



MARKINGS

The Newsletter of South Acton Congregational Church

MAY 2018

Worship With Us!

Sundays at 10:30am

Child care is available and Sunday School is provided during the service. Our church is handicapped-accessible.

May 6 - Easter 6B

Revolutionary Love: The Relentless Call
Communion Sunday

May 13 - Women of the Greatest Generation: Stories of Faith, Hope, Love and Courage

May 20 - Pentecost

Revolutionary Love: We all Breathe together

May 27 - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8
Intergenerational Sunday

Visits with Amy

Stop by Boston Bean House each Tuesday in May from 8:15 – 10:00am. Join Amy for conversations about faith, life, and everything in-between as we start the day with a cup of coffee. Boston Bean house is located at 102 Main Street in Maynard.

From Amy

Beloved,

I can still hear the postlude looping through my head, All you need is love, all you need is love, love, love is all you need. Anyone else? That was our hope as we chose the postlude for this liturgical season. A season we have dedicated to the idea of Revolutionary Love. Love is hard work, love is beautiful work. It pushes me in my most selfish and inwardly focused moments and gently (or not so gently) reminds me to expand my inner space. It reminds me to be more open to others and more open to myself. Are you being pushed by love?

As the boundary lines (battle lines) are drawn, as dialogues cease, as our circles grow smaller and the echo chambers grow louder, I am chafing against the ideas of uniformity and homogeneity. Community is broad and diverse. We (people) have some stubborn tendencies toward like-mindedness that often get in our way. Philip struggled when he encountered the Ethiopian eunuch. He was sure of what he wanted to proclaim - the love of God changes all of us. Christ is alive through us. That proclamation has powerful implications that pushed Philip to confront his own biases. When the Ethiopian asked to be baptized, there was a pause. The text doesn't tell us this but you can hear the pause punctuating the text. What was he to do? In those waters of baptism, Philip and the Ethiopian were made whole in different ways because each of them came to a new understanding of community and belonging. Community is not easy. It calls to us, challenges us,

nudges us in the least convenient moments and reminds us to make a little more space. Talk a little less and listen a little more. Open your heart and risk vulnerability and see what happens. What would our faith be like if Philip had not made space for the Ethiopian? It is amazing what happens in our lives when we open ourselves to each other.

It is a busy spring at South Acton Church. We will continue exploring Revolutionary Love. On **May 13th** a group is attending the Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Have you signed up? I am looking forward to walking alongside you as we pray a peaceful world into existence. (Rabbi Heschel reminds us that we do our best praying with our legs.) The Just Peace Players will be leading worship on that Sunday with their play: Women of the Greatest Generation, Stories of Hope, Peace and Justice. You won't want to miss them. If you serve as an usher or a greeter, we will be holding a training session at noon on **May 20th**. Please make plans to join us. You are the first impression anyone has of our church. You have the power to let them know they are truly and unquestionably welcome here. Thank you, friends. The Book Group will meet on **May 24th**. If you want to join, send me an email and let me know.

You have taught me so much about extravagant welcome and belonging over the past few months. Thank you for making me part of the South Acton Church Family.



Rev Amy

From the Diaconate

The Deacons met on April 8th to plan our way forward for the rest of the year. We decided to install the new Rainbow flag as soon as it arrived, and not wait until SACC's 10th Anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming Congregation (more on that later) as everyone felt this was something we should have done much earlier. In addition, it was decided to plan and put on training for Sunday morning Greeters in order to ensure we were doing the best job at greeting folks into our church and making them as welcome and familiar with us as possible. This training is planned for Sunday, **May 20th**. More information will be put out as this date gets closer, but please mark it on your calendars now.

SACC will be sending a contingent to the upcoming Mother's Day Walk for Peace again this year. This is a great event and everyone who has attended this march

in the past has been moved by the experience. Please let Amy, me, or your deacon know if you are interested in joining the SACC group going. More information on the march can be found at <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/>.

