

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. 14	Maria Valente	Josephine Robertson	Deb Gifford
Dec. 21	Einar Rom	Naor Toledo	Fred Day
Dec. 28	Kristy Hodson	Thomas Nicholas	Jonathan Bissell

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>.

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.

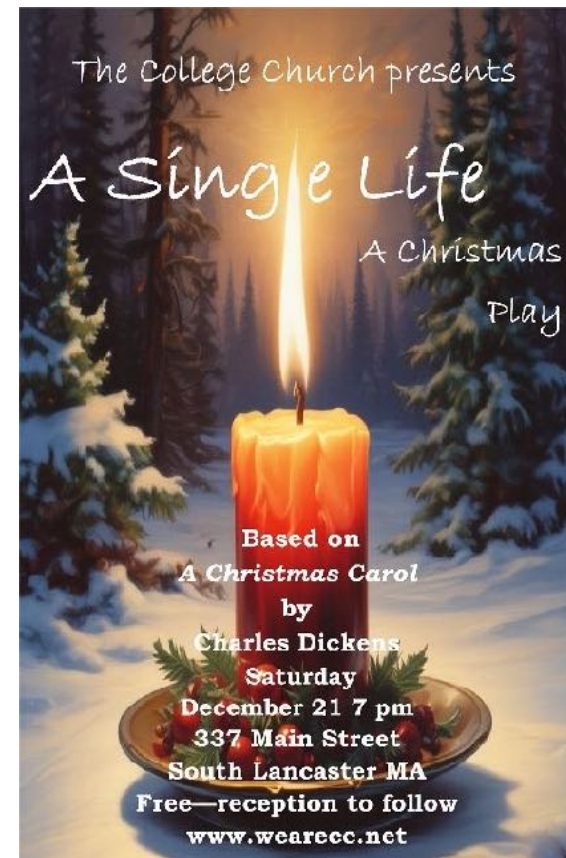
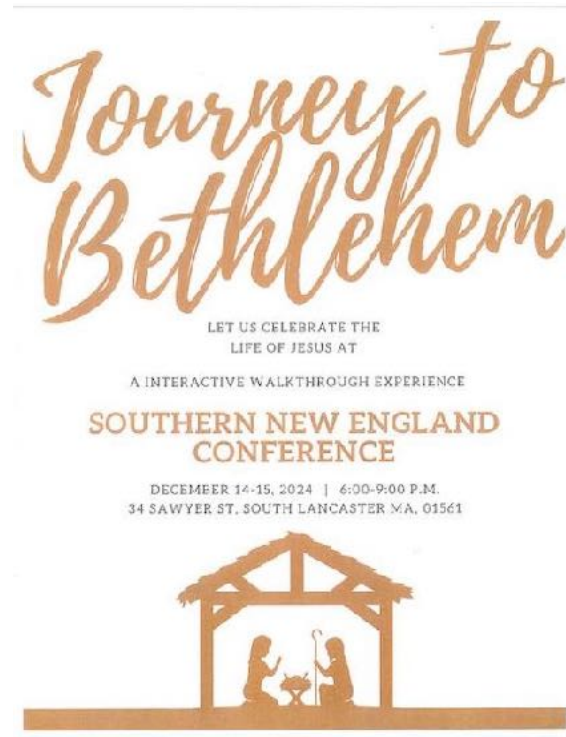
NURSING HOME MINISTRY: Third Friday of the month. Michelle Lee Williams leads this ministry for the residents of Sterling Village, 18 Dana Hill Rd, Sterling, MA. She needs pianists, singers, and speakers each month. For info, call her at 508-728-6495.

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 Brigitte Tohm from pexels.com.

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 14, 2024

The Church at Work

PRAYER FOCUS

Health Concerns: Brenda Castro (Leominster Hospital), Ray Dow (UMass, Worcester), Faith Beall (home), 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, 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 4:16 PM, Friday 4:18 PM

Day	Time	Activity
Today	2:30 PM	Pathfinders
	3:00 PM	Christmas Play Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	6:00 PM	Journey to Bethlehem (tomorrow also)
	6:00 PM	Women's Ministry Yankee Swap
Mon.	7:00 PM	Finance Committee
	7:00 PM	Iron Sharpens Iron (Men's Group)
	2:00 PM	College Church TV Broadcast (more airings)
Tue.	12:00 PM	Bulletin Deadline
	7:00 PM	Church Board
	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
Fri.	7:30 PM	Al-Anon (Earliten Room)
	7:30 PM	Friday Night Study
Sabb.	9:30 AM	Potluck Fellowship Breakfast (no Sabb. School)
	10:00 AM	College Church TV Broadcast (more airings)
	11:15 AM	Worship Service: Einar Rom and YENE
	2:30 PM	Pathfinders
	7:00 PM	Christmas Play: A Single Life (Sanctuary)

