

The Spire

Congregational Church of Somersville
United Church of Christ

February 2012



Annual Hygiene Kit Collection (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

Every year, in various parts of the world, people are struck by natural disasters, war, or other hardships. In the face of these disasters, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for those affected. This year, disaster struck fairly close to home after Hurricane Irene with close to 1000 Hygiene Kits being sent to Vermont and New Hampshire. Over 35,000 kits were sent to Alabama after the devastating tornados last spring. In the first nine months of 2011, Church World Services disbursed a total of 166,300 Hygiene Kits, with one third of them being sent to locations within the United States. Your support will make a difference in the lives of families, both at home and all over the world.

Each kit includes:

- 1 hand towel (approximately 16" X 28")
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 wide-toothed comb
- 1 nail clipper (no emery boards or nail files)
- 1 bar of soap (bath-size in wrapper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 6 band-aids (3/4" size)

If assembling a complete kit, insert the above items into a one-gallon plastic bag with zipper. Donations of either individual items or

completed kits will be greatly appreciated. Please place all donations in the box marked 'Hygiene Kits' located in the social room.

Monetary donations to be used to purchase needed items at the end of the collection will also be accepted by any member of Ladies Aide.

The last day of collection will be April 8 as kits will be assembled on April 10. Thank you in advance for making this mission a success, as you have done year after year.



From the Pastor

Friends in Christ,

I write to remind you that the season of Lent begins this month, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. The origin of the name comes from the Old German word used for "lengthening", since Lent falls during the time of the year when the days are growing longer. In fact, variations on the word "Lent" mean the season of spring in several Germanic languages to this day.

In our Christian tradition, Lent is a time for us to engage in disciplines such as prayer, scripture reading, fasting, pilgrimage, or acts of service in order to prepare us spiritually for the death and resurrection of Jesus that we will commemorate during Holy Week and Easter. The discipline of intentionally observing a holy Lent is meant to take us out of our daily routine; it is meant to slow us down in significant ways and lengthen the time we spend reflecting on our need for, and the gift of, a Savior. Ending with Easter's dawn, the season of Lent is forty days long, modeled after Jesus' forty days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness prior to his commencement of active ministry. [Here's an interesting factoid you may have never noticed: if you look at your calendar, you will see that the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter is actually more than forty days. That is because in our Christian tradition, we do not count Sundays as part of the forty days. Every Sunday is celebrated as a mini-Easter, a day of new creation. Our church has Sundays in (surrounded by) Lent, but never Sundays of (belonging to) Lent.]

My prayer for you is that you will observe a Holy Lent, engaging in whatever spiritual disciplines will help you to approach the throne of grace with both humility and boldness as we prepare again to mark Christ's sacrifice. As we have in Lenten seasons past, we will offer ½ hour Lenten services each Wednesday at 7 p.m. from February 22nd through April 4th. All are invited and encouraged to participate.

May God be with you as we take the next steps of our journey of faith together.

Yours in Christ,
Graham Van Keuren



Thanks to ..

.. everyone who volunteered to participate in the service opportunities for January.
 .. those who donated to, and helped at, the roast pork supper.
 .. all who made donations to the 2nd Mile Missions collection for Female Soldiers, Forgotten Heroes.
 .. those who assisted at Food Share distributions.
 .. everyone who served on a board or committee this past year. Your dedication and hard work is appreciated.



Reminders from the Out-going Moderator (submitted by Ray Foster)



As you read the Cabinet minutes, you may have noticed that we will be developing a comprehensive safety plan for our church. Deb Robidoux has offered to serve on that ad hoc committee; anyone willing to work with Deb is asked to contact her.

If any Board or individual has business to bring before the Cabinet, a meeting will be scheduled for the 19th. Please speak with Graham to be included on the agenda.

Christian Education

Teachers Needed (submitted by Pat Scully)

Sunday school teachers are needed. We have classes for preK - grade 2, grades 3-5 and our youth group (grades 6-12). We are in dire need of adults from our congregation to get involved with our youth group, especially.



