



Greetings!

BY PASTOR SEAN

Greetings, Slatersville Congregational Church! My name is Sean Amato - and by the grace of God, this congregation formally called me to be it settled pastor on July 28th, 2024. This is an exciting time

for Slatersville, and for me: this is the first church to whom I've been called, and I'm Slatersville's first settled pastor in several years. While this might be a time of unknowns and growing pains, it's also a time of new opportunities to gauge who we are as both a church and as Christians - a time where we might sit with our faith, assess what it does for us and those around us, and endeavor to dive even deeper into what it is to be followers of Jesus. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the warm welcome you've provided at both last week's Meet & Greet in Globe Hall and my candidating service: I feel as if I've begun to get to know this congregation after having met so many of you, but I know our faith journey together has just begun. I am joyous for the opportunity to work with all of you, and to wrestle with Christianity alongside you.

My first formal day 'working' at the church will be August 5th, 2024 - that is, the first day of Slatersville's Vacation Bible School! At our VBS, kids between the ages of 5 and 12 will have an opportunity to enjoy a ~FREE~ week of activities, games, and music in a space open enough for kids from all Christian denomination to come and take part. Slatersville's VBS 2024 will be held the whole week of August 5th between 9am and 12pm each day. For those with young folks who might want to attend, or adults who want to volunteer in the work of our church,

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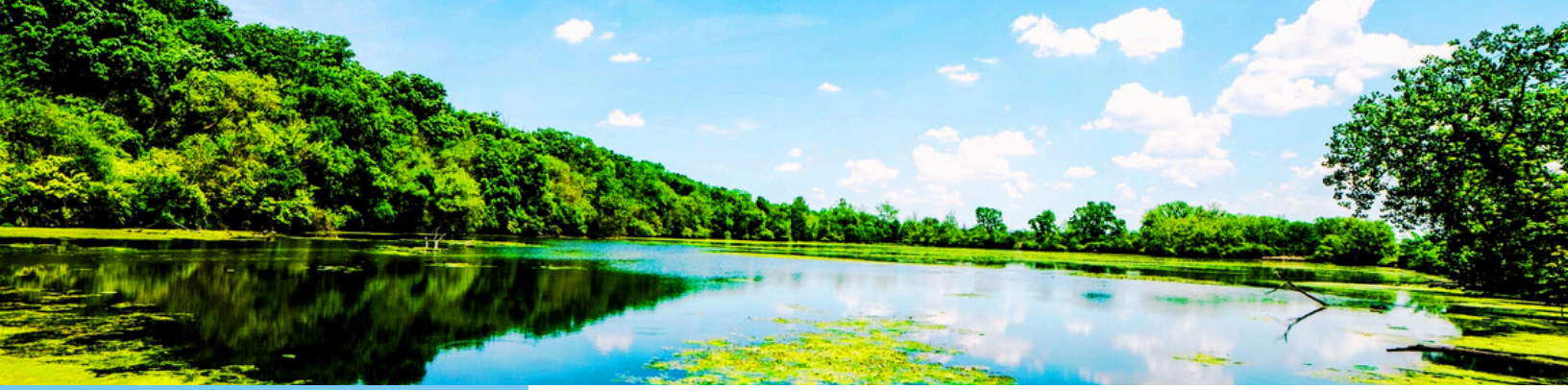
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OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Gretchen Westhoven, Moderator
Ruth Mills, Clerk
Jean Meo, Financial Clerk
Margaret Handian, Treasurer

CHURCH STAFF

Sean Amato, Minister
Jill Boday, Handbell Choir
Patricia Renaud, Organist
Hope Paul, Nursery Attendant
Romeo Mendes, Sexton

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Ruth Mills, Caring
Michell Eskell, Diaconate
Jim Robshaw, Hospitality
Bob Meo, Stewardship
Martha Hunt, Music
Rick Stelle, Property
Terri DeBoise, Missions
George Briggs, Christian Ed
Bob Meo, Fundraising, Projects

DIACONATE

Michell Eskell, Chairperson
Christine Bonas
Marilyn Briggs
Marsha Brodeur
Richard Brodeur
Sandy Gamache
Martha Hunt
Darlene Magaw
April McAllister
Stephen Wowk

Greetings! ... (Cont.)

please consider signing up [here!](#)

I plan on participating in the VBS programming with our kids during my first week and would love a chance to mingle with our congregants if they're available to drop by and say 'hello.' Starting August 5th, I plan on reaching out to members of the church to schedule opportunities for us to sit down and chat (including home visits). I'd love to meet with members of Slatersville in group settings, too, to discuss what you believe to be our church's next steps. I have ideas (of course!) but it is the will and involvement of the congregation that drives our denomination forward! So please, let me know what moves you - and look out in the newsletter for chances to 'book time' with the new pastor. If I haven't contacted you yet and you feel as if we should speak promptly, or you are in need of spiritual care after August 5th, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the church at (401) 769-2773.

