



Christ Congregational Church, UCC
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 38 No 2

Creating Beloved Community

February 2018

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Regular Events

Worship and Sunday School:
Sundays, 9:55AM

Adult Bells: Wednesdays, 6:30PM

Adult Choir: Wednesdays, 7:30PM

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 10AM

Craft Group: Returns In June

Fiber Fellowship:
2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7PM
(NO January & February)

Junior Ringers and Youth Choir:
Sundays, 11:15AM

Prayer Group: Fridays, 12PM
(off-site)

Quilt Guild: 3rd Tuesday, 1PM

Wednesday Dinner: Wednesdays,
6PM

Young at Heart: 1st Wednesday,
noon (NO January & February)

Board Meetings

Christian Education: Feb. 6, 7PM

Council: Feb. 15, 7PM

Deacons: Feb. 1, 7PM

Finance & Property: Feb. 8, 7PM

Green Team: TBD

Missions: Feb. 11, 7:30PM

Music: Feb. 5, 5:30PM

Organ Completion Committee:
Feb. 9, 11:30AM

Vitality: Feb. 1, 7PM



PASTOR'S PAGE

We are abuzz, alive and filled with hope. From World Voices being awarded even more grants, to a great turnout for Brockton Interfaith Community work, to a wonderful funeral and collation for Peggy Dunford, to lively confirmation classes and a beautiful concert by Sylvia and Murray.... the list goes on and on. You are a wonderful, caring congregation that is following Jesus. I am in awe, every day, of your stretching, your growth and your work. SOOOOO.... I hope you are noticing the energy. I hope you are considering what you might do to support the efforts, what calls your name.

February 14th is not only Valentine's Day, but it is also Ash Wednesday. We will have our traditional pancake dinner and at 6:45 head upstairs to begin Lent with a services of ashes and commitment. Read about the Breakfast and Beliefs series for Saturdays in Lent. I hope you will consider being one of the presenters on the various topics of faith, and if not, I hope you will come and enjoy breakfast and conversation.

If someone tells you that they have been to the School of Prophetic Action (BIC's training) and want to have a 30 minute conversation with you to hear your concerns for the community or world, please say yes. We are conducting a very important listening campaign to surface issues to make the world a better place. We cannot sit down and feel helpless – there is too much work to do.

Not into meeting? How about reading? The book group (an open and ever-changing group) will discuss Tears We Cannot Stop on February 10th at 10. I have begun reading the 50 books mentioned in that book to be more educated and informed about black history in this country, and I invite you to join me in reading and understanding. Maybe it would be something you do for Lent and then evaluate how you feel about adding some "assigned reading" to your life.

We are abuzz. We are striving to create beloved community, to be the church, to follow Jesus. Be a part of it – the world needs your effort.

Happy Lent,

Rev. Patricia



Lent





Notes from Murray

Hellooooooooo!!! February is Black History Month. Most of the anthems will be in celebration of this month. The choir has been working hard on anthems for our worship services. Some of the titles include: Kumbaya, Swing Low, Shout Glory, Wade in the Water and many more! If you are interested in joining the choir, it isn't too late! Come on out! Let a choir member or Murray know. We will prepare a folder for you!

As we start our journey toward Lent and Easter, it is time to rejuvenate the Lenten Ringers. We start rehearsing on Feb. 4th after church. The rehearsals will be directly after the Jr. Ringers. Likewise, on Feb. 4th, there is a painting event for anyone interested. Please alert Murray or Lisa Sparling if you are interested and haven't signed up yet, as the teacher needs to have an accurate count of those present. The costs for adults is \$20 and for kids, age 8 to 18 is \$15. You will go home with a canvas of your very own!

This past week, we had an amazing concert featuring our own Sylvia Berry! It was attended by a small and appreciative audience. One would have to go to Europe or NYC to get this type of concert, as something this specialized doesn't happen every day. Thank you, Sylvia, for bring such a great concert to our sanctuary! The next concert will be on March 4th and will be a performance of Murray. That's right, I, your humble servant, will be performing a wide range of songs to inspire you, make you laugh, cry, but mostly smile in a knowing way. Please reserve the date and show up to have a great time!

The Talent Show is on the horizon! Last year, we had such a great time seeing the talented and wonderful members of our church sing and dance. There will be a sign up sheet on the information counter. Please sign up. There will be an audition/screening that will happen on Sunday, April 8th after church. You could sing a song, tell a story, dance, read or tell a joke or two, juggle...anything, really! We want to see you. If you don't do something yourself, come and support your fellow church members! May 6th at 1:00pm. Concessions will be sold.

