



No matter where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here!

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

October 27, 2021

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

"To be a dynamic, welcoming, and caring community of Christian faith by weaving the thread of Christ into the tapestry of our lives."

PASTOR'S POST

Dear Church Family,

Have you ever tried to describe a place you have been to someone who has never been there? It is much harder than it sounds. Imagine with me that someone who lives above the Arctic Circle, maybe in Alaska, goes down to Southern California. Then upon their return, they want to tell the people there what it is like. The easiest way to do that is describe how it is not like what they know. They would say there is no ice or snow, the ground never freezes. It is warm all the time. There are no Elk or Moose.



This is what we get in this passage below from the book of Revelation. John has a vision of heaven, and it is so different, so other worldly, he has no choice but to describe it in the ways it is not like the life we know. He says there are no tears, no death. There is no reason to cry, to mourn. All these things do not need to happen anymore. We are with God all the time. So hard to believe but so comforting.

The amazing thing is we, when intentional about being the body of Christ, get the taste of these things. That heaven becomes a place on earth because we have each other, we have the love of God through the conduits of our relationship to each other. So, let us show the world around us, show each other, a taste of the indescribable heaven in how we live and love as a fellowship of believers.

Blessings,

Pastor Malcolm

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

BIBLE STUDIES

Daytime Bible Study is every Tuesday at 1:00 pm, and **Evening Bible Study** is held the second and fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm. Pastor Malcolm will send a zoom link for these sessions if requested. The next evening session will be October 28th. Contact Pastor Malcolm if you wish to join either group.

Our next **Loom Service** will be Tuesday, November 9th at 7 p.m., in person, in the Gathering Room in the Parish House. We encourage you

to make plans to come and invite your friends and neighbors to this new alternative service.

Our **Loss and Grief Group** led by Pastor Malcolm holds their meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. November's meeting will be November 10th., 9:30 - 10:30, in the Gathering Room. Invite people you think would benefit from a space to talk about changes and losses we have had in our lives. Any change, good or bad, is a loss, and this group is more than just for the loss of loved ones, but for any and all losses we have experienced. There will be coffee and treats provided. Any questions feel free to contact Pastor Malcolm.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

We held a second informational session at Fellowship Hour on October 3. The presentation covered:

- A review of what "ONA" really is: a public covenant of welcome to a wide and very diverse range of spiritual seekers, especially those who identify as LGBTQIA.
- The process is important, for when it presents us with struggles, we as a church have opportunities to talk with one another deeply, and that strengthens us.
- The words "open and affirming" are important because many churches use "All are welcome" -- when in fact seekers of different, non-mainstream walks of life have often found through painful experience that that's not entirely true.
- Out of 4,852 UCC churches in the US, 33% have adopted an ONA Covenant.
- These nearby towns have UCC churches that have adopted an ONA Covenant: Cheshire, Bethel, Bethlehem, Brookfield, Danbury

(2), Fairfield, Monroe, New Fairfield, Newtown, Ridgefield, Shelton, Washington, Waterbury, Westport.

- There are no minimum requirements or actions prescribed by the UCC for SBCC to show externally that we are Open and Affirming. The ONA team has no plan to fly a rainbow flag or add anything to our wooden sign. Judy Grimes explained the meaning of each colored stripe in the original 1970s rainbow flag.

- The current draft of the SBCC covenant was presented:

We celebrate the uniqueness of each of God's children.

We extend the extravagant welcome of God to all people regardless of their race/ancestry/ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, physical or mental capacity, marital status, immigration status, faith, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age, culture, or economic reality.

We pray we each freely experience God's loving presence among us. No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- Next steps include: holding additional info/education sessions during fellowship hour, follow-up survey, revising the covenant based on feedback, presenting final covenant to Council, calling a church meeting for all members to vote on becoming ONA, gathering as a church body to affirm the words of the covenant, and finally, creating imagery and words to communicate our ONA status on social media so people will know SBCC is a safe loving space for them and their families. Questions that arose during the Q&A session:

Q: Do other denominations have a similar designation?

A: Yes, most mainstream denominations have a similar concept.

Q: Can you clarify "faith" in the covenant's list of attributes?

A: Faith means any person of any faith (or no faith) is welcome -- Catholics, Jews, atheists.

The ONA team stands ready to answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have as we move forward in this work -- as does Pastor Malcolm. Please reach out if you need us. Thank you!

Submitted by Sue Torrey

OUTREACH

The **October Outreach Offering** is for **UNICEF**. So please drop off at the office or bring to the Sunday service. As you can imagine, because of COVID as well as natural disasters there is an unprecedented need for your help! Visit their site at www.unicefusa.org to see how UNICEF is helping children all over the world. Please note that there will not be as many boxes as usual due to a shortage, so feel free to send a check instead or donate online through the portal.