My first Sunday service with the congregation will be August 11th, 2024 at 10:00am, and I would love to see the full width and breadth of our congregation that day as I did at my candidating service - another chance to spend some time with you, get down into the details of how the Holy Spirit is moving through this church, and how we might better live out and live into our beautiful church's Christian mission. God bless you, Slatersville, and see you soon!

-Sean



Candidate Weekend - WE HAVE A PASTOR!!

It's officially official! A big, warm WELCOME to Pastor Sean Amato, the new SETTLED PASTOR of Slatersville Congregational Church!! Thank you for answering the call to walk with us to serve as faithful Christian disciples. Amen!!

A wonderful time was had by all over Candidate Weekend. SCC came out in force to “meet and greet” Pastor Sean and his beautiful partner, Emily. He preached a great sermon and the congregation voted immediately following service to call him as our Settled Pastor. We are so very excited about our future together!





Missions Moment

BY ALISON PEIRCE

Thanks to your generosity, the Missions Committee continues to support organizations in need even during the summer vacation months! In July, we voted to donate \$500 to World Central Kitchen. You may remember the tragic loss of seven of their members who were killed in an attack in Gaza in April while trying to deliver desperately needed supplies and food. Knowing that the humanitarian issues in Gaza remain dire and fulfilling their mission of showing up to provide food to people during the toughest of times, World Central Kitchen has restarted their operation to get as much food into the region as possible.

Although our support of the Men's Shelter in Woonsocket is on hiatus during their seasonal shutdown, we still wanted to find a way to help those who are unhoused. To address this need, Missions donated \$500 to House of Hope Community Development Corporation to support their "Shower to Empower" program. Shower to Empower is a one-of-a-kind mobile service offering basic needs such as complimentary showers and haircuts, along with on-site case management and medical services. The trailer includes two individual showers, heated floors, an area for case management, and an enclosed private medical space. The service comes to the Thundermist Health Center in Woonsocket on Wednesdays from 9 AM to 12 PM.

To continue our Blessing Bag ministry, a tentative date for assembling the bags has been proposed for Sunday, October 20th during Coffee Hour. Stay tuned for a listing of items needed for donation in the next On-the-Common newsletter and thanks in advance for your continued support of this ministry.

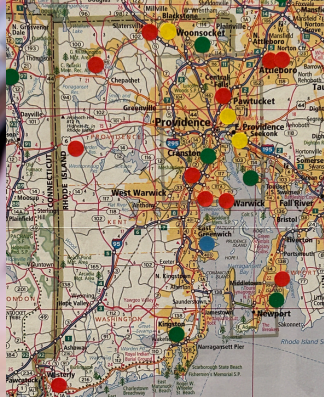


NS Food Pantry

For the month of August
Food Pantry hours are:

Tuesday, 8/20 at 5:30 pm,
Saturday, 8/24 at 10:00 am,
Tuesday, 8/27 at 5:30 pm.
Saturday, 8/31 at 10:00 am

This month we are asking
for donations of Peanut
Butter and Jelly and Snacks.



Handbells - August 2024

BY JILL BODAY

So much learning, so much ringing, so much fun! I have been reflecting on what has been an action-packed time! Mixed in between family vacations and binge-watching Netflix, I was fortunate enough to attend both the Handbell Friends and Family Camp from June 21-23 in Griswold, CT and the National Handbell Seminar from July 9-13 in Hartford, CT. It was my first time at both events, and I highly recommend these handbell activities.

My son, Mason, who is 10 years old, came with me to camp. He had a great time ringing in the Beginning Tins track, doing crafts (painting turtles on rocks was a highlight), and getting to know the other handbell kids (handbell families rock)! I had a great time stretching my technique in the Copper track, relaxing by the pond, and tie-dyeing some gloves. I got to rub elbows (literally) with some really great ringers. Why don't you join us next time?



