



WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely and On-Site

Sundays, 10:00AM

Regular Events:

Adult Choir:
Wednesdays, 6:45PM

Adult Hand Bells:
Wednesdays, 6PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Wednesdays, 10AM

Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Mar. 1, 11:30AM

Council: Mar. 19, 7PM

Deacons: Mar. 5, 7PM

Finance/Property: Mar. 12, 7PM

Missions: Mar. 15, 9AM

Music: Mar. 26, 6:30PM

Vitality: TBD



PASTOR'S PAGE

They met with the elders and decided to give a large sum of money to the soldiers. They told them, "Say that Jesus' disciples came at night and stole his body while you were sleeping. And if the governor hears about this, we will take care of it with him so you will have nothing to worry about." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were told.



~Matthew 28:12-15a~

The world prioritizing, and profiting from, anything *other* than good news isn't a new phenomenon. We treat it like it is. Like we live in a distinct age where major "news" corporations are manipulating our righteous anger to mobilize us for their own ends; but it isn't distinct. Only the context has changed.

I'd be willing to wager that most of us haven't read past Matthew's resurrection story to read *this* part of the story. The part where, at the same exact moment the women are running off to tell the disciples about Jesus' resurrection, rich and powerful men are plotting and paying to ensure there's a counter narrative. A story that lives with the distinct purpose of keeping people in fear and out of hope.

As I write this Courier article we're entering the third Sunday of Lent in the year 2026. We're halfway to Easter, on our way to what our faith tradition tells us is the greatest news there ever was...

And yet bombs are dropping on Iran where children and other innocents have already died. Palestine is still occupied, its people held captive and afraid and starving.

Continue...

...Continued

Russia still occupies significant portions of Ukraine and there are no signs that conflict is anywhere close to ending. Not to mention the specter of ICE raids being carried out indiscriminately on citizens and undocumented people alike, with zero regard for human rights. Democracy itself seems to hang in the balance.

Rich and powerful people are plotting and paying to keep us in fear and out of hope.

Since Easter falls in such a strange way this year it seems odd to be writing my “Easter themed” Courier article in the middle of Lent, but maybe that’s divinely orchestrated. Because we’re always in need of hope; but especially so now. Maybe it’s a reminder to us that sometimes we can’t wait for hope, or for good news... or maybe that we’re always in need of it. Just like in Jesus’ time there’s plenty of effort put in by the powers and principalities to keep people afraid and hopeless; but just like in Jesus’ time there’s also very *real* hope walking in our midst. Just like Jesus told the women and disciples they’d find him in Galilee in the verses that precede this passage; he tells *us* that we can find him in our midst too.

So, friends, tell me something good. Tell the world something good. Tell *yourselves* something good. Because there’s good to be found and embraced in the world. There’s good to be grown and cultivated. There’s the gospel of hope and grace to be shared.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

10:00AM Palm Sunday | March 29

6:00PM Maundy Thursday | April 2
Community Meal

7:00PM Maundy Thursday | April 2
Adult and Children's Worship

CLOSED Good Friday | April 3

10:00AM Easter Sunday | April 5
Worship and Egg Hunt

www.brocktonucc.org

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Greetings Church!

This March, our congregation is leaning into good news, as well as in Faith Formation.

Using the “*Tell Me Something Good*” Lenten series from A Sanctified Art, we are exploring the ways God’s goodness shows up — in scripture, in community, in acts of justice, in resilience, and even in the small, ordinary moments of our daily lives.

In a world that can feel overwhelming, Lent invites us not only into reflection and transformation, but also into hope. Each week we will ask:

- Where do you see something good?
- Where is God at work?
- How can we be a part of that good news?

One way that we are recognizing how we can be a part of the good news of Jesus is collecting infant and toddler pajamas (up to 5T) through Lent and will be delivering them to Cradles to Crayons to help relieve families in our community to know their children can have the basic clothing needs covered. We will pray over the pajamas on Easter morning.

Adults are invited to participate in:

- **Save the date: Bible 101: Reading the Bible with Curiosity, Context, and Courage**
 - ◇ Join us for a six-week adult series exploring the Bible as a library of diverse voices and stories. We’ll look at scripture in its historical context, follow themes of justice and liberation, and consider how it speaks to today’s challenges. Whether you’re new to Bible study or ready to rethink long-held assumptions, this series offers a thoughtful, welcoming space for questions, conversation, and growth. All are welcome.
 - ◇ Sunday mornings 9:00-9:45am beginning April 19th-May 24th

Maundy Thursday (4/2) will be recognized in our community with a Spaghetti Dinner at 6pm followed by worship for youth and adults in the Sanctuary at 7pm. During the worship service, children grades K-6 will have an age appropriate interactive service in the Faith Formation wing. Nursery care is available for ages 0-5.

