

# The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville  
United Church of Christ

March, 2011



## Inquirer's Class Forming

Are you interested in learning more about the Congregational Church of Somersville? Do you wonder what membership in our church means? Do you have gifts that you feel God is calling you to share with us in this place, but you're not sure how?



**Membership  
Class**

If you answered yes to any of those questions, then the Inquirer's Class is for you! This three session class is a requirement for prospective members but is open to anybody who wants to learn more about our congregation and where his or her place in it might be. Specific dates and times for the classes will be determined after Graham has learned who is interested and has had a chance to talk with them about their availability. If you are interested in our Inquirer's Class, don't hesitate to let Graham know!

## Collection in Progress

### *Hygiene/Health Kits*

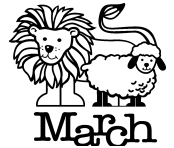
Supplies for hygiene kits continue to be collected this month. Our goal is to complete 200 kits, by April 13, that will be sent to Church World Service to benefit those who are hit by devastation of floods, earthquakes, etc. Each kit includes: 1 16x28 hand towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 wide tooth comb, 1 nail clipper, 1 wrapped bath size bar of soap, 1 toothbrush in original package and 6 bandages (3/4"). Collection boxes are located in Wood Chapel and the social room. Or, you can make a monetary donation and someone else can do the shopping for you. Please support this activity.



## **From the Pastor**

Dear Friends in Christ,

March is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb. I guess that's often true, but regardless of the weather patterns this year, there are a several key days this month we can commemorate with prayer.



In that spirit, I offer these prayers for your use this March:

Transfiguration Sunday (March 6th) The Transfiguration is the conclusion to the season of the Epiphany. It marks the day Jesus ascended a mountain with a few of his disciples and had a dramatic, glowing encounter with God. As Christ shone on the mountaintop, the Spirit revealed our savior's divine glory as Jesus prepared to journey to Jerusalem one last time in order to become our Passover lamb. Try using this or a similar prayer in your household this Transfiguration Sunday:



*Illumine our lives, O God, with the radiance of Christ's love, and inspire us to shine in faith and witness as his holy disciples. Transform us into his likeness that we may live for you, as he lived, and love others, as he loved them. Amen.*

Ash Wednesday (March 9th) Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. You are invited to use this prayer to start the Lenten season:

*God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer, fasting and acts of mercy, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) Patrick was a fifth century priest who was commissioned to be an evangelist to the Irish people (after having been held captive by them for six years!). He is credited with winning over the hearts and minds of the island and Patrick is now widely revered as the patron saint of Ireland. This St. Patrick's Day, why not pray this prayer attributed to St. Patrick even if you're not Irish?



*Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,*

*Christ to comfort and restore me.  
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
 Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
 Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen.*

**Vernal Equinox (March 20th):** After a snowy winter, our prayers for spring have been answered! Let us pray:  
*We give you thanks, most gracious Creator, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers. We praise you for the songs of birds and the loveliness of new flowers. We thank you for all the good gifts of spring; help us to enjoy them and enjoy you through them. Amen.*  
 May you all enjoy a rich and full prayer life this month!

Faithfully,  
 Graham Van Keuren

**Thanks to ..**

.. all who volunteered to take on “service opportunities” during February.

.. those who supported the Valentine Baked Stuffed Shrimp dinner.  
 .. worshippers who contributed to the Souper Bowl collection on Feb. 6.  
 .. all who continue to help maintain our church building and grounds.



**Christian Education** (submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

**Wednesday Bible Study**

Wednesday morning Bible study meets weekly in the social room from 9:30-11:15 AM. All are invited.

**Mid-Week Lenten Worship to Begin**

We will begin contemplative Wednesday evening Lenten services on Ash Wednesday, March 9th at 7 PM.\* These half-hour services help prepare you for the spiritual growth that we are invited to partake of during Lent. We will continue to meet every Wednesday in Lent until we come to Holy Week; then we will have a Maundy Thursday service instead. Look to April's



Spire for more details about Holy Week events. Until then I look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays!

\*Please note that choir practice and Wednesday evening board/committee meetings will begin at 7:30 PM during Lent unless otherwise specified.



**Silver Lake Summer Camping**

Silver Lake Camp and Conference Center is now accepting reservations for its 2011 summer camps. All kids going into grade 4 and up are invited to spend a week or two in the great outdoors learning to love God, love their neighbor, and love themselves. The cost for most week-long camps is still just \$410, which is probably the best deal in summer camps you'll find. In addition, the church will kick in half the cost for any of our kids, meaning the full week of camping costs parents just \$205. It's both a great place and a great deal! Check out all the different options available to your kids by logging onto [www.silverlake.ctucc.org](http://www.silverlake.ctucc.org).

