



The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville
United Church of Christ



All Church Chicken Barbecue

Last chance to sign up to enjoy our historical all Church Chicken Barbecue which will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 8! Genny Farnham's son, Steven, will be barbecuing chicken outside while we dine inside in the fellowship hall or outside if you prefer. Chicken and drinks will be provided by the 150th Anniversary Committee. Congregation will provide meal sides or dessert.



It's important to know how many are coming so Steven can order the chicken. Please sign up by May 1st. The sign-up sheet will be outside the fellowship hall. Please call Johanna Karbonic (860-763-1717) if you would like to attend but didn't get to the sign-up sheet.

Blacksmith Shoppe Reopens

Numerous donations have come in since the fall season and the Shoppe is about ready to open for the spring season. The Shoppe will be open each Saturday during May and June from 9-3 and help is needed; we need two people at the Shoppe per shift. Please sign up in the social room of the church or contact Marilyn Hare if you can assist.

The Blacksmith Shoppe has been added to the address list of the Somers Town-wide tag sale on Saturday May 1st. You are invited to gather your quarters and check out all the items Marilyn has assembled that you may not live be able to live without!

Marilyn has indicated that donations of twin bed sheets are needed at the Shoppe.

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month I celebrate the resumption of the Ladies Aid Blacksmith Shoppe ministry. The Blacksmith Shoppe is a lot of work for those involved, especially for our Blacksmith Shoppe Coordinator, Marilyn Hare. But it is an important ministry that yields great benefits. Here are four benefits of the Blacksmith Shoppe ministry that immediately pop to mind:

- 1) Income Generation: The Blacksmith Shoppe provides thousands of dollars of income to the Ladies Aid each year. In fact, the Blacksmith Shoppe generates the bulk of the income the Ladies Aid Society earns



annually. The Ladies Aid use that income to support our church and fund their missions. The Ladies Aid support for the church includes an annual pledge, just like you and I make a financial pledge to support the church's mission and ministry. The Ladies Aid have a

history of stepping up and funding special, extrabudgetary projects at the church, too, such as needed improvements to the property.

Finally, the Ladies Aid also have used the money they raise to support their mission programs, such as the Church World Service hygiene kit collection or to make memorial donations in thanksgiving for the lives of beloved members and friends of the church.

- 2) Reduce. Reuse. Recycle: The Blacksmith Shoppe is all about repurposing and reusing household items, thus keeping them out of the landfill. It is much better for the environment to move away from a disposable society and the Blacksmith Shoppe is one local piece of that puzzle.
- 3) Community Building: The Blacksmith Shoppe helps form relationships between the volunteers. It is and wonderful thing to work together for a worthy end! The volunteers also get to know the "regulars" and put our best foot forward to all of our customers on behalf of the church. The fresh, homemade baked goods we sell at the shop are another great way to put our best foot forward to our neighbors!
- 4) Essential Goods: The Blacksmith Shoppe is filled with items that people need for their home, such as glassware, linens, and tools, just to name a few. It sells its wares very cheaply so that almost everyone can afford the necessities the shop carries and perhaps even a few of

the luxuries, too. Coordinator Marilyn Hare also gives out vouchers in order to provide free items to those in great financial need, such as women who have had to flee an abusive relationship and now are trying to set up a new home.

There are surely still more benefits that did not immediately pop into my head, but even the quick list above moves me to give thanks to God for the Blacksmith Shoppe and those who work it. You can help by signing up for a shift (Saturdays from 8:30-noon or noon-3:30) and by baking often.



And many thanks again to Blacksmith Shoppe Coordinator Marilyn Hare and all those who work to make this ministry a success.

Faithfully yours,
Graham Van Keuren

Worship With Us

We invite you to join us for worship in person at 10 AM on Sunday mornings but ask that you try to stay socially distanced as best you are able and please continue to wear a face mask in the building. Or, you can watch us digitally any time via [livestream.com/somersvilleucc](https://www.livestream.com/somersvilleucc) or [somersvilleucc.org](https://www.somersvilleucc.org)

Thanks to ..

