

## CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: CHURCH BUDGET

\*Includes restricted giving that offsets church budget expenses.

November, 2024	Budget	Actual
Needed	\$389,581.50	
Received	\$330,236.29 *	\$330,236.29 *
Spent		(\$330,195.27)
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$59,345.21)	\$41.02
YTD Total HVAC Loan Balance		\$206,330.98

BUDGET: Our 2024 church budget is \$425,000, and that breaks down to \$35,417/month. You may wonder, where do those dollars go? Funny you should ask. **Last month we spent:**

- ✓ **\$10,294 on Christian Education as we support SLA**
- ✓ **\$2,662 on utilities (this is a low month)**
- ✓ We used funds on church social programs; the Choose Wellness Health Fair; music ministry; AV needs; office expenses; building maintenance; Pathfinders & Adventurers; young adults; and much more. Please continue to support our Local Church Budget in your stewardship planning.

ACTUAL: This compares income vs. expenses. We'd like to fund everything according to budget, but we try not to spend what we haven't received yet.

REMEMBER: Tithe, although vital, goes to our local conference and **it does not cover any of our expenses.** Those come out of church budget. Let's make the church budget as regular a part of our giving as tithe. God will bless us for it.

LOAN BALANCE: We enjoyed AC this past summer, but now is the time that we really appreciate heat. Our HVAC project was fully completed this year, and we are making progress on paying off the loan from that and the mold removal project. Here is an update of our progress, and please remember that our original loan amount was as much as \$425,000:

December	\$299,727.00
March	\$245,297.00
June	\$231,587.00
September	\$227,269.00
November	<b>\$206,330.98</b>

We have so much to be thankful for, and a declining debt is certainly one of those blessings. You can donate in the offering boxes by the sanctuary doors, or online at [wearecc.net/give](http://wearecc.net/give). Pastor Einar

## General Information

DATE	SPEAKER	ELDER	DEACON
Dec. 21	Einar Rom	Naor Toledo	Fred Day
Dec. 28	Kristy Hodson	Thomas Nicholas	Jonathan Bissell
Jan. 4	Einar Rom	Rocio Bravo	Carlos Muchiutti

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS are normally due Wednesdays by noon at [bulletin@wearecc.net](mailto:bulletin@wearecc.net). Request an announcement be read aloud by filling out the form linked at [wearecc.net/bulletin](http://wearecc.net/bulletin). **All submissions require pastoral staff approval and are subject to editing.**

OUR SERVICES AIR in Sterling, Lancaster, Clinton, Leominster, Lunenburg, and West Boylston. See schedule at <https://wearecc.net/local-tv>.

OUR TRAINING CHAPEL in the right rear of the sanctuary includes a baby changing station, a private nursing area, and a restroom. There are also changing stations in the restrooms downstairs. Note: A Sabbath School class meets in that chapel from 10:00–11:00 AM.

TO SPONSOR FLOWERS, go to <https://wearecc.net/flowers>.

FEED THE HUNGRY: Second Friday of the month at 3:30 PM. We prepare and serve food for the needy at WHEAT, 272 High St., Clinton.

AGAPE FUND AND WORTHY STUDENT FUND: The Agape Fund helps College Church members who are in need, and the Worthy Student Fund helps families pay for Adventist education. To donate, designate either fund in Adventist Giving or on your tithe envelope.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH BOXES: These boxes contain a variety of activities to keep little hands busy during the worship service. You can sign one out from the deacons' room off the upper foyer. Please return the box and its contents after the service.

NURSING HOME MINISTRY: Third Friday of the month. Michelle Lee Williams leads this ministry for the residents of Sterling Village, 18 Dana Hill Rd, Sterling, MA. She needs pianists, singers, and speakers each month. For info, call her at 508-728-6495.

HARD OF HEARING? Try an assisted listening device from the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. Bring your headphones to connect (needs standard headphone jack).

