Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may seek
not so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen

St. Francis was born 10/4/1181
MISSION STATEMENT

Southwick Congregational Church is a faithful Christian presence in the community of Southwick since 1773, and we look to the future. We are a diverse and loving congregation, joyfully serving, teaching, and sharing with one another, according to the gifts we have been given.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SAFE SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY! 10:00 AM
We invite you to join us on Facebook & YouTube to watch our worship services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday: 9:00 AM~12:00 PM
If you need to see Lyn before 9:00 AM or after Noon, Please call for an appointment.

The Office will be Closed on October 12th for the Holiday

SPECIAL MEETINGS

All meetings at this time are announced by email, phone call, or letter. They are held by Zoom, conference call, or some other virtual means.

COFFEE HOUR

At 11:00, we meet on Zoom for a “social gathering.” So grab your coffee and join us. If we have your email you will be sent an invitation.

CHECK US OUT ON YouTube
Search for Southwick Congregational Church

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SHARING

Submitted by D. Howes

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?"

A small girl replied, "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"

From the Moderator

“I want to extend a huge thank you to each of you for your thoughtful responses to our ballot question on sharing a fulltime minister with another church, potentially First Church in Westfield. Our “voter turnout” demonstrated your dedication to the future of our church. 72 out of 83 ballots were returned, a phenomenal 87% return rate! An overwhelming majority of voters in the congregation are in favor of sharing a minister with another church.

First Church is currently going through a similar process to gauge interest within their congregation. Once that is complete and the results are known, we will most likely begin conversations with them, guided by UCC leadership, to determine if our goals, philosophy, direction for our church, and our requirements for a pastor “match” theirs. This process of getting to know each other will take some time and will involve folks at all levels, leadership groups at both churches as well members of both congregations.

If both churches feel that we are a good fit for one another, we will begin our search for a fulltime pastor together. This will involve a new, joint search committee and a joint profile that includes the individual profiles from both our churches. Interested candidates will be interviewed by the joint search committee, and the finalists must be approved by both churches.

I’d like to say a special thank you to our search committee. Their commitment and diligence for the past two years has resulted in a church profile that represents our congregation very well. This profile will provide the foundation upon which we build our new joint search process.

Finding the right minister to meet our needs will likely take some time. I will keep you informed throughout this process. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me by phone (413-426-2081) or by email (hannahput@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or feedback along the way.

Terry Putnam, Moderator”

9/21/20
The meeting was called to order by Terry Putnam, Moderator, at 6:05 p.m., and was held via Zoom.


Terry Putnam thanked Eric and Bob for helping get the sanctuary ready for opening. The town’s Health Inspector was happy with our efforts. We need to maintain maximum ventilation in the sanctuary so attendees are asked to dress appropriately as the sanctuary will be colder than normal for now. Any singers will need to be up in the balcony, behind their screens, and away from others. We need to wipe down high contact areas such as door handles, pews, and the lecterns. Attendance can be 50% of our maximum occupancy rate of 326.

Per the Health Inspector, groups may be allowed back into our building with the following guidelines:

- Masks to be worn
- Social distancing observed, and
- Contact areas need to be wiped down.
- Attendance per group may be 25 or less.
- Per the Executive Committee, each group must remain in their designated room for their entire meeting and no use of the church’s kitchen is allowed.
- Groups are expected to provide their own wipes and sanitizers.
- Attendees at the Thrift Store are asked to wear gloves if touching items.
- Joyce Hamilton will be asked to monitor this as best as possible.

Concerns were raised about the Boy Scouts and Eric...
Our Search Committee
Patti Wood
TJ Welch
George Zanolli
Raymond Fox
Eleanor Bates
George Wheeler
Mary Goodwin
Ann; Lee Zinnack’s friend
Steve; Rev. Susanne’s friend
Lulu; Phyliss Martin’s friend
Ben Ingalls; Flo’s nephew
Patti’s “North Carolina” Family, in the passing of Jeff Cook
Gerry & Chris Assard; friends of Lorraine & Bob Bates
Hetti Thompson; friend of Mary G
Jamie Poston; Terry Putnam’s nephew
Virginia; Mary’s mother
Judy; Patti’s Sister
Travis P.; Ben’s friend
George Webster; Roxanne Cook’s & Patty Banasik’s uncle
People at the American Inn
Irene; Mary’s friend whose mom is going through cancer
Dawn’s Sister-in-law, Julie, and niece, Emilie
Ginny Typrowicz; Diane Orson’s friend
Frances Hurley, Patty Banasik’s Mother-in-law
Jim Rundall; Eric Nitsch’s friend
Patti Wood’s nephew, Matthew & co-worker’s son, Jack
All affected by the wildfires and natural disasters

Nitsch will talk to their liaison about their need to only use one room in the building while they are there. Any questions about this can be directed to Eric Nitsch.

We are planning to continue in-church worship services with a Zoom coffee hour to follow. Kirsten Allhusen will do our future communion services. “Safe” communion elements will be provided as worshipers enter the building. Volunteers are needed for future messages/sermons for the rest of the year. Anyone interested in a short talk is asked to please contact Patty Banasik or any deacon. Discussions will be ongoing about how to handle our Christmas Eve Service. Our sign out front has been updated to reflect that we are now open for in-person services.

