

CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: CHURCH BUDGET

*Includes restricted giving that offsets church budget expenses.

| October, 2024 | Budget | Actual |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Needed | \$354,165.00 | |
| Received | \$300,171.41 * | \$300,171.41 * |
| Spent | | (\$300,143.69) |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (\$53,993.59) | \$27.72 |
| YTD Total HVAC Loan Balance | | \$208,340.95 |

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 |
| October | \$208,340.95 |

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. Pastor Einar

General Information

| DATE | SPEAKER | ELDER | DEACON |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Dec. 7 | Einar Rom | Horacio Castro | Carlos Muchiutti |
| Dec. 14 | Maria Valente | Josephine Robertson | Deb Gifford |
| Dec. 21 | Einar Rom | Naor Toledo | Fred Day |

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS are normally due Wednesdays by noon at bulletin@wearecc.net. Request an announcement be read aloud by filling out the form linked at 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.

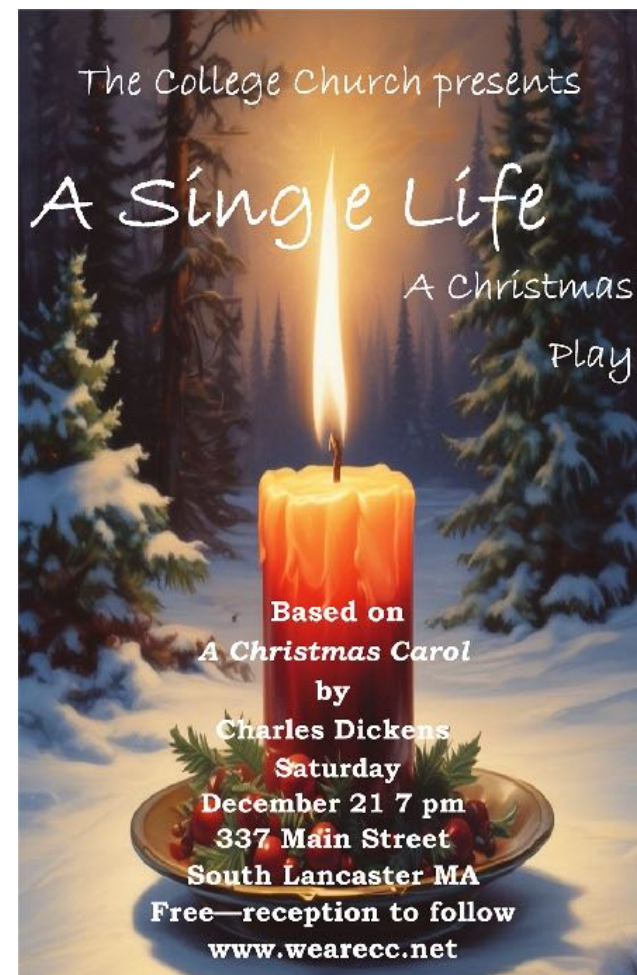
NURSING HOME MINISTRY: Third Friday of the month. Michelle Lee Williams leads this ministry for the residents of Sterling Village, 18 Dana Hill Rd, Sterling, MA. She needs pianists, singers, and speakers each month. For info, call her at 508-728-6495.

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.

- ✓ Newsletter: www.mysla.org/school-newsletter.



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. **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
978-706-1930 home, 978-833-4308 mobile

Maria Valente, Associate Pastor
mvalente@sneconline.org
978-435-5990 mobile

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

Michelle Lynn, Church Clerk (membership questions)
clerk@wearecc.net

Caleb Bastien and Ron Gründer, Treasurers:
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 —



Image by Belladonna Applebury.

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 7, 2024

The Church at Work

PRAYER FOCUS

Health Concerns: Faith Beall (home), Alan Collins (Ed's brother), Henry & Dottie Livergood, Linda Wilson (friend of Kim and Steve's), 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, Ray Dow, 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 for more.

South Lancaster Sunset: Today 4:15 PM, Friday 4:15 PM

| Today | After Church | Haystack Fellowship Dinner |
|-------|--------------|--|
| | 2:00 PM | Adventurers: Christmas Party |
| | 2:30 PM | Pathfinders |
| | 4:00 PM | Christmas Play Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| Mon. | 7:00 PM | Iron Sharpens Iron (Men's Group) |
| | 2:00 PM | College Church TV Broadcast (more airings) |
| Tue. | 12:00 PM | Bulletin Deadline |
| | 9:00 PM | Late Night Bible Study (Zoom link on website) |
| Wed. | 7:00 PM | Prayer Meeting (Zoom) |
| Thur. | 6:00 PM | King's Kids (Music Room) |
| | 6:30 PM | Bell Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 PM | Al-Anon (Earliten Room) |
| Fri. | 3:30 PM | Feed the Hungry (WHEAT in Clinton) |
| | 7:00 PM | SLA Secondary Christmas Concert |
| | 7:30 PM | Friday Night Study |
| Sabb. | 9:15 AM | Refresh (Youth Chapel) |
| | 10:00 AM | College Church TV Broadcast (more airings) |
| | 10:00 AM | Sabbath School (various locations) |
| | 11:15 AM | Worship Service: Maria Valente |
| | 2:30 PM | Pathfinders |
| | 4:00 PM | Christmas Play Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |

