



The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville United Church of Christ



Notice of Annual Budget Meeting

The Finance Committee is finishing up the proposed budget for 2021 and the Cabinet has called for a meeting of the church members following worship on Sunday, December 13, to discuss and vote on the proposal. Please plan on attending and let your voices be heard.

Opportunities in December

Hanging of the Greens

The greening of the church will be this Sunday (Nov. 29) after worship. Join us as we hang greens, ribbons/bows, place candles on sills and enjoy great fellowship.

Advent Services

This year's half hour Wednesday evening Advent services will be on Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23 – beginning at 7 PM - in the sanctuary. All are welcome, but please be sure to wear a mask

Christmas Eve

There will be two Christmas Eve Services this year; one at 4 PM; the other at 7 PM. They will both be the same service. Because of limited and socially distanced seating, reservations (and masks) are required. Please contact the church office at 860-749-7741 or email somcong@aol.com to be sure you have a seat. The services will also be livestreamed.



Helping the Needy Locally

Our Missions Outreach Board is partnering again with the Town of Somers Social Services Department to provide Christmas gifts for children from families who are struggling financially. Because of the coronavirus, the Social Services Department is handling the gift giving differently this year. The department is creating a "toy shop" from which parents will select gifts for their child or children. The Director of Social Services has asked our church to provide gifts in the following categories:



- Books: board books, picture books, chapter books, youth and teen novels.
- Games: board games and card games
- Building Toys: Duplo, Lego, Lincoln Logs, building blocks, Picasso Tiles, etc.
- Gift Cards: \$25 GameStop or Best Buy gift cards
- Cell Phone Accessory: PopSockets

Note: **Gifts should be returned to the church, unwrapped, by Sunday, December 6th.**

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Please return this portion in the offering plate in Wood Chapel so that the Missions Outreach Board can plan properly (or return via mail or email to the church office)

Name _____

_____ Yes! I will donate the following gift(s)
(e.g. 2 board books and a \$25 gift card to GameStop)

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you enjoyed a happy Thanksgiving and were able to count many blessings. This year has been a challenge for many of us to be sure, but God is good all the time and gives us grace that is sufficient to every need. This Biblical truth is one of the gracious promises of God (see, for example, 2nd Corinthians 12:9.) I pray that you have been filled with all Christ-like graces to live an abundant life in all circumstances.



With the start of Advent on November 29 we are beginning a new church year. In addition to the four, ½-hour Wednesday evening Advent services on 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, and 12/23, we will try a “Blue Christmas Service” for the first time on December 19th. A Blue Christmas Service is also often called “A Service for the Longest Night” and is scheduled around the winter solstice when daylight is shortest. The Blue Christmas/Service for the Longest Night is intended to minister with compassion to those for whom Christmas, and the “holidays” in general, are an especially difficult time. There is, at this time of year, the constant refrain of family, gatherings, celebration, giving, abundance, and happiness. For those of us who do not feel like we have those things in our lives, the run-up to Christmas can be a long, lonely, and difficult season.

I invite all those who are feeling blue this Christmas to join us in our Service of the Longest Night on December 19th at 7 PM. I also invite all those who care about and are in relationship with those feeling blue to join us, as well. Come out and join with us in sharing and acknowledging that God’s presence is for those who mourn, struggle, or in any way walk in darkness – and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.



Peace be with you,
Graham Van Keuren

p.s. I celebrate the recent good news that Pfizer and Moderna appear to be on the cusp of beginning to distribute an effective vaccine for the coronavirus. Oxford University, AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson, and others are close behind. The greater the number of safe and effective vaccines that are developed, the faster we will be able to achieve widespread inoculations. I offer this prayer for vaccine researchers and others involved in immunizations:

God of wisdom, bless researchers at pharmaceutical companies and universities around the world who with insight, skill, dedication, and fortitude work tirelessly to combat the coronavirus. May their work yield knowledge and understanding that soon leads to safe and effective vaccines. Be with the logistics personnel who must efficiently distribute the vaccines and with the medical staff who will administer them. Praise be to you for gifts and aptitude you have given your children so that we may take care of one another in this time of global pandemic. Amen.