~Murray

Stewardship Snippets

- * You (Yes, you!) fill this Beloved Community of Christ Church with joy and thanks-giving in reflecting God's Love and Blessings! Stewardship thanks you for giving and caring and sharing - for "Being Church"!
- * Boxes of weekly offering envelopes (and some monthly packets) are still available on the table at the top of the stairs in the narthex and on the information counter in the downstairs entry.
- * Please brainstorm about Stewardship! What does Church Stewardship mean to you? What exciting ideas do you have about sharing God's Gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure in our Beloved Community of Christ Church? We would love to hear your ideas and explorations. Please feel free to share with each other AND with Stewardship representatives Doug Anderson, Jo-Ellen Fisher and Katrina Clinton.
- * Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Be generous with God's Blessings, passing them around so all get in on it. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus! Oh, yes!



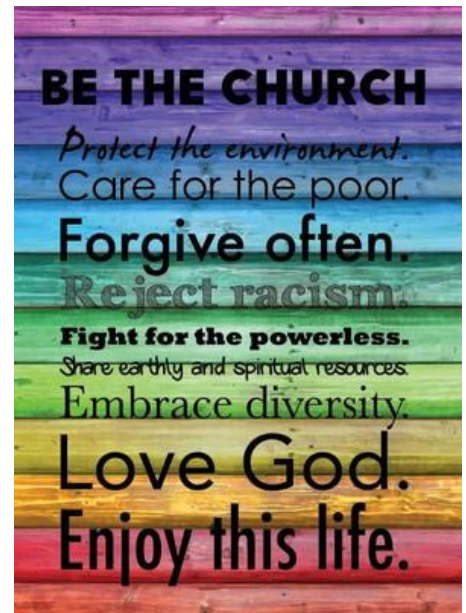
1st Peter 4: 8-11 (The Message Adaptation)

Blessings and Joy, Stewardship

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action



THE ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES

Save the Date! For the next Bach Birthday Bash

On Sunday, March 18th, at 3 pm, we will present Ms. **Christa Rakich** as featured organist for our third "Bach Birthday Bash." A prizewinner at international organ competitions, Ms. Rakich has received particular acclaim for her interpretations of the music of J.S. Bach. With keyboardist Peter Sykes, she performed a complete cycle of Bach's keyboard works in a series of 34 concerts aptly named Tuesdays with Sebastian.

With keyboardist Susan Ferré, Rakich is a founding performer of the *Big Moose Bach Festival* in Berlin, New Hampshire, which presents cantatas, chamber music and keyboard music of J.S. Bach in rural New Hampshire each summer.



Also on the program will be **Intrepid Brass**, a professional quintet brought together by a deep passion for music making. Seasoned by their individual experiences, Intrepid Brass delivers impactful performances that have delighted New England audiences. The founding members are Scott Abramanson and Miles F. Davis, on trumpet; Rachel Daly on horn; trombonist Lorelee Swanson; and Thomas Gregory, tuba.

Complementary tickets will be available for church members and friends, starting on February 25th. Prices at the door will be \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and children under 18 free. And there will be *birthday cake* following the concert.

Midday Music continues

Richard Hill will continue his Wednesday organ mini-concerts – on **February 14th** and **March 7th**. The March concert is in cooperation with Young at Hearts – lunch first, then music, and dessert following!

Snow Cancellations!

Please check Channel 5 (TV), the website, or the church answering machine if it is actively snowing before heading to church. We do cancel if people are being asked to stay off the roads or if there is no power at the church.



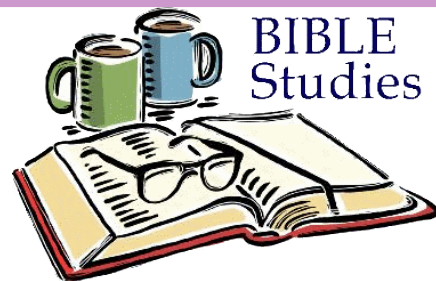
We pray for the families of Robert Bowker, Peggy Dunford, Ruth McIntyre and Mel Thomas who have passed recently. May they rest in peace.



Young at Heart will meet on March 7th at 11:30am for lunch, followed by Dick Hill's midday music concert at 12:15pm, followed by dessert at 1:00pm. No meeting in February.

Acolyte Ministry

Acolytes needed! If you would like to acolyte or want to learn how please sign up downstairs. There is a sign-up sheet posted on a bulletin board in fellowship hall! Or email Lisa at Ichulbert@gmail.com.



