
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Spring 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is on its way! Just thinking about the sunny warm days that will be coming soon helps us tolerate the dreary rainy days of April. Nothing has changed these dreary days, only the thought of the warmth and bright sunlight that beats down on our faces in the future. Can you imagine what life would be like without the bright warm sunlight? We can get by for short times, but suffer when we have to endure long periods without.

It is the same for people who live life without faith in our loving God. The Light that comes from our Lord can brighten the darkest days of our lives. Living through the dark times of our lives, having the thought of God in our hearts and minds makes all the difference. Our faith is the ability to see and become part of the light of God given to us not that long ago, to share with all people! - *God's love & mine be with you, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Who's Your Superhero?

Have you ever noticed the parallels between our fictional superheroes and our Lord and Savior? Whether intentional or not, the similarities are amazing & encouraging. We need such role models, especially for the younger folk.

The superheroes all care deeply for us; they understand us and take on our troubles. They fight and stand for justice. They live among us, taking on alter egos, thinly disguised as ordinary humans. (God sent Jesus, human and God, but certainly not ordinary.) They perform extraordinary deeds, miracles in Jesus' case. And they're always available to help when needed the most.



One of my favorites, and that of my late father-in-law, is Wonder Woman, brought to us during the WWII era. Part of her story is that her mother sculpted her from clay. Doesn't this sound familiar? This correlates directly to Genesis 2:7, which says: "...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground...". Her life as an Amazon is complemented by superhuman powers, gifts from the Greek gods. Once you've been caught by her Lasso of Truth you cannot lie; I compare this to our conscience and presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Green Hornet was on the scene a decade earlier, starting in radio. He was "ordinary" publisher Britt Reid, and shared an alternate identity with his valet Keto and their super car, "Black Beauty." They fought crime by pretending to be criminals themselves, leading police to the lawbreakers while keeping their disguise.



Captain America was created in the 1940s as well. The character starts out as frail man Steve Rogers, who was given "super-soldier serum" to fight Axis powers. With the help of his indestructible shield, he used martial arts and hand-to-hand combat. An accident left him frozen in suspended animation, but he was revived (resurrected?) and became a leader of the Avengers (his apostles, perhaps?)

Spider Man from the 1960s is the alter ego of Peter Benjamin Parker, an orphan and teenager who dealt with adolescence and young adulthood during his adventures. He's possessed with "spidey powers" through a bite from a radioactive spider, giving him superhuman strength, speed, agility, stamina and even precognition. Peter does mature to his late 20s and continues the fight against crime. He's also affiliated with the Avengers, among other teams.

During a recent episode of Batman, he told a young boy that it was better to grow up to be a good citizen than a hero. I'd like to substitute "Christian" for "citizen" here.

My point in all this is two-fold: first, I'm very thankful that we have such characters for comics fans, young and old, to look up to; and secondly, we are reminded that we have a real, ultimate superhero who loves and hears us

whenever we need Him. Good will overcome evil, in His time.

Wishing you all a Blessed Easter! - *Emily Schroeder, Council President*



Missions & Benevolence:

Spring is slowly springing, but it won't be much longer before it's really here. I love the first time I can get out there and rake the lawn, which I did actually do a couple weeks ago - before the last two snow storms! Definitely the best reason to live in Maine is seeing everything coming back to life.

Since everyone is so generous donating for Susie's goodies and whenever Pastor Paul asks for special PDF requests, we have been able to help quite a few people during the cold weather this winter. A big thank you to everyone!

We received a very nice thank you note from the China Elementary school and the families that we bought gifts for at Christmas time. They were all totally overwhelmed by the generosity of all our members!

Just a reminder that the China Food Pantry is always very appreciative for any kind of food donations. There is always a need, not only during the holidays. Thank you! - *Kathy Plaisted, Deacon*

EDITOR'S NOTE: As reported in the April 3rd edition of THE TOWN LINE, federal funding for food pantries across the country has recently been reduced, severely impacting communities. Our

support is more important than ever! While food items are always appreciated, the article noted that financial donations allow greater flexibility of purchases for what local clients need. Please consider donating in any way you can to help provide healthy food and meals for our neighbors. The mailing addresses, hours and contact information are:

CHINA: [The China Community Food Pantry](#), 1320 Lakeview Drive, China, is open Friday and Saturday, from 12 noon to 1PM for residents of China. (207) 968-2421

VASSALBORO: The [Vassalboro Food Station Pantry](#) on Rte. 32 is open on Thursdays from 11AM to noon for all eligible residents of Vassalboro. Its physical location is 679 Main Street; mailing address is 26 Ferland Lane, Vassalboro, ME 04849 (207) 873-7375