Our Outreach Offering for November

will honor our veterans by providing them with housing, life skills coaching, and vocational training through **Homes for the Brave**,

headquartered in Bridgeport. From

their website comes the appalling statistic that on any given night, 40,000 US veterans find themselves homeless and another 1.4 million are at risk of homelessness. Please read more about this worthy organization at www.Homesforthebrave.org/about/, and give generously.



We hope you have begun to save your extra winter coats for our coat drive in November. You can begin bringing them in to the Parish House at any time.



You are cordially invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child with us on November 14th during Fellowship Hour. We will be filling twenty shoeboxes with goodies for children located all around the world to spread Christmas cheer!

Outreach will provide all the trinkets and toys needed but we would appreciate a \$10 donation to cover the shipping cost of each box. Donations can be by check or through our online portal. Hope to see you there!

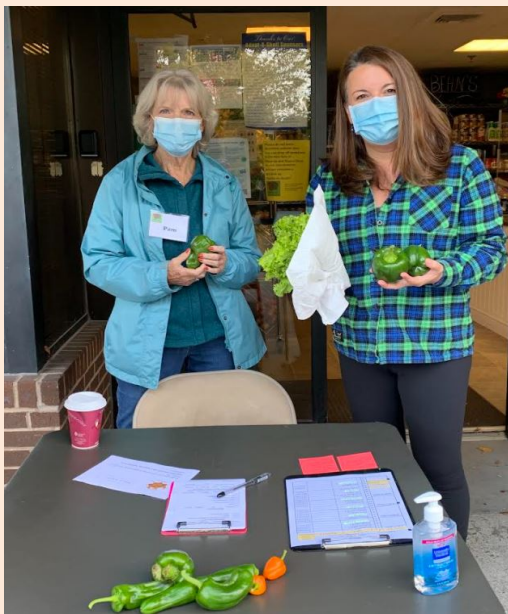
FAITH FORMATION

On Saturday, October 16th, the rain held off and an amazing group of volunteers arrived at the church to load vehicles (bucket-brigade style) and deliver our FUNdrive goods. Unsold

Apple Fest items coupled with donated clothing captured another \$170.73. A sincere THANK-YOU to everyone who donated their time, talents, and treasures! FUNdrives are open to all non-profit groups. If we refer another group that has never held a FUNdrive, the church will receive \$50. Please reach out to Tracy Watson for further information.



Garden Update:



We delivered the last of our garden's produce on Wednesday, October 20th. Green and orange peppers and the last of Sue Potz's lettuce were the last to be harvested. Ann Marie and all the volunteers thanked us for all the fresh garden veggies. A fantastic job to all who helped make it possible.

SBCC Hikers:

The next hike will be on Saturday, October 30th, 9 a.m. at Phillips-Lovdal Farm Preserve. We will meet at the Sanford Road entrance at the Preserve. If interested contact Krista at 203-231-4176, we would like to get a head count.

Blessings

The Faith Formation Team

FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Every Monday morning, I receive via email, **Starting with Scripture, Weekly Devotional and Prayers**. This is sent by The Southern New England Conference. Each week starts with a short introduction of a UCC pastor, followed by a scripture, their reflection, and ending with a prayer or poem. The scripture this week is Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV). Reverend Johanna Hattendorf's reflection is titled God Is One. She spoke on the polarities affecting us all today, but that there is also Oneness. I was moved by her words, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one." She said "God isn't just one God. God IS ONE. God is Oneness. Oneness that unites all divides." With God there is Love and with Love their Oneness.

Blessings,

Krista

A Song of Earth and Stars
Johanna Hattendorf, June 21, 2021

Underneath it all,
The deep thrumming of the bass,
The pulse of the Universe
The heartbeat of the Cosmos,
Pulsing,
throbbing,
driving me forward.

Do you feel the depth--
The ground beneath your feet?
Listen, it is there.
Not just under your feet,
In your heart.
Listen.
Listen.
Listen.

And then the Stars join in,
The heavens singing their eternal refrain,
Over and over and over.
It is love.
Love.
Love.

The love to wrap us up in ourselves

To take us on this crazy ride
to meet, and greet,
Ourselves.
Everywhere.
Everywhere.

Stars and Earth United
Joined for this song:
Gather the pieces,
The broken pieces
Pick up the stardust
Gather it in your arms
And know that You,
Yes! You!
And me--
We!

We are the beat
the pulsing earth,
The singing soaring stars
And yes
You
And me,
WE

Are on this crazy train--
This life of being and doing and seeing and knowing
And we somehow are each a star
And all the earth.
Together.

And the beat, beat, beating

Keeps moving us forward
To live,
To love
To pulse,
Just as we are.

