



April 2026

THE STEEPLE

"We aim to be a loving, caring family of God, with Christ as our head, reaching out amongst ourselves and to the larger community to address spiritual beliefs, social needs and moral issues, guided by the teachings of Jesus."

Congregational Christian Church of Somerset, UCC



1411 County Street, Somerset, MA 02726
(508) 672-6623 • uccsomeretchurch@gmail.com
www.CongregationalChurchSomerset.com
Facebook.com/CongregationalChristianChurchSomerset



Pastor Notes -----

Hey There Everyone,

We made it to Spring! This year the month of April 2026 begins mid Holy Week. For many outside the church this is also known simply as, the week before Easter. In last month's article, I explained how Easter Sunday was determined each year. Now let us examine some of the important days in Holy Week.

We begin with Wednesday, April 1st, also known to many as April Fool's Day. It is believed that April Fool's Day began when France switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1582, following the Council of Trent. There was some confusion about what day it really was and thus became Fool's Day. Another hypothesis is that the Vernal Equinox marked festivals for early spring when people would play pranks on each other because the weather itself was unpredictable thus fooling the people.

Thursday, April 2nd is Maundy Thursday this year. Maundy means "Mandatum" which is Latin and translates to "command", "order", or "commission" which refers to the new command given by Jesus, to love. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35).

The liturgical colors for Maundy Thursday are either white or gold to represent purity, joy, and the remembrance of the Sacrament celebration given to us by Jesus before he died, also known as the Last Supper. Additionally appropriate is red; to represent the blood Jesus shed for us. Celebrating and solemnity join on this day. A few other little facts you may enjoy; the term "Maundy Thursday" is not actually in the bible, travel and the use of sharp objects are considered taboo on this day.



PASTOR CHERYL con't

Based on Matthew 26:17-30, Maundy Thursday service is offered in remembrance of Him by sharing the Sacrament of Communion. Please join us for a service of a simple soup and bread dinner as we break bread together in the Sacrament of Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at the Somerset Baptist Church, 375 High Street, Somerset, to begin at 6pm. Everyone is welcome!

Good Friday, I know why do we call the day Jesus is crucified GOOD? It is because through his suffering and death on the cross, we through faith, are saved from our sin. That is truly good. As it stands now, we hope to have a volunteer who could ring the church bell three times at 3pm to acknowledge the last breath of Jesus. Wherever you are, at 3pm on Friday please stop and take a moment in prayer to thank the Lord for what he has done for you.

Holy Saturday, April 4, is a day meant for prayerful reflection. Most people tend to use this day to prepare for Easter. The problem is that this does not leave us adequate time or space for thanksgiving and mourning. Please remember that to the early disciples Jesus was dead and in the grave.

I had hoped we could offer an art project, something to slow down by painting rocks kind of like eggs but with more significance. If you are interested, please let either me or Deacon Janina know whether we ought to organize this event for you. We were thinking maybe 10-noon? This would allow you time for prayer, fellowship, and artful meditation, as well as time to run all those errands.

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 6:15am, we join the Somerset Baptist Church again at Waterfront Park, 300 Main Street, Somerset, for Sunrise Worship. Following you are invited back to the Somerset Baptist Church for breakfast. Our church will be holding its Annual Breakfast of Breads and Indoor Easter Egg Hunt from 8am-9:45am. At 10am we will share in Communion Worship and celebrate together that He is Risen!

But you cannot have the resurrection without death. As Christians we know that death is not the last word, Jesus is! So, may we walk through this Holy Week in a prayerful and thankful state of mind, heart, body, and soul.

Peace Be with You!

Pastor Cheryl Rieder



THIS GROUP IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Grief Group Self Support

WEDNESDAYS 11am-12pm

WHY: To help you find comfort among those with understanding.

WHO: To all who are 18 or older who are experiencing grief and loss.

WHERE: Congregational Christian Church of Somerset
1411 County St, Somerset. Enter left door.

The group is held to confidentiality. You are welcome to stop in to any or all sessions.