Thanks to ..

.. those who lent a hand in the many fall clean up tasks and duties – especially Doug & Sharon Miller, Everett & Mille Morrill, Nick Wood, Kathy Yacashin and Johanna Karbonic.

.. those who supported the 2nd mile missions to benefit Neighbors in Need.

.. all who supported the pre-Thanksgiving bake sale hosted by the Ladies Aide.

.. everyone who contributed to the great success of our annual turkey supper.

.. Doug Miller for stepping up to fill the vacancy on property.

.. those sharing their gift of music.



Christian Education

(submitted by Pastor Graham)

Wednesday Bible Study

After a Wednesday off during the week of Thanksgiving, our adult Bible study resumes on December 2nd at 9:30 AM. Studies will not meet on December 23, 24, 30 and 31.

CE Program (submitted by Lani Bortfeld & Pastor Graham)

The church school finished up our unit on Moses and the Exodus, from the book of Exodus, on November 22; there will be no church school on November 29. This unit proved good topics for discussion, as we discussed when is it OK to disobey the law of one's country (when it's against God's law, such as Pharaoh ordering the Hebrew midwives to drown newborn boys), how the Egyptians' fear of the growing Hebrew minority in their nation led to more & more repression, and how God cared for and met the needs of God's people in the wilderness, just as God cares for us and meets our needs in the wilderness of this pandemic. We had an average of four children in church school each week from both elementary and middle school; the teachers combined the elementary and middle school curricula to provide the best mix of activities for our children and youth. Classes were taught by Marj Butler and Lani Bortfeld, who enjoyed and sometimes were challenged by the children's questions.

We will start our Advent unit on Dec. 6 – “Jesus brings Good News”, which will be on Zoom at 11:15am unless temperatures are above 50 degrees, in which case we'll have in-person church Saturday night or Sunday morning to see which format we'll be using.

Dec 6	Zechariah and Elizabeth	Luke 1:5–25, 57–80	We can rejoice with Zechariah and Elizabeth.
Dec 13	Mary Shares Her Joy	Luke 1:26–56	We can tell others what God has done.
Dec 20	Jesus Is Born	Luke 2:1–20	We can celebrate Jesus' birth.
Dec 27	Magi Come to Worship	Matthew 2:1–12	We can honor Jesus.

This unit builds on the themes of the fall, where hoped-for children like Isaac, and children and youth who were saved from death, like Joseph and Moses, grew up to bring God's redemption to God's people. In December we will focus on how God's redeeming power came through two babies whose birth was announced by angels – John and Jesus. The children and youth are enjoying reading all of these Bible stories from the new Shine Bible story book, *All of Us*, which has excerpts and summaries of the Bible

story from the CEB Bible, followed by a shorter, easier version with graphic-novel-style illustrations. Each family who registers their children for church school this year will receive a free copy of this updated Bible resource; contact the church office or Lani Bortfeld at arcosirisquartet@msn.com for more information.

Below is the sequence of stories for December. In addition to the *All of Us* book, we are using the maps, family trees, crafts, activities, music, magazines, Bible posters and other supplements to reach children with a variety of learning styles. This month's Bible memory poster comes from



Luke 1:78-79; CEV:

God's love and kindness will shine upon us like the sun that rises in the sky. On us who live in the dark shadow of death this light will shine to guide us into a life of peace.

As we move to Zoom in the winter, it's important to have a variety of faces/voices in the session. You do not have to host the session, just present the lesson; Lani or Graham will take care of the Zoom details. Currently, Marj and Lani are the only teachers, so we really would appreciate any kind of help. Just let us know when you can help reading the Bible story or lead a craft. You can sign onto Zoom from your home and read or lead the activity from there - we'll be glad to do a practice session with you!