BIBLE Studies

Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10 am and is led on an almost alternating schedule by Ruth Poole and Rev. Patricia. All are welcome! We look at the scriptures for the coming Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary.



Coffee Hour Helpers Needed: please sign up at the information counter if you could be called on to help with coffee hour. We assign committees to host each month, but some committees are very small – please consider helping out!



COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 1 - 3pm at the church. Come join the group for fun and fellowship. Learn some new technics or share some. All are welcome!



Prayer group meets up every Friday at noon starting with a lunch together (bring lunch), then a prayer discussion. Prayer group meets at:

ACT CPA (Deb Bowman's Conference Room)
50 Oliver Street Suite 210
North Easton, MA 02356

You can contact Deb with questions at:
deb@act-cpa.com



February Birthdays!

Wishing all the best on your birthdays:

Sarah Sinesi, Samantha Sinesi, Janice Urban, Ramona Adler, Phyllis Wood, Tracey Hixon, Sheila Klecha, Bob Wood, Martha Binda, Sandra Marvill, Ella Alden, Nolan Nixon, Lucille Berg, Makayla Smith, Lois Cyr, Aubrey MacFarlane, Teigan Stanley, Ken Maloof, Barry Shelley, MacKenzie Copley, Liz Garner, Dot Quimby, Willard Cookson, Alexander Cords, Ronan Cords, Gunner Lutz, Katarina Lutz, Niko Lutz, Priscilla Bailey, Pat Illsley, Adam Mitchell

(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 30)

FIBER FELLOWSHIP

Is taking a winter break for January & February

Starting up again in March they meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, from 7 - 9pm.



A Note From Vitality Committee

We are pleased to tell everyone that the pictorial directories are in. Please see someone from the vitality committee to pick yours up. If you stop by the office during the week, you may pick it up there as well.

A Dine with 7 at 7 Dinner is scheduled for February 10th. This promises to be a fun evening. We divide the list up so there are approximately seven people at each dinner. Someone volunteers to host and is responsible for the main course. Others bring sides and dessert. Everyone brings their own beverage. If you are reading this prior to February 10th and you would like to attend, please call the office and I will get you on the list for one of the dinners.

The Annual Spring Fling Scholarship Dance is scheduled for Saturday, April 7th, at Barrett's Ale House in West Bridgewater. Tickets will be going on sale in the beginning of March. Stay tuned for more information.

We are so blessed to have such a busy and vibrant church.

Bill Cockshaw

Chair of Vitality Committee



A NOTE FROM MISSIONS

Happy February to everyone. We have a lot of interesting things planned for our Missions projects this spring. First on our agenda is One Great Hour of Sharing which we will have on Missions Sunday, March 11th. Working up to that Sunday we will be introducing "The Haven", a Brockton based resource. This is a local day shelter where the homeless can go to get out of the outside elements. It has just opened in November 2017 at 74 Pleasant Street in Brockton. There will be pamphlets available at the entrance to fellowship hall. We will be collecting a variety of different items (see list to the right). This collection will continue through Easter (April 1st). This is a faith-based organization. They are looking for volunteers as both men and women. Hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday from 9 am - 4 pm. Volunteer hours are flexible. Please join us on our journey with The Haven.

We also have our blanket project coming up in May for CWS.

The Missions Committee



The Haven Collection List

Coffee (loose coffee, not k cups)
Creamer (dry)
Sugar and Sweetner packets
Powdered Lemonade/Tang/Punch
Plastic Silverware
Paper Plates - Dessert size
Napkins/Paper Towels
Sponges
Toilet Bowl Cleaner/Spray Cleaners/Clorox
Wipes
Mr. Clean (for floors, can't use another brand due to allergies)
Baked Goods (cookies, breads, cakes, etc)
Snacks (individually bagged chips, crackers, nutigrain bars, salsa, cheese, pepperoni, etc)
Fresh Carrots/Celery/Cucumber
Salad Dressing (Ranch or Greek for dipping)
Toilet Paper (Single Ply)
Pens/Computer Paper
Sudoku/Word Finds/Puzzles/Games/Cards
Plastic Folding Chairs & Tables
Gardening Tools
Rock Salt
Plastic Storage Bins for Clothing
Clothing (Men's/Women's Jeans, Sweat Pants, T-Shirts, Coats – Parka Style)
Boots/Sneakers

BREAKFAST and BELIEFS
What Does The Christian Tradition Mean To You?