As mentioned above, we are planning to recognize our 10th anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming church at the service on **June 10th**. If you are interested in being part of the folks planning that event please contact Judy McKendry or let Amy, me, or your deacon know. After the service we plan on having a church-wide picnic. We are still working on the location but hope to have it in one of the Acton recreation areas. If you are interested and/or willing to help organize the picnic, please let me know.

On the Saturday before (**June 9th**) there will be the Boston pride Parade. Let us know if you are interested attending the parade as there may be a

group from SACC headed down there for it. More information regarding the parade can be found at <http://www.bostonpride.org/parade/>.

Finally, please let your deacon (or any deacon), me or Amy know if there are any issues or needs you wish to bring to the attention of the deacons. As always, you can contact your assigned deacon (see below) or let me know at Deacon-Chair@SouthActonCC.org or by calling me at (978) 264-3274 .

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Babcock
Diaconate Chair

Deacon	Last Names
Amber Klauer	A & B
Martha Rounds	C & E
Bob Van Meter	D, F & G
Judy Hodge	H thru K
Laurie Thibodeau	L thru N
Angela Aaronson	O thru S
Steve Hadden	T thru Z

Congregational Board News

Our value is transparency with South Acton church's finances so everyone can understand where we are financially. There have been inserts in the bulletin for the past couple weeks and will be updates periodically in the bulletin or the weekly church email. All questions are welcome, please feel free to contact [Jim Willis](#), our treasurer, or Reverend Amy.



Please put **June 10** on your calendar as the church will be celebrating 10 years of being an ONA (Open & Affirming) Church. Hooray for us! Stay

tuned for more details, but there is going to be a picnic!

On behalf of the Congregational Board,
Pam Rogers
Chair

Board Members: Sarah Bradbury, Jim Willis, Joan Fischer, Russ Bosbach, Karen Voellman and Peter Babcock

Missions and Outreach

On Sunday, April 22, the Missions and Outreach committee met to discuss the many projects and plans SACC is working on to help others and reach beyond our walls (this committee is always open to anyone). It is hoped that at the upcoming congregational meeting Sean Osborne will be able to pass the role of chairperson to Judy Hodge.

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is on **May 13**. This walk is one way SACC supports efforts to reduce Gun Violence. Please wear your purple Peace, Love, Justice t-shirts as we walk in Boston with all those who are supporting victims of gun violence and working to increase safety for all.

We have decided to resume the Vigil Against Gun Violence on the Second Wednesday of each month, beginning **June 13**. We plan to gather at the intersection of School St. and Main St. from 5 to 6:00 with signs and wear our Peace, Love, Justice t-shirts.

The tenth anniversary of SACC becoming Open and Affirming will be Sunday, **June 10**, and plans are being made to celebrate. The next planning meeting for ONA is on Wed., **May 2**.

There are plans for a church picnic after church on **June 10**, and maybe a parade from church to Jones Field.

Another project getting underway is *Days for Girls*. Judy McKendry, Michele Abroff, and others are preparing materials and instructions to get started making kits so girls in developing countries can attend school without monthly interruptions due to menstrual cycles.

Another major hands on project is SACC's work with Habitat for Humanity on renovating the house on School Street. Curt Logee has been spearheading this project and the first SACC build date is Saturday, **May 19**, from 8 - 4:00. There is lots of guidance for anyone eager to help out on a project close at hand.

The next Missions and Outreach meeting is after church on Sunday, **June 27**. Check out these many projects and add your ideas and energy. More details will be showing up in announcements and emails. We will kick off the fall with a meeting on **August 26**. One upcoming project is a course which challenges us to further examine the effects of white privilege. Stay tuned.

Habitat Update

As many of you know, as part of our Missions and Outreach, there are several members of SACC on the Acton Local Planning Committee, who are responsible for the renovation of 45 School Street. This project is just down the street from our church. Over the last several weeks, we have asked if other members of SACC would like to participate in this build, and several of you have said yes.