The board continues to check in with families by phone after each CE meeting to update you on upcoming events and catch up with your family's joys and concerns. Each family has a CE contact person; please let us know suggestions, questions, concerns or prayer requests. Your Board of CE wants to hear from and pray for you in these challenging times. In this way, we hope that we can stay connected in Christ and encourage each other to keep the faith.

Thank you, and may we all learn from the Bible, through prayer and from one another as we transition to the winter months,

Treasurer's Update (submitted by Dave Pinney)

Budget vs. Actuals: 2020 Budget - FY20 P&L
January 1 - October 30, 2020

	Oct 1-30, 2020		Total	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income				
Total Collections	\$ 7,869.00	\$ 8,016.00	\$ 76,661.05	\$ 80,166.00
Dividends		83.00	650.10	833.00
Total Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 6,254.10	\$ 4,750.00
Endowment Input		5,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Fund Raiser	3,308.00	2,500.00	19,492.00	20,500.00
Interest Income		2.00	0.93	17.00
Miscellaneous		50.00	30.00	500.00
Total Income	\$ 11,177.00	\$ 15,901.00	\$ 103,088.18	\$ 116,766.00
Expenses				
Bank Service Charges	101.29	16.67	655.49	166.70
Total Christian Education	\$ 401.40	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,438.37	\$ 1,750.00
Total Committees	\$ 0.00	\$ 112.50	\$ 1,551.09	\$ 1,125.00
Total Compensation	\$ 5,970.72	\$ 7,366.42	\$ 68,511.94	\$ 73,664.20
Total Fees	\$ 1,474.00	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 6,168.00	\$ 7,263.00
Fund Raisers	658.00	333.33	2,597.00	3,333.30
Total Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 67.53	\$ 104.17	\$ 927.22	\$ 1,041.70
Total Mission Outreach	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 245.83	\$ 4,463.22	\$ 5,958.30
Total Office Supplies	\$ 241.40	\$ 320.84	\$ 3,225.10	\$ 3,358.40
Total Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 72.69	\$ 750.00	\$ 7,337.88	\$ 7,500.00
Telephone Expense	144.73	150.00	1,469.44	1,500.00
Total Utilities	\$ 1,470.11	\$ 1,704.99	\$ 12,818.13	\$ 12,748.65
Total Expenses	\$ 14,101.87	\$ 12,829.75	\$ 111,162.88	\$ 119,409.25
Net Operating Income	\$ -2,924.87	\$ 3,071.25	\$ -8,074.70	\$ -2,643.25

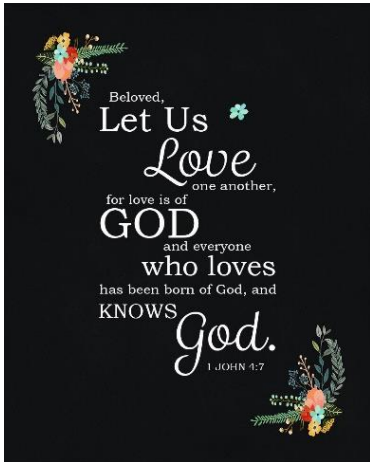


Readers in December

Dec. 6 Deb Robidoux
Dec. 13 Joan Lange
Dec. 20 Wayne Steely
Dec. 27 Ardie Carey



2021 Stewardship Campaign (submitted by Deb Robidoux & Sharon Miller)



“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7

We hope everyone has listened to and reflected upon our Pastor’s sermon series, “Live Generous” whether in person or via livestream. We have learned that a commitment to God is the foundation of Stewardship. We are stewards managing the blessings of God for God’s sake. A good steward must put God first. Our acts of Stewardship should reflect the strength of God and nurture our gifts so that grace may abound.

In 2 Corinthians Paul tells us, “give whatever you have discerned in your heart. You should not give sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” Christian life is abundant life. Give joyfully and Gods grace abounds. God will provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace, so you will always have everything you need.