Easter Sunday (4/5) Join us for a joyful worship service at 10am to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. We will hold an egg hunt immediately following worship in the Parsonage Yard.

Being in community and opting in on the activities and events here is a way to not only feel safer in a world that feels out of control, but also opportunities to learn, grow, and feel a sense of belonging. We hope you join us.

With hope,

Dani

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’”- *Isaiah 52:7*



Confirmation

NO CONFIRMATION CHECK IN THIS MONTH.

Conference Confirmation Retreat in Craigsville 3/20-21. Details in an email from Dani will be forthcoming.

Youth Group

This month, we will meet on Friday 3/13 from 6:30-8pm for pizza and an evening themed: A Light in the Darkness (Glow Party!).



FAITH FORMATION

MARCH Regular Sunday School
8TH, 15TH, 22ND- Begin upstairs in worship and move downstairs for Sunday School after the Time for All Ages
Communion Class begins at 10am

MARCH 29TH- Palm Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

APRIL 5TH- Easter Worship in Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service in Parsonage yard

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
BROCKTON, MA

Upcoming Confirmation Dates

March 8th

No confirmation check in

March 20-21

Conference Confirmation

Retreat

email from Dani is

forthcoming



Faith
Formation



Friday 3/13

Youth Group

6:30-8:00pm



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

Infant and Toddler (up to 5T)

Pajama Drive

for Cradles to Crayons

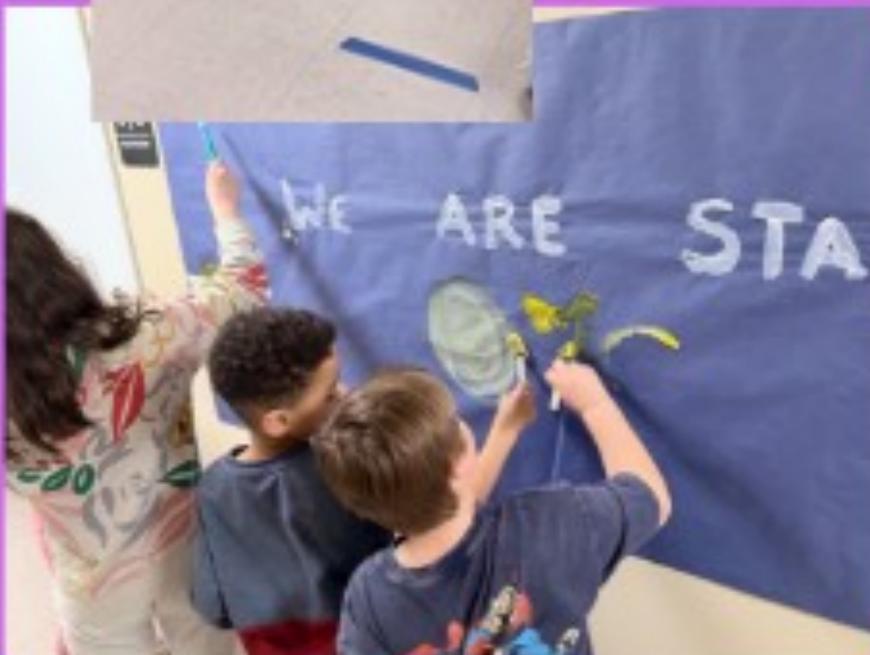
Must be new with tags

Collecting donations until Easter Sunday, where we will dedicate and bless the donations before being delivered.