- .. everyone who donated to the 2nd Mile Mission collection for Solar Cookers
- .. Lani Bortfeld and Marj Butler for continuing to teach Sunday school
- .. Mavis, Allison, Syd, Jason and Graham for their vocals on Easter Sunday.
- ... those who contributed supplies, monetary donations for, and those who packaged hygiene kits.
- . everyone who supported the pre-Easter bake sale to support missions.
- .. Marj Butler for making the Easter cookies



May Readers

05/02	Marj Butler	05/09	Allison Matczak
05/16	Ardie Carey	05/23	Wayne Steely
05/30	Syd Cohen		

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Dave Pinney)



Budget vs. Actuals: 2021 Budget - FY21 P&L January - March, 2021

	Mar 2021		Total	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income				
Collections			0.00	0.00
Loose	137.00	134.00	342.00	400.00
Pledges	8,600.00	8,125.00	26,820.00	24,375.00
Total Collections	\$ 8,737.00	\$ 8,259.00	\$ 27,162.00	\$ 24,775.00
Dividends	48.48	75.00	265.08	325.00
Total Donations	\$ 0.00	\$ 291.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 875.00
Endowment Input		3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Fund Raiser	4,058.00	3,000.00	4,058.00	3,000.00
Miscellaneous		25.00	15.00	75.00
Total Income	\$ 12,843.48	\$ 14,650.00	\$ 31,690.08	\$ 32,050.00
Expenses				
Bank Service Charges	26.29	35.00	143.87	135.00
Total Christian Education	\$ 274.24	\$ 150.00	\$ 274.24	\$ 450.00
Total Committees	\$ 121.07	\$ 160.00	\$ 146.06	\$ 515.00
Total Compensation	\$ 7,302.20	\$ 7,387.91	\$ 21,838.71	\$ 22,163.75
Total Fees	\$ 1,544.25	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,962.50	\$ 1,550.00
Fund Raisers	1,434.84	500.00	1,470.84	500.00
Total Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 69.72	\$ 66.66	\$ 218.82	\$ 350.00
Total Mission Outreach	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,650.00
Total Office Supplies	\$ 435.56	\$ 390.82	\$ 972.43	\$ 1,072.50
Total Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 627.81	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,777.33	\$ 2,250.00
Telephone Expense	154.98	150.00	465.93	450.00
Total Utilities	\$ 1,779.19	\$ 687.50	\$ 4,294.57	\$ 4,412.50
Total Expenses	\$ 13,770.15	\$ 11,497.89	\$ 36,565.30	\$ 35,498.75
Net Income	\$ -926.67	\$ 3,152.11	\$ -4,875.22	\$ -3,448.75

Christian Education (submitted by Pastor Graham, Shirley Bracken & Lani Bortfeld)

We are thrilled to see our beautiful children back in person. Our teachers have done a fantastic job of continuing their Christian education online via Zoom and in person when possible. Thank you Ms. Lani, Ms. Marj, and all those that assisted our program during these difficult times. We are thrilled to have Ms. Marilyn back with our nursery. We will be suspending our Sunday school classes (dates to follow) for the summer but encourage you to bring your children to Church whenever possible.



Silver Lake via Supermarket Bingo

At this time, we will have to table our Bingo fundraiser. We had a great deal of difficulty trying to orchestrate this with shortage of equipment and COVID restrictions still in effect. We did have a great response and will consider it in the future. Meantime, thank you for your continued support and willingness to help.

Wednesday Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to attend the Bible studies held in the Church social room on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 til about 11:15AM.

Sunday School

In church school last month we focused on the last week of Jesus' earthly life, focusing in-depth on the events that led to Good Friday, which we learned, is called "Sorrowful Friday" in Germany and "Holy Friday" in other countries. Children usually aren't present for our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, so for many, this was their first opportunity to learn about and discuss our core beliefs as Christians. On Palm Sunday, the children had so many questions, we didn't even get to the lesson! How special it is when kids care enough to ask these hard questions about our faith!

In May we'll start with the Resurrection and start a new prayer focus - prayers of praise. The calendar of Bible stories in the *All of Us* Bible for May and June is below. Families are encouraged to go over the stories with their children and remind them to bring their *All of Us* Bible and *Spotlight* or *Quest* magazine every Sunday. When we explore Pentecost on May 16, a week before the real Pentecost on May 23, we'll start a new Bible memory verse from Paul's letter to the Romans:

When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others, and do your best to live at peace with everyone. — Romans 12:15–18 (CEV)

We are so happy to be back completely in person, and on several Sundays we had eight children. We love having more youth return, but in order to with socially distance, we do have to use both classrooms. Marj, Marilyn and Lani worked hard to get the classrooms ready, cleaning and

organizing so we can use both classrooms again. For safety's sake, that means we should have two adults downstairs, one per classroom, so we REALLY need some volunteers to help Marj and Lani so they don't have to teach every week. You don't have to lead a lesson; just come and be with the children. Contact Lani Bortfeld, Pastor Graham or the church office to sign up for a week.

