

ON THE COMMON

September 2024

Newsletter of Slatersville Congregational Church

From the Pastor's Desk...

BY PASTOR SEAN

Greetings, Slatersville Congregational Church! - a phrase that I never expected to be saying quite as much as I do! The last month of my life has been a bit of a blur: engaging with congregants and church committees, attending meetings in the community with current and former partners, and getting to know what makes our church 'work' has been an enriching (and somewhat disorienting!) experience.

Every day I've had the pleasure of working from my office in the church, I'm reminded of what drew me to this church: the warmth and humor of its congregation, the quality of its culture and character. Each day has affirmed the day prior, and my entire journey to be your pastor: I feel right at home here at Slatersville, and I am so thankful for the kind welcome you've bid me already.

Thank you, thank you for your confidence in me as your pastor. I look forward to growing with you, learning from you, and following in Christ's footsteps alongside you. The path is long and confusing, but I'm thrilled to be able to walk it with this congregation.

For those of you lucky enough to have avoided spending time with me, I want to make sure that you know I'm available - for phone calls, home visits, Zoom visits, and so on. If you'd like to make an appointment with me for pastoral care or just a chance to sit down and meet, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email (seanamato@gmail.com) or telephone (401-919-2406 - call or text) and I'll respond as promptly as I can.

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OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

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

CHURCH STAFF

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

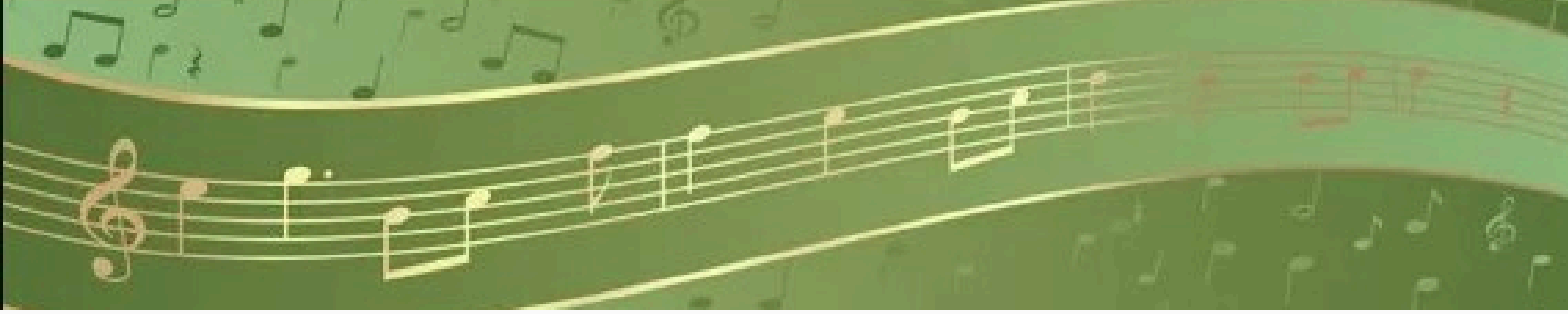
From the Pastor's Desk ... (Cont.)

Please know that I also have flexible office hours (usually between 10am and 2pm, Tuesdays through Thursdays) and that you're more than welcome to come by and say 'hello' - though I can't guarantee Rick, Michell, or Bob aren't already sitting in the chair across from me. :-)

A final note: Last Sunday, I announced that the Bible Study I'll be leading has actually been split into two sessions. One of the sessions will be a Bible 101 course - something akin to a 'traditional' Bible study in which we will read scripture consistently through the year, reflect on it, talk about the text as a group, and discuss theological/scriptural matters as they come up in our holy book. The newly-introduced second session, the Topics Group, will be oriented around independent reading of both scripture and non-scripture as well as reflection/conversation on topics that move and provoke the group's participants. I have the first session of our Topics Group (about four weeks) ready to go, and the group's focus will shift to a different topic once that four weeks is up.

Sign-ups for both groups are still available, and some people are choosing to take part in both - but don't feel pressure to take on more than you can carry! Those of you hoping to sign up for the sessions are more than welcome to send me an email (seanamato@gmail.com) to confirm, though many of you have already left sticky notes on my desk; either way works for me!

Thanks to all of you once again. I look forward to telling you more exciting news over the next few months, including the start of several other new programs I hope to kickstart before our the start of our Advent season. Autumn has almost arrived, as it is - and for that, I have only prayers of joy and thanks. May God bless you, Slatersville - you and yours, and then some. See you Sunday!