## Education & Music

**SOUTH LANCASTER ACADEMY** provides Seventh-day Adventist Christian education from Pre-K to grade 12. We are a constituent church of this fine institution, providing financial & logistical support. Info: 978-368-8544, [www.mysla.org](http://www.mysla.org).

✓ Newsletter: [www.mysla.org/school-newsletter](http://www.mysla.org/school-newsletter).

### JOIN OUR NEW TEAM!




We're looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help us make every service better! The AV Ministry creates and operates slides for the TV screens in the Sanctuary. We'd like a team of 6–8 people to allow us to rotate the responsibilities of making slides and running the computer. Please email the office or see Megan Jones.

## Online Services

[HTTPS://WEARECC.NET](https://wearecc.net) has our calendar, videos, bulletins, and more.

ONLINE/MOBILE GIVING: Download the Adventist Giving app or click the Giving link on [wearecc.net](http://wearecc.net). **Be sure to choose the College Church or we won't get your donation.** Questions? Please contact the church office.

SABBATH SCHOOL PODCAST: We have a weekly podcast on the adult lesson. It's on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and the [Messages](#) section of our website. Episodes usually drop Sunday mornings.

Search for collegechurchofsda on  YouTube  Facebook  Instagram

## Contact Us

MINISTRY NEEDS/MEMBERSHIP: We'd love to hear your prayer and ministry needs, comments, or address changes. See below to contact us, or fill out the card found on the backs of the pews. You can also request membership transfer with the card or at <http://wearecc.net>.

CHURCH OFFICE:

Regular Hours:	Mon., Wed., Fri. 8:00–12:30, 1:00–3:30.
	It's best to confirm coverage before coming because the office administrator sometimes subs at SLA on short notice.
Phone:	978-368-2130
Address:	337 Main St., South Lancaster, MA 01561
Mail:	PO Box 877, South Lancaster, MA 01561-0877

Einar Rom, Lead Pastor:  
[erom@sneconline.org](mailto:erom@sneconline.org)  
978-706-1930 home, 978-833-4308 mobile

Maria Valente, Associate Pastor  
[mvalente@sneconline.org](mailto:mvalente@sneconline.org)  
978-435-5990 mobile

Ed Collins, Office Administrator  
[office@wearecc.net](mailto:office@wearecc.net) (general communication)  
[bulletin@wearecc.net](mailto:bulletin@wearecc.net) (bulletin submissions)

Michelle Lynn, Church Clerk (membership questions)  
[clerk@wearecc.net](mailto:clerk@wearecc.net)

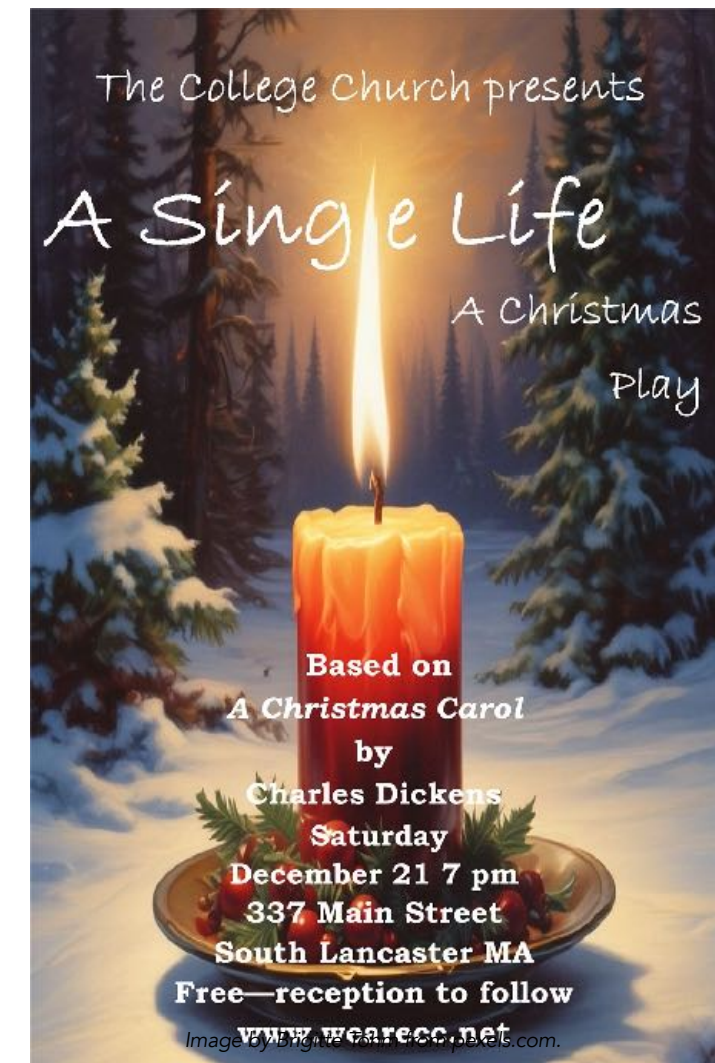
Caleb Bastien and Ron Gründer, Treasurers:  
[treasurer@wearecc.net](mailto:treasurer@wearecc.net)