6	May 2 <i>Easter</i>	Jesus Is Risen!	Mark 16:1-8	Jesus is raised to life by the power of God. EC: We can be amazed at Jesus' resurrection.
7	May 9	Jesus' Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	Jesus prepares his followers to share the good news.
The Early Church (<i>stories from Acts</i>)				
8	May 16	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-12, 37-39	We can be filled with the Holy Spirit.
9	May 23	Living in Community	Acts 2:41-47	We can care for people's physical and spiritual needs.
10	May 30	Philip and the Ethiopian Official	Acts 8:5-6, 26-40	We can proclaim the good news to everyone.
11	June 6	Saul's Conversion	Acts 8:1b-3; 9:1-31	We can have a change of heart.
12	June 13	Peter and Cornelius	Acts 10:1-48	We can welcome all people.
13	June 20	Lydia	Acts 16:11-15, 40	We can offer hospitality.
14	June 27	Paul and the Corinthians	Acts 18:1-11; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12-15; 9:6-8	We can give generously.

Cultivating Discerning Hearts (submitted by Lani Bortfeld)

Rev. Henry Schoenfield led this Super Saturday session on Mar. 20 on Zoom. Pastor Henry comes from a religiously and culturally diverse family — Cherokee on his mother's side and German/Jewish and English on his father's side. He grew up in the Episcopal Church, was ordained as a Catholic priest in 2001 and welcomed as a minister with full standing in the UCC in 2011. He is now serving as an interim minister for Christ Church United UCC in Lowell, Mass. Pastor Henry is a spiritual seeker and comfortable in the stream of Wisdom that flows through many religious and spiritual traditions.

The first half of the session focused on the question, "What is discernment?" Discernment gives us the tools to sense God's own heart. We are seeking God who also seeks us. Discernment gives us a set of skills to refine and a way of zooming in on God's desire for us. If you have had the peaceful sense of being in harmony with God, that is discernment. When we feel connected, calm, a shift in energy and a kind of excitement guided by

God, that is discernment. There is individual discernment, which happens with trusted others to give balance to our limited perception. There is also communal discernment, like the “Clearness Committee” in the Quaker tradition, where a small group meets together to talk, pray and seek clarity on a specific issue.

We can use Jesus as a model for our discernment process – how Christ would go off to a deserted place and pray, and then go on the road for a full day of teaching, healing and being our Brother. Pastor Henry described Centering or Contemplative Prayer as a way of surrendering to God’s will in the spirit of our Lord. The intent is to let go of our own agendas, let go of the constant internal chatter, and focus on listening to God. I am a member of a



Centering Prayer group that meets Saturdays at 10:30am on Zoom, and would be glad to give more information to anyone who is interested in this prayer practice that has changed my life.

The second tool for discernment we learned about is *Lectio Divina*, literally “divine reading”, where we listen for God’s voice in the scriptures and discern what God is calling us to do. This has its origins in the 3rd to 6th century monastics who went into the desert to get away from the materialism of contemporary society in order to listen for God. The process that has come down to us involves four steps: *Lectio*, or reading of the scriptures aloud; *Meditatio*, or meditating on a word or phrase that stands out to the hearer; *Oratio*, or responding in prayer (or in present times, in journaling); and *Contemplatio*, or resting in God’s invitation to us through that word or phrase. In this way we connect to God through the scriptures, but we also connect to our brothers & sisters by accepting God’s invitation to act in the world, as Jesus did. The Saturday Centering Prayer group also practices *Lectio Divina*; I can share more information on this, as well.

The final tool we learned about is the Prayer of Examen, originally a Jesuit practice to prepare for confession. In VBS we start the children & youth on the path of Examen when we ask them to look for God-sightings – where did you notice God today? The other part of the prayer is to reflect on where we missed God: when did we accept God’s grace and cooperate with it, and when did we say “no”? Rev. Shoenfield sent me an article on the Prayer of Examen which I can send anyone who is interested in learning more.

Missions (submitted by Ruth James & Pastor Graham)

May Second Mile Mission Partner

Our 2nd Mile Mission for May is the sale of Mother's Day cards, available in Wood Chapel after services May 2nd and May 9th. Church World Service was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world with it's headquarters in Dakar, Senegal. The outreach programs that are most memorable at our church are the Tool and Blanket Drive and the hygiene kits. The money donated from the Mother's Day Cards will be advanced to the CWS for its world wide blanket drive program to give a kind, loving and tangible response (like a mom would) to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Please give generously. Envelopes will be in the pews and Wood Chapel throughout May for your donation to the program – even if you don't want a card. If you can't make it to church, donations may be sent in (checks payable to the church with a notation CWS in the memo line).