Easter Altar Flowers

~ In Memory of ~

Ron & Charlotte Flockton, Sr. from Rev. Cheryl & Mark Rieder
Dee Rieder, Eric Malone from Rev. Cheryl & Mark Rieder
Jim & Jan, Edmund Babcock from Rev. Cheryl & Mark Rieder
Roxanne Figueiredo Dupre from Dupre Family
Dennis Asselin from Janina Asselin
Joy, Ruth & Walter Pickering from John & Nancy Possinger
Frances & John from John & Nancy Possinger
Erik C. Bryan from Peg, Loren & Sean Bryan
Thomas E. Marsden from Betty J. Marsden
Selina Silvia from Robin & James Church
Patricia & Harry Church from Robin & James Church
Sarah (James) Davies from Russell & Nancy James
Loved Ones from Russell & Nancy James
Mapril & Aida Ferreira from Arminda Ferreira

~ In Honor of ~

Matt Buker from Trish Buker
Connor's 10th Birthday from Dupre Family



Easter Gathering

THURSDAY 4/2 ~ Please join us at 6pm at the Somerset Baptist Church, 363 High St. for a simple soup and bread dinner as we celebrate the sacrament of Communion together.

SATURDAY 4/4 ~ We offer a time of Prayerful Reflection and Art. 10am-12noon in the adult classroom downstairs at our church.

SUNDAY 4/5

~ Easter Sunday begins at 6:15am with our Annual Sunrise Service at Somerset Waterfront Park, 300 Main St.

~ Our Annual Breakfast of Breads begins in Fellowship Hall at 8am and runs through 9:45am.

~ Easter Communion Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary.

~ Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow Worship at approximately 11am.

*You can always tell when people
are well informed. Their opinions
are the same as yours.*



STANDING COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 Call to order 11:35am

Meeting Attendees: Pastor Cheryl, Barbara Smith, Carol Caetans, Lisa Mathieu, Betty Marsden, Karen Rousseau, Nancy Possinger, Janina Asselin

Visitors: Robin Church, Lisa Levasseur, Gil Caetans, June Murphy, Andy Church, Pam Glass

Prayer: Pastor Cheryl

Report of Clerk: accepted

Report of Treasurer: accepted

Report of Trustees: accepted

Minister:

- Communion will be in the beginning of the Service so children can participate before attending Sunday School
- There will be an author reading during Lent
- Farrell Freeborn has passed away and service will be private with Pastor officiating
- Pastor will attend *Justice Training* and *Boundary Awareness* workshops
- Prayer group continues on 3rd Saturday each month
- Pastor will attend a 4 hour session at St. Annes on Clinical Practice
- Ashes will be available on 2/18, Ash Wednesday, for anyone wishing them
- * Communion will be held each Sunday during the season of Lent

Report of Committees:

Property:

- Classroom #2 continues to experience heating issues. Heat must be turned up in room #1 and then room #2

Fundraising:

- Indoor yard sale to be held 3/7/26

Deacons:

- New paraments will be in place for Lent
- Ash Wednesday the Sanctuary will be open for prayer 9-3
- Bible Study begins on 2/18 for 6-7 weeks
- Requested posting of "No food or drink in Sanctuary" unless medically required
- Communion will be held on each Sunday during Lent. Lacey has agreed to prepare

Religious Education:

- Children are preparing to sing during Easter Service. Appropriate approval will be obtained for selections

Faith Community & Christian Outreach:

- the annual UCC *"One Great Hour of Sharing"* will be in March. Awaiting the envelopes and flyers
- Loads of Love is on hold until April, as financing has to be obtained in order to proceed

Memorial Garden & Purinton Cemetery:

- Landscaping contract has been renewed. Unplanned visits will require extra costs

Pastoral Relations:

- will meet after the Annual Meeting with new members

Media Broadcasting:

- Nightly Scriptural reading will continue during lent
- Stats on FB: 5 new followers, 671 engagements, 28 day total is 12,000 views

Library/Historical: No report

Old Business:

- \$239. for Heifer & \$175. was donated for the play presented by "Poss & the Kids"

New Business & Communications:

- Somerset will hold "Great American Clean Up" in April and they have requested we participate. We will hold an outdoor yard sale. Betty Marsden will gather information.
- A request was made to look in to removal of old electronic equipment stored in the church. Ron and Bill Hoy will be contacted for the removal of their property.
- A request for a remembrance for Farrell in the form of a silver leaf on the Remembrance Tree was approved. There will be an unveiling with family and congregation present.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40pm. Next Meeting 3/8/26

Respectfully Submitted, Janina Asselin, Clerk

Filomena Tripp - Invisible Courage



On March 29, we were truly blessed by a visit from author Filomena Tripp, who shared her powerful story of perseverance through the Lord.

