## Southern Berkshire Chamber In the Spotlight...



## First Congregational Church of Sheffield United Church of Christ

**Our Mission** – Be the Church: Protect the environment, Care for the poor, Forgive often, Reject racism, Fight for the powerless, Share earthly and spiritual resources, Embrace diversity, Love God, Enjoy this life.

**Our Background** – Organized as the first church in the town of Sheffield in November 1735, the First Congregational Church of Sheffield, or "Old Parish Church" as we are commonly known continues to hold a central place in the life of the town. Our historic church building is the oldest in Berkshire County.

**Our Blueprint for Success** – Now 282 years later, we are a progressive Christian community and an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ where discovering God's presence in new ways, modeling Jesus' radical hospitality, and being a passionate voice for God's justice define us. Sunday worship is at 10:00am with Godly Play for children at the same hour. We are many ages, many faces, many talents, all seeking God's grace and purpose. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

We seek to partner with community groups that share our values. We are proud to host the Sheffield Food Assistance Program and tend six raised vegetable beds on our back lawn; to host The Berkshire Children's Chorus, and unite with all who celebrate the many ways we are connected to God's sacred earth, including being the site for The Sheffield Farmers' Market and sponsoring the annual Blessing of the Fields.

Our labyrinth, a meandering path leading to a center and back, located between the church building and the Old Stone Store provides a spiritual setting for meditative walking enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

We celebrate the 69-year history of the Sheffield Antiques Show and the passion and leadership which made it what it was, even as that storied history draws to a close with the 2017 show.

## **Contact Information –**

## **Rev. Jill Graham, pastor**

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