



# MARKINGS

The Newsletter of South Acton Congregational Church

SEPTEMBER 2018

Worship With Us!

Sundays at 10:30am

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

## September 9 Rally Sundaes

Mark 7:24–37  
Be Opened

## September 16

Acts 10:9–35  
Still Speaking

## September 23

Proverbs 1:20–31  
Her Lamp Does Not Go Out

Rev. Amy's Installation

## September 30

Esther 7:1–6, 9–10, 9:20–22  
Are you there God? It's me,  
Esther

## Reverend Amy's Installation!

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**Everyone** is invited to attend the Service of Installation for Rev. Amy Lunde-Whitler! It will take place on Sunday, **September 23**, at 3:00 PM here at SACC. Please join us!

## From Amy

Beloved,

It is September and we are already back to school! As we were walking up the sidewalk the other day, Josiah whispered, *I'm a little nervous, Momma*. His small voice was barely audible over the passing traffic. Being the mother of a small child reminds me of their stunning innocence and their absolute freedom to speak out the things we all feel but might not ever speak aloud. Why aren't we more like that? Why do we guard ourselves from voicing our emotions when we feel vulnerable, and unsteady?

The arrival of fall means new beginnings for many of us. School begins again. The traffic increases on the roads. Work pressures pick up. The program year starts at SACC. Fall is a busier season. The other day, Josh and I were trying to get on the same page with our schedules and I was in disbelief at how full our lives suddenly seemed.

In the gospel according to Matthew, Jesus and the disciples are in their own busy season. Jesus is doing quite a bit of teaching about sin and forgiveness and relationships when suddenly a group of children make their way to Jesus and ask for a blessing. The disciples bluster a bit about busyness and time wasting before Jesus cuts in to invite the children forward. He says, "Let the children alone, don't prevent them

from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these {children}."

As we get into the gear of fall and full schedules, perhaps we can make an effort to practice the honesty and tenderness taught to us be the youngest in our midst. What changes in our lives when we make a little more space to intentionally practice vulnerability inside ourselves and inside our wider community? Perhaps our practice of vulnerability and honesty will give others the permission they need to be vulnerable as well.

We can start together on September 10th as we gather at St. Matthew's Methodist Church for an interfaith potluck dinner (vegetarian dishes only, please). We will share our food and our hearts with our neighbors as we consider white privilege and how we can join together to create a more just, welcoming community.

As you will read in this newsletter, September is rich and full of activities. I also look forward to joining together in worship, as we practice vulnerability and allow the Spirit of God to continually create in us a softer, more vulnerable heart.

♥ Rev. Amy

# From the Diaconate

In preparation for the start of the new church year (Rally Sunday is September 9th), the Deacons met on the evening of Aug 23rd. The Haddens graciously hosted the meeting at their home so we were able to enjoy a nice summer evening by the lake (and at least one deacon went for a dip). The first order of business was to thank Steve for his years of service as a deacon. Steve truly took his responsibilities to heart and took great care to stay in touch with the members of his parish and offer any assistance whenever needed. We are grateful for his efforts and sad to see him go. Next, we greeted Tom Porcher, who will be starting as a deacon this year. We are very happy to have Tom join us and are sure he will do a great job for his parish.

In the near future your deacon will be sending you a flyer with a calendar of

various events taking place this fall, and there are quite a few. One of the more important ones will be the Installation Service whereby Amy is officially installed at SACC. Please mark your calendars to be at this service, which will take place on **September 23rd**. Other events include the October Rummage & Bake sale, World Communion Sunday, NAMI Scarecrow competition, a special service for the Blessing of the Animals, and more.

One other event will be SACC's participation in the West Acton Octoberfest, where we hope to once again set up a booth to introduce ourselves to our neighbors. Those who staffed the booth last year said it went well and they were able to meet lots of folks and let them know about our wonderful church and all the things we do. If you are interested in helping with the Octoberfest this year

(scheduled for **Sept 29th**), please let me know as soon as possible.

I hope everyone had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at church (and elsewhere) soon.