Her testimony was a beautiful reminder that even in life's hardest moments, God is always present—guiding, strengthening, and carrying us through.

We are so grateful for her words, her faith, and the inspiration she shared with our church community.



Community Event April 11th

Park and take a stroll through the Council on Aging, Public Library and Congregational Church to browse this community event on April 11, 2026.

Congregational Christian Church of Somerset

Indoor YARD SALE & Luncheon

April 11, 2026
9am - 2pm

All are welcome to join!

1411 County Street
Somerset, MA

For info on church activities, see Toni-Jean or Carol

Author Fair

WIN A SIGNED BOOK

Read local. Support local. Buy local.

April 11, 2026 - 10am-2pm
Somerset Public Library
1464 County Street, Somerset, MA

PANEL DISCUSSIONS
11 AM - "Oh, The Horror!"
1 PM - "Writing Relationships: Romance & Beyond"

MEET THE AUTHORS
Buy books directly from the authors. Attend author panels and children's book readings. Children can complete a scavenger hunt to win a prize. Free raffle ticket for every family in attendance.

MORE INFO @ SOMERSETPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

FRIENDS OF SOMERSET COA

Spring Fling CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, April 11th

10am - 3pm
Somerset COA
115 Wood St.

FREE ADMISSION

ALL HANDCRAFTED ITEMS
WOODWORKING, JEWELRY, SUBLIMATED ITEMS, WREATHS, SOAPS, FLORALS, CARDS & MUCH MUCH MORE!!

Religious Education

We will be having our annual Easter egg hunt on Easter following service. The kids voted to have this downstairs in the classroom areas. Any donations there is a basket in sanctuary. All are welcome to attend. We will also have a special guest come visit us looking for someone that could help me with this (Easter bunny.) – Toni-Jean

Ways & Means

We will be holding another yard sale on April 11. We are corresponding with the Somerset public library and the council on aging. I am awaiting a flyer to be sent to me from them with the information. We are looking for someone to help possibly serve a lunch that day. I will also offer anyone from the congregation and outside area to sell their wears and ask that they make some sort of donation to the church. This will not be a vendor event. – Toni-Jean & Carol

INCLUSION isn't just inviting someone to sit at your table.
It's believing they belong there.

You can't control the wind,
but you can adjust your sails.



Energy Programs

CITIZENS FOR CITIZENS

Apply before April 30th deadline.

The fuel program helps low/moderate income households with some of the winter's heating costs. Eligibility to the fuel program also provides free weatherization and heating system replacement and repair services as well as the free replacement of inefficient working appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines.

Utility Protection for Serious Illness, Infants, Elderly, Winter Moratorium, Cromwell Waiver

**SEE FLYER ON THE BULLETIN BOARD
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Greater Fall River/Taunton Area - including communities of Assonet, Berkley, Dighton, Freetown, Lakeville, Rehoboth, Swansea, Somerset Seekonk and Westport.

250 Griffin St, Fall River
(508) 676-7397 or (508) 679-0041

Take advantage of **Home Energy Assistance.**

Heating Bill Benefits • Weatherization
Appliance Management • Heater Repair
Utility Discounts • Arrearage Management
Bills are paid retroactively, no matter when you apply!

Household Gross Income Guidelines

1 person	\$51,777
2 people	\$67,709
3 people	\$83,641
4 people	\$99,573
5 people	\$115,504



Save money. Apply today.
WWW.CFCINC.ORG



Sunday School Bible Presentation

On Sunday, March 29th, we celebrated a special milestone in the life of one of our Sunday School students. We are proud to present a Bible to Amelia as she continues to grow in her faith.

Receiving a Bible is a meaningful step in a young person’s spiritual journey. It is our prayer that she will turn to God’s Word for guidance, comfort, and wisdom, and that it will be a light along her path for years to come.

As a church family, we are grateful to walk alongside Amelia in faith. May she always know how deeply she is loved by God and by this community.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” — Psalm 119:105

Are You a Caregiver of a Loved One?



Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed? Don't walk the caregiver path alone. Join us for our Caregiver Support Group. We provide a safe place to process emotions, have coffee with friends, share ideas in a welcoming environment.

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 6-7:30pm
2nd and 4th Monday of the month 1-2:30pm
at the Somerset Council on Aging (COA)
115 Wood St, Somerset (508) 646-2833

The Deacons Invite You to Coffee & Conversation

Mondays 11am
Stop by the Rise Café for a relaxed time of conversation.
900 County St, Somerset

You may enjoy a few laughs. We chat about everything!