The sermon series will continue until Stewardship Sunday, December 20th. We hope it has enriched your prayer life, your hospitality to all people and your acts of stewardship. You have received your pledge cards and we pray that you will be a part of this season of giving.

At this time of Thanksgiving let us be filled with hope. Let us give with grateful, joyful generous hearts. To date 6 pledges have been received totaling \$13,460.00

As a reminder, a number of people in the church have set up their contributions to be taken electronically on a regular basis. Contributions can be set up as a One Time contribution or on a weekly or monthly basis, based on your pledged amount.

The website is <http://donate.somersvilleucc.org>

If you need any assistance, please feel free to speak with Pastor Graham or Sharon Miller.

Missions (submitted by Pastor Graham)

2nd Mile Missions

Our 2nd mile mission partners for December are two-fold. In addition to the gift collection for the Somers Toy Shop (described elsewhere in this newsletter), our Missions Outreach Board will receive a financial collection for **The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross**. The **Christmas Fund** provides low income clergy and lay retirees of the United Church of Christ the following supports:



- Christmas thank you checks,
- pension supplementation,
- health benefits supplementation, and
- emergency grants.

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross made more than 1000 grants and gifts to our denominations' low-income retirees in 2019. Please use the Christmas Fund envelopes in the pews to show your kindness to those who have served the Body of Christ throughout their working lives and now can use our help. Alternately, please mail a check to the church, ATTN: Collector Patrick Forbes, with "Dec. Mission – Christmas Fund" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

Heifer News

Grateful for the members of friends of our church, the Missions Outreach Board has given the gift of a pig and the gift of clean water to Heifer International in honor of the congregation. The Board chose a pig



because swine need little land and can thrive on crop and garden scraps. A sow can produce as many as 16 piglets a year. Since Heifer requires that the gift be passed on from family to family, many people will be blessed by the offspring of the Somersville pig. The gift of clean water, often achieved through the

installation of a well and treadle pump, can protect the health of whole communities that are presently forced to drink from a contaminated surface source of water.

Food Share

Members of our church help distribute food every other Wednesday from 1-1:30 in the parking lot of the Somers Congregational Church. If you are willing to assist, speak with Marge Morgan. Dates this month are Dec. 9th and 23rd.

Church Without Walls

CWW is an ecumenical ministry with the homeless held each Sunday at Court Square in Springfield. This outdoor service (held in any weather) begins at noon and concludes about 30-40 minutes later with a free lunch to any who would like to partake. Our Board of Missions, with your support, provides lunch (sandwich, snack, and fruit) on the 4th Sunday of each month when Pastor Graham leads the service.



Clothing Shed on the Green

We have had communication from St. Pauly's Textile (who provide the shed in the parking lot for the green) who tell us that assuming things keep trending in the right direction, they will reopen sheds as it becomes possible in each region over the next couple of months. There is no specific date for reopening it at this point and they ask for our continued patience.

Kiva (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

During October, we were able to make 2 loans. The first loan went to Numeriano from the Philippines. He will use his loan to purchase farm inputs and insecticide for his rice crop. The second loan went to Joselyn, also from the Philippines. She sells ornamental plants and will use her loan to purchase fertilizer and other gardening supplies. In November, we made one loan which went to Abdoul in Kenya. He will use his loan to purchase products for his grocery store in a refugee settlement. This brings our total loans to 172. Their stories can be found in the KIVA notebook.

One loan defaulted in October. Naphitale from Zambia had requested a loan to obtain a mill for his maize. Our loss was \$44.54. Two loans were paid off in November with currency losses on both which total \$2.32. Isako from the country of Georgia used his loan to finance his pursuit of a degree in Law. Anita from the Gs Dios Es Real Group in the Dominican Republic used her loan to purchase stock for her clothing business.