CHRISTMAS PLAY REHEARSAL
TODAY, 4:00 PM | SANCTUARY

IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S GROUP
THIS MONDAY, 7:00 PM | YOUTH CHAPEL & ONLINE

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

UPCOMING MEALS/EVENTS

- ✓ Today: Haystacks provided by the church; bring a favorite dessert.
- ✓ December 21: Christmas breakfast potluck; NO lunch potluck.
- ✓ Reception after the Christmas play on December 21: **We could use a lot of cookies** for this because we expect lots of guests. If you can help, please contact Sif at themuchiuttis@gmail.com or 978 621 2015.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE SCREENS?

Do you want to show something on the screens in the sanctuary? Just email it to av@wearecc.net by Wednesday night and we'll include it.

- ✓ **Important:** The deadline is firm. We need time to get the presentation ready and make it look good, so unfortunately, we cannot accept late submissions.
- ✓ **Also Note:** Email only, no texting. We need things on the computers where we prepare the presentations, not on our phones, so email is the way to go.

JOIN OUR NEW TEAM!

We're looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help us make every service better! The AV Ministry is a small but passionate team that 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 creating slides and running the computer on service days.

This is a great way to serve, learn, and be part of something special. To get involved, please email the office or see Megan Jones.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- ✓ We are again asking for donations to help the families at North Star have a blessed Christmas. We plan to donate \$3000 worth of gift cards: Target, Walmart, Market Basket, VISA and Uber.
- ✓ Please mark your tithe envelope or online giving with WM Christmas Families. We need the funds by today so we can get the gift cards to them two weeks before Christmas.
- ✓ Our annual Women's Ministries Yankee Swap will be on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 6 pm at 37 Main Street, Sterling, MA - enter in the rear. This is always a highlight of the holiday season! Everyone brings food to share and a gift to be put under the tree!

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

DEC. 14 & 15, 6:00-9:00 PM | SNEC GROUNDS

This is an interactive walk-through experience of the life of Jesus. All are welcome. More info to come.

A SINGLE LIFE CHRISTMAS PLAY

SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 7:00 PM | SANCTUARY

In just two weeks we will enjoy the first production of "A Single Life" here at CC. What is it about? 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 the youngest child, plagued by medical issues, may soon pass away, but they hold fast to each other and the spirit of Christmas. Will the businessman 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 and will not have any long prayers or altar calls. It is being produced for the same reason Charles Dickens wrote it: To make people think. We kindly ask that that CC members park on the AUC campus to leave parking spaces for visitors.



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!

The Church at Study, 10:00 AM

CLASSES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

| Downstairs: | Upstairs: |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 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. Free study guides at www.ssnnet.org.



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!



The Church in Praise, 11:15 AM

Please silence all devices.

WELCOME

Pastor Einar Rom

PRELUDE

Méditation (Maurice Duruflé)

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

Responsive Reading 876 in the Hymnal
Evelyn Rodrigue

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Es Ist Ein Ros)

ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

The Wells Family
115, O Com, O Come, Immanuel (verses 1, 2) (Veni Emmanuel)

MINISTRY MATTERS, OFFERING

Marta Medina

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

LAMB'S OFFERING & CHILDREN'S STORY

Ralph Gifford III

BAPTISM

Alexandra Sydney Ripley Wiechmann by Pastor Einar

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Song: More Like You (Scott Wesley Brown)
Refrain: More like You Jesus, more like You
Fill my heart with Your desire to make me more like You
More like You Jesus, more like You
Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like You
Lord You are my mercy, Lord You are my grace
All my deepest sins have forever been erased
Draw me in Your presence, lead me in Your ways
I long to bring You glory in righteousness and praise
Prayer: Marta Medina

MUSICAL OFFERING

Whiter Than Snow (Arranged by Dan Forrest)
Annette Siver, piano

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-6
Emmanuela Gibson

ESCAPE FROM NORMALCY: ENCOUNTERING THE GOD WHO SEEKS YOU

Einar Rom
Einar is our lead pastor.

HYMN OF DEDICATION

123, As With Gladness Men of Old (Dix)

BENEDICTION

Einar Rom

POSTLUDE

Fugue sur le thème du Carillon de la Cathédrale de Soissons (op. 12) (Maurice Duruflé)
Feel free to remain in the sanctuary for a time of reflection during the postlude.

Andrew Sheranian, organ, piano

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