## 2024-25 Church Goals

- ✓ **Goal 1:** Actively engage CC children, youth, young adults, and adults in a variety of opportunities to deepen their faith relationship and outreach to our community.
- ✓ **Goal 2:** Prioritize the education of CC children, youth, young adults to identify their abilities and to nurture their use of those abilities in providing love and service within and outside of the church.
- ✓ **Goal 3:** Proactively engage in meeting the needs of our community.



**COLLEGE CHURCH**  
— of Seventh-day Adventists —



### Church Mission

Through our love for God, we love others. As we grow in God, we grow together. By serving our community, we serve our God.

### Church Motto

Love. Grow. Serve.

### Church Vision

Service.

### Church Focus

Working with God and our family for our community.

**December 21, 2024**



## The Church at Work

### PRAYER FOCUS

**Health Concerns:** Brenda Castro, Ray Dow (UMass, Worcester), Faith Beall, Alan Collins (Ed's brother), Henry & Dottie Livergood, Mary Monroe (Holden Rehab, 32 Mayo Dr., Holden, MA), Anna Elizabeth (friend of Nancy Broderick), Pearl McDonald (Tish Brahmia's mom), Scott Meyers & Jason Lepkowski (related to June Willey), Dan Morris, the Flannery family, Sae Louis, Lucy Santana (River Terrace), John and Marella (friends of Cameron Loss), Julio Gonzalez (Laura Mapes's brother), Sean Nolan (friend of Adelita Weaver), Joe Drader (Odd Fellows Rehab, Worcester), Laura Lee Williams, David Tessier (brother of Wendy Hall), Bob Rogers.

**Home-bound:** Jackie Nosek.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: See announcements or [wearecc.net](http://wearecc.net) for more.

### South Lancaster Sunset: Today 4:18 PM, Friday 4:22 PM

Today	7: 00 PM	Christmas Play: A Single Life (Sanctuary)
Mon.	9: 00 AM	Bulletin Deadline
	7: 00 PM	Iron Sharpens Iron (Men's Group)
	2: 00 PM	College Church TV Broadcast ( <a href="#">more airings</a> )
Tue.	7: 00 PM	College Church Christmas Eve Service
	9: 00 PM	Late Night Bible Study (Zoom link on website)
	11:00 PM	Bullfinch Church Christmas Eve Service*
Wed.		Merry Christmas!
Thur.	7: 30 PM	Al-Anon (Earliten Room)
Fri.	7: 30 PM	Friday Night Study
Sabb.	10:00 AM	Sabbath School (various locations)
	10: 00 AM	College Church TV Broadcast ( <a href="#">more airings</a> )
	11: 15 AM	Worship Service: Kristy Hodson

### UPCOMING MEALS/EVENTS

- ✓ Today: Christmas breakfast potluck at 9:30 AM, and the church will provide waffles; no Sabbath school or lunch potluck.
- ✓ Reception after the Christmas play tonight: **We need lots of cookies** for this because we expect lots of guests. If you can help, please contact Sif: [themuchiuttis@gmail.com](mailto:themuchiuttis@gmail.com), 978-621-2015.