**Opportunities in March**

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>
3/06	Chuck & Laura Elwood	Marge Morgan		Ed & Lois Sharpless
3/13	Donna Pendleton Deb Robidoux	Rich & Ardie Carey	Linda McEwen	Donna Pendleton
3/20	Donna Pendleton Elma Fletcher	Patrick Forbes	Al Andrews	Tom & Elaine Hancock
3/27	Donna Pendleton Elma Fletcher	Patrick Forbes	Art Lachance	Deb Robidoux Sue Comparetto

**From the Moderator** (submitted by Ray Foster)

Well, it's official. Later this year the Cabinet will set two annual meetings dates; one meeting to be held in December to vote on our operating budget for 2012 – a second meeting to be held in the beginning of the new year (at a time the Cabinet prefers) to hear and consider other church business.

Our next Cabinet meeting will be held following worship on March 20. All are welcome to attend the meeting. Anyone having business to bring before the Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup>, should notify myself or Pastor Graham by Thursday, March 10.

**Report of the Treasurer** (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

**OUR DAYS ARE IDENTICAL SUITCASES- ALL THE SAME SIZE- BUT SOME PEOPLE CAN PACK MORE INTO THEM THAN OTHERS.**

Be very careful, then how you live- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity....  
Ephesians 5:15, 16.

	January 2011	YTD	Budget
Pledges	\$ 11,311.00	\$ 11,311.00	\$ 80,850.00
Income	\$ 13,453.82	\$ 13,453.82	\$112,855.00
Expenses	\$ 16,207.59	\$ 16,207.59	\$125,933.00

**Collections for January**

Fund Raiser Pork Supper- 1723.40- net income

**Flow through Items- Income**

Parking Lot Fund- 378.00

Missions Trip Fund- 400.00

Monthly Missions Collection- 25.00- UNICEF

**DOLLARS & CENTS**

**Flow through Items- Expense**

Parking Lot Loan- 138.88- Total left on loan- 4583.96

We started out the year on a positive note. Our pledges were much higher than we budgeted at 6737.50. If only every month could be like this. But the reality is that it won't. But it helped with the increase in bills incurred as a result of the snow storms and the never ending clean up. Having the fundraiser supper as always is an added bonus.

We continue to collect funds for the parking lot, which helps with the loan repayment. Also missions have their seed money for the Missions Trip Fund, which will continue to grow. Even if Old Man Winter continues to knock at our door, we have shown the warmth in our hearts.

**Missions Outreach**

***Work for 2011*** (submitted by Geneva Farnham)

Greetings to everyone from your Missions committee for 2011. Co-chairpersons are Linda Longueuil and Genny Farnham; scribe is Art Lachance and Barbara Baugniet will be the representative to nominating.

We have begun to plan a very busy program for 2011. Our efforts will support One Great Hour of Sharing, Blanket & Tool Sunday, NADA (Network Against Domestic Abuse) and other programs that we will keep you informed about as the year progresses. And, don't forget to support the campaign for the Hygiene Kits.

Your committee will gladly accept any comments or suggestions; we are few but determined and dedicated to doing God's work. May His face shine upon you all.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offering*** (submitted by Art Lachance)

Where does the joy come from when we give away, often at great personal cost, what we claim as ours? It comes because we willingly share the best of ourselves, the best we have to offer.



**“One Great Hour of Sharing.”** .. gives us the opportunity to feel that great joy while helping people throughout the world whom we may never meet.

**“One Great Hour of Sharing”** .. allows us to respond affirmatively and magnificently to these scriptures, joining Christians from many denominations throughout the U.S. to give from what we have to care for God's hurting children and to receive yet another gift from God: **JOY.**

God has compassion for those who suffer, May God use us to bring relief and hope.

Please! Give generously to **“One Great Hour of Sharing”** and Thank You



### **Cornerstone Soup Kitchen**

(submitted by Barbara Bagniet)

There's an opportunity to help prepare and serve a dinner at Cornerstone Soup Kitchen in Rockville on Tuesday, March 15. We'll do a corned beef dinner so we can really use help peeling vegetables. To help with preparation, volunteers can carpool from the church at 2:30; if you can help serve only, please arrive at Cornerstone by 4:30. We will return to the church about 6:30. Please speak with myself or Johanna Karbonic if interested or if you have questions.

### **Ladies Aide Society**

#### ***Monthly Meeting***

All women of the church are welcome to attend the Ladies Aide meeting in the social room on Tuesday, March 8 at 1 PM. Donna Pendleton and Linda McEwen are hostesses.