As always, please let your deacon (or any deacon) or Reverend Amy know if there are any issues or needs you wish to bring to the attention of the deacons. You can contact your assigned deacon (see below) or let me know at [DeaconChair@SouthActonC.org](mailto:DeaconChair@SouthActonC.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
Tom Porcher	T thru Z

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## Congregational Board News

We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer. We are so excited to start our new SACC year on Rally Sunday, September 9th - hope you will join us.

We are making a few edits to our By-Laws and will vote on them either at a special meeting or in No/Dec at our annual

budget meeting.

Speaking of the budget, stewardship time will be right around the corner, please give prayerful consideration when figuring out your pledge for next year.

How blessed we are to be a part of this community!

On behalf of the whole board,  
Pam Rogers  
*Chair*

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

# A Note of Thanks

Joni, Ginny, The Prayer Shawl Ministry, and all members of SACC,

Thank you so much. From deep down in my heart, thank you. The shawl is beautiful and before I read a word of the letter I had the same thought as Amy - this reminds me of the ocean. You should know my reaction, from the moment I saw the letters SACC on the wrapping, my eyes welled up with tears, because I knew exactly what was inside - it was a message of love. I opened it and read the letter Joni wrote and the card from the whole church, and I felt overwhelmed with the loving thoughts that had been tightly taped into this brown box, wrapped in pretty paper, and mailed to me. I put the shawl on, in spite of the heat and humidity and your long distance hug met its target.

SACC has always been a place of sanctuary for me. I can remember the way I felt standing in front of the congregation when I was confirmed, and Ross said to me that this church would always welcome me no matter where I went in life, I could always come back. That stayed with me, his words, his sincerity and the warmth that glowed off every congregant. It wasn't a promise or offer, it was a declaration of love and it was and is reciprocal.

Beliefs are powerful and some of the most important beliefs I hold are those that were demonstrated during my time at SACC. Acceptance, humor, gentleness, and above all else kindness.

Thank you for this beautiful message, for this beautiful shawl, for your thoughts and prayers, for your love, and for reaching out with kindness. I will wear this shawl when the weather becomes cold, or when I need a hug. My daughter Olive may use it to build a fort, and my son Max might roll himself up in it and giggle. I know this will add to the love it holds, as love only adds, and I will find the strength and courage you have asked be given to me.

Thank you.

love,  
Christopher Sherman



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Everyone is invited to these informal gatherings on the third Monday of the month to knit or crochet shawls for friends and loved ones in need of prayers. The next meeting is on **September 17** at 10am at Angela Aaronson's home.

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## SACC Landscaping

SACC needs help pruning and tending its plantings! Our newly-painted church looks very nice, but the overgrown plants around the foundation and parking area give it an unintended un-tended look. :-)

Will you join a committee to occasionally do a little gardening around SACC? Just a few hours a year of grooming and tending will make a huge difference in the overall appearance of the church. The properties committee has been and remains busy with mechanical and electrical projects of the building. We need two or three people with horticultural interest to help with the gardens.

Please contact Steve Hadden (978-621-3253) to express your interest. Thanks!!

# Missions & Outreach

The Missions, and Outreach Committee, which is open to everyone who is interested, met after church on Sunday, August 26, and discussed a fairly wide ranging set of topics.

We started with thoughts about how we will contribute to other agencies and programs that do work we value and that we have supported. More ground work will be pursued to clarify just what funds have been distributed and what options we choose to back with our money, in kind, and/or with our time and effort.

The next meeting will be after church on Sunday, **September 30**, so please feel free to bring your thoughts and concerns and hopes as we make our commitments.

In order to feel clear about what needs our donations meet, how any funds we contribute are spent, and whether

we can build a partnership, Amy suggests that we seek to partner with programs/agencies that reach out to seek our support, explain their work, and thank us for any help we can give.

Our church missions and outreach include both the programs, causes, agencies we give money to from our church pledges and also the varied efforts of our friends and members, such as the Christmas gifts to families in need identified by the Housing Authority, the scare crow exhibit at Cucurbit Farm, or the Easter Baskets for a family shelter. All our efforts to reach outside of our walls express the life of our church and that we are all ministers.

One nearby project is the Habitat for Humanity renovation at 43 and 45 School Street. Amy and the Logees attended the halfway celebration on Thurs-

day, August 23, in which the two families were introduced. Curt will schedule another Build Day for SACC members to work on a Saturday sometime this fall.

