

SCC HIGHLIGHTS

SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORSHIPING AND SERVING SINCE 1727

August '18
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FOUNTAINPEN

Somers Cong. Church Members & Friends,

It is startling to think that June and July are in the rear view mirror and we are in our final month of summer! It seems like an odd time to launch a new ministry but nine times out of ten I have begun an interim church transition in June. As a result, oddly enough, the summer represents one of the busiest times of the calendar year for me. Go figure. I have already met in five of your homes who hosted 60 of your members, I have had multiple visits with two of your folks in two hospitals, enjoyed delightful visits with several of your homebound, distant or retired members who are unable to attend with any regularity because of health or mobility issues. I enjoyed coffee and catch-up with a clergy colleague who serves as one of our neighboring Congregational pastors. Couple of get togethers with our new ACM; Church Erickson. I've met in the home of a young couple who have expressed interest in joining in membership here. I made a detailed proposal as to how to address your stewardship planning challenges. I supported a Board of Deacon decision to explore new expressions of and worship opportunities. I have met with several of your church committees (who are pre-planning this summer for the opportunities that await in the fall including the Council, the Board of Deacons, PPRC, Stewardship, Missions and Member Committees. I have conducted a couple of weddings and officiated at a long time member's memorial service and committal. I have met with Mahlon and Nicole on multiple occasions in their professional capacities as your Organist and Choir Director and CE Director. I helped introduce a new summer service order, (*Eeeek!...communion by intinction!*) Helped fix the haywire phone message system and helped you advertise the church in the newspaper. I've been updating a sermon blog to supplement our worship together. In Nicoles sick leave I even attempted to produce this newsletter!

All the while I have begun serving the many interests you have as a congregation I have been the recipient of a warm spirit of Somers Church hospitality graciousness and an expansive welcome as a newcomer and stranger to your church. So, thank you for your gracious and affectionate welcome and the exciting spirit of innovation you have introduced to what might otherwise have been a sleepy and booooring June and July!

In August I expect more of the same before I leave with my wife Lissa for our annual late summer visits with friends and family from down-east, Maine and mid-Atlantic, Maryland. But wow! thanks for the energetic & welcoming start. And it's still only summer! Awaiting more lively Fall beginnings.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,
Rev'd Dr. David Fountain



**staying current
serving others
growing
spiritually**

Backpack Drive

As kids prepare to go back to school lets help them out



with Covenant to Care's appeal to provide supplies. Supplies are due August 5th. The supply

list is posted in the last Highlights Newsletter. Any questions? Call Sue Zdebski [860-836-9702]

Pulled Pork Lunch

Order yours now! Forms are in the church lobby. Order deadline is Wed., Aug. 8th.



Volunteer to help out by signing up on the

poster in the Foundation Room following worship or call Tyler Cass with your questions.

New Summer Office Schedule

Monday through Thursday
9:00am - 11:30am

Saints & Strangers Summer Preaching Schedule

In discovering the spice and vitality to authentic Christian living, we must look to "Saints and Strangers" who, in their imaginative faithfulness to Christ, left us a trail to follow. Saints and Strangers teach us that those who believe that they believe in God, but without passion in their heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, without an element of despair even in their consolation, believe only in the God idea, not in God. Over the course of this summer Rev'd Fountain will seek to bring the voices of Saints and Strangers together in new perspectives. Theirs are voices that, when seen as a whole, reflect unique understandings of the gospel. Some were openly followers of Christ, some were not. All saw a vision of God's message of reconciliation and hope in Jesus Christ's words and work.

Summer Preaching Schedule 9:30am

July 29

"J.S. Bach

August 5

"Martha Graham"

August 12

"Thomas Merton"

August 19

Visiting Preacher

August 26

Visiting Preacher

September 2

A Wreath for Peter J. McGuire



**Somers
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Church**

United Church of Christ

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Rev'd Dr. David Fountain |

Interim Minister

Nicole Caron | Director of

Christian Education

Mahlon Peterson | Organist

P4P \ Praying for People

- Rose Marie, (Pat Jones sister) who is dealing with medical issues;
- Marilyn, who has ongoing health problems;
- Fran Goodman, who is Maria Goodman's mother in-law whose health is failing for strength and guidance;
- Al Kingsbury, who is home, but still having medical difficulties;
- Ed Sullivan, who is facing several medical issues related to dementia;
- Nick, for his continued improvement;
- People suffering with mental illness;
- The victims of gun violence around the world;
- Those suffering with addictions who have not yet found recovery and their families who suffer with them; Those in recovery for continued strength as the challenges go on;
- Members and friends of the church who are dealing with cancer and are in various stages of the illness and the treatments: Deb Edwards, Kathy Moulton, Tony Santos, Rick McDonald, John Kolesko, Bill Grace, Brian Benton, Pat Stanton, Ed Sears, Bernie Ruck, Lynda Reilly, Donna Hogan, Loren D'Alessandro, Karen Lafontaine, Tim Harwood, Arenda Labordea, Ruth, Edna

9:30am Fall Worship at Somers Church

The Board of Deacons at their most recent meeting (July 22, '18) arrived at consensus that the report and recommendation of the Worship Task Force be implemented. Therefore, Somers Church will continue offering one service of worship going into the fall. The report of the Task Force reads as follows;

The Worship Task Force is recommending that the Somers Congregational Church continue the remainder of the year (2018) with one Sunday service at 9:30 am.

The group, which consisted of many different points of view, ideas and concerns shared thoughts openly and without hesitation. Our intention is to have this one, unified service grow the congregation spiritually and in measurable numbers. Our hope is that Somers Congregational can have alternative services, adult education and other options in the future for members and friends seeking additional spiritual guidance.

We would like this service to be "marketed" to as many people in the community as possible letting people know about our new Worship time. This new time might be better for families who have other obligations on Sunday (soccer and other activities). Our small group had many ideas on how our church might be able to grow. We hope there will be an avenue to share these ideas in the near future.

The expectation is that the 9:30 service will be evaluated later in the year and the Deacons and others will consider the best way for our church to move into the new year (2019).

Donna Popham, Anne Kirkpatrick, Margaret Festi, Mark Marchall, Laura McKiernan, Paul McKiernan, Jim Jewell