Wednesday Bible Study

This group continues to meet Wednesday mornings in the social room from 9:30-11:15 AM. All are welcome to attend.

Silver Lake Summer Conferences

Registration for summer conferences at Silver Lake is now open! Follow the links below to register:
<http://www.ctucc.org/news/newsbriefs.php#355>
<http://www.silverlakect.org/register>

Opportunities in February

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Fellowship Hosts</u>
02/05	Donna Pendleton Patrick Forbes	Ulysses Orduz Bill Moran	Linda McEwen	Donna Pendleton Linda McEwen
02/12		Donna Pendleton Patrick Forbes	Art Lachance	Tom & Elaine Hancock
02/19	Marjorie Nadeau Everett Baker	Art Lachance Dan Dunn	Dan Scully	Graham Van Keuren
02/26	Donna Pendleton Patrick Forbes	Joan Lange Marge Morgan	Al Andrews	Sue Comparetto Marjorie Nadeau

Report of the Treasurer (submitted by Sydney Cohen)

	December 2011	Monthly Budget	YTD	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$8,463.00	\$ 6,737.50	\$82,496.50	\$ 80,850.00
Income	\$12,861.56	\$ 9,404.56	\$130,780.18	\$ 112,855.00
Expenses	\$13,493.21	\$10,494.41	\$132,553.62	\$ 125,933.00

Collections for December

Flow through Items- Income

Fund Raiser dinner for Missions- Ham Dinner- Gross income 1,750.00

Monthly Mission Giving

Christmas Fund- 803.00

KIVA- 126.00 Total -685.00

Capital Campaign 2011- 525.00- YTD Total 12,360.00

Parking Lot- 93.00- YTD- 6567.72

Flow through Items- Expense

Fund Raiser Mission Dinner- 1,489.00- Cornerstone

Fund raiser expense- 261.00

Monthly missions

UNICEF- 346.75

OGHS- 572.94

Souper Bowl of Caring -199.21

CWS- 395.00

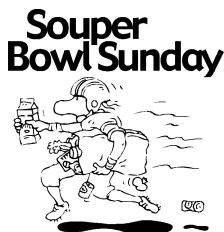
Capital Campaign- 6,277.00- Completion of door repairs. The YTD total disbursement for 2011- 12,353.50.



We finished out the year ahead in pledges collected and with donations, had an increase in overall income. Expenses also were higher than budgeted however the deficit was -631.65, much lower than the originally figured. Mission's disbursements were part of the December expenses, as well as the work on the doors. For a more complete report of 2011 income and expense, check the Annual Meeting Report booklet.

Missions Outreach (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

The Super Bowl is just around the corner which means that our Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday will soon be here too. On February 5, a few of our children from Sunday School will be holding large soup pots after the service to collect your contributions. Donations will be given to an area food bank or soup kitchen. Please give generously to help our neighbors in need. There will not be any further collections during the month of February as we urge you to support the Ladies Aide's annual mission of collecting items necessary for assembling 200 hygiene kits.



KIVA UPDATE

The Missions Board has completed making loans of \$200 each to four individuals spread out across the world. The recipients are from Peru, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and the United States. One is a coffee grower, one has his own cell phone store, and two own variety stores which provide goods to their communities. A picture of each recipient, along with their story, is now displayed on the Missions bulletin board in the lower hallway by the classrooms. We appreciate your support of the 2nd Mile Missions and look forward to watching how these loans change lives. Please watch for future updates.

Cornerstone Soup Kitchen (submitted by Johanna Karbonic)

Volunteers are needed to help serve a meal at Cornerstone Soup Kitchen in Rockville on Tuesday, February 21. We can carpool from the church at 4 and we'll return to Somersville about 6:30. Please speak with Johanna Karbonic if you're willing to help.