REFRESH

TODAY, 9:15 AM | YOUTH CHAPEL

CHRISTMAS PLAY REHEARSAL

TODAY, 3:00 PM | SANCTUARY

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

TODAY AND TOMORROW, 6:00-9:00 PM | SNEC GROUNDS

An interactive walk-through of the life of Jesus. See other side.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY YANKEE SWAP

TOMORROW, 6:00 PM | 37 MAIN STREET, STERLING, MA

This is always a highlight of the holiday season! Everyone brings food to share and a gift to be put under the tree! Please enter in the back.

IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S GROUP

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

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

UPCOMING MEALS/EVENTS

- ✓ Dec. 21: Christmas breakfast potluck at 9:30 AM, and the church will provide waffles; no Sabbath school or lunch potluck.
- ✓ Reception after the Christmas play, Dec. 21: **We need lots of cookies** for this because we expect lots of guests. If you can help, please contact Sif: themuchiuttis@gmail.com, 978-621-2015.

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 get involved. Please email the office or see Megan Jones.

A SINGLE LIFE CHRISTMAS PLAY

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

In just one week 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 that CC members park on the AUC campus to leave parking for visitors.

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Pastor Maria will be visiting family in Brazil from Dec. 16-Jan. 16, but she will have access to e-mail.
- ✓ The submission deadline (firm) for the Dec. 28 bulletin is 9:00 AM, Monday, Dec. 23.

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. We have enough copies so each CC family can get one after Pastor Maria's sermon today. 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!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

If you have a painting, sketch, quilt, photograph or other hangable art piece, donate it for our next showing! Art is due by Jan 6. You can leave it in the church office.

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 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.ssnet.org.

NOTES ON TODAY'S ORGAN MUSIC

Johann Sebastian Bach, often regarded as one of the greatest composers in history, lived and worked with an unwavering devotion to his faith. He famously inscribed many of his manuscripts with the initials "S.D.G." (Soli Deo Gloria—To the Glory of God Alone), a testament to his belief that all his music was an offering to a higher purpose. Whether crafting intricate fugues, stirring choral works, or exquisite instrumental pieces, Bach saw his compositions not just as art but as acts of worship. His legacy reminds us of the power of music to inspire, uplift, and connect us to the divine. Thanks to Andrew for including these beautiful selections today.



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

The Church in Praise, 11:15 AM

Please silence all devices.

PRELUDE

Prelude in D major (BWV 532) (Johann Sebastian Bach)

WELCOME, MINISTRY MATTERS, OFFERING

Pastor Einar Rom, Josephine Robertson
Special Offering: Adventist Community Services
Loose offerings go to local church budget. Offering boxes are by the doors.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

#851 in the Hymnal
Rhonda Muchiutti

HYMN OF PRAISE

142, Angels We Have Heard on High (Gloria)
Leaders: Beatriz Martins, Nataly Mukulukusso, Isabella Brito

ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

The Gibson Family
115, O Come, O Come, Immanuel (verses 1-3) (Veni Emmanuel)

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (Craig Courtney)
Il Voce, Lira Cady, director
Christmas Medley (arr. Kirosha Sidelca)
King's Kids, Kirosha Sidelca, director

LAMB'S OFFERING & CHILDREN'S STORY

Mindy Imperio

MUSICAL OFFERING

Bring a Torch (Douglas E. Wagner)
CC Bells, Lira Cady, director

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Song: More Like You (Scott Wesley Brown)
See insert

Prayer: Josephine Robertson

READING: LUKE 1:26-38

Camilla Moraes

MUSICAL OFFERING

Candlelight Carol (John Rutter)
SLA Choir & Voce, Lira Cady, director

READING: MATTHEW 1:18-24; LUKE 2:1-8

Beatriz Martins

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Bethlehem (Christin Keickhafer)
Jovan Rivera, cello; SLA Choir & Voce, Lira Cady, director

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-4, 17, 18, 21
Martha Lapierre

HOW CAN I MEET GOD?

Maria Valente
Maria is our associate pastor.

HYMN OF DEDICATION

618, Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (Webb)

BENEDICTION

Maria Valente

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D major (BWV 532) (Johann Sebastian Bach)
Feel free to remain in the sanctuary for a time of reflection during the postlude.

Andrew Sheranian, organ, piano