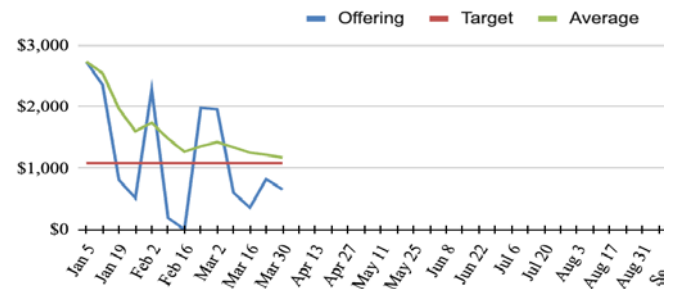
WINDSOR: The Windsor Food Bank is open the 1st and 3rd Wed. of each month at the Public Works Garage next to the Windsor Town Office from 12 noon – 1PM and 5 - 6PM. Its physical location is 523 Ridge Road; mailing address is PO Box 102, Windsor, ME 04363 (207) 445-9030



Finance & Stewardship:

I am happy to report that South China Community Church is in excellent financial shape at the end of the first quarter of 2025. Our overall revenue is 26% of our budget - right on target. Weekly offerings

average \$1,174, which is about \$90 above our weekly target to meet the budget.



Our fundraising income has also done well. Word has spread about our phenomenal breakfasts! We had our largest turnout yet in March and brought in over \$700. Debbie's Needhams are being sold in more places than ever and satisfy a significant portion of our fundraising budget, bringing in over \$762.50 to date. Thank you, Debbie and crew, for keeping our vendors supplied. Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF) has already raised about 39% of its budgeted amount and we are only 25% of the way through the year. Thank you for your continued caring and generosity, and thank you, Susie, for your delicious treats!



On the expense side, overall expenses are at 25% of our budget. We have spent 23% of our PDF budget to help support the China Food Pantry and needy community members. We have a significant credit with CB Haskell, who supplies our propane, and have been able to skip two monthly payments. Ron, our Buildings & Grounds Chair, has been very busy making repairs required in order to switch our insurance company so we can pay less for similar coverage. In summary, our first quarter revenue exceeds expenses by \$1,500.

Regarding our invested assets, we have rolled over our Jordan CD, adding another \$8,000 from the Jordan Savings, to a one-year term at 4%. We still have over \$10,000 in Jordan Savings for emergency expenses and our Meader/Memorial CD has over \$100,000. Total interest earned so far is \$1,730. The total of all accounts amounts to \$176,257. Thank you, Darlene, for your excellent work keeping track of our accounts! - *Gratefully, Janet Preston, Finance Chair*



Building & Grounds:

A major overhaul has taken place downstairs, creating new storage space for the items that have been residing on the stage in Memorial Hall. Debbie's craft room has been moved to the library space; her former area will be used for historical information, Council notebooks, etc. The library is now in the large conference room with overflow into the Sunday School area.

A lot of items from the Sunday School room have gone to Grace's Busy Bees, the new local daycare center. Remaining items may be used for grab bags at Community Days and/or our Summer Sale. There are also ~20 antique chairs that can be sold at the Summer Sale and/or on Facebook Marketplace.

Most of the insurance issues downstairs were related to air movement and have been resolved. The electrical box in the sanctuary was upgraded and dangerous wiring removed. Many thanks to Bob Webber whose expertise was invaluable!

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have met with our State Farm rep for review and inspection of our maintenance renovations. Our Church Mutual premium is due in early May, so we may have to stay with it briefly until State Farm coverage is implemented.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please let me know by emailing me at room21@outlook.com. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair, Building & Grounds*

Christian Education:

Adult Bible Study is "holding steady" with thought-provoking discussions about the Book of John, generating some interesting and challenging questions. The number of attendees is consistent, but we're always hoping for more!

As part of the reorganization downstairs, our library is now in the large conference room. It's still "a work in progress" and we look forward to the completion of this project. - *Thank you all for your continuing support, Emily Schroeder, Elder*



Communications & Outreach:

Happy spring! We've had many successful fundraisers and thanks to all who have made that possible. These events are a lot of work; more helpers are always needed and greatly appreciated!

I want to thank some people in particular, but if I leave anyone out, it's not intentional. Thank you, Mary Matteson, for helping bring more people to us through your music. Thank you, Adele Suga, for

donating a portion of your yard sales proceeds to our church. A big thank you goes out to Jayne Winters for her posters, advertising, note keeping, and doing these newsletters. Thank you to Katharyn Zwicker for purchasing all the items to make Fellowship Hall look great for each event and for the new "Rise & Shine Breakfast Crew" aprons.

Thank you to Russell Poulin for taping our services, keeping us alive on YouTube and Facebook, and for being webmaster for SouthChinaCommunityChurch.org.



Thank you, Darlene Zimmerman and Debbie Stowe, for being such great organizers and for all you do. Thank you, Janet Preston, for the soup ideas and helping with preparation, cooking and packaging.