Food-Share (submitted by Dave Pinney_)
Food-share's distribution of perishable food happens every other week in the parking lot of Somers

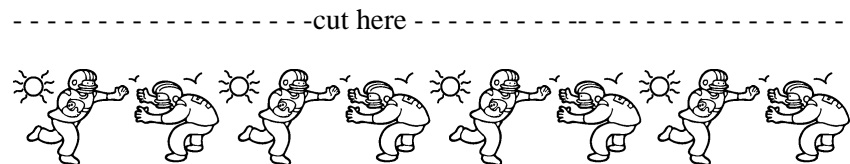
Congregational Church from 1:15-1:45. Distribution dates this month are February 1, 15 and 29. Individuals or families needing food are welcome to come; there are no qualifications. Volunteers are needed to staff the distribution efforts of Food share; speak with Dave Pinney for details.

Thanks to those from our church who have been helping.

Invitation from Men's Group

Ice Hockey Fun for the Whole Family!

The men's group invites you to join them for a hockey game between the American Hockey League's Springfield Falcons and Wilkes-Barre on Sunday, March 11th. We will meet at church at 2 p.m. and carpool together to the MassMutual Center for our 3PM game. It will be fun for everyone. Tickets are \$15/person with a \$50 family cap. Subsidized admission is available for those who need it; please speak with Graham privately should you need a reduced entrance cost. We want everyone to come! Please return the form below with your cash or check made out to the church by ***February 19th*** so that our group can get the best seats available. It'll be a time of great fellowship; women and children are encouraged to join the guys in their life for this fun event.



Name: _____

Number of People in Your Party: _____

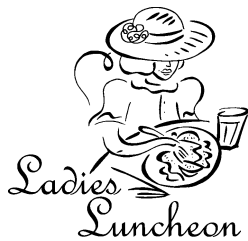
Total Cost (\$15/person, \$50/family of four or more): _____

Would You Be Available to Drive? (circle one): yes/no

Ladies Aide Society

Prayer Shawl Ministry (submitted by Lois Sharpless)

Calling all who have an interest in knitting or crocheting ... you don't have to be an expert – novices are welcome. The Prayer Shawl Knitters will meet on Wednesday, February 22 at 6 PM (before the Lenten Service) at the church.



Luncheon & Meeting (submitted by Linda Longueuil)

On Tuesday, February 14, all women of the church are invited to the Ladies Aide luncheon provided by the men of the church. The luncheon begins at noon in the church social room. Following the luncheon there will be a short business meeting and the installation of officers and committees.



Fundraising Suppers (submitted by Ruth Bruch)

2012 Dates

Since dates were announced at the January 15 Cabinet meeting, there have been a few changes. Here is a current tentative list of dates and entrees for the year:

Jan. 14	Roast Pork
Feb. 11	Baked Stuffed Shrimp
March 10	Corned Beef
April 14	Pot Roast
May 19	Roast Beef
June 16	Ham (Strawberry Supper)
July 14	Chicken Barbecue
Aug. 11	Ham
Sept. 8	
Oct. 20	Roast Pork
Nov. 10	Turkey

Proceeds from the eleven dinners will go toward our general operating expenses. Proceeds from the six bake sales (Jan., Feb., March, April, July, August, October) will go toward missions projects {in place of the December supper}.

Your continued support – with donations and help – is needed and appreciated. Remember, many hands make light work.

February 11 Dinner & Bake Sale

Reservations are now being accepted for our February 11 Baked Stuffed Shrimp dinner with the usual two sittings: 5 & 6:15. Or you can place orders for take outs. Cost for this dinner is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. The menu is: baked stuffed shrimp (3), salad, baked potato, mixed vegetables, homemade rolls/breads, beverage and red velvet cake.



As of this writing, there are still plenty of ways to contribute. We need: 3 pints grape tomatoes

10 1 lb. bags frozen mixed veggies

12 loaves homemade bread

16 lbs. butter

6 red velvet cakes (made from Duncan Hines mix)

help Fri. morning with the shrimp

help Sat. morning and evening (including clean-up)



And, please, bake for our bake sale ~ cookies, bars, cupcakes, breads, pies, candies, etc!!