(To see and hear Rev. Hattendorf reading this poem, check out this
YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/xHA5bjYNxzo>)

It was a pleasure to sit down with Bert Deforest recently and he
passed on some wonderful thoughts.

*As we grow older
Things you have to give up*

*I loved playing basketball but the last time I played many
years ago it was too much running up and down the court. Had to
quit!*

*Recently I had to give up gardening. For the past 16 years
we were members of the Garden Club and had a few garden plots in
which we planted vegetable plants. Many tomato plants and they
needed daily attention. Weeding, watering, cultivating and other
attention. The only day we did not go to the garden was when it
rained. We harvested many tomatoes and other veggies and enjoyed
them so much. It was a hard decision to give it all up but we
just could not do it anymore.*

*I gave up my duties in the Focus video group where I spent
many hours each day filming and editing on my computer.*

*I gave up being President of the Garden Club for over 7
years.*

*I gave up being Cluster Captain for over 15 years
It is funny how I did all of this prior to January 2020 It
was then I was diagnosed I had Lung Cancer.*

Then came the pandemic and we were quarantined. So, I was able to spend all of my time with Fay my loving wife. Who is my caregiver as I recover. I did not give up on the cancer and I am doing well.

I have many memories of all my endeavors and happy I was able to enjoy doing all of them.

LIFE IS GOOD.

Bert Deforest

-submitted by Pastor Malcolm

STEWARDSHIP

We spent the last stewardship year considering the joy that can come from thoughtful and deliberate giving. We hope all of us have been prompted to prayer and mindfulness about our stewardship commitments over the past year, and that this has become a meaningful part of our worship each week.

It is never too late to submit or update your pledge. You can submit a written pledge, or log onto One Church and enter your pledge, at any time. If you need assistance, please contact Laurie Hornbecker.

As we look back on the "Joyful Givers" campaign, we will end where we began:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a joyful giver." ***2 Corinthians 9:7***



One of our sunflowers is hanging on for some early autumn sunshine!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ooooh, it is cocoa season! Or maybe you prefer hot mulled cider, or just a good cup-a coffee or tea. And you are in luck! Come pick up a brand new SBCC mug at Fellowship Hour on October 31st.



The mug features the beautiful line drawing of our church, and the wooden sign -- printed on both sides. Cost is \$10, Mugs will be sold at Fellowship Hours for the next several Sundays, and at the Victorian Tea, as well. Cheers!

FLOWER COMMITTEE

There are still open Sundays on the flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for a service, the signup sheet is

in the Gathering Room. Just let Nancy know what you would like to put in the bulletin.



In December, we have the Advent Wreath each Sunday and poinsettias for Christmas Eve - New Year's; although there is room for flowers, just be aware that they could be overshadowed. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Thank You for Your Help

On behalf of the Memorial Garden Committee, I would like to recognize those people who volunteered to do a variety of jobs this past summer. The following church members generously gave their time to haul buckets of water around in order to provide water for the newly planted evergreen trees as well as other shrubs at the Memorial Garden. Watering was done faithfully three days a week during the hot summer months from May through August.



Our gratitude is extended to: Laura Bennett, Chuck Crowdis, Dave Ferraro, Sal Graziano, Dennis Jedlinsky, Krista Judson, Ralph Kubista, Ian and Jackson Lowell, Curt Perry, Don Sharpe, and Mother Nature.

We also want to thank Patty and Shawn Fontana, our neighbors living in the house adjacent to the Old Methodist Church, for letting us use many gallons of water from their well to carry out the job.

Thanks to Curt Perry for all the time he spent cutting and trimming over-growth and removing invasive plants at the Memorial Garden as well as the entire wooded area to the rear of the parking lot.

Thanks to Ian Lowell for removing several truckloads of downed limbs and brush in the area. I would also like to recognize three local contractors who have been very generous to us over the years, helping to make this project possible:

HH Stone Construction for preparing the site.

Pine Meadow Gardens for providing us with quality plantings and sound advice.

Bob's Tree Service for removing problem trees to provide more sunlight and to eliminate safety hazards.

The Memorial Garden provides a special opportunity for anyone with connections to South Britain Congregational Church to choose it as a final resting place for theirs or a loved-one's ashes. Memorial plaques in memory of a special person are also welcomed. Contact the church and ask for more information.

Bud Bennett

Member of the Memorial Garden Committee

Other members: Lainie Jedlinsky, Sharon Stiles, Krista Judson, Joe Simpson, and Ralph Kubista

PS - If you would like to serve in any way with this on-going endeavor, please let us know.

NEWSEY NUGGETS

We are thrilled with the addition of the Little Free Pantry made by Jesse Shepard. We would like to call your attention to the Little Free library he so graciously agreed to attach to it. Please feel free to drop off as well as pick up a book or two. All types of books are accepted, fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come to visit both sides of the pantry.