### A SINGLE LIFE CHRISTMAS PLAY

#### TODAY, 7: 00 PM | SANCTUARY

Today we will enjoy the first production of "A Single Life" here at CC.

An angry, stubborn businessman who has forgotten the lessons of his mentor finds himself visited by three angels on Christmas Eve. They show him what has been, is, and will be if he does not change. His faithful assistant's family worries that their ill youngest child may soon pass away, but they hold fast to each other and the spirit of Christmas. Will Scrooge see his errors and change in time to save himself and possibly change the lives of many others?

- ✓ Come find out how the story ends, but it will mean more if you bring a friend. We have postcard invitations for you to pass on to a friend or neighbor. This event will be visitor friendly, no long prayers or altar calls. It is being produced for the same reason as Charles Dickens: To make people think. We ask that CC members park on the AUC campus to leave parking for visitors.

### IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S GROUP

#### THIS MONDAY, 7: 00 PM | YOUTH CHAPEL & ONLINE

Login: <https://wearecc.net/iron-sharpens-iron>.

### CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

If you have a painting, sketch, quilt, photograph, or other hangable art piece, submit it for our next showing! Due by Jan. 6. You can leave it in the church office and pick it up there when the show is over.

### MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS: FIRST READING

**In:** Sonia Neidigh from Azure Hills Church, Grand Terrace, CA  
 Maria Claudia Rengifo from IASD La Molina, La Molina, Peru  
 Philippe Stanier from the College Park SDA Church, Oshawa, ON, Canada  
 Elizabeth Taylor from Searsmont, ME  
**Out:** Richard Clark to Concord, NH

### \*BULLFINCH CHURCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE THIS TUESDAY, 11:00 PM–12:00 AM | 725 MAIN ST., LANCASTER

The Bullfinch Church invites us to their annual "11:00 PM—On Toward Midnight" service on Christmas Eve. From their website:

- ✓ There will be readings and carols, featuring performances by the Hernandez-Williams Family String Quartet, a blessing from Pastor Einar Rom of College Church, and the ringing of the Revere bell at midnight. Please join us in person or online. For Zoom info, please sign up for our weekly newsletter or contact the office: [office@FirstChurchLancasterMA.org](mailto:office@FirstChurchLancasterMA.org).
- ✓ Pastor Einar says to dress warmly and be prepared to be blessed.

### OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Pastor Maria will be visiting family in Brazil through Jan. 16, but she will have access to e-mail.
- ✓ The submission deadline (firm) for the Dec. 28 bulletin is 9:00 AM this Monday, Dec. 23.
- ✓ The church office will be closed Tue.–Thur. this week.

### TEN DAYS OF PRAYER

In preparation for Pentecost 2025 and Ten Days of Prayer Jan. 8–18, we are distributing the books for the prayer series to all College Church members who plan to participate. If you still need one, please contact the office. Let's pray that 2025 will be a year the Holy Spirit moves us forward.

### PREPARING COLLEGE CHURCH FOR MISSION

We're organizing small group leaders for next year. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact our personal ministry leaders, Pr. Einar or Maria. A small group on mission will help build God's purpose into every heart, every group, and every ministry. Come be part of this!

### YEAR-END DONATIONS

We must receive your donations by the deadlines below for them to count in this tax year. **Make sure we have your current mailing address so you can get your donation statement.**

<b>Offering Plate</b>	Sabbath, Dec. 28.
<b>Delivery to Church Office:</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 31, 3: 30 PM
<b>Online:</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 31, 11: 59 PM Eastern
<b>U.S. Mail (check with them for service hours):</b>	Must be postmarked by Dec. 31 and received by Jan. 7.

### NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will be using the web platform Instant Church Directory. Please use our online form to be included. Just go to <https://wearecc.net> and click Next Steps in the lower right corner. We look forward to connecting with you!