Ladies Aide Society

The next meeting of the Ladies Aide Society will be Tuesday, December 8. The time of the gathering depends on the condition of co-vid; if things seem okay, the group will gather for a pot luck holiday lunch at 12 noon in the social room of the church – otherwise, just a meeting will be held at 1 PM sans shared refreshments. All women will be notified as the date draws closer.



The pre-Thanksgiving bake sale, held on November 21, was successful thanks to all who contributed to it – and supported it. Through the generosity of all who baked, canned, made candy and turkey pot pies, we filled tables (and a freezer) with goodies for sale. The sale ran for two hours on Saturday and more sales were made on Sunday resulting in income over \$1170.00.

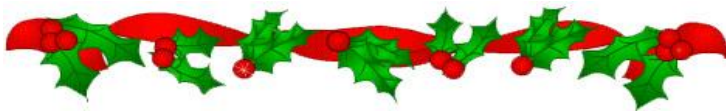
About a dozen women took part in cookie decorating following a brief business meeting on November 10. We are grateful to Cathy Doner for leading us in this fun activity.

Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

By now, most of you are aware that I am taking a step away from coordinating the fundraising suppers. I have had this task for 31 years and as much as I have enjoyed meeting and dealing with the many folks who attend the “almost monthly” dinners, I find that I simply need a break from it. There are so many behind the scenes tasks including the planning, shopping, cooking, etc., ... it just takes a lot of time and effort. I thank ALL those who have been so supportive of me and the suppers these many years. So many of you have come together to work as a family, giving your time, support, energy, etc and I have appreciated it. There have also been so many calls and emails from our diners, especially since co-vid hit complimenting us on finding a way to continue a way of reaching out to the greater community by preparing these meals. They express their awe and appreciation for the menu, portion size, taste, the coordination, the hospitality of our church folk, the efficiency and smoothness in how our curbside service is delivered, the friendly faces they encounter. All this praise that I have received in the office as coordinator, I pass on to you because it takes all of us working together to make these meals the success they have become.

I truly hope someone – or a few of you – will pick up where I left off and plan a fundraising dinner or two. You can come up with your own menu and put your own twist on a dinner, or you are welcome to use my files and records. Please think about it.

We discussed at the November Cabinet meeting other options for fundraisers; ie. a bag lunch, fishermen’s breakfast, selling grocery cards, tag sales on the green. Finance is proposing fundraising earnings for 2021 to be \$12,500.00 ... half of what was proposed the previous year. Perhaps someone in our congregation has an idea to suggest or head up??



150th Anniversary “Generations of Faithfulness” Psalm 100:5

(submitted by Johanna Karbnonic)

Our tentative schedule has changed a little especially for January 3, 2021.

January 3, 2021 Kick off Service – Communion. New Members Service, Anniversary song -solo.

Music, Plus the Rev. Charles H. Gates (First Minister of Somersville Congregational Church) will grace the service. Dress in 1871 costumes if able. New Member Cake & Ice Cream at Social Hour. 150th Banner in front of Church.

February – Senior Speaker - Regular social Hour. (No Sunday date set yet)

March – Senior Speaker (No Sunday date set yet)

April - The 4th. Is Easter – Conference speaker (No Sunday date set yet)

May – Saturday, Chicken Barbecue done by Genny Farnham’s son Steven – Congregation to provide meal sides. Past Minister Gretchen Stanland & Nancy Gowdy Pease will hopefully attend & say a few words about “Days of Old”.

June - Senior Speaker (No Sunday date set yet)

July –Historic Ice Cream Social with a visit from the Rev. Charles H. Gates. Possibly hand cranked ice cream.

August- Senior Speaker (No Sunday date set yet)

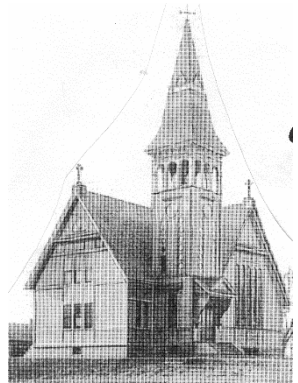
September- 4 Town Float- 1871 Costumed parishioners riding on float. Banners indicated

150 Anniversary of the Congregational Church of Somersville.

October- Harvest Potluck Dinner with 1871 Recipes.