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. May dates are the 12th and 26th.



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.

Kiva (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

The Missions Board graciously authorized \$200 to be added to our KIVA account to replace some of the losses we have experienced over the past year. The \$200 will be split between April and May loans. In April, we were able to make 6 loans bringing our total to 185 loans. The first loan went to Jose Bismar in Nicaragua. He will use his loan to purchase corn seed for the upcoming planting season. The second loan went to Lirijan from Albania. He is elderly and wants to buy a cow to provide for his family and earn income so he can stop working the land. The third loan went to Nicolae in Moldova. He will use his loan to buy seeds for his crops and diesel for his tractor. He sells his crops at market. The fourth loan went to Miguel from Timor-Leste. He will use his loan to purchase more calves to raise and sell at market. The fifth loan went to Ann Marie who immigrated to the U.S. 20 years ago. She and her partner have purchased a home to provide care to the elderly. She will use her loan to make the necessary renovations. The final loan went to Asunta Apolinaria in Peru. She runs a small beverage shop and will use her loan to buy soda and beer to sell. Their stories can be found in the KIVA notebook.

Five loans were closed during April. Four of the loans were repaid in full except for a tiny (\$.12) loss due to the currency exchange rate. Margaret (Solomon Islands) used her loan for labor costs to establish a new garden for vegetables to be sold at market. Sinaly from the Benkadi Group (Mali) used his loan to purchase more rams to expand his sheep breeding business. Fatima Melissa (Honduras) used her loan to purchase ingredients to make and sell corn flour tortillas. Jamesley (Philippines) used his loan to purchase materials and labor to add a modern toilet to his home. Unfortunately, William (Puerto Rico) defaulted on his loan due to a health crisis. His loan was requested to open a beauty salon. Our loss was \$45.83.

150th Anniversary Committee Schedule (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

May – Saturday, May 8th. at 2:00 pm a Chicken Barbecue, which will be cooked by Genny Farnham's son Steven Farnham. The congregation is to provide meal sides & dessert. Neither former minister Gretchen Stanland nor Nancy Gowdy Pease will be able to attend. Bill Gowdy (Nancy Pease's son) is going to attend with his wife, Janice, and say a few words about the history of the church as he knows it or heard from his mother. We are hoping to have some musical entertainment also.

May 9th will be Russ Meyer's 2nd Presentation - A Continuation of "Somerville Houses Past & Present. The New Members and 150 Anniversary Cake & ice cream reception will be held in November because we are hoping to have another class of new members.

May 16th -Ladies Aid will be putting on a short skit to go along with Graham's sermon.

June -On Sunday, June 13th. Unfortunately, Geneva Farnham (Senior Speaker) will not be available. Since it is the last day of Sunday School, possibly Sunday School children will be part of the service.

July –Historic Ice Cream Social with Missions. There will be an appearance of the Rev. Charles H. Gates who will give tours of the church. Hand cranked ice cream will be attempted. It would be fun if other members dress in 1800 apparel also.



August- On Sunday August 8th. -Senior Speakers- Jack and Mavis Collins will talk about their church experiences when they became members & before.

September- 4 Town Float- 1871 Costumed parishioners riding on float drawn by Belgium horses. Banners will announce the 150th Anniversary of the Congregational Church of Somerville.

September 12th Senior Speaker – Pat Liberty will portray Antoinette Brown – The first woman to be ordained as a mainstream Protestant minister in the United States. She was known for her efforts to expand women's rights. **After the service an all-church picture will be taken by our famous photographer – David Butler.**

October 10th. Sunday – Russ Meyer's 3rd Presentation "Somerville Houses Past & Present" will be held during the church service.

October- Saturday, October 16th at 6:00 pm a Harvest Potluck Dinner with 1800 Recipes will be held. Tim Keeney will give us some historic background as to how the Congregational Church of Somerville and the Somerville Mill intertwined.

November-All Saint's Day November 7 – Music theme celebration Anniversary Choral Piece (Jason & Choir) Anniversary Anthem to be sung. New member's and 150 Anniversary cake will be served in the fellowship hall after the service.

December – 150 Anniversary Celebration Ending, Time Capsule, Gift to Church.