ASH WEDNESDAY KID'S WORSHIP





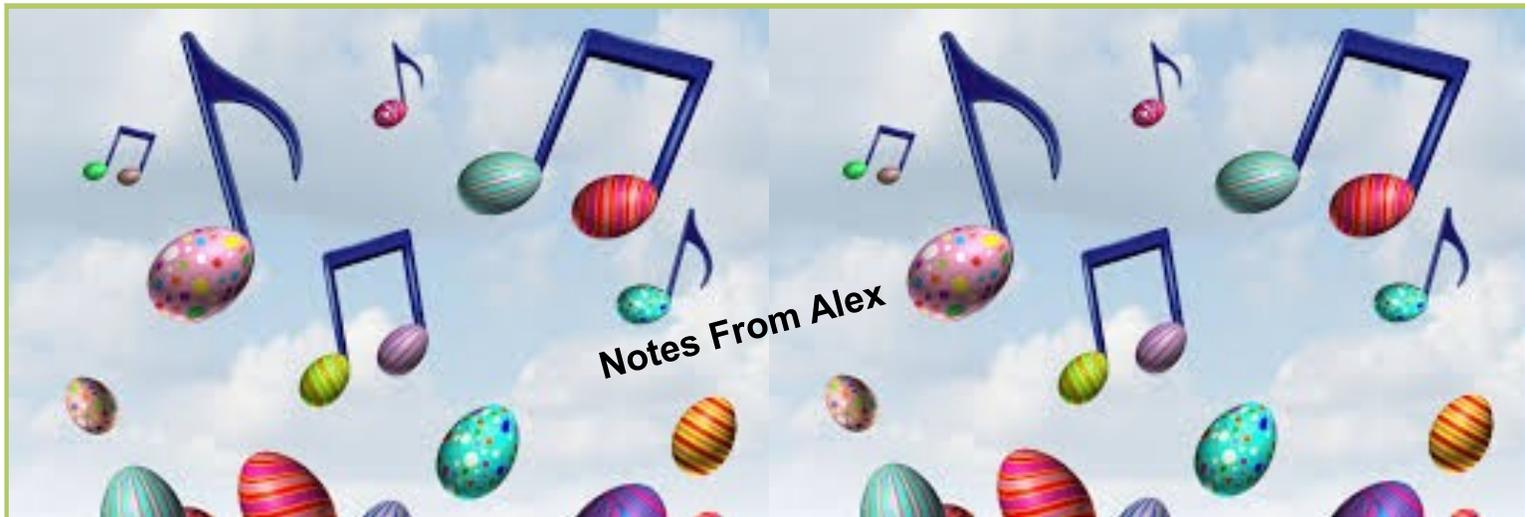
**INTERGENERATIONAL
WORSHIP**





INTERGENERATIONAL
WORSHIP





Notes From Alex

I often find that saying "yes" involves more than I bargained for. I've arranged music parts for the various people involved in our special services. I want all the details considered and explained as clearly as possible. These tasks often take a bit longer than I plan on. "There are a lot of moving parts," I say. But in retrospect I'm glad I take the time.

Sometimes we owe it to ourselves to say "yes"; sometimes "no." Whatever we say it's important to say yes to ourselves and our relationship to ourselves--in tune with God.

We don't always know--or have to know--what other people are thinking or why they do what they do. We can't, in some cases, because I don't think they themselves are always aware.

I feel it's been foolish of me to think I can dictate to the world what should happen. I don't need to OWN what others do—either do to me or do to anyone else—but I feel I need to own how I react to them.

I can choose to love and forgive because I want to preserve my own feeling of well-being inside.

We are always choosing. To say yes or no. To say I can. To say I will.

We always have a choice.

~ Alex Green
Music Director

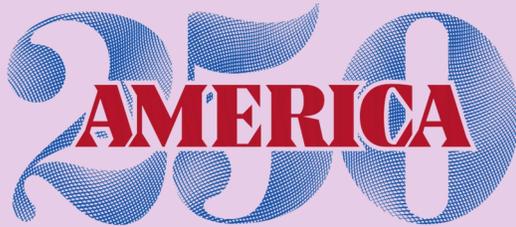


FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH

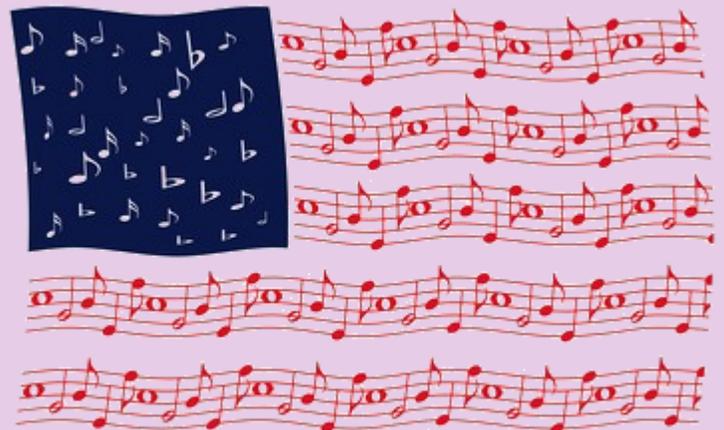
MIDDAY MUSIC CELEBRATES AMERICA

Come and enjoy Peter Krasinski, guest organist, as he presents a program in celebration of the 250th birthday of the US on **Wednesday, April 15th** from 12:15 to 1 pm. Thanks to support from the Easton and Brockton Cultural Councils and other donors, the program is free. Material donations will be collected to support the community food pantry here at Christ Congregational Church. So plan now to invite a friend and come to enjoy!