Steve is having a hip replacement down here in Florida in mid-April. Since his follow-up appointments are in May, we won't be home until June. I'll be ready to pitch in then! God be with you 'til we meet again! – *In Christ's Service, Diane Rawson, Elder*



Worship Committee:

Easter is almost here! Palm Sunday is on April 13th. Pastor Paul has bought a copy of the Shroud of Turin and he will be explaining its history to anyone who is interested, at 7PM following Maundy Thursday (April 17) and Good Friday (April 18) services. I hope that many will take advantage of Pastor Paul's knowledge.

We are blessed to have so many active Christians in our church. It amazes me how everyone pitches in, working on breakfasts, Needhams, praying for those in need and donating when needed. There is always something to do for anyone who feels the need to help others. By all working for God we accomplish many things. If anyone is shy, just let others know that you're willing to help. We'll never turn you down! As my Grandmother used to say, "many hands make light work." We even have fun doing it! - *May God heal the division in our world, Debra Stowe, Worship Chair*



REMINDERS: Any SCCC or individual Needham sales need to be recorded on the calendar in the kitchen - thank you!

New church phone number: (207) 313-7591

If you drop bottles off at the Redemption Center on Rte 3, you can request that SCCC receive the cash deposit & a check will be sent to us. Thank you!

MEMBER NEWS:

- ♥ **Gillian Welch & Galen Lichterfeld** (Certified Arborist) of SymmeTree Tree & Garden Services in Vassalboro are offering discounts to SCCC members. Check out their Facebook page or call (207) 458-7283 for further info.
- ♥ Call (207) 619-2492 or go to mbingomountaincoffee.com for info about Mbingo Mountain Coffee, the Waterville coffee roasting business founded by **Churchill Elangwe-Preston**.



SYMPATHY & CONTINUED PRAYERS for the families & friends of those who have passed into God's hands.

Melinda Lee (12/15/24, Jane Farrington's daughter)



Positive quotes

"Don't let the noise of the world keep you from hearing the voice of God."
(Author Unknown)

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching"
(Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV).



Did You Know...?

Mother's Day began in 1908 when Anna Jarvis decided to honor her mother. But "Mothers' Day" – with the apostrophe in the plural—started in the 1870s, when the enormous number of deaths caused by the Civil & Franco-Prussian Wars convinced writer/reformer Julia Ward Howe that women needed to take control of politics from the men who permitted such carnage. Mothers' Day wasn't designed to encourage people to be nice to their mothers - it was part of their effort to gain power to change society!

During the war, women had bought bonds, paid taxes, raised money, managed farms, harvested fields, reared children, worked in war industries outside the home and nursed soldiers. After the war, they expected they would still be considered valuable citizens who would take part in national affairs.

The 14th Amendment established that Black men were citizens, but didn't explicitly include women in that right. In 1869, the year after the 14th Amendment was added to the Constitution, women organized two organizations—the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association—to promote women's rights to have a say in American government. Julia Ward Howe was a key figure in the American Woman Suffrage Association.

She was committed to the struggle for women's suffrage, understanding that in order to create a more just and peaceful society, women must take up their rightful place as equal participants in American politics.

While we celebrate the modern version of Mother's Day, it's worth remembering the original Mothers' Day and Julia Ward Howe's conviction that women must have the same rights as men and must make their voices heard. - (Portion of an article by Heather Cox Richardson, May 2024)

And, just to be fair.....

Father's Day was founded in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, at the Spokane, Washington YMCA. Her father, Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who raised his six children in Spokane. After hearing a sermon about Mother's Day in 1909, Sonora told her pastor that fathers should have a similar holiday honoring them.

A bill for its national recognition as a holiday was introduced in Congress in 1913. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson wanted to make it official, but Congress resisted, fearing that it would become commercialized. Two other attempts were defeated by Congress and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recommended it be observed by the nation, but stopped short of issuing a proclamation.

In 1957, Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith wrote a proposal accusing Congress of ignoring fathers for 40 years while honoring mothers, thus "[singling] out just one of our two parents". In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law on April 24, 1972.



On the lighter side:

Q: What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school?

A: He was egg-spelled

Q: What kind of flowers are best for Mother's Day?

A: Mums

Q: How did the dad & his kids watch the fishing show on Father's Day?

A: They live streamed it



✝ ADULT BIBLE STUDY, SUNDAYS AT 9AM

✝ SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM

✝ **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13, 10AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 17, 6PM*

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18, 6PM*

EASTER - APRIL 20, 10AM

*Shroud of Turin presentation, 7PM

✝ COMMUNION: MAY 5 - JUNE 2 - JULY 7 - AUGUST 4

✝ PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF)
DONATION SUNDAY: JUNE 24

✝ BLESSED BREAKFAST, 2ND SATURDAY EACH MONTH, 8-10:30 AM: MAY 11 - JUNE 8 - JULY 13 - **AUGUST 10 IS OUR ANNUAL BBQ/COOKIE WALK/RUMMAGE SALE, SO NO BREAKFAST THAT MORNING!**

South China Community Church
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*“The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome
it.” – John 1:5*