Our most Senior Members and possible speakers are: Nick Wood – 1947; Everett Morrill -1950; Nancy Gowdy Pease – 1955; Carlese Wood – 1957; Barbara Abbe – 1959; Mildred Morrill – 1961; Geneva Farnham -1963; George Liberty – 1965; Jack Collins-1966; Mavis Collins-1969; Pat Liberty-1971; Tim Keeney.

Please remember that this is a tentative schedule. If you have any questions, please speak to Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Johanna Karbonic, Ardie Carey, Marj Butler, Genny Farnham, Russ Meyer.

Ladies Aide Society

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting of the Ladies Aide Society will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 1 PM in the social room.

Fundraisers

There was no summary from the coordinator; however, Dave Pinney reported that income from the corned beef supper was \$4058 and expenses were \$1470.84.

Upcoming Events:

Fundraising suppers for the remainder of 2021 were approved at the April 18 cabinet meeting and include:

- June 19 strawberry supper (Pam & Carlese to coordinate)
- July 10 – chicken barbecue (Nick, Patrick et al at the grill)
- Sept. 25 – Soup ‘n sandwich supper (Graham to coordinate as an extension of the soup-a-thon)
- Oct, 9 – Pasta supper (Gwyn to coordinate – Ardie to get sauce donated by a contact)
- Nov. 13 – Turkey supper (Pam to coordinate)

UCC Disaster Ministries sends Texas churches financial help for February storm recovery work by Connie Larkman published on Apr 21, 2021

Three United Church of Christ congregations in Texas can now do more to help their neighbors still recovering from an unusually brutal February storm.

Global HOPE Disaster Ministries is sending grant money to the churches to amplify their community ministries and cover some of the damage the storm left behind.

St. Peter United in Houston was left underwater during the freeze that hit that metropolitan area on Feb. 14 and kept Texas in its grip for almost a week.

“The church experienced a burst main line into the facilities, broken pipes in the ceiling of the Fellowship Hall, and numerous broken ‘under-sink’ pipes across our three structures,” Cindy Sterling, St. Peter United’s moderator, wrote to UCC News.

Millions affected

Millions of people in Houston lost power and water during the storm. When the weather warmed up and electricity came back, pipes burst. Hundreds of thousands were left without clean drinking water.

Sterling said over 30,000 homes are still without water because of plumbing issues. She also noted a growing number of families experiencing food insecurities.

A \$4,000 grant from Disaster Ministries will enable the Houston congregation to assist two nonprofit organizations: the East Spring Branch Food Pantry and The Restoration Team, a community-based ministry focused on disaster recovery.

“We will be providing both funds and volunteers to join in the



restoration work and restocking of food between March and July,” Sterling said.

Her church, along with Church of the Savior in Cedar Park and Plymouth United Church UCC in Spring, applied for assistance through the

South Central Conference. Gifts to the Emergency USA winter appeal make the grants possible.

‘Stronger together’

“I am so glad to see the support of the national setting in this vitally important disaster response ministry,” said the Rev. Campbell Lovett, interim Conference minister. “It is good to be in partnership together.”

“We are so grateful for this gift!” wrote the Rev. Leslie Jackson, pastor of St. Peter United.

He said church leadership will make sure both the congregation and its community understand that this support came from the wider church.

“Many of our members are new to the UCC so it’s important that we educate them on the importance of our covenantal connection,” Jackson said. “This gift is proof that we are much stronger together!”

The pastor said that St. Peter hopes to pay it forward in 2022, by supporting other UCC offerings that provide disaster assistance.

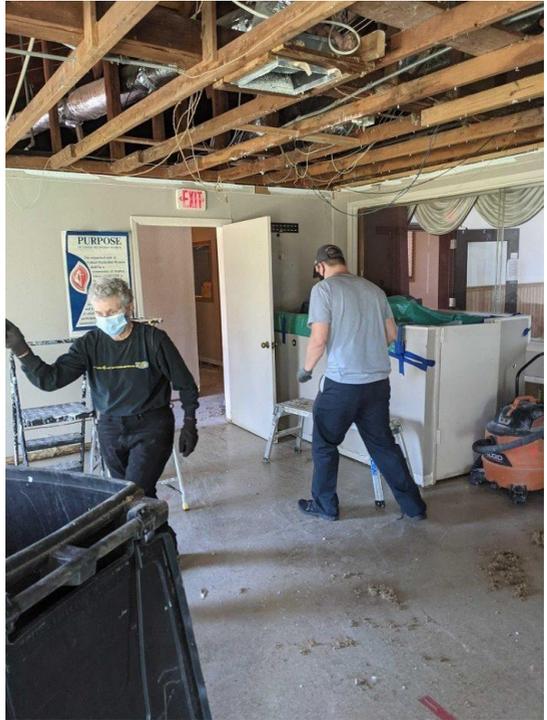
Grants continue

Church of the Savior’s \$3,000 grant will help cover storm damage and the care and feeding of Cedar Park’s shelterless population.

