

Samuel Harrison Society Semi-annual Newsletter

October 2026

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Inside this Issue

Spring/Summer
highlights

Upcoming Events

Membership
Information

Donation Information

Visitor Information

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SHS Spring/Summer Highlights:

- **April:**

- Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed hosted a Book Launch Celebrating the Autobiography and Sermons of the Reverend Samuel Harrison, 1818–1900.

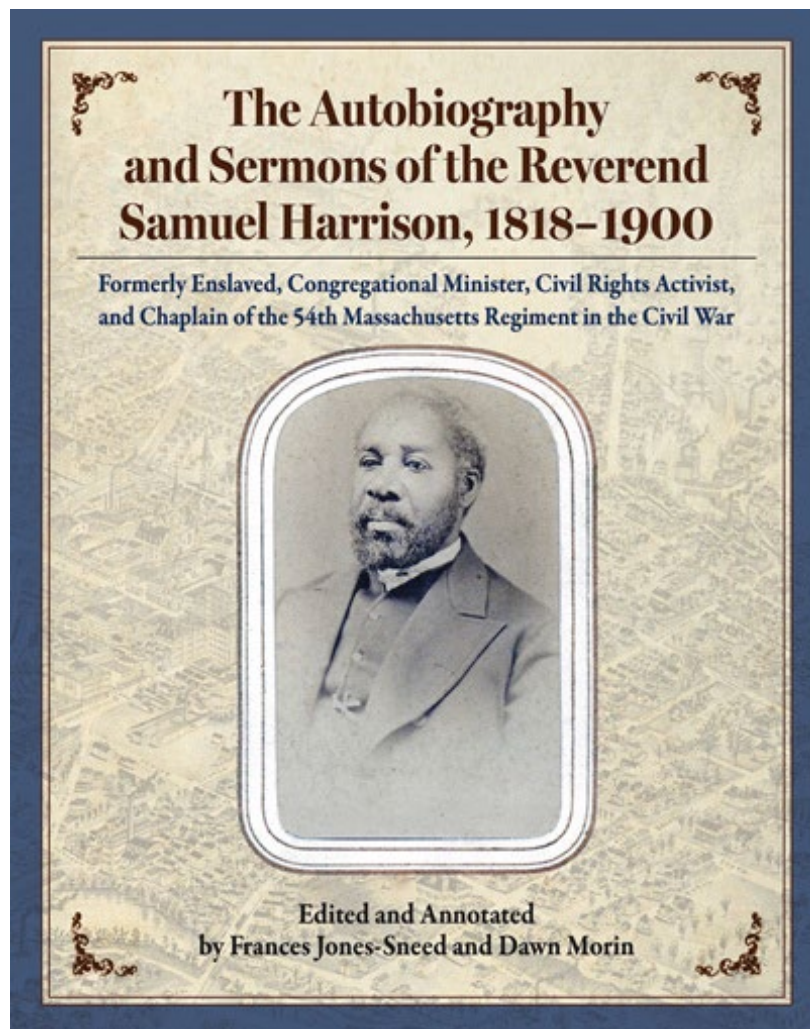
The event celebrated the life, legacy, and enduring voice of the Reverend Samuel Harrison — formerly enslaved, Congregational minister, Civil Rights Activist, and Chaplain of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War.

The book titled, “The Autobiography and Sermons of the Reverend Samuel Harrison, 1818–1900”, was edited and annotated by Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed and Dawn Morin. The book launch was held Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Second Congregational Church 50 Onota Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The evening featured poets, community readers, and vocalists — all gathered together under the theme of "Faith • Freedom • Memory" to honor a man whose story belongs to all of us.

Books were available for purchase and book signing at the event. Light refreshments were served. This event was free and open to the entire community.

The event was a meaningful and joyful celebration of history, community, and the power of one extraordinary life.



- In honor of the book launch the City of Pittsfield proclaimed April 25, 2026, as Samuel Harrison Day.



- **May**

- The Samuel Harrison House opened for the season.
- Books from Ruth Edmonds Hill Rev Samuel Harrison's Great Granddaughter, are free to visitors who tour the Samuel Harrison House. (Limit: five per person while supplies last). Books include a large selection of historical content, religious content, fiction and nonfiction novels, and activism).

- **June**

- SHS participated in the Juneteenth celebration held at Durant Park in Pittsfield, MA.
- Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed gave a talk to Pittsfield High School Students
- Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed presented, "The Autobiography and Sermons of the Reverend Samuel Harrison, 1818–1900" at Kimball Farms Retirement Community in Lenox, MA.

- **July**

- Blayne Whitfield and Doris Williams hosted a, "Watch Party" consisting of showing the Documentary "A Trumpet at the Wall of Jericho, The Untold Story of Samuel Harrison". The event consisted of lunch and a Q&A session. "The Autobiography and Sermons of the Reverend Samuel Harrison, 1818–1900" were available for purchase.

- **August**

- SHS Board of trustees held their Annual at the Samuel Harrison House. The board celebrated new members, Dawn Moran, Dee Johnson, and Aretha Whitehead. The board also elected new officers to the role of President (Doris Williams), Vice President (Roberta McCulloch-Dews), and Secretary (Aretha Whitehead).

- **September:**

- Berkshire Community College officially renamed the College Library to the 'Ruth Edmonds Hill Library'.



SHS Upcoming Events:

- **November:** Private group tour scheduled.
- Ongoing books for sale, (inquire boardoftrustees@samuelharrison.org)
 - “The Autobiography and Sermons of the Reverend Samuel Harrison, 1818–1900”
 - “The Rev. Samuel Harrison” by Ann-Elizabeth Barnes 2016. This book is about Rev Samuel Harrison’s role as an Abolitionist, Activist, and Chaplain of the Massachusetts 54th, The first black regiment raised in the north to fight in the Civil War.

Membership Information:

If you would like to become a member of the SHS please send request to boardoftrustees@samuelharrison.org

Donation Information:

Donations can be made on the website, samuelharrison.org or by mail at Samuel Harrison House, 82 3rd Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Visitor Information:

Samuel Harrison House
82 Third Street
Pittsfield Mass 01201

The Samuel Harrison House is open to the public.
Group tours and Private tours may be scheduled by appointment. To schedule a tour, email us at boardoftrustees@samuelharrison.org

“No warmer friends have I had anywhere than in Pittsfield”

-Rev. Samuel Harrison

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Samuel Harrison Society
82 Third Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

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