1st Annual Great Somerset Cleanup

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 • 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Volunteer anytime during the event - stay as long as you're able!
Eligible for student volunteer service hours.



Central check-in located at Town Hall Parking Lot

Participants will:

- Register in advance using the Google Form (scan the QR code)
- Day-of registration and supply pickup will take place at Town Hall beginning at 10 AM
- Cleanup site assignments will be shared with registered volunteers prior to the event.
- Return filled trash bags to the Town Hall parking lot by 2 PM, or leave them along your cleanup route and notify organizers of the location

GOOGLE FORM REGISTRATION



FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE



FACEBOOK GROUP



THE EVENT IS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Help us Keep Somerset Beautiful! Join neighbors, families, and community groups in a town-wide cleanup.

For more information: keepsomersetbeautiful@gmail.com

Bible Quiz: Jesus Heals a Blind Man

- 1) On one occasion, as Jesus and His disciples were traveling, they saw a blind man. Which question did the disciples ask of Jesus?
- Would it be possible to cure the man's blindness?
 - Was the man blind because of his sin or his parents' sin?
 - Why does God allow disease and suffering?
 - Would they be given the power to heal the blind?
- 2) How did Jesus cure the man of his blindness?
- He laid His hand on the man's head and prayed for his sight to be restored.
 - He spat on the ground, made some mud, and rubbed it on the man's eyes.
 - He put mud from the Pool of Siloam on his eyes.
 - He told the man to rise, open his eyes, and see.
- 3) Soon his neighbors found out that this man who had been blind since birth could now see. They took him to the Pharisees to see what they had to say about this miracle Jesus had performed. However, the Pharisees concluded that Jesus was a sinner, and not a man from God. Why?
- Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath.
 - Jesus did not wash his hands before performing miracles.
 - They believed only demons performed miracles.
 - They did not believe anyone from Bethlehem could be the Messiah.
- 4) Sometime later Jesus heard of the Pharisees' reaction to His healing of the blind man and said to some of them, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains." (NIV) What did Jesus mean by that remark?
- Blindness is not caused by one's sin.
 - The Pharisees were guilty of sin because they did not allow blind persons into the synagogue.
 - The Pharisees were guilty of sin because they had heard the truth Jesus spoke, but did not believe.
 - Those who are "blind" to their own sin will never enter the kingdom of God.

ANSWERS: B, B, A, C



GUIDED WALK 
WILDFLOWERS IN SPRING

Tuesday, April 14 from 10am-11:30am
Sweets Knoll State Park, Dighton

Walk to areas rarely explored at Sweets Knoll State Park in Dighton to see hidden spring wildflowers before the forest canopy closes. Species may include Bloodroot, Hepatica, Trout Lily, Dutchman's Breeches. Not to mention our state flower, Trailing Arbutus. Wear sturdy footwear, long pants, and long sleeves. Hosted in Collaboration with DCR.

For more info, visit savethetaunton.org.

 

NPS Photo, Public domain via Wikimedia Commons



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Join Our Team of Water Samplers!

Water Quality Testing Annual Training
for *NEW* and Current Volunteers

Saturday, April 4th 2026
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Taunton River Watershed Center
Sweets Knoll State Park
1387 Somerset Ave. Dighton, MA



REGISTER AT SAVETHETAUNTON.ORG

Are you going to Yoga this week?



Gentle Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall with Pat Fox.

Stop in on Mondays at 9:30am.
Cost is \$5.

Contact Karen R. for info.

dcr
Massachusetts



Coming events

Fall River Heritage State Park Department of Conservation and Recreation

APRIL 2026 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public. Free parking at 1 Central Street, Fall River, MA. Programs meet in the Visitor Center at the Captain Thomas J. Hudner Memorial Building (100 Davol Street, Fall River, MA) unless otherwise noted. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodation available upon request. Inclement weather may cancel programs. To confirm or for more information call 508-675-5759 Ext 0.



ADA/Reasonable Accommodation 617-645-0358 | Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov

**Open Daily,
beginning
April 5
8:30am-3:30pm**

VISITOR CENTER: EXHIBITS, SCAVENGER HUNTS, COMMUNITY GALLERY

Permanent and temporary exhibits, self-guided brochures, tours, and activities highlighting Fall River can all be found in our Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center will re-open on April 5th.