Plymouth Church in Spring is also dealing with flood cleanup from burst pipes. The \$3,000 grant will help cover the insurance deductible and to help the church find a safe place to worship until the church is repaired.

Disaster Ministries will continue to offer grants to affected churches in the storm's path. Retirement Housing Foundation is assisting the effort. The nonprofit housing provider has pledged to match donations sent through the RHF Charitable Foundation until April 30.

“As churches and communities across Texas work through clean up and repairs, still others are struggling to raise the funds to help their neighbors do the same,” said Lesli Remaly, Global HOPE minister for disaster response and recovery. “We are grateful for the generous giving to Disaster Ministries. Through the matching fund giving our assistance will go much further assisting families who have no resources. Many local recovery groups are organizing now to assist with home repairs, replacement of furniture and appliances and supporting the spiritual and emotional toll these past months have added to those most vulnerable. Your gifts are still needed.”



About our Members and Friends

May Celebrations

Happy birthday wishes this month are sent to Everett Morrill. (85), Johanna Karbonic, Marge Morgan , Mason Motulski, Patrick Forbes, Wayne Hare, Jack Collins, Renee Blondin, Teddy Flynn, Bill Moran, Chayse Crease, Bob Boron, Ralph Lumb (100 on the 27th!!), Doug Cheney and Kathy Yacashin



Those celebrating anniversaries this month include, Jack & Ruth Bruch, and Tom & Elaine Hancock

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

Address Updates

Barbara Abbe is currently in room 213 B at Suffield House, 1 Canal St., Suffield, CT 06078

Genny Farnham is currently in room 217 at Suffield House, 1 Canal St., Suffield, CT 06078

Mae Chillson is now at 171 Stoney Fort Rd., W. Kingston, ,RI 02892

Pat Liberty's new address is 171 Stoney Fort Rd., W., Kingston, RI

Graduates??

It's that time of year when graduations happen. If you or a relative are graduating from any school or achieving a special award in the next few months, please share that information with us in the church office so it can be shared with the church family. Please submit the name of graduate, to whom and how related, from where and when the student is graduating, and what the graduate is planning to do next.

Condolences

Our sympathies are with the family of Linda Pease who passed away on April 14. She is survived by her parents, Harold & Charlotte Pease; daughters Melissa Doyon and Rose Petkis; sisters Susan Eagan and Donna Avery and grandchildren ,Zachary & Michaela Doyon, Maddy Petkis and Sean Courchesne. Donations in Linda's memory may be made to For the Love of Labs, 54 Hazard Avenue, Suite 284, Enfield, CT 06082. Linda had been a member of our church since June, 2006.



STEP (submitted by Lani Bortfeld)

STEP students have been rehearsing in our sanctuary to prepare for our 31st annual Suzuki String Serenade on Saturday, May 22nd at 6:30 pm which we hope to livestream from the historic High Gothic sanctuary of South Congregational Church in Springfield. This will be an artistic feast for our community, with a special focus on music with African roots, including



Erskine Hawkings' *Tuxedo Junction*, *When the Saints Come Marchin' In* and a jazz arrangement of

Gershwin's *Summertime*. We'll also perform classics by Bach, Martini, Paganini, Seitz and Suzuki, a fiddle tune and student solos. Also, I will perform *Abodah* by Ernest Bloch in memory of all the loved ones we've lost in the past year.

The String Serenade is the main fundraiser for the STEP Scholarship & Instrument Fund, which supports STEP's mission to make Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's nurturing, high-quality method of instrumental music instruction accessible to students of all ages, economic levels, genders, religious and ethnic backgrounds. In addition to the 6:30pm ticketed/livestreamed concert (suggested donation \$15), there will be a free "Twinkle" prelude at 6:15pm featuring our newest book 1 students. Ticket information will be posted on the STEP Suzuki Strings Facebook page. We hope you will attend virtually!

Hidden Pictures for the Young at Heart - Picnic Day



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| tennis racket | wedge of lemon | arrow | umbrella | ladder | crayon | egg | bell | book |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| strawberry | paintbrush | ice-cream cone | flashlight | balloon | baseball bat | envelope | fish | crown |



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