Saturdays, February 17 – March 24, 8:30 – 10:00

Adult Education Lenten Series 2018
Christ Congregational Church

Please join us for a six-week Lenten exploration of what the Christian tradition means to each of us. These sessions will promote mutual exploration and sharing about what each of us believes and embraces, and how our faith matters in how each of us lives and acts in this world. In our denomination, the United Church of Christ, we are bound together as the church not by a commitment to a particular detailed body of doctrines, but by a covenant to journey together as children of the Creator, disciples of Jesus, and seekers of the Holy Spirit. Thus, we will encourage non-judgmental discussions that will include our questions, doubts, and skepticism. We will not be seeking any “right” answers.

Each week we will pose a question of faith to ponder and discuss. A series of sub-questions will help focus and deepen our exploration and hopefully stimulate further questions from participants. Please see the schedule below. We will begin each session with a brief introductory exercise, after which two or three people from our congregation will each share prepared five-minute reflections on the week’s topic. In the remainder of each session we will promote dialogue among all those present, without pressuring anyone to speak more than he/she wishes, and without any one perspective overshadowing the others. We hope that such a process will nourish our spiritual health as individuals, enrich our sense of community in all its diversity, and deepen our corporate expression of faith and discipleship. Rev. Patricia Hayes and Barry Shelley will facilitate the sessions.

We will recruit presenters both by direct invitations and by an open invitation to members of our congregation to volunteer. If you are interested in serving in this role for one topic, please contact Rev. Patricia or Barry. We may not be able to accommodate all preferences, but we will do our best.

Feb. 17th Why are you at Christ Congregational Church, a Christian community?

What brought you here? What keeps you here? What difference does coming to CCC make in your life? Do you think about CCC’s link to our broader community and to the world more generally? If so, how? What does it mean to you to be part of a specifically *Christian* community? Why do you choose to commit your time and energy to a church community as opposed to participating more in other associations in our culture? How do you describe CCC and explain your involvement to family, friends and acquaintances who are not part of this community?

Feb. 24th How do you experience God?

What images, stories, thoughts come to mind when you hear the word “God”? How do you / would you respond if someone who doesn’t participate in a community of faith asks you, “Do you believe in God?” How would you describe who/what you believe God is (or isn’t) to that person? How has your experience of God changed over time? What difference do your beliefs about and/or your experience of God make in how you live and act in this world?

Mar. 3rd Why do you worship and pray? Or do you?

What is worship for you? What is prayer for you? Do you see them as related? Are the words, “worship” and “prayer” helpful or would you prefer to use other words to describe your beliefs and experience? What has been a particularly profound worship experience for you? Do you worship outside of CCC? If so, when? Where? How? How does your sense of worship relate to your image and experience of God? What difference does worship make in the way you live and engage the world around you? Now ask the same questions about prayer.

Mar. 10th Who is Jesus to you?

Who do you believe Jesus *was*? Who *is* Jesus for you today? Do you *know* Jesus? Are you a *believer* in Jesus? Are you a *follower* / *disciple* of Jesus? What do the following statements mean to you? (a) “Jesus is my Lord and Savior;” (b) “Jesus is the Son of God;” (c) “Jesus died for my sins.” How has your sense of who Jesus is changed over time? In what ways do your beliefs in and experience of Jesus conflict with and/or jibe with other dimensions of your life and work? What relevance does Jesus have in today’s world and in the way you live?

Mar. 17th What place do you believe prophetic action for social justice should play in your life and the life of our church?

Do you believe that working for social justice is an essential element of authentic Christianity? What does it mean to you for one to be called a prophetic leader as a Christian? What relevance do the prophets of the Hebrew Bible have for us today? To what degree do you think of Jesus as a prophet? As an activist for social justice? What does it mean to you to be a *disciple* or a *follower* of Jesus? Do you believe God *calls* us as individuals and/or as a church to take prophetic actions? If so, how do we discern such calls?

Mar. 24 How do you experience resurrection and salvation in your life?

What does the Good Friday and Easter story mean to you? What difference does this story make in how you live and act in this world? What does resurrection mean to you? Can we be resurrected? What does it mean to say one is *saved*? Do you believe that you are *saved*? In what sense is salvation an anticipated future condition--perhaps after death--and in what sense is it something experienced in the present? Is salvation available only to Christians? Does being a Christian make a difference in how salvation is experienced? If so, how? If not, why not?

Why do we use washable mugs at coffee hour?