Because the cost of the shrimp is higher this year, those helping at the supper and eating afterwards are asked to pay \$5 for their meal this month.

Recap of January

Some of our usual diners have gone south for the winter, others cancelled due to sickness, and others had previous plans. We ended up with a vacant table at the first sitting, filled the second sitting and put up twenty-one orders to go. There was an abundance of dining room and kitchen help which shows you are “stepping up” to assist. We even had two young people, Cassie & Sheridan, waiting on tables for one sitting and then Cassie helped hostess for the second sitting. Linda Longueuil is reviewing guidelines with the volunteers and while some were afraid to “cross a line”, we must admit, the operations ran a bit smoother. We took in \$2099 while our costs were \$195.00 The bake sale brought in \$166.60.

This & That

- **Fellowship hosts** are needed for 2012. 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.
- Committee/board chairmen who ended terms are reminded (per our key policy) to **turn in their church key** to Ruth in the office so that keys can be reassigned.

Ten Films from 2011 to See Edward McNulty Jan. 24, 2012

Of the several hundred films released during 2011 the following ten were chosen because they do more than just entertain us. They explore the life worth living, and even celebrate the human spirit.

Some will be found on the lists of the secular critics — six of the top 10 here are Academy Awards “Best Picture” nominees — but others will be less familiar. Although aesthetics and box office success are considered, the spiritual content of the film is paramount in these rankings.



These are films that challenge us spiritually or morally in dealing with human relationships. A few even suggest that there is an invisible realm, or a Person, greater than ourselves.

The Bible references are from my original reviews, intended to help the reader see a connection between film and Scripture.

1. *Tree of Life*. Rated PG-13. Job 38:4-7.

Director/writer Terence Malick’s visual meditation was a difficult film for many people to watch because he does not follow the usual narrative form of filmmaking. But as with his *The Thin Red Line*, Malick is deeply concerned with matters of the spirit, even beginning the film with the quotation from Job in which God speaks of the vastness of his creation. Loosely following the ups and downs of a Texas family with three boys growing up in the 1950s, the episodic film includes a marvelous visual history of the universe from the Big Bang through the rise of the dinosaurs. It even suggests — in a scene where a large dinosaur is in a position to kill a smaller one but spares it instead — that grace is embedded in all living beings.

2. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2*. Rated PG-13. Isaiah 53:12ab, Matthew. 16:24-26.

J.K. Rowling’s series is brought to a rousing conclusion in this second part of the darkest of all the filmed novels. Like Christians attending an Ash Wednesday service, Harry has from infancy borne a mark on his forehead, but his will not wash off. Often we have witnessed Harry risking life and limb to help others. This time he is called to suffer and give himself as never before. His long time adversary Lord Voldemort, upon first meeting Harry face to face says, “Harry Potter, the boy who lived... come to die.” This is possibly the most unwitting theological statement in the entire film series. The scene undergirds Ms. Rowling’s statement that she modeled her hero after Jesus Christ. She even provides her version of the doctrine of the Communion of Saints when Harry communes with his dead parents and mentor Professor Dumbledore.

3. *Hugo*. Rated PG. Psalm 82:3-4, Isaiah 11:6d.

Martin Scorsese’s adaptation of the juvenile novel is both a fitting celebration of the pioneers of cinema and the ability of one caring heart to reach out to a broken heart. Hugo is a young orphan secretly living amidst the works of the giant clocks of a Paris train station in the 1930s. Taught by his horologist father, he is trying to repair an automaton, and soon is seeking to fix a broken man as well. The man is Georges Milies, the great filmmaking pioneer, who has fallen into obscurity after going bankrupt. Hugo and Georges, and even several minor characters in the film, discover the joy of companionship, testifying to the Scripture’s insistence that it is not good for a person to live alone. Through his fixing of machine and man, Hugo discovers his life has a purpose.

4. *The Descendants*. Rated R. Matthew 18:21, Psalm 24:1-2.

