

THE COURIER



Christ Congregational Church, UCC *An Open and Affirming Congregation*

Volume 38 No 6

Creating Beloved Community

June 2018

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Regular Events

Worship and Sunday School:
Sundays, 9:55AM

Adult Bells: Summer Break

Adult Choir: Summer Break

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 10AM

Craft Group: Tuesdays, 9:30am

Fiber Fellowship:
2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7PM

Junior Ringers and Youth Choir:
Summer Break

Prayer Group: On Hiatus

Quilt Guild: 3rd Tuesday, 1PM

Wednesday Dinner: Summer Break
begins after June 13th

Young at Heart: June 6, 12PM



Board Meetings

Christian Education: June 5, 7PM

Council/All Committee, Potluck
June 21, 6:30PM

Deacons: June 7, 6:30PM

Finance & Property: June 14, 7PM

Green Team: TBD

Missions: June 21, 6:30PM

Music: June 4, 5:30PM

Organ Completion Committee:
June 15, 12:30PM

Vitality: June 7, 6PM

PASTOR'S PAGE

On June 16th I will be at the Tri-Conference Annual Meeting to accept a Bold Initiative Award, given to our church for creating World Voices (WOVOS)

Our church really is a beloved community, but that doesn't make it immune to mistakes and bumps. The month of May had several instances of our unintentionally hurting feelings, through ethnic stereotypes, use of slang and use of humor that wasn't funny to everyone. As a church staff, we are studying together articles on speaking with kindness and articles about bias, and I will be summarizing the learnings from the diversity reading group to present them in condensed form for our conversation and mutual learning. We are also arranging for anti-bias training together with the church lay leadership.



Anyone can make a mistake, and the ground of language is constantly shifting and changing – but it is incumbent upon us to strive to improve our sensitivities and be the welcoming people and beloved community we say we want to be. If you would like to be included in receiving these summaries and articles, or would like to have a conversation about how this works in your family, at your work, or here at church, please contact me. Nearly half a century ago I was a student of communication because I was convinced that words matter. I am no less convinced today – and we just keep learning. Living into our vision is worth the effort it takes!

On a brighter note, this June 9th will be the first time our church has marched together in the Boston Pride Parade. If you, like me, cannot imagine doing the 2+ mile walk about would like to attend the worship before the walk and wave to our walkers, let me know – we can carpool.

With Confidence in our Capacity to be Beloved Community,

Rev. Patricia





Notes from Murray

I can't believe that summer is upon us. What a great year we have had; so much great music was heard this year!

Thousands of thanks to those who took part in the music-making in worship services and other special events.

If you have interest in providing Sunday morning special music this summer, please contact me at music@brocktonucc.org.

We want to hear you!

As you know, I am constantly asking people to search their souls for that still, small voice that can contribute to the worship services in a musical way. We have some exciting prospects for other areas that

can contribute to our worship life and to your health and well-being, like weekly liturgical dance sessions (for exercise and occasionally contributing to worship services), more ukuleles, and more hand bells. And, of course, the ever present Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Jr. Ringers and our yearly talent show. The Adult Choir is going to perform the Fauré Requiem, next year! If you have sung the piece or want to be a part of one of the most beautiful works in the musical canon, please consider joining the choir. You will not regret it!

So, let your light shine! We need you to take a more active role in the worship life of our beloved community!

Sincerely,

Murray

Where in the World is Rev. Patricia:

RP's summer schedule is as follows:

For June, Mondays and Tuesdays off as usual until June 25. June 25-26 will be work days, followed by June 27-30 "Clergy Camp" at Silver Lake Camp and Conference Center. This is a four-day experience of sermon prep, campfires, and canoeing – wish me luck.

Vacation: July 13-Aug 4 and Aug 12-Aug 21. I will be within 3 hours of Brockton – in an emergency, call the office, Adam Mitchell, moderator (), Erin Reardon, or my cell phone (508-846-3723).

September 3-7 will be a writing week at Star Island Conference Center, 10 miles out to sea – when I will be harder to reach. The office, Adam Mitchell and Erin Reardon will have more information.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

Children's Sunday will focus on Psalm 150, giving thanks. Please be sure to attend that day to give thanks to our children and their teachers, youth group leaders, communion educators, and more. Children's groups will warm-up as follows: Junior Ringers at 9:00, Junior Band at 9:10, Youth Choir at 9:20 and all children by 9:45 to gather in the library for the procession.



Youth Groups – Junior and Senior groups– will have an end of the year cookout and game time on June 3rd from 5-8 pm.

June 10th will be Baccalaureate Sunday and scholarships will be awarded.

Mark your calendars for the summer Sunday School (July 15, 22, 29) and Family Fun Nights (July 11 & August 8).

THE ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

MIDDAY MUSIC FOR JUNE



June 20th at 12:15 pm – “Celebration” –with Richard Hill on our Austin Organ. Following the music program, all are invited downstairs for Strawberry Shortcake.