Our recent all-church special vote came back that we will go ahead with exploring a shared ministry with another church, probably First Congregational Church in Westfield. First Church has also voted to explore this option with us and have offered to share their current interim pastor with us as of January 2021. Our current Search Committee’s job is now finished and the Church Profile will be held by the Executive Committee for now until we decide if we will be working on a shared ministry profile with First Church which will result in a new Shared Ministry Search Committee. Terry has encouraged our members to explore the First Congregational Church of Westfield’s Facebook page and perhaps listen to posted sermons and services by their current interim.

Donna Sullivan from Missions informed us their group will be serving a meal at the Soup Kitchen on Oct. 23rd for approximately 65 people and will be asking for donations towards the menu.

Ted Orson will be providing the Executive Committee with a Financial Report through August.

Terry and Jim Putnam have been reaching out to our shut-ins and Patty B, Donna S., and Roxanne C. will help out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. with our next meeting scheduled for Oct. 8th.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Nitsch, Clerk
We're back!!
Please join us for a short service in our sanctuary each Sunday at 10 am.
There will be music, scripture readings, prayer, and a brief message.

- Masks are required for the entire service (we have some on hand if you forget yours); hand sanitizer is available; and, seating is done according to adequate social distancing guidelines

- Please bring your Bibles if you'd like to follow along with the scripture readings and your own pen and paper if needed

- Please bring a sweater or jacket because some of the windows will be open to provide fresh air and ventilation

- Please save your hugs and handshakes until we're safely past the pandemic. Until then, we'll wave at each other from a safe distance

- There will be no "live" coffee hour for now, but we will continue our online coffee hours at 11 am each Sunday

- We will record the sanctuary service and post on Facebook and YouTube for all who continue to shelter safely at home

- As much as we’d love to see all of you, please stay home if you don’t feel well

~Terry Putnam, Moderator

An Affirmation of Faith:
“Confirmation Creed 2020”

We believe in Almighty God, Maker of all of Creation;
Known as three, yet One;
Giver of our lives.

We believe in Jesus Christ, The Son of God,
Born as a baby in a manger;
Who lived and died as one of us, to gain our forgiveness.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Everywhere;
In every place;
Who helps us communicate with God, and cares for us always.

Blessing and honor, glory and power, be to our Triune God: the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; world without end.

Amen.
CONFIRMATION 2020!!

September 6, 2020

September 6th was a beautiful Sunday morning on which we held the Rite of Christian Confirmation on the green beside our church.

After attending confirmation classes until the pandemic struck, Ezri June Johnston and Richard Michael Pitoniak were confirmed by Dr. Hayes, becoming new adult members of our church. They made commitments to their faith beliefs, heard words of advice from Dr. Hayes, and enjoyed the musical piece “Teach Your Children,” by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

As part of their confirmation requirements, they wrote an Affirmation of Faith: “Confirmation Creed 2020,” which you will find on the next page.

Please keep Ricky and Ezri in your prayers as they begin this important new part of their faith journey.
The chestnut tree is indigenous to temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Native Americans were eating chestnuts as their main source of carbohydrates long before European immigrants introduced their chestnut tree stock to America.

Mature chestnut trees often grew straight and branch-free for 50 to 100 feet with trunks averaging up to 5 feet in diameter. Up to 1/4 of the hardwood forests in the Appalachian Mountains were chestnut.

The discovery of the blight fungus on some Asian chestnut trees planted on Long Island was made public in 1904. Within 40 years, the nearly four billion-strong forest of American chestnut trees in North America was devastated. For three centuries lasting until the early 1900’s, most churches, barns and homes east of the Mississippi River were timber framed using chestnut.

Timber frame construction employed “bents” – a juncture of large beams pinned together with oak pegs. Bents were raised into position then joined with cross-members to assemble the structure. Two years of construction, 9” x 12” hand-hewed chestnut-beams, a forest of thin ceiling supports, clouds of insulation, walkways and roof rafters are all part of our finished church.

~Virgil

A view of the “upstairs”.

Missions and Outreach will be providing for The Soup Kitchen on Friday, October 23rd. We will be asking for donations as soon as we have details worked out.

The Missions/Outreach Committee is collecting donations for Neighbors in Need to help Covid-19 support. If you would like to help, please send a check made out to Southwick Congregational Church with “Neighbors in Need” written in the memo.

M/O will match what is collected.

We will then send one large check to Neighbors in Need.

Thank You.

~Charlotte Bronte

“Friendship however is a plant which cannot be forced — true friendship is no gourd spring up in a night and withering in a day.”

Thank you, Virgil, for being a friend. Lyn
October

On this special day,
We celebrate how blessed the world
Became when God gave us you.

Happy Birthday

Louise Tagliavini 10/01
Norma Cagney 10/03
Dana DeCillis 10/10
Todd Wilson 10/12
Roxanne Cook 10/14
Elsie Gosselin 10/23
Lyn Casey 10/28

If we’ve missed a birthday, please let the church office know!

October’s birth flower is
the **marigold** which is said to
symbolize comfort, grace, joy, good
luck, and gratitude. We are spiritual
at times and by nature are gentle
and sensitive. We do like peace and
harmony in life. We can become
good negotiators and hence
great leaders.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!
Our Facebook page is
Southwick Congregational Church!
Please check it out, “like” us, and follow us!!!
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