Alexander Payne explores in his film themes of family connection, responsibility to one’s heritage as it relates to land, acceptance of death, reconciliation, “emptying” of one’s self for the sake of others (see Philippians 2:5-8) — and thus grace. George Clooney’s Matt King, a real estate lawyer in Hawaii, has his hands full dealing with serious problems. His wife lies in an irreversible coma. He has become estranged from his teenage daughter and her younger sister. He is being pressed by his large clan to sell the family inheritance, a pristine beachfront tract of land that resort developers want to build on. And he learns from his older daughter that his wife had been cheating on him. Through wrestling with all these conundrums, Matt emerges as a compassionate agent of grace.

5. *The Help*. Rated PG-13. Psalm 148, Proverbs 31:8.

This film of empowering sisterhood manages to be funny and serious at the same time. The African American domestic workers and a young white writer — able to grow beyond her prejudiced heritage — parter to expose the hardship and humiliation blacks must endure while working long hours and short wages for well-off whites in Jackson, Miss. The film also depicts the support of a church that honors those who take risks. Despite criticism that it is not realistic in so few consequences of the servants' defiance of the racist system, this inspiring film makes a good companion to Lawrence Dunbar's great poem, "We Wear the Mask."

6. *The Way*. Rated PG-13. Proverbs 4:11-13.

Martin Sheen plays a father trying to understand and reconnect with his estranged son (played by his real life son Emilio Estevez, who also wrote and directed) who has died in a storm at the beginning of an intended pilgrimage on El Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. Impulsively, the grief stricken father decides to finish the pilgrimage. He — and the companions he meets along "The Way," as the pilgrimage is called — grows to understand both himself and his son, and thus to reorient his life from a self-centered existence to one focusing on others.

7. *The Rite*. Rated PG-13. John 15:16.

Despite its rejection by most secular critics, I found this film worthwhile not only because of its realistic treatment of the rite of exorcism, but even more by the way in which faith and doubt are depicted. A Catholic candidate for the priesthood, who has so many doubts that he plans to resign, is talked into representing his diocese at a class in Rome on the rite of exorcism. There he becomes the reluctant companion of a senior priest engaged in treating demon-possessed victims. The older priest encourages the young man to embrace and learn from his doubts, surely the sign of a faith struggling toward maturity.

8. *War Horse*. Rated PG-13. Luke 2:13-14.

When an English father foolishly buys a thoroughbred horse for plowing his field, his son works hard to train the high-spirited animal, named Joey, to pull a plow. The bond developed between boy and animal remains strong, even when the father sells the horse to a cavalry officer at the beginning of World War One. There follows a series of adventures, some of them horrendous, as Joey passes through the hands of various soldiers amid the carnage of the war. As usual,

director Stephen Spielberg brings out the common humanity to be found on both the British and the German sides of the battle lines.

9. *A Better Life*. Rated PG-13. Psalm 9:18; Proverbs 4:1-4.

Illegal immigration acquires a human face in this moving father-son story. Carlos works long hours at low wages to give teenaged Luis a better life in southern California than was possible in Mexico. When disaster strikes, the once unappreciative son draws closer to Carlos and the culture the boy had been rejecting. Even when all appears hopeless, Carlos, caught and sent back to Mexico, refuses to give in to despair.

10. *The Artist*. Rated PG-13. Ecclesiastes 9:11-12, 1 Co 13:4a

This almost entirely silent film reminded me of words attributed to Francis of Assisi, "Preach the gospel always; use words if you must." Writer/director Michel Hazanavicius believes this about dialogue, the characters expressing their emotions through facial expressions, gestures, and an occasionally interspersed title card. Only at the conclusion of the film do we actually hear a word spoken, and then not by the star-crossed lovers. The simple tale of a silent movie actor whose star declines while the young actress, whom he helped get started, rises to stardom with the advent of sound is totally engrossing. Grace and the danger of false pride are explored with such skillful artistry that those calling this a "masterpiece" may well be right.

Edward McNulty, a pastor and professional film critic, is author of Faith and Film (Westminster John Knox Press, 2007) and other books.