November-All Saint’s Day – Music theme celebration Anniversary Choral Piece (Jason & Choir) No Sunday date set.

December – Anniversary Ending, Time Capsule, Gift to Church.



Please remember that this is a tentative schedule.

If you have any questions, Please speak to Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Johanna Karbnonic, Ardie Carey, Marj Butler, Genny Farnham, Russ Meyer.

Florida church's free parking for beachgoers is now a federal religious freedom case

November 13, 2020 Written by Hans Holznagel United Church of Christ News

If people park at your church to walk to a nearby beach, can you invite them to donate toward your youth group's mission trip?

A federal lawsuit seeks to answer that and other legal questions for Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church, United Church of Christ, St. Pete Beach, Fla.



Situated one city block from a popular beach, the church has been letting the public park for free in its lot for years. Sometimes church teenagers are there to hand out informational fliers and invite donations.

In recent years, the City of St. Pete Beach has objected to those practices, saying they violate a zoning code. This summer the city ordered the church to stop letting beachgoers park there. On Nov. 4, a federal judge heard the church's request for an injunction to lift that ban for now; a ruling is pending.

But there's more to come in this case in the Tampa Division of U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The church has requested a jury trial, saying inviting motorists onto its property and interacting with them are matters of religious freedom and part of its public mission.

Long history of welcoming the public

Pass-A-Grille Beach UCC has offered free parking for beachgoers and for various public events since 1957. Since 2016 it has collected voluntary donations. On selected days, young church members are on hand to welcome motorists, give out literature describing their mission trips and accept contributions in person, said Jeanne Haemmelmann, the church's associate minister for youth and young adults.

The church's senior-high group has about 50 participants, she said, and some need scholarships for the group's annual mission trips.

“Each youth who works the parking lot ‘earns’ \$15 an hour, which is actually a credit to their mission trip account,” Haemmelmann said. “Each youth is responsible for raising most of the money for these trips, so this is one way that we ensure that every youth who wants to go on a trip is able to do so.”

Besides funding scholarships, the donations are used to buy building supplies for work done on the trips. The next one – COVID-19 pandemic permitting – will be to an American Indian reservation in South Dakota.

“We only have youth out there during peak season and holiday weekends,” she said. “We have raised anywhere between \$16,000 and \$24,000 a year.”

Stationed at the parking lot entrance and wearing shirts identifying themselves as church members, the young people greet motorists in a low-pressure, friendly way, Haemmelmann said. “They say that the parking is donation-based and if you would like to make a donation, it goes to support our mission trips. If people ask what the cost is, they are told there is no cost.

“Often people say they have no money and of course the same answer is given. No money needed. We are just happy to have people be able to use the lot.”



Recent history of tension

The city first cited Pass-A-Grille Beach UCC with a zoning violation in the summer of 2016, alleging it was violating neighborhood rules by operating a commercial parking lot. A city magistrate heard the case and concluded that, while “paid parking” would be illegal, “soliciting donations and evangelizing to those who parked in the lot was not a violation,” the church noted in this year’s suit.

The city again brought the church before the magistrate in the fall of 2016 on the grounds that the youth had used a sign that said “fundraiser” and that this amounted to paid parking. The magistrate told them to stop using that sign but said free parking could continue and the church could still accept donations.

But objections from the city and some of the church's neighbors continued, leading to the current case. In July 2020, St. Pete Beach again told the church to cease, this time citing another code: "Off-street parking spaces shall be reserved for the exclusive use of residents, customers, patrons or employees of the principal use of the property they are designed and intended to serve."

Church's 'right to use its property'

The church responded in August with a federal court complaint, arguing that serving the public is part of its mission.