PROGRAMS

**Sunday
April 19th
12:30PM-3:00PM
Visitor Center**

Lunch and Learn: Native American Storytelling & Crafts with the Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Learn about your neighbors, the first people of Fall River, through engaging storytelling and crafts. Make your own corn husk doll or dreamcatcher! All materials will be provided. Drop in anytime from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

**Tuesday
April 21st
12:00PM-2:00PM
Visitor Center**

Colonial Medicine with Dr. Dave of the Lafayette-Durfee House Foundation

Learn about early American medical and dental practices and see the tools that were used. It may look and sound like a horror movie, but this was medicine! Fun for the whole family. Drop in anytime from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

**Thursday
April 23rd
12:30PM-3:00PM
The Boardwalk.**

Create Revolutionary Art in the Park with the Griffin, a Mobile Art Studio

The Greater Fall River Art Association brings arts programming to Heritage State Park with the Griffin, a fully equipped mobile art studio! Be creative! Draw, paint, and so much more. Pursue your muse. Suitable for the entire family. All materials will be provided free of charge.

Fall River Heritage State Park
100 Davol Street, Fall River, MA 02720

Good Friday Word Search

Arrest, Barabbas,
 Betrayed, Blasphemy,
 Bread, Caiaphas, Calvary,
 Covenant, Elders, Flogged,
 Garden, Golgotha, Herod,
 Innocent, Iscariot,
 Jerusalem, Jesus, King,
 Kiss, Mary, Mocked,
 Nicodemus, Passover,
 Peter, Pilate, Prayer,
 Priests, Romans, Rooster,
 Salvation, Sanhedrin,
 Satan, Scourged, Soldiers,
 Sorrow, Thorns, Tomb,
 Trial, Vinegar



Sending Birthday Blessings to

Connor Dupré
 Rick Oliveira
 Caroline McCurry

Marilyn Meyers
 Brett Dupré
 Barbara Smith



Can't make it to service this week?
We will miss you!

But... you can watch and worship with us via Facebook from your home. Here's the Link
facebook.com/CongregationalChristianChurchSomerset

Congregational Christian Church of Somerset



Congregational Christian Church of Somerset
 Christian Church

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Join us in loving God

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11am Grief Support Group 1pm Lenten Bible Study	2 6pm MAUNDY THURSDAY at Somerset Baptist 375 High St 6-7pm Zumba	3 GOOD FRIDAY	7 HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER SUNDAY 5 6:15am Sunrise Service at Somerset Waterfront Park 8-9:45am Breakfast of Breads 10am Worship 11am Easter Egg Hunt	6 9:30am Yoga 11am Rise Café Meet 4-8pm SECRETARY in OFFICE 5pm Wt Tr for Wmn	7 10am-1pm SECRETARY in OFFICE 6-7pm Zumba	8 11am Grief Support Group	9 SECRETARY in OFFICE 3-8pm 6-7pm Zumba	10	11 10am-3pm Town Center Community Event Yard Sale+ with Library & COA
12 10:00am Worship Birthday Bank w/Children's Bible Stories & Craft STANDING COMMITTEE MEET	13 9:30am Yoga 11am Rise Café Meet	14 10am-1pm SECRETARY in OFFICE 6-7pm Zumba	15 11am Grief Support Group	16	17	18 10am Prayer Group
19 10:00am Worship w/Children's Bible Stories & Craft DEACONS MEET	20 9:30am Yoga 11am Rise Café Meet <i>PATRIOTS DAY</i>	21 10am-1pm SECRETARY in OFFICE 6-7pm Zumba	22 11am Grief Support Group	23 SECRETARY in OFFICE 3-8pm 6-7pm Zumba	24	25 10am-2pm 1st Annual Somerset Clean Up
26 10:00am Worship No Children's Bible Stories & Craft	27 9:30am Yoga 11am Rise Café Meet 4-8pm SECRETARY in OFFICE 5pm Wt Tr for Wmn (1)	28 10am-1pm SECRETARY in OFFICE 6-7pm Zumba	29 11am Grief Support Group	30 SECRETARY in OFFICE 3-8pm 6-7pm Zumba		

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SOMERSET

1411 County St, Somerset, MA 02726

UCCSomersetChurch@gmail.com (508) 672-6623 www.CongregationalChurchSomerset.com

SECRETARY
in OFFICE on SUNDAYS 8am-10am

REVISED MAR 30 2026

