent of white mainline Protestants. Moreover, nearly 9-in-10 white evangelical employees say they are somewhat or very comfortable when the issue of religion comes up in the workplace.

Conversely, the research found that nonbelievers are reticent to discuss religion and 43 percent of them say they feel somewhat or very uncomfortable when the topic comes up.

“This suggests the potential for workplace clashes between atheists and evangelical Protestants,” the report says.

The survey, released for Labor Day, was conducted in March and April by the Public Religion Research Institute, which questioned more than 2,000 American adults in both English and Spanish. The poll has a margin of error of 2.8 percentage points.

Given the findings, it is perhaps not surprising that both nonbelievers and evangelicals shared a heightened sense of bias: Nearly 6-in-10 atheists said they think people look down on their beliefs, and nearly

6-in-10 of white evangelicals agreed that discrimination against Christians has become as big a problem as discrimination against other religious minorities.

“There’s a clear sense in the data, especially among white evangelicals, that other workers’ needs are being taken care of and theirs are not,” said Robert P. Jones, head of the Public Religion Research Institute.

Jones added that along with their growing numbers, the “nones” are also increasingly confident in proclaiming their lack of religious affiliation, which in turn contributes to the potential for workplace interactions — and conflicts — over religion.

David Sikkink, a sociologist of religion at the University of Notre Dame who reviewed the report, also noted that while most believers — as well as nonbelievers — don’t look to the office as a place to find meaning and direction in their lives, evangelicals often take the opposite view and see the workplace as a venue for living out their religious identity.

“Evangelicals want to be different somehow, to take a stand, and to show that God is working in their lives through them,” Sikkink said. He said that does not always mean sharing the specifics of their faith, but can instead be demonstrated by the way evangelicals deal with workplace problems, or simply in their focus on developing friendships with their co-workers. Still, the endpoint of such relationships is a conversation about faith, “and eventually that may rub the nonreligious the wrong way.”

Overall, the incidence of workplace conflicts and discrimination over religion seems to be a fairly significant issue, according to the survey, with one-third of respondents reporting that they have seen or experienced incidents of religious bias in the workplace.

The most frequently cited problems were not interactions with co-workers but instead related to a failure of companies to provide sufficient accommodations for believers, especially non-Christians. Half of those respondents said that their employers are ignoring their religious needs.

Among the other findings:

* Nearly one-quarter (24 percent) of the respondents reported being required to work on the Sabbath or a religious holiday and 13 percent said they attended company-sponsored events that did not include kosher, halal, or vegetarian options;

* Less than half (44 percent) of workers said their employers had flexible work hours to permit religious observances or prayer and 21 percent said their company had a policy allowing employees to swap holidays to accommodate religious observances;

* Four in 10 workers said their company had materials explaining their policy on religious discrimination, and 14 percent said their employer had programs to teach workers about religious diversity.

On the other hand, while the Tanenbaum report says that American companies need to do more to accommodate religious believers, it also found strong incentives for businesses to adapt: The survey showed that employees at companies that were sensitive to religious needs reported better morale and were much less likely to look for another job.

“With a growing number of nonreligious workers and a growing number of workers who are not Jewish or Christian, many employers are just figuring out how to navigate these waters,” said Jones.

About our Members and Friends

Kate Carlisle Update

Former student pastor Catherine (Kate) Carlisle is thrilled to report that she has started her new call as the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Spiritual Formation at the First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro, KY. She is grateful for all she learned at our church, thinks of us fondly, and prays for our ministry. Please join me in celebrating this good news and praying that her ministry at First Presbyterian, Owensboro might be effective for the sake of Christ's reign.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes this month are sent to: Greg Forbes, Jack Bruch, Jeff Eldridge, Rose Petkis, Brooke Stevens, Jillian Farnham, Ben Carriere, Caitlyn Stevens, Lauren Carillo, Marie Worthington

Couples celebrating anniversaries in October include Tony & Michele Bellafronte, Josh & Tracey Clague and Patrick & Dotty Forbes.



If there are others who are celebrating of whom we are not aware, we wish you a wonderful day as well.

Baby Boy

Jack and Mavis Collins are pleased to announce the birth of a new grandson, Charles “Charlie” Carriere, born August 6 to Tom and Lisa Carriere. Charlie shares his birthday with big sister, Abby. Congratulations!

Address Change

Please note the following updates for ..

Brian & Sarah Flynn, 9 Dogwood Lane,
Ellington, CT 06029

Linda Pease-McEwen, 1 Barnard Ct., Maitland, FL 32751



Congregational Church of Somersville

Vision Statement

We will be a faith-based church welcoming diversity, empowering the individual, growing in faith and doing God’s work in the global community in unity and love.

Behavioral Covenant

- We will follow a process that includes unconditional listening and time to collect thought, enabling all individuals to comfortably express their opinions.
- Our actions and demeanor will support and empower all participants
- All opinions will be welcomed, reflectively considered and respected.
- Opinions will be expressed with humility, self-control, gentleness, and kindness.
- We will look for common ground as we search for consensus, and we will respect that consensus.
- We will affirm by our works and actions our common goal to serve God.



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 somcong@aol.com (email)
 www.somersvilleucc.org (web site)

October 2013

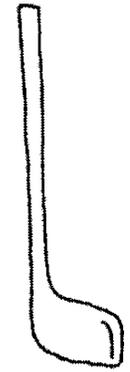
Sunday Worship 10 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Evergreen 11 Deacons 7 AA 7	2 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	3 AA 7	4	5 Blacksmith 10-3 Heifer Global Harvest Fair 10
6 Communion Pumpkin Sale 2nd Mile Missions for NIN	7	8 Ladies Aide 1 Budgets Due Finance 7:30 AA 7	9 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Food share 1:15 Missions 7	10 AA 7	11	12 Blacksmith 10-3
13 2nd Mile Missions for NIN	14	15 Nominating 7 AA 7	16 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	17 AA 7	18 Supper Prep. beginning 8:30	19 Blacksmith 10-3 CT Conf. Fall Meet- ing in Htfd. Pot Roast Supper 5 & 6:15
20 Cabinet meeting 2nd Mile Missions for UNICEF	21	22 Blair Manor 10:30 AA 7	23 Bible Study 9:30-11:15	24 Prayer Shawl 6 AA 7	25	26 Blacksmith 10-3 Choir 10-12:30
27 Reformation Sunday Soup-a-thon sign up 2nd Mile Missions for UNICEF Spire Deadline	28	29 AA 7	30 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Food share 1:15	31 AA 7	the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor Yvonne Wood, Moderator Sydney Cohen, Treasurer Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director Ruth Bruch, Church Administrator	

Hidden Pictures for the Young at Heart

Fall Fun

By Holly Carryer



hockey stick



pennant



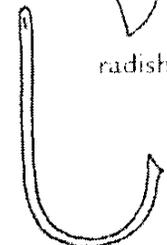
nail



slice of pizza



radish



fishhook

In the big picture, find these objects.



ice skate



mitten



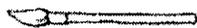
pear



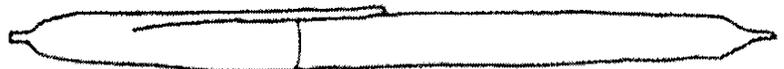
sheep



pitcher



artist's brush



ballpoint pen

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