"Anyone that enters onto the church property is someone in need of God's love, and therefore akin to what a secular business would call a 'customer' or a 'patron,'" the church wrote. "The church is not a commercial business but rather offers the public the gift of a free place to park and the opportunity to support the church. Members of the public are free to donate, or not to donate, to the youth group when parking on the lot."

Among other legal points, the church cited its constitutional rights to free speech and expression and equal protection of the law. The latter is being violated, it said, because the city has not objected to beach parking at a shopping plaza or other nearby lots. The church also cited a federal law passed in 2000.

"St. Pete Beach is using an increasingly common tactic among cities and counties – cowering behind misinterpreted zoning codes – to limit or eliminate the religious freedom of its community members," said the church's attorney, Daniel P. Dalton, whose Michigan firm, Dalton & Tomich, specializes in religious-freedom cases. "The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 broadly protects Pass-A-Grille Church's right to use its property within the parameters of its spiritual mission, which is clearly the case here."

As part of its federal complaint, the church asked the court to issue an injunction that would allow it to continue its beach-parking program – and would stop St. Pete Beach from interfering. It also asked the court to declare the city's actions "arbitrary and capricious" and to rule that part of the city code "is void for vagueness and is unenforceable against the church."

After hearing arguments Nov. 4 on the church’s requested injunction, federal Judge Thomas Barber ordered both parties to continue legal preparations and report back in two weeks. The jury trial requested by the church has not yet been scheduled.

Parking as hospitality

More is at stake than the use of parking spaces, according to the church.



“The city does not consider the many youth whose lives have been changed because of the donations that people freely give to support our mission endeavors,” said Pass-A-Grille’s senior minister, the Rev. Keith Haemmelmann. “The church is not the church if ministry and discipleship are defined by entering a church building, then leaving, because the church will be penalized if you visit a friend, walk the beach or break bread with a neighbor.”

“The church is not a commercial operation, no matter what codes a municipality adopts. Our calling as followers of Christ is to build the Kingdom of God on earth, not a fiefdom on the beach. Without the ability to reach a workable solution with the City to continue using our parking lot as we have for many years, the only viable option was to ask the court to confirm our rights under federal law.”

Welcoming people to the parking lot has spiritual dimensions, Jeanne Haemmelmann said. As the teens guide drivers to parking spaces, they “usually end up speaking with them about past or upcoming mission trips,” she said.

“It is always so refreshing to hear people share their own stories of their experiences in youth groups growing up. Often people ask if we could offer a prayer for someone in their family and of course we are happy to do that. We also tell them about services at the church or let them know if they know of a youth who would like to join the group, they are welcome.”

About our Members and Friends

December Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes this month are sent to: Janet Peck, Martha Baker, Martin Andrews, Hailey Renshaw, Ulysses Orduz, Elliott Horan

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



Poinsettias in the Sanctuary



Each year we offer you the opportunity to purchase poinsettias in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones that will be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve. Orders for plants should be placed through the Church office (860-749-7741, or emailed to somcong@aol.com) – or by returning this form. The cost remains \$5 per plant; orders are to be placed by Sunday, Dec. 13

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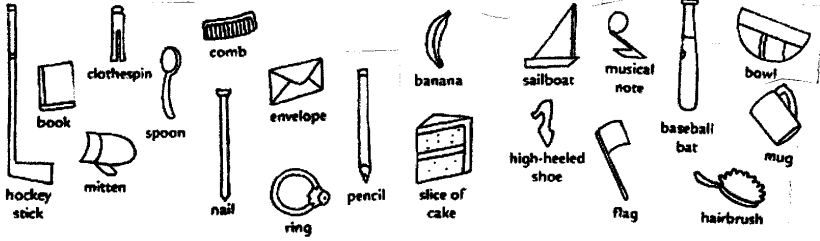
I am ordering ____ poinsettia(s)

Given in loving memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Given by _____

Hidden Pictures for the Young at Heart – Decorating at Home



Congregational Church of Somersville
22 Maple St, PO Box 1
Somersville, CT 06072