Our build day will be Saturday **May 19th**.

We are excited to announce that the May 19th build day will be an inter-faith endeavor, and will include other faith communities from Acton and surrounding towns. The local Habitat Office has embraced this inter-faith build team as a way to expand the visibility of this project and to get more folks involved with the actual renovation. It goes to their core philosophy of "Neighbor helping Neighbor".

The LPC is working with multiple churches to fill out our build crew (maximum 8 people) and to also schedule other build days if we have enough volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please text or email [Curt Logee](#) at your earliest convenience, so we can confirm the build crew for the 19th, and schedule other days and crews as needed.



First *Days for Girls* Sewing Session

April's *Markings* had a brief article about the nonprofit *Days for Girls*. After an initial meeting held on April 8, we have decided to participate with this project. The first sewing session is scheduled for Thursday evening, **May 10**, from 7 – 9 PM. We are pleased to announce one of the co-directors of the MetroWest Boston Chapter is coming to help get us started. Looking forward, we anticipate perhaps holding a sewing sessions every 2—3 months.

Anyone who is interested is invited to join the May 10th sewing session, please contact Judy McKendry. You will be briefed on what to expect. You can learn more about the nonprofit itself by going to daysforgirls.org.



SACC Members Walking for NAMI



Several members of SACC are members of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Mental illness impacts 1 in 4 families. NAMI is the world's largest grassroots organization advocating for and supporting families and individuals in their journey to overcome mental health difficulties. NAMI has received a top 4 star rating by Charity Navigator.

NAMI runs many valuable programs for families and for individuals in recovery. These include: support groups, educational classes, an information service where anyone can call or email and get information and guidance on finding resources, a speakers' program of individuals in recovery who go out to hospitals, schools, businesses to share their stories publicly. All services are offered at no cost to participants.

May 19 is NAMI Massachusetts' big fundraiser – the NAMIWalk in Boston. Several SACC members will be walking to raise funds to support NAMI's work – Steve and Becky Hadden, Judy McKendry, and Laurie Thibodeau. In this photo from last year's walk, you can see all of them but Becky, who was behind the camera. We are pleased to participate with Boxborough UCC, Duncan Brown is pictured to the left of Judy and Laurie.

If you would like to support NAMI's important mission, please consider sponsoring any of the SACC walkers. You can write a check to "NAMIWalks" and give it to any one of them. If you prefer to make a secure donation online, use one of the following links... https://www.namiwalks.org/participant/Steve_Hadden or <https://www.namiwalks.org/participant/Judy-McKendry> ...or type in "[namiwalks.org](https://www.namiwalks.org)" and then type a walker's name in the "fundraiser search" box. Laurie will have an online page soon, but not at the time of this writing.

It is a fun stigma-free day. Speak to Judy about joining the walk and carpooling into Boston.

Meditation Retreat: May 5

Strengthen your ability to enjoy every moment, remain calm & aware, and handle stress.

The Center at SACC invites you to a one-day mindfulness and meditation retreat guided by noted meditation leader **Seth Monk**.

Date/Time: 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday, May 5, 2018

Place: The Center at SACC, 35 School Street, Acton, MA 01720

For beginning and advanced practitioners, the One-Day Meditation Retreat will include teachings on mindfulness along with the formal practices of sitting and walking meditation. We will cover the basics of mind training as well as take time for questions as we build up our meditation experience over the course of the day. To expand on our practice of presence, we will also have a silent group lunch together. Rather than a strenuous push, this day will be lighthearted and relaxed, and will gently ease us into having a more calm and peaceful mind.