Welcome Ropi - SCC's New Music Director!

BY MARTHA HUNT

We are excited to introduce our new Music Director, Manoel Ropiaro, Jr. – but please call him Ropi (pronounced Hopi). Ropi is from Brazil and has been living in the United States for 7 years. Prior to moving to the US, Ropi served in the Military Police in Brazil. While in this position, along with his other responsibilities he was the conductor of the orchestra. Ropi plays many instruments including piano, guitar and drums. He speaks Portuguese, English and Spanish and is currently an elementary public school teacher in Worcester, MA.

We asked Ropi some questions, and he provided these answers:

Q: Could you tell us about your family?

A: I am married to Sthefania. She is a photographer. I have 1 son, Alexander (he likes to be called Xander) who is 2½ and baby Emily who is expected in October.

Q: How did you end up in a music career? Were there any experiences in your youth that led you there?

A: Since I was 2 years old, I used to get some lids and put a nail on them to spin like a vinyl record while I sang some songs. Everything in my life pushed me to the way I am today. Teaching and music were always together in my journey.

Q: What is your favorite instrument to play, and why?

A: My voice, because I can bring it everywhere I go.



Q: What is your favorite hymn, and why?

A: Total Praise is my first one, and First Love is my original favorite one. Both songs are the truth that I really feel when I sing.

Q: What do you like most about directing music in church?

A: I believe music is way more sharp than any other weapon. God allowed me to use my voice and instruments to touch souls and transform lives. When people are searching for transformation, they go first to the church. Can you imagine how special I feel when God connects this person to me? When I have the opportunity to do something with my gifts, talents, my voice... It is something inexplicable.

(Continued)...



Welcome Ropi... (Cont.)

Q: What is your favorite Brazilian food?

A: Brazil has a huge cuisine, but my main one is "Moqueca de Bacalhau" which is salted cod fish with coconut milk and palm oil sauce.

You can listen Ropi's music on his YouTube page – <https://www.youtube.com/@RopiJr>

With Pastor Sean leading worship supported by Ropi as Music Director and Jill Boday as Hand Bell Choir Director, we have a lot to look forward to at SCC. Senior Choir rehearsals return Thursday, September 5th at 7:30pm!

Upcoming Nearby Events

9/8/2024 @ 12:30pm - "Coming Together" Concert, sponsored by RI Assn, UCC. Chapel Street Congregational Street, Fellowship Hall, 185 Chapel Street, Lincoln, RI

9/8/2024 @ 3:00pm - Chestnut Street Meeting House Afternoon Service, 318 Thayer Street, Millville, MA

9/15/2024 @ 2:00pm - East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House, Afternoon Service, 197 Elm Street, Blackstone

9/22/2024 @ 6:30pm - Jordan St. Cyr Concert, Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge, MA 01569

9/28/2024 @ 6:00pm - SCC Trivia Night - Globe Hall!

10/6/2024 @ 3:00pm "Hymn Sing" East Blackstone Quaker Meeting House, 197 Elm Street, Blackstone

All are Welcome To Try Handbells!

All are welcome to try handbells. Why don't you join us?

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6:30, starting September 5th.

Questions can be directed to Jill Boday at:

malletwoman333@gmail.com





NS Food Pantry-September

For the month of **September** Food Pantry hours are:

Tuesday, 9/17 at 5:30 pm,
Saturday, 9/21 at 10:00 am,
Tuesday, 9/24 at 5:30 pm.
Saturday, 9/28 at 10:00 am

This month we are asking for donations of canned chicken, peanut butter and jelly.



Missions Moment

BY ALISON PEIRCE

As the summer months continue, the Missions Committee's thoughts turned to kids and camp. We voted to donate \$500 to Kesem in support of their Camp Kesem initiative. Camp Kesem is a free, week-long overnight summer camp experience designed for children between the ages of 6 and 18 who are impacted by a parent's cancer. The camps, held around the country, focus on creating fun experiences that help these children escape – even for a short time – the challenges of coping with a parent's cancer diagnosis. Staffed by college student leaders along with nurses, mental health professionals, and other experienced staff, the camp provides a safe, fun, and empowering experience for the campers. As one camper said, "Camp Kesem means the world to me and I look forward to the one week of the year I can be myself. I feel like Kesem is my second home, a family community, and truly magical."