About our Members and Friends

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes this month are extended to Ruth Bruch, Carlese Wood, Jennifer Hare, Phyllis Lumb, David Cohen, Jason Robidoux, Dave Pinney, Marilyn Hare, Bobby Bourque, Lori Arnone, Vic Netten, and Dan Dunn.



Couples celebrating anniversaries this month include Nick & Carlese Wood (55th); Ralph & Phyllis Lumb (71st); and Richard & Donna Pendleton

Condolences

Our sister in Christ, Linda L. Butler Percoski, passed away on Monday, January 16 at her home. Her funeral service was held at the church on January 21. Memorial donations may be made to the Linda Percoski Scholarship Fund, c/o Rockville Bank, 231 Hazard Ave., Enfield, CT 06082



Charlie Foxe, our brother in Christ, peacefully passed away at Rockville General Hospital on Wednesday, January 18. His memorial service was held at the church on January 28. Donations in Charlie's memory can be made to the American Lung Association of CT, 45 Ash St., E. Hartford, CT 06108 or the Congregational Church of Somersville, PO Box I, Somersville, CT 06082

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.

Officers and Board Members Elected

One Year Positions

Clerk	Ruth Bruch
Treasurer	Sydney Cohen
Asst. Treasurer	Johanna Karbonic
Collector	Dan Dunn

Two Year Positions

Christian Ed.	Pat Scully (term thru 2012) Judy Liberty
Missions	Linda Longueuil (term thru 2012) Art Lachance (term thru 2012) Ulysses Orduz Laura Elwood
Nominating	Marilyn Hare (term thru 2012) Ardie Carey
Stewardship	Deb Robidoux (term thru 2012) Lois Sharpless
Property	Everett Morrill (term thru 2012) Rich Carey

Three Year Positions

Moderator	Yvonne Wood
Deacons	George Liberty (term thru 2012) Pat Pinney (term thru 2012) Bert Chillson (term thru 2013) Al Andrews (term thru 2013) Allison Matczak Mavis Collins
Finance	Ed Sharpless (term thru 2012) Dave Pinney (term thru 2013) Angela Ceppetelli
Christian Ed.	

February 2012

Other Board/Committee meetings dates
and times TBA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Congregational Church of Somersville 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) Worship 10 AM Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 8:15-11:15			B. Study 9:30-11:15 ¹ Food Share at Somers Cong'l Parking Lot 1:15-1:30 Choir 7	2 Somers CC Choir 7 AA 7	3	4
5 Communion Souper Bowl of Caring collection AA 7	6	7 Evergreen worship 11 AA 6:15-8:30 Deacons 7	8 B. Study 9:30-11:15 Choir 7	9 Somers CC Choir 7 AA 7	10 Supper Prep. 9 AM	11 Baked Stuffed Shrimp Dinner and Bake Sale 5 & 6:15
12 Cabinet Request Due AA 7	13	14 Valentine's Day Ladies Aide Lunch + Meeting 12 AA 6:15-8:30 Finance 7	15 B. Study 9:30-11:15 Food Share 1:15-1:45 Choir 7 Somers CC Community Supper	16 Somers CC Choir 7 AA 7	17	18
19 Cabinet Hockey RSVP date AA 7	20 Presidents' Day	21 Cornerstone 4:30-6:30 AA 6:15-8:30	22 Ash Wednesday B. Study 9:30-11:15 Prayer Shawl 6 Lenten Service 7-7:30 Choir 7:30	23 Somers CC Choir 7 AA 7	24	25
26 Spire Deadline AA 7	27	28 Blair Manor worship 10:30 AA 6:15-8:30	29 B. Study 9:30-11:15 Food Share 1:15-1:45 Lenten Service 7-7:30 Choir 7:30	the Rev. Graham Van Keuren, Pastor Yvonne Wood, Moderator Sydney Cohen, Treasurer Ruth Bruch, Church Administrator/Clerk Jason Stefanik, Organist/Choir Director		



For the Young at Heart - Hidden Pictures - Cookie Cutters