For those that have supplied meals and left dishes to families in need, please stop by the Parish Office to retrieve the dishes.

-Thanks so much for your continued support in providing meals in
a time of need

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Richard M.
- Chrissy
- Lillian G.
- Nancy Maher
- Larry S.
- Jennifer Gracy
- Andy S.
- Austin
- Peter C.
- Jean H.
- Brenda
- Judy S.
- Tiernan
- Linda Mitchell Lawson
- Joyce Hornbecker
- Bud Bennett
- Andrew M.
- Raphael
- Sandy
- Leon Saddler
- Bob Harrison
- Darlene
- Eva H.
- Jerry Crane

- George S.
- Cathy Powell
- Rev. Peter Meister
- Robert
- Nancy M.
- David

- Jack
- Eileen
- Luke
- Bert
- Nancy G.
- Debbie's sister-in-law

- All those affected by the fires and the hurricanes.
- All those serving this country in the armed forces and all veterans.
- All those suffering with the effects of Covid-19, directly, indirectly, family, friends, all frontline workers, medical personnel, firefighters, & police.
- Prayers for good results for those going in for medical tests.

BULLETIN BOARD



It is time to sign up for the holiday season. We need families, friends, or individuals to volunteer to lead us in the liturgy of Advent. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Room.

WOMEN'S DINNER GROUP

The October 13th dinner at the 1850 House was very well attended, with some new faces attending! The November/December dinner will be combined and will probably be held in early December. Stay tuned for details!



If you would like to submit an article, birthday, anniversary, prayer request for the Parishioners Post please send us an email along with pictures to sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

NOTE:

If you know someone that is missing out on the Parishioners Post because they do not have access to email, please drop a note to Nancy so we might include them in our mailing.

sbcc_secretary@yahoo.com

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES:

Please wish them a very "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" (we are using a new database for Birthdays, Anniversaries). If there are errors or omissions, please contact. sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

BIRTHDAYS

October	Lynn Plourde	9
	Laura (Beard) ?	11
	Leonard Beard	11
	Dave Ferraro	13
	Christina Lewis	13
	Jim Locke	13
	Heather Mitchell	15
	Chuck Crowdis	18
	Rita Ericsson	28
	Trevor Ferraro	29
	Patricia (Pat) Johnson	29
	Marge Humiston	30
	Don Lang	30
	Beverly Crane	31

November	Carl Dunn	6
	Marci Lowman (Marge Mitchell's daughter)	6
	John Grimes	7
	Betty Schaaake	8
	Cathy Peterson (Bev Stoddard's daughter)	10
	Don Sharpe	11
	Sherman Mitchell	13
	Carol Palmer	14
	Lynn Rogowski	14
	Jim Hartman	19
	Claire Warner	20
	Jerry Crane	20
	Allen Brinley, Jr.	24
	Ben Swanson (Deb Hull's son)	26
	Tammy Hartman	27
	Lynne Kilbourn	29
	Hunter Wilds	30



- Ed and Jennifer Naylor celebrated their 27th anniversary on October 16th.
- Carol and Joe Cutrona celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 21.

A Service of Celebration of the Life of Kazuko Zachos will be held at South Britain Congregational Church on Saturday, October 30th at 1 p.m.

APPLE FESTIVAL



Some snapshots of our wonderful Apple Festival. Great job everyone! Until next year!

CALENDAR

Every Week:

- **Sundays:** Worship 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.
- **Mondays** Dance, 4 - 6 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** Knit-Wits, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Daytime Bible Study, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- **Fridays:** AA Meeting, 6 - 9 p.m.

Every Month:

- **1st Sunday:** Deacons Meeting (following services)
- **2nd Tuesdays:** Loom Service, 7 p.m.
- **2nd Wednesday:** Loss & Grief Group, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **4th Wednesday:** Council, 7 p.m.
- **1st Thursday:** Property, 7 p.m.
- **2nd Thursday:** ONA, 10 a.m.
- **2nd & 4th Thursdays:** PR Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- **2nd & 4th Thursdays:** Even Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- **3rd Wednesday:** Trustees, 7 p.m.
- **Girls Night Out:** Dates TBD Monthly

Upcoming Events:

- On **Sunday, October 31st**, we will be celebrating Halloween by wearing our favorite hats, masks, or costumes that morning.
- **The Megan Boyd Dance Theater** is the group that rents the hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. They are a small local dance theater that will be performing at the Contemporary Dance Festival on **Nov. 6th, 7 p.m.**, at the **Autorino Arts Center, Univ. of St. Joseph in West Hartford, CT.**

- Operation Christmas Child, Sunday, November 14, during Fellowship Hour. We will be packing boxes, donation of \$10 per box to cover shipping is appreciated.