Seth Monk's formal career in meditation began at age 18 with his initiation into Reiki practice, after which he became a disciple of a Zen Master. He ordained as a Zen Buddhist monk and lived for 8 years in a monastery. He then traveled widely and continued his training in various monasteries and holy sites. He has led retreats around the world and has practiced with world-famous Buddhist masters including His Holiness the Dalai Lama, XVII Karmapa, Pa Auk Sayadaw, Ven. Ajahn Brahm, Tenzin Palmo, and Thich Nhat Hanh. (<http://sethmonk.org>)

The retreat is an opportunity to find peace, strength and calmness, and help you learn to sustain these in daily life.

Registration: \$50 Space is limited to 25.

Go to Signupgenius to register: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4DAAAA28A3F49-oneday>

Bring: A yoga mat, and a cushion if desired. Chairs will be available.

Lunch: A healthy lunch will be provided.

Questions: Contact Patti Babcock at CenterSouthActon@gmail.com

Strengthen the Church

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking."

On Sunday, **May 20**, we will be taking this annual offering of the United Church of Christ. Special offering envelopes will be available or you may simply mark your check with the wording, "Strengthen the Church", in the memo.

Second Sunday Food Collection

Please bring in canned and nonperishable foods for our Second Sunday collection for the Community Supper Food Pantry on **May 13**. Soup, cereal, canned fruits & veggies, pasta & sauce, tuna, peanut butter and jelly can be left in the green bin.

Cleaning Teams Meeting

Please mark your calendar for a Noon meeting on **June 3** for all cleaning team members. The topics will be:

- 1) Checking the church calendar before you come to clean
- 2) discussion of cleaning tasks and materials
- 3) cleaning times & team dynamics
- 4) other concerns of the moment
- 5) a giant thank you to all

Cleaning Teams for May

- May 5: Tom Porcher's Team
- May 12: Angela Aaronson's Team
- May 19: Linsey Hurley's Team
- May 26: Judy Hodge's Team

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	2 5:00 Pride Sunday Planning 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	3 10:00 A Stitch and a Prayer 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	4	5 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga 10:00 Meditation Retreat
6 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 12:15 Deacons' Meeting 5:00 Traditional Indian Dance	7	8 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	9 6:00 Worship Planning 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 A Stitch and a Prayer 7:00 Days for Girls 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	11	12 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga 11:00 Scrapbook Workshop
13 10:30 Worship Service 2nd Sunday Food Collection 12:00 Jr. Choir Rehearsal Mother's Day Walk for Peace 5:00 Traditional Indian Dance	14 6:30 Cong. Board Meeting	15 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery 7:00 Pastor Parish Relations Committee Workshop	16 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00 A Stitch and a Prayer 7:00 FOGES 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	18 5:00 Traditional Indian Dance	19 Habitat Build Day NAAM Walk Boston 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga
20 Markings Deadline 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 12:00 Welcomer Training	21 10:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	22 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	23 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop	24 10:00 A Stitch and a Prayer 7:00 Book Group 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	25	26 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga
27 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Jr. Choir Rehearsal	28	29 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	30 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 8:00 Choir Rehearsal	31 10:00 A Stitch and a Prayer 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group		



South Acton Congregational Church

35 School Street · Acton, Massachusetts 01720



South Acton Congregational Church

where you are loved and valued just as you are

Reverend Amy Lunde-Whitler, *Pastor*

ADDRESS 35 School St, Acton, MA 01720

TELEPHONE 978-263-2332

WEBSITE www.southactoncc.org

EMAIL info@southactoncc.org

FOLLOW US! twitter.com/SACC_Church

www.facebook.com/SACC.Church

OFFICE HOURS Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9am-1pm

Welcome to **South Acton Congregational Church**.

The foundation of our beloved church rests on God's unconditional love and boundless grace. We seek to know God and follow the teachings of Jesus.

We welcome people of every race and culture who are young and old; single, married and divorced. We welcome people of every physical, mental and intellectual ability; sexual orientation and gender identity; every educational background and economic circumstance. We believe diversity enriches our faith community.

CONTACTING REV. AMY

Rev. Amy is reachable by phone: 281-744-3429
or by email: pastor@southactoncc.org