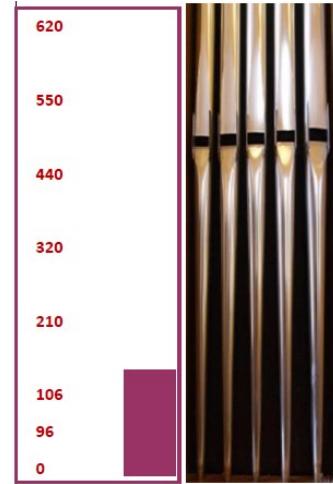
“Lifetime Pass” – We have created a “Life Time Pass” for persons donating \$1000. or more. At our June “Celebration” we will present “Lifetime Passes” to several donors.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 at 7 PM
In cooperation with Arts @ Christ Church, we plan to present
“Phantom of the Opera”
A classic Silent Movie accompanied on our Austin Organ by
Peter Krasinski

PROJECT PIPES: 620 BY 2020

Our fundraising will continue in the fall as we work to reach a goal of \$160,000. for the Choir Division in our organ. Thus far, we have received about \$33,000 in donations and pledges. Thank you!!

~Donna Costa



Attention all Parents/Grandparents/Guardians

We believe that having an excellent Church School background and being part of a beloved church community is a key ingredient to raising great kids. We really believe that.

We are at a wonderful moment in the Christian Education program where we can re-imagine and we need your input. Please do three things:

1. Complete the survey that you will be getting by email later this week. We want to know what is working for you and your children and what suggestions you have.. It is an online survey, but paper copies will also be available through the church office. We can mail them to you. We can phone you to get your input - but PLEASE participate.
2. COME to the parent meeting after church on June 24, right after church in the wing. The children will have organized play, and we will not go past noon. We will have refreshments upstairs - come directly to the wing!!!! Thank you!!
3. Mark your calendar now for August 26th, a parent meeting after church.

Anyone who would like to be part of this great time of planning, please do! We will be having fun this summer and why not be a part of it?!! Contact Cathy Campbell to be kept in the loop on meeting times.

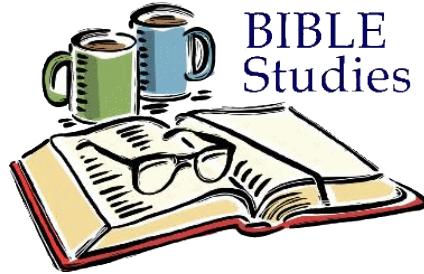
Want to talk more about CE and brainstorm about what would work for your family?
Contact Rev. Patricia (pcwhayes@gmail.com) or 508-846-3723.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Reading Group will be undertaking two books over the summer: **Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson**, the director of the Equal Justice Initiative will be discussed in late August and a second book, **Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke**, will be discussed in September. Sign up to get copies of the books and/or to be notified of the meeting dates at the information counter.

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.

BROCKTON KNOCKS DOWN DIABETES

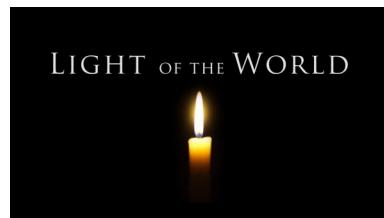
FREE week-long event from Saturday, June 9th through Friday, June 15th
Learn more at: forhealthycommunities.com/bkdd



Prayer group will be taking a short hiatus. Debbie Bowman will be restructuring the group. Any questions or suggestions, please contact Debbie at:
deb@act-cpa.com

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Our recipient of the year is Keith Allen, with thanks for all you do and mean to our church family.



A Note From The Deacons

The Deacons would appreciate donations for Tea Light candles for the candle screen and full boxes of tissues for the sanctuary.



June Birthdays!
Wishing all the best on your birthdays:

Dick McMahon, Rick Davis, Elizabeth Calvin, Moriah Illsley, Danny Poole, Barbara Moody, Bob Gair, Jillian Larson, Ruth Poole, Layne Moline, Nancy Goodwin, Eleanor Calvin, Sean Stevens Jr., Lilliana Milton, Brad Weatherbee, Michelle Dias, Matthew Howard, Lillian Lee Stone, Luz Recla, Gerry Wentzell, Glenna Paananen, Denise Cahill, Jill Conceicao, Joshua Satcher, Angela Colby, Jeff Illsley, David Jones, Kevin Frison, Janet Eckstrom, John Boutwell, Mary Poole, Sawyer Young-Ferguson and Serenity Young-Ferguson

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

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will have its final meeting for the year on June 6th. Gayle Hulbert is making a cookout-style lunch, and Doug Anderson is showing his slides from his trip to the Holy Land.

All are welcome!

A NOTE FROM MISSIONS

Missions has been hard at work. The month of June will include **Strengthen the Church** offering on June 10th.