#### ***Luncheon for Seniors***

Somers' seniors are invited to a luncheon at our church on Tuesday, March 22 at 12 noon. Even though this is a Ladies Aide event, men of the church are more than welcome to assist. Menu includes fresh fruit cup, baked ham, potato casserole, mixed vegetables, rolls, beverage and fresh homemade cookies with ice cream. Cost is \$5 and reservations should be made by calling Arlene Yarnes at 860-749-7387.



#### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry*** (submitted by Lois Sharpless)

The Prayer Shawl Group will gather to knit/crochet in the social room for about thirty minutes following worship on Sunday, March 20. Please join us.

#### ***Women's Spirit Retreat*** (submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

This Silver Lake retreat is for all adult who have an interest in exploring God through guided yoga meditation, dance, chant and song. Held from the evening of April 15th to the morning of April 17th, this retreat costs only \$180 and includes four meals, two nights accommodations, instruction and materials. It is a great get-away to a beautiful place, to boot! Deb Robidoux has attended this retreat in the past; please speak with her for a first-hand account of what it is like. For more information, go online to

[www.ctucc.org/events/pdfs/20110415\\_yogaretreatbrochure.pdf](http://www.ctucc.org/events/pdfs/20110415_yogaretreatbrochure.pdf) for

### **Calling All Men of the Church!** (submitted by Graham Van Keuren)

Join us for our Men's Group activities this spring. We are planning three activities that you are sure to engage with and enjoy.



#### ***Activity #1 -- Spiritual Growth Event***

Come find out your spiritual archetype. We will explore various spiritual "types" of men represented in the Bible, including Patriarch, Pilgrim, Warrior, Magician, King, Wildman, Healer, Prophet, Trickster, and Lover. Which one best fits you? What does that mean for how you can nurture your spiritual growth? Think it over with us on Thursday, March 17th at 7 PM.



#### ***Activity #2 -- Service Opportunity***

There are a number of great cooks among the guys of this church and even more who are great eaters. On April 2nd, all men are invited to help put on a spaghetti dinner for the congregation at 6 PM. followed by a showing of a movie (the title to be determined at our March 17th meeting.) It'll be great fun and a nice service to the church. Even guys who can't boil water will have a place putting this together. RSVP to Graham by March 25th that you are able to help out.

#### ***Activity #3 -- R & R***

Join us on May 14th for brunch out at a Springfield area eatery followed by a tour of the Springfield Armory for its annual Armory Day celebration. Featuring costumed living history actors, this is a day that will have something for young and old. Feel free to bring kids or grandkids to this event if you'd like... or get away from it all and explore and develop your own interests in arms and armaments, early American history, and the development of our region.

**Fundraising Suppers** (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

**Recap of February Supper**

We had a good turn out for the baked stuffed shrimp supper; however, once again, there were a few no-shows. And, by the time we know there are available seats, it's too late to call anyone on the wait list to fill those seats ☹. Even though our cost for the shrimp increased over last year, we still made out fairly well. We took in \$2636.50 (including the bake sale) and we spent \$588 for the shrimp. Income from this dinner goes toward our general operating expenses.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to, and assisted at, this supper.

**March 12 Supper and Bake Sale**

Next up is our annual **Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper** on March 12. As always, two sittings are offered: 5 & 6:15 PM. Reservations can be made via email ([somcong@aol.com](mailto:somcong@aol.com)) or by calling the church office (860-749-7741).



Instead of individuals purchasing potatoes, cabbage, carrots and onions, I am asking for monetary donations that can be used toward the purchase of all vegetables. I can either order them from a single supplier and have them delivered or order and pick up from Harkens Market.

A sign up sheet is in the social room offering many opportunities for your help and donations. The list includes needs for:

Irish soda bread (recipes available)	
d-caf coffee	cran-raspberry juice
cake for dessert (recipe available)	veggie prep.
waiting on tables	dishwashers
	clean up help



A **bake sale** will also be offered during the supper. Your contributions of cakes, cupcakes, muffins, bars, cookies, pies, breads, candy, etc. would be appreciated.

**This & That**

- **Fellowship hosts** are needed. Anyone willing to provide a light snack following worship on any given Sunday is encouraged to sign up in the social room
- **Meeting minutes** are to be filed with the office. Copies will also be posted on the bulletin board on the south wall of the social room.



- **Daylight Savings Time** begins March 13. Remember to "spring ahead".

**Video Inspirational Mobile App**

**Available for iPhone, Android, Blackberry, iPad and iTouch**

by Mary Dickey      Odyssey Networks Press Release

NEW YORK CITY, NY (01/31/2011) -- Want to turn a bad day around in just two minutes? Now there's an app for that. Call on Faith, just launched by Odyssey Networks, is the first all-video digital source of content that literally puts dynamic inspiration in the palm of your hand wherever you are, whenever you need it. The new app, which was produced in partnership with GoTV Networks, the mobile media industry's largest network, is now available on iPhone, Blackberry and Android phones and on the iPad and iTouch. It delivers 80 original two-minute videos on 14 different channels each month for a one-time download charge of 99 cents.