We record our services for broadcast and streaming, and we may include your image. CCLI#s 1364543, CSPL032559.

## The Church at Study, 10:00 AM

### CLASSES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

<b>Downstairs:</b>	<b>Upstairs:</b>
Newborn-Age 2	Grades 4-6 (Juniors)
Age 3-Kindergarten	Grades 7–8 (Early Teens)
Grades 1-3 (Primary)	Grades 9–12 (Youth)

### CLASSES FOR ADULTS

The "Cheers" Class	Fellowship Hall	Ralph Gifford III
Young Adults	Young Adult Room	Multiple teachers
Blatt, Radford	Training Chapel	Multiple teachers
Spanish	Sanctuary	Multiple teachers
Livestream	Sanctuary	Multiple teachers
Robertson	Conference Room	

See more online and in-person study options at [wearecc.net/sabbath-school-options](http://wearecc.net/sabbath-school-options). Free study guides at [www.ssnet.org](http://www.ssnet.org).

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

- L: Glory to God in the highest!
- P: And hope to every discouraged heart.**
- L: Glory to God in the highest!
- P: And peace to every conflicted soul.**
- L: Glory to God in the highest!
- P: And joy to every downcast spirit.**
- L: Glory to God in the highest!
- P: And love to everyone.**
- Let us sing praises to our God.
- Let us offer this light against the darkness.

More Like You

More like you, Je-sus, more like you.

Fill my heart with your de-sire to make me more like you.

More like you, Je-sus, more like you.

Touch my lips with ho-ly fire and make me more like you.

Lord, you are my mer-cy. Lord, you are my grace.

All my deep-est sins have for-ev-er been c-raised.

Draw me in your pres-ence. Lead me in your ways.

long to bring you glo-ry in righ-teous-ness and praise.

## The Church in Praise, 11:15 AM

Please silence all devices.

### PRELUDE

Savior of the nations, come (Anton Heiller)

### WELCOME, MINISTRY MATTERS, OFFERING

Einar Rom, Naor Pinto

Loose offerings go to local church budget. Offering boxes are by the doors.

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

See column to the left.

Mayllara Bento

### HYMN OF PRAISE

149, Once in Royal David's City (Irby)

Leader: Kristie Stevenson

### MUSICAL OFFERING

Concerto Grosso, op. 8, no. 6 - Grave-Vivace, Largo, Vivace (Christmas Concerto) (Giuseppe Torelli)

Abigail Dik, Sarah Gifford, violin; Rachel Rocha, Merrilynn Braman, cello-continuo; Josh Gifford, bass-continuo

Sheep May Safely Graze, (J.S. Bach)

Cecily Rochman, Kate Hodson, flute; Moira Shaul, bassoon

Fantasy on Sleeper's Wake (Advent Hymn) (J.S. Bach, Arr. Vernon Leidig)

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Song: More Like You (Scott Wesley Brown)

See column to the left

Prayer: James Morse

### ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

The Loss Family

115, O Come, O Come, Immanuel (see insert) (Veni Emmanuel)

### LAMB'S OFFERING & CHILDREN'S STORY

Jonathan Bissell & Naor Pinto

### MUSICAL OFFERING

Christmas Echo Concerto (traditional carols) (arr. Gene Milford)

Echo Quintet: Anya Neidigh, Hannah Haley, violin; Kate Hodson, flute; Melody Robin, viola; Sabina Haley, cello

Still, Still, Still, Traditional Austrian Carol (Arr. Mark Hellern)

### CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

See insert. (Arr. Bob Cerulli)

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1: 18–24

Carmela Cotrina

### GOD IS PRESENT, BUT ARE YOU?

Einar Rom

Einar is our lead pastor.

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

136, Good Christians, Now Rejoice (In Dulce Jubilo)

### BENEDICTION

Einar Rom

### POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (Keith Chapman)

Feel free to remain in the sanctuary for a time of reflection during the postlude.

Youth Ensemble of New England, Connie Rittenhouse Drexler, director; Andrew Sheranian, organ, piano