A good question was raised at our recent Green Team meeting: Is it really more environmentally friendly, more "green," for us to use and wash the plastic mugs we have in the church kitchen? After all, it takes energy to make those mugs and to heat the water to clean them in the church sanitizer.

Doing a little research, we found that a study was done on this question by researchers at Trinity College in Dublin. They estimated the lifecycle of reusable mugs (ceramic or plastic) as compared to those for disposable cups (both paper and Styrofoam).

After making some assumptions on factors like the amount of energy used for transport for each of those items and the efficiency of the dishwashers used to clean the reusable mugs, they determined the number of uses required to "break even." In other words, they asked, **how often do you need to use your reusable mug** before the resources used to make it outweigh the resources used to make a disposable cup (minus the energy put into washing that reusable mug).

Their report determines that you would:

- Have to use a ceramic mug 25 times to justify using it over disposable (paper or Styrofoam) cups from an environmental standpoint
- The plastic mug would only require 16 uses to break even. (The petroleum industry that makes our plastics is surprisingly efficient.)

And other considerations, for example, the impact of throwing the disposables in a landfill after which [they may end up in the ocean](#), was not considered.

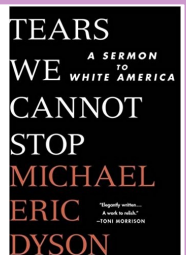
Nor was the "taste" factor – many who enjoy coffee or tea after worship say the beverages taste better than in a paper or Styrofoam cup. And using a cup with a handle prevents that burning sensation when carrying a hot drink.

SO, if you have been using a washable mug since September, you have probably already passed the "break even" point! Keep up the good work!

FROM THE GREEN TEAM (Doug Anderson, Helen Camara, Ruth Coleman, Donna Costa, Alice Farnsworth, John Hagberg, Sandra Hill, Matt Howard, and Chris Madden)



Diversity Reading Group: February 10th at 10 am we will discuss Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon for White America by Michael Eric Dyson. The book is written in the form of a worship service (beginning with the call to worship and prayer of invocation, continuing through the benediction) and is an important insight for us all. All welcome, with or without having read the book.



Calling Scripture Readers: since we have returned to the Revised Common Lectionary we have more scripture readings. Would you like to be on a reading rotation? Please let Rev. Patricia know.

Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day



Come join our Wednesday night dinner on February 14th. We are celebrating Ash Wednesday and Valentine's day with a Pancake Dinner! (Service of ashes and commitment at 6:45pm)



PARENT CONSULTANT TRAINING INSTITUTE (PCTI)

**If you want to improve your understanding of Special Education
so you can better address your student's needs,
this training is for you.**

The PCTI is an intensive training consisting of 54 hours of classroom instruction and exercises. Two optional Federation internships, each 25 hours, are available to those who complete the classroom component. Presenters include leading attorneys and special education experts, Federation staff, and representatives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA).

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Basic Rights In Special Education
- Discipline And Suspension
- IDEA And MGL C 71B Legislative History
- Special Education Advocacy And Law
- IEPs: Measurable IEP Goals, Effective Progress
- Effective Communication
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Transition Planning & Assessments
- IDEA and Mass sped laws and regulations
- Problem Resolution Service (formerly PQA) Complaints, Mediation & BSEA
- Neuropsychological & Academic Evaluations
- Families And Culture
- Trauma And Learning
- "Hot Topics" in Special Education law today

**"This course was life changing... Before the class, I was scared and confused
now I am empowered." - Quote from 2017 PCTI participant**

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED:
REGISTER NOW, CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED**

Visit our website for more information: www.fcsn.org/ptic/parent-consultant-training
For additional questions, email: etopaz@fcsn.org or call 617-399-8315

The PCTI schedule for the 2018 school year is as follows:

Boston – Tuesdays, January 9 – March 20, 2018, 9:30am – 4pm

Brockton – Wednesdays, March 21 – May 23, 2018, 9:30am – 4pm

Holyoke – Tuesdays from April 3 – June 5, 9:00am – 3:30pm

Sturbridge, Massachusetts (week-long intensive, condensed class) June 25 – 29, 8:30am – 5:30pm

CONTACT US

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
1350 Pleasant St.,
Brockton, MA 02301-2840

Tel: 508-586-3022

Fax: 508-583-7156

Web: brocktonucc.org

Email: office@brocktonucc.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday thru Friday:

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship Time: 9:55 a.m.

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.

UNITED CHURCH



Christ Congregational Church, UCC
1350 Pleasant St.
Brockton, MA 02301-2840