The United Church of Christ, which provides one of the "channels" in the Call on Faith app, has its own app for the iPhone and Android smartphones. Users can quickly find a UCC church, reflect on the daily devotional, and read United Church News from their handheld device.

Six of the app's channels are programmed by Odyssey, the nation's largest multi-faith coalition dedicated to producing media that enriches spiritual life and promotes understanding among people of diverse beliefs and perspectives. The content includes inspirational insights, advice on better living, personal stories of faith and compassion, and prayers and reflections from the world's great faith traditions. This month's videos feature authors (Philip Yancey and Eliza Griswold), life coaches (Iyanla Vanzant, Joan Borysenko, Mimi Doe), spiritual

leaders (Arthur Caliandro, Richard Cizik, Rabbi Ted Falcon, and Imam Johari Abdul-Malik) and entertainers (William Lee Golden of the Oak Ridge Boys and country music star Julie Roberts).

Additional Call on Faith channels are programmed by seven of Odyssey's member organizations: the United Church of Christ, First Radio Parish Church of America ("Daily Devotions" with Peter Panagore), Chicago Sunday Evening Club ("A Few Good Minutes"), the Seventh-day Adventist Church ("Mad about Marriage" and "Voice of Prophecy"), the Episcopal Church, Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, and Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. These member channels deliver spiritual inspiration, personal stories and guidance from unique faith perspectives, appealing to a wide range of spiritual seekers.

Call on Faith is available for download through [www.callonfaith.com](http://www.callonfaith.com) or at iTunes, Blackberry World or Android Market. It is also available on the Sprint Network through a monthly subscription. For more information on Call on Faith go to [www.callonfaith.com](http://www.callonfaith.com).

### **About Odyssey Networks**

Established in 1987, Odyssey Networks is a service of the National Interfaith Cable Coalition, Inc. It has over 80 denominational, organizational and individual members, representing Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Baha'I, Sikh, and Hinduism. For more information, visit [www.odysseynetworks.org](http://www.odysseynetworks.org).

### **About GoTV Networks**

GoTV Networks enables media owners and brands to deliver compelling, personalized, highly engaging content experiences through feature-rich smart applications distributed to the widest audience possible. This content is accessed through a broad range of mobile operators, application storefronts and wireless devices. Among their recently released apps are Oprah Mobile and Call on Jesus. For information visit [www.getvnetworks.com](http://www.getvnetworks.com).

## **About our Members & Friends**



### ***Birthdays***

Birthdays are being celebrated this month by: Sue Comparetto, Mckenzie Tishon, Will Penhall, Liam Forbes, Aiden Pinney, Barbara Bagniet, Erin Gately, Lillian Carriere, Steve Twitchell, Parker Salvas, Desmond Salvas, Barbara Abbe, John Bellafronte

## **Congregational Church of Somersville**

### **Vision Statement**

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

### **Behavioral Covenant**

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

# March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Congregational Church of Somersville</b> 22 Maple St., PO Box I Somersville, CT 06072 860-749-7741 860-749-5132 (fax) somcong@aol.com (email) www.somersvilleucc.org (web site)		1 Evergreen Worship 11 AM AA 6:15-8:30 Deacons 7 PM	2 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7 PM	3	4	5
6 Communion Transfiguration Sunday	7	8 Finance 12 PM Ladies Aide 1 PM AA 6:15-8:30	9 Ash Wednesday Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Lenten Service 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	10 Cabinet Agenda Requests Due	11 Supper Prep. 9 AM Missions 1 PM	12 Corned Beef Supper & Bake Sale 5 & 6:15 PM
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins	14	15 Cornerstone Soup Kitchen 2:30/4:30-6:30 AA 6:15-8:30	16 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Lenten Service 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	17 St. Patrick's Day Men's Group - Spiritual Growth 7 PM	18	19
20 1st Day of Spring Cabinet Meeting Prayer Shawl Ministry	21	22 Blair Manor Worship 10:30 AM Sr. Luncheon 12 PM AA 6:15-8:30	23 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Lenten Service 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	24	25	26
27 Spire Deadline	28	29 AA 6:15-8:30	30 Bible Study 9:30-11:15 Lenten Service 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	31	the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor Catherine Carlisle, Intern Ray Foster, Moderator Sydney Cohen, Treasurer Ruth Bruch, Clerk/Office Administrator Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director Tom & Elaine Hancock, Webmasters	

HIDDEN PICTURES - BE-BOPPIN' IN THE BARN