Looking toward the fall, the Mission's Committee is once again spearheading our Blessing Bags Ministry. Please see the article within this month's On-the-Common with details for our packaging date during Coffee Hour on October 20, 2024. We hope to see you there!

Blessing Bags!

The Blessing Bags Ministry

Come Fill a Bag on [October 20, 2024!](#)

BY ALISON PEIRCE

Grab your cup of coffee and come fill a Blessing Bag directly after church during Coffee Hour on October 20, 2024. What is a Blessing Bag? If you're new to a church, it is a continuing ministry our congregation has undertaken to provide a bag of basic essentials to those in need in our community. After collecting the donated items listed below, we will gather as a church family on October 20th and assemble the bags, including an encouragement card, which will then be given out with caring to those without shelter this fall.

What can you do to help? Between now and October 20th, you can shop for INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED FOOD ITEMS and TRAVEL-SIZED TOILETRIES. Once you have purchased your supplies, you can drop them off at the church. There will be a trunk labeled BLESSING BAGS in Globe Hall. Our congregation is always so generous, and we are looking forward to continuing our message of giving and kindness through this service project. Thank you so much!

Here are Some Suggestions for Your Shopping:

INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED FOOD ITEMS

- *Box of Granola bars
- *Box of *Energy bars
- *Box of Trail mix bags
- *Tuna/chicken pouches
- *Beef jerky
- *Raisins
- *Fruit cups

TRAVEL-SIZED TOILETRIES

- *Toothpaste/Mouthwash
- *Deodorant
- *Small Bars of Soap Combs
- *Bandaid
- *Chapstick





Trivia Night - Sept 28th!

Join us Saturday evening, September 28th at for another round of the Battle of the Brains - TRIVIA NIGHT!! Dinner starts at 6:00pm (Menu - to be determined) Bring your brainpower, your competitive edge and your good natured sense of humor! GAME ON!! We'll See you then!



Fundraising News...

The North Smithfield Annual Pumpkin Fest, the town-wide fundraiser for all civic groups held at the North Smithfield High School field, is fast-approaching on Saturday, September 21st. We need people to help work at our booths on that day any time between 11 AM and 5 PM, and most importantly, people to help make our famous apple dumplings on Friday, September 20th, at the Church. Sign up sheets will be available in Globe Hall or speak to Bob Meo (769-9617). We will once again be selling pizza slices as well as our famous apple dumplings and ice cream sundaes! Opportunities to help:

Apple Dumpling Gang, Friday, September 20th (10 AM - NOONish)

Pumpkin Fest, Saturday, September 21st (anytime between 11 AM- 5 PM)

Looking forward to: Trivia Night Encore! Coming soon on Saturday, September 28th! Watch for details!

Thanks to all for your continuing support! Your involvement contributes to the success of our fundraising efforts!

Remember, there is FUN in Fundraising!! Help Make It Happen!!



Ongoing Clothing Drive at Mathewson Street Church

Mathewson Street Church has an on-going clothing drive. All donated clothes are laundered, and hung or placed in the clothing room. Those in need can individually select clothes for themselves at no cost.

Clients are able to select articles of clothing for themselves as they have need. This clothing ministry has provided clothing to people in need for job interviews, back to school needs as well as everyday attire. Your donations would be greatly appreciated.

If you have clothes to donate, please contact John Staples at (774) 307-0320 to arrange for pick up. You can also contact Helen Lupu at SCC to drop them off. Helen's phone numbers are: Home: (401) 769-4306 and Cell: (401) 480-3018.

Our Thoughts and Prayers...

...are with the family of Beth's God Father, Bob, who recently passed away.

...are with Brian and Ronnie, who are relatives of close friends of Laurel. Both men are facing difficult medical issues.

...are with Tamara for relief from pain due to arthritis. She'll be taking new meds which will have side effects which she's hoping are manageable.

...are with a co-worker of Sharon's husband who has had a recurrence of lung cancer and doctors are trying to find the best treatments.

...are with Phil's friend, Carlos, who is back in the hospital after a stroke. Carlos' experience is a good reminder to be diligent about taking prescribed medications.

...with thanks, Chris Bonas is grateful for all the people who helped with clearing out Diana Jackson's house. It has been put on the market.

...Ropi thanks the Lord that his mother has arrived from Brazil for an overdue visit. He's grateful that she arrived safely after a long journey and that she'll be here for the birth of his daughter.