The next SACC move is Saturday, **September 8**.

A Racial Justice Dinner is set for Monday, **September 10**, at St. Matthew's, on Rosh Hashanah.

The next Vigil against Gun Violence is set for 5 to 6 on Wednesday, **September 12**. We will have to decide what time makes sense as the days shorten.

Amy is offering a White Privilege series using a UCC curriculum on Tuesday evenings in October and November. Like the Racial Justice Dinner, this series will coordinate with other faith communities

## SACC Helps Habitat Celebrate Mid-Build on School Street

On Thursday August 23rd, members of South Acton joined with Habitat for Humanity to celebrate the mid-point in the restoration of the School Street Duplex. Our Rev. Amy offered a Blessing for this project, and the families, and many Town of Acton officials, Senator Jamie Eldridge, Habitat Board Members, Local Planning Committee members, and neighbors were in attendance.

Most importantly, we met the two families that will be calling this restored building their home! Very exciting, and such a joy to meet them, and welcome them to our neighborhood.

The School Street Build continues into this Fall, with a completion date for both homes scheduled for late January or early February.

Please contact Curt Logee if you are interested in volunteering to help with this project, as he is organizing another "SACC Build Day".



# SACC Movers

Keeping the SACC Movers busy this summer has not been much of an issue as there has been or will be at least a move every month from June through September.

June saw us helping several artists at the Umbrella Community Arts Center in Concord relocate to their respective homes for the summer. The Umbrella is undergoing renovation resulting in all the artists having to leave their studio until the work is done. The moves took place over two weekends. Some moves were simple and some were not requiring quite an effort on the part of the Movers. All were successfully and as far as I know all the artists were pleased with our help. We may hear from them in the fall.

One of our own, Ginny Nobel-Mecewitz, moved from her home directly across the street from the Church at 34 School St to a new condo in Hudson. It was a quick move as Ginny had done a good job of packing and was ready when we got there. The move took place on a rainy Saturday in July. As you might imagine, we had an extremely good turn-out.

In August we had two moves, one simply moving boxes from one floor of an apartment to an upper floor, and the second a

much larger effort, a two bedroom house from Acton to Shrewsbury. The second move was for Laura Goldin, an Acton neighbor on Hosmer St. who also did a good job of packing and was ready to go. Laura too moved into a new condo/town house apartment. There seems to be a good bit of interest in new condos on the part of those of us of a certain age. It does however seem difficult to find a suitable one in Acton.

We have a mission move coming up in September, the first in a long time. We will be moving Christine C. from a condo on Davis Road off Rt 2A to another similar unit in the same complex. Christine came to us from Acton Social Services as she has no local relatives and no ability to pack or certainly to do her own moving. She is currently walking on a cane but even that with some difficulty. Her current apartment is located on the second floor with no elevator available. The new unit is on the first floor hence the need for the move. I am sure we will have a good turnout for this move as well.

In every move we have gotten rave reviews for our work and the moving crew appears to be happy (or so it appears).

Let me share with you a part of an email I got from Curt Logee

where he observes:

*"Got your email about our latest move, and Laura's very generous donation....Really great news. Let me repeat this, so I am sure I understand:*

*When we do a SACC Move, we get to spend time on a Saturday with folks we really like, and enjoy being with...people who care about each other, and kid with each other, and share stories about what's going on in their lives...*

*We help the folks who need it, by picking up all their stuff, carefully loading it into a truck, driving it to wherever they want, and then unloading it, and putting it where they want...*

*They then send a donation to our beloved church, helping us to continue our work in supporting our congregation, living our Faith, and helping to build God's Kingdom here on earth... That about sum it up? Indeed, we are truly Blessed..."*

A pretty good summary as to why we do this work. So far this summer the SACC Movers efforts have generated some \$4000 in donations. Although making money is not our goal but it sure helps getting the Church through the summer.

Jim Willis

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## From a thankful "movee"

*"On behalf of Jim Willis and the wonderful SACC Movers! They are a true godsend and like manna from heaven for me. My heartfelt gratitude to such kind neighbors and friends. Please accept this donation. I just wish I had more. Laura Goldin"*

# Meditation Retreat

The Wednesday Mindfulness Workshop will host a meditation retreat with meditation leader William Charles Jackson on **September 8 and 9** at the Walker Center in Auburndale, Mass. The retreat is for people who do — or want to — meditate regularly. It will focus on developing a comfortable and beneficial meditation practice through several different meditation methods. The goal of the meditation practice is to become more mindful.