We will be having the **CWS Blankets and Tools** table available through June 17th. **PLEASE** stop by, any amount of donations are welcome. Hearts for blankets, hands for tools. **Stop by, visit a while, give as you can.**

The **Transition Meeting** is June 21st at 6:30pm. We have begun to discuss some ideas and schedules.

The new Missions Committee will be taking over after that. It has been a pleasure working on the Missions Committee this year and I want to thank all my committee members for their help: Sheppo Fisher, Heather Mitchell, Dot Quimby, Sandra Hill, Paula Gair and Erin Reardon.

Alice Farnsworth, Chairperson



Thank you Alice!



ANNUAL HARVEST FAIR



Cleaning out your house? Moving? Downsizing? Tell your family and friends! **We are now collecting items for the Fair.** Attic treasures, consignment quality women's clothing and jewelry can be dropped off at the church. There is a large table by the white lattice in fellowship hall which is our drop off area. Please advise Bill Cockshaw, David Wilcox, Jo-Ellen Fisher or Gayle Hulbert if you are dropping off items. If you have any questions, you can reach Gayle by email at g.hulbert@comcast.net or call the church office and leave a message. And of course, mark your calendars for the Fair day on Saturday, November 3, 2018.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR POSITION

Over the next weeks we will be finalizing the job posting for a quarter-time CE Director. Please watch the nearly weekly and website for future announcements. The position will begin in late summer or early fall.

News from World Voices (WOVOS)

This spring we have expanded to weekly WOVOS, an eight week session of art, leadership and music. Fourteen girls have participated and they will be sharing their songs at 5:30pm on Wednesday, June 13th. All Invited!!



COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

The guild will end the season with a salad luncheon in fellowship hall on Tuesday, June 19th at 1pm.

We have had a wonderful year with new members and two projects well underway. We decided to make quilted placemats for meals on wheels recipients in Brockton. Old Colony Elder Services told me they serve 600 meals a day in Brockton. Sandy Hill, one of our members, had volunteered to make charity quilts for Ann's Fabrics in Canton. When she told them of our project they offered to help and help they did with a total of 101 placemats so far.

At the May meeting our guests were Chris McLaren and Lynn Smith of OCES (Old Colony Elder Services). They spoke of the many services available to all seniors with no regard to income. Their services are wide in scope and welcome calls from seniors or family members to see what help is available. They have a large network and can refer you to someone who can help if they are not able. We gave Chris and Lynn a second batch of placemats. Our total to date is 174. Chris tells us that the drivers love delivering the placemats. We make a variety of patterns so drivers can choose something their clients would like.

Our second project is NICU quilts. We have completed 35 so far. Many thanks for recent donations of fabric. For the quilting ladies it is like Christmas. New members are welcome and the next meeting is Tuesday, September 18th at 1pm at the church.



A Note from Vitality

As I write this the church year is winding down. The Vitality Committee has had a busy and successful year.

On May 12th, we hosted an Italian Scholarship dinner at the church. It was a full evening of fine dining, with light entertainment between the five courses. We also had eleven gift baskets donated by boards, committees, and individuals.

We raised about \$2300 for scholarships for our members that are pursuing higher education. A very successful evening of fundraising indeed.

I thank Jay Sparling for sharing his beautiful voice, and Diane Landerholm for her piano accompaniment. Thanks also to Rev. Patricia for playing her new mandolin, and Emily Swisher-Rosa for serenading us with her wonderful violin playing.

Thanks to the members of the committee as well as Lisa Landerholm for all their hard work to make this evening such a wonderful experience. The Vitality Committee is already planning on doing this dinner again next year. We hope to see everyone there!

Bill Cockshaw

Chair Vitality Committee



SUMMER School of Prophetic Action!

Module 1: Power is in Relationship

must attend all four nights

Week 1: Monday, June 4th and Wednesday, June 6th

Week 2: Monday, June 11th and Wednesday, June 13th

Time: 6:30-8:30 | Location: TBD

Module 2: Principles of Power

must attend all four nights

Week 1: Monday, July 2nd and Thursday, July 5th

Week 2: Monday, July 9th and Thursday, July 12th

Time: 6:30-8:30 | Location: TBD

These prophetic leadership trainings are deeply rooted in all of our various faith traditions and give our leaders a set of principles around which we can envision the world we are called to create together.

We begin by choosing that we must do something in response to the injustice we see in the world all around us, and acknowledging that we cannot do that work alone. From this principle we learn how to grow in deep, authentic relationship with our neighbors.

Then we work to identify the systems and structures that we would like to encounter and improve, and who has the power to make the changes we seek, in order to create an equitable and just world for all.

RSVP to Ryan: ryanchasey@brocktoninterfaith.org or 774-454-9215



CONTACT US

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Office Hours:

Tuesday thru Friday:

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

Sunday Worship Time: 9:55 a.m.



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