The National Handbell Seminar was very impressive. There was so much to see, hear, and learn. I was amazed at all of the performing choirs, showcasing their immense talent and their incredible dedication to

this artform. I got to ring under conductor Griff Gall, and then watch him and his Back Bay Ringers (from Boston, MA) perform at the highest level! Being able to chat with some seminal handbell composers and arrangers, meet people from all over the country, and catch up with some long-time friends like Cathy Cormier Seiler (above) were all highlights.



Here at church, our handbell choir has been ringing a bit over the summer and performed at two services. I've warned them that I've been to many workshops this summer, and I returned armed with some new activities and exercises—all to enhance our ringing skills! Won't you join us?? We are so excited to welcome Pastor Sean into our family, and look forward to offering our music throughout the year! I will be working closely with the Music Search Committee and Pastor Sean to find the best fit for our next music director. Keep sending those prayers and good vibes that we will cross paths with our next musical leader!

Even though August can feel like a “perpetual Sunday evening” (before school starts up again) for teachers, I reflect on a full and rich summer, and I look forward to a year ahead that's just as memorable!



From Our Friends @ Mathewson Street Church ..THANK YOU!



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Slatersville Congregational Church
P.O. Box 808
Slatersville, RI 02876

July 22, 2024

Dear Friends at Slatersville Congregational Church,

We are deeply grateful for your incredibly generous donation to Mathewson Street Church! Your contribution is a significant part of all the loving work that happens at Mathewson Street, and we couldn't be more excited to have you as part of the Mathewson mission.

The Mathewson Street Friendship Breakfast was founded in 2012 and became well known for its unique hospitality model. We've always strived to create a peer-driven atmosphere that works towards destigmatizing poverty and homelessness.

Over the past decade, our efforts have grown exponentially. What started as a breakfast event has transformed into a full-fledged 7-day operation. Under the dedicated leadership of our Outreach Director, Kevin Simon, a team of enthusiastic volunteers is now available around the clock to meet the diverse needs of those who seek support at Mathewson.

Some of what we do is quantifiable, like in 2022 when we served over 32,000 meals, distributed more than 10,000 articles of clothing, provided emergency overnight housing for 32 individuals, and successfully secured 600 free bus passes for our un-sheltered friends. Yet, so much of what happens at 134 Mathewson Street can't be measured! What truly matters is the deep human connections we form through care and services. These relationships play a pivotal role in reducing the amount of time someone experiences homelessness.

Through partnerships with housing-first agencies, collaborations with mental health, addiction, and domestic violence professionals, and hosting legal and medical clinics, we can address a wide range of needs with collaboration and radical hospitality.

Your gift will be used with wisdom and intention to continue our mission of supporting those in our community living without basic necessities. Because of the kindness and generosity of people like you, we can continue our vital work here in downtown Providence.

Thank you for caring. Thank you for giving. Thank you for being a part of Mathewson Street!

Sincerely,

Scott Budnick
Treasurer

*Thank you so much!
Bless you for this
amazingly generous gift
in honor of wonderful
John!*

MATHEWSON STREET CHURCH

“OUR FRIENDS ARE WITHOUT A HOME 365 DAYS A YEAR.
365 DAYS A YEAR WE ARE HERE SERVING.”

WE HAVE NEVER SEEN THE NEED THIS GREAT!

WITH A 300% INCREASE IN PEOPLE LOSING A PLACE TO LIVE SINCE 2020, MATHEWSON STREET CHURCH HAS BEEN ON THE GROUND MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SHELTER.

WE NEED TO RAISE \$52,000 BY AUGUST 1ST. WILL YOU HELP?

SCAN ME

Thank you so much for the kind donations from the Slatersville Congregational Church Family. Your generosity is so appreciated. The needs are always great.

You may have received a flier in the mail or seen the post on Facebook. Our Mathewson Street Friendship Breakfast has been meeting the needs of hundreds of people all year around, and the needs continue to grow as more and more people lose housing and shelter.

Thanks to folks like you, we've made significant progress, but we're still only halfway to our goal of raising \$52,000.

Should you like to continue to help, A donation link is included below which you may use or possibly SHARE on Facebook so that others can also donate. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BMBHNX54Z3UBL&source=qr