Mindfulness is a centuries-old discipline that provides many benefits in our harried world, including: calmness; clarity of thought under stress; emotional balance; resilience in difficult social and work situations; and many more. The retreat will teach the principles of mindfulness, and include practice meditation to strengthen those principles in participants.

Time/Date: mid-morning on Saturday, September 8 through noon on Sunday, September 9

Place: The Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange, 144 Hancock Street, Auburndale, Mass. 02466

Cost: \$205 includes meals and overnight lodging (double-occupancy)

Participation is limited to 25. Contact Patti Babcock to register.

The Wednesday Mindfulness Workshop meets every Wednesday eve from 6:45 to 8 PM at The Center at South Acton. The Center is an initiative of South Acton Congregational Church to foster and support wholeness of mind, body and spirit in our community.

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## SACC Notes

### Racial Justice Dinner

On Monday, **September 10** at 6pm, SACC will be sharing in an interfaith potluck dinner at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and be sure to label nuts and gluten. We will be talking about race and privilege, and how to build partnerships from places of awareness.

### Second Sunday Food Collection

Please bring in canned and nonperishable foods for our Second Sunday collection for the Community Supper Food Pantry on **September 9**. Soup, cereal, canned fruits & veggies, pasta & sauce, tuna, peanut butter and jelly can be left in the green bin.

### Visit with Amy

Stop by Boston Bean House **Tuesday** mornings from 8:15 – 10am to visit with Reverend Amy. Share ideas, concerns, or just enjoy the fellowship! Boston Bean House is located at 102 Main Street in Maynard.

### Vigils Against Gun Violence

The effort to raise our voices against gun violence continues, with monthly vigils at the intersection of School and Main Streets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next vigil will take place on **September 12** from 5 to 6 pm. Wear your Peace Love Justice tee-shirts!

### Cleaning Teams for September

- September 1: Angela Aaronson's Team
- September 8: Linsey Hurley's Team
- September 15: Judy Hodge's Team
- September 22: The Klauer's Team
- September 29: Becky Hadden's Team

# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga
2 <b>10:30 Worship Service</b>	3	4 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	5 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	7 3:00 Violin Lessons	8 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga 8:30 SACC Movers 10:00 Meditation Retreat
9 10:30 Rally Sunday 2nd Sunday Food Collection Meditation Retreat 12:00 Jr. Choir 12:00 Deacons Meeting 5:00 Trad. Indian Dance	10	11 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	12 5:00 Vigil Against Gun Violence 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	14 3:00 Violin Lessons	15 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga 9:00 Scrapbook Class
16 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Jr. Choir Rehearsal 5:00 Traditional Indian Dance	17 10:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 Cong. Board Meeting	18 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	19 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	20 Markings Deadline 7:00 FOGES 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	21 3:00 Violin Lessons	22 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga
23 10:30 Worship 12:00 Jr. Choir 3:00 Rev. Amy's Installation 5:00 Traditional Indian Dance	24	25 8:15 Visit with Amy 3:45 Meditation Walk 7:00 NA Bridge to Recovery	26 6:45 Mindfulness Workshop	27 10:00 Stitch and a Prayer 7:00 Metro-West Boston Divorce Support Group	28 3:00 Violin Lessons	29 8:30 Therapeutic Yoga
30 10:30 Worship 12:00 Jr. Choir 12:00 Missions & Outreach 4:00 Blessing of the Animals 5:00 Indian Dance						

For event details and building use calendar, visit [www.southactoncc.org/events/](http://www.southactoncc.org/events/)



## 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](http://www.southactoncc.org)

EMAIL [info@southactoncc.org](mailto:info@southactoncc.org)

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[www.facebook.com/SACC.Church](https://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.

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### CONTACTING REV. AMY

Rev. Amy is reachable by phone: 281-744-3429 or by email: [pastor@southactoncc.org](mailto:pastor@southactoncc.org) Sunday–Thursday and on Fridays and Saturdays for emergencies.