Arts & Music at Christ Church will offer one last Midday Music program this year in mid-June. Date and performer to be announced.

For further information, please email the Arts & Music Planning Group at arts-music@brocktonucc.org or speak to any member of the group: *Alice Farnsworth, Betsey Serjak, Candy Savage or Donna Costa.*



Hello Pastor Jeff, Alex & Board of Deacons,

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of the Fleming family, for all your kindness and support during our difficult time at the loss of my friend Denise Fleming.

I'm so blessed to be part of this special church family!

Sincerely,

Denise Cahill

Thanks also to Keith, Darlene & Janet Eckstrom for all their help!



March Birthdays

Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Britton Copley, Keland Dickerson-Sinclair,
Leigh-Ann Larson, Paula Stevens, Kailana Pelote,
Matthew Weatherbee, Jennifer Hefler, Angeliza
Campbell, Cindy Maloof, Ivyn Kardisco, Ricky
Soncrant, Maryann Selman, Heather Mitchell, Ken
Stevens, Doe Fisher, Carol Bradford, Madison
Herget

(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 31)

Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, Equity Training

Unpacking Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions
with Dr. Jessica Pepple

When: Saturday, April 25th 9am-1pm

Who: ALL ARE WELCOME!

Why: Learn more about how you can be apart of creating a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community by creating belonging.

Childcare for ages 0-12 is available
Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided

Registration is preferred



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

REGISTRATION [link](#)

YOU ARE INVITED!!

BYLAW COMMITTEE FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

Sunday March 29th

"We covenant together, as members and staff of Christ Congregational Church, to embody the love of Christ in our interactions, seeking always to reflect God's grace, peace, and justice in all we do"

BELOVED COMMUNITY!! WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

As a Church Community, we all have unique gifts and shared interests that keep us engaged.

As a Church Community, working together keeps our mission strong while we live Christ's example of Fellowship, Social Justice and Christian Witness.

The Bylaw Committee has been working on revising our Bylaws and restructuring our church Leadership model. Copies will be available March 22nd at church and electronically.

These proposed changes will reflect the changing needs of our congregation and keep us strong and vibrant, as we continue weaving God's message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace.

On **Sunday, March 29th** (Palm Sunday) we invite you to join us for some food and an introduction / discussion of the proposed changes. This day will also be an opportunity to learn more about the work of our church committees and teams. Inclusion has been a top focus of our team, and everyone's input will make us successful. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend this important gathering, as we lay the groundwork for our future.

BOARD OF MISSIONS

What's Happening This Month



UCC SPECIAL COLLECTION – SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Your support of **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, one of the UCC's special collections throughout the year, provides a direct connection to neighbors in need—both across the street and around the globe. When natural disasters strike or families are displaced by violence and poverty, your gifts ensure that help arrives immediately and stays for the long-term recovery.

Your contributions create lasting change through:

- **Emergency Relief:** Providing food, clean water, and shelter in the wake of crises.
- **Sustainable Development:** Investing in healthcare, education, and microfinancing to help communities thrive independently.
- **Empowerment:** Supporting local agriculture and women's leadership to address the root causes of vulnerability.

Through our partnership with Global Ministries and international relief networks, your donation is maximized to reach those who need it most.

You can share your gift at any time during the month by using the **special OGHS envelope** in your pew, or by writing "**OGHS**" on the memo line of your check and dropping it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

Thank you for your generosity in helping to rebuild lives and restore hope.



MainSpring Casserole Ministry

"Cooking is love made visible".

Last month we delivered 21 (including 2 vegan) casseroles to **Father Bill's & MainSpring**. Thank you!

Our next opportunity to serve up a delicious hot dinner to the shelter guests at Father Bill's & MainSpring is in April. We are looking for at least **16 Easy Cheesy Chicken and Veggie casseroles**. We will be handing out foil baking pans and recipes after worship on 3/29 and 4/5. Please drop off your well wrapped and labeled casserole in the freezer in the church kitchen by **Sunday, April 12**. If you can make a casserole, want me to email you the newly revised recipe, or can make a donation to defray the cost, please contact Marcia Olson at (baglole.olson@verizon.net).

CCC Food Pantry

The mission team recently purchased new shelving to expand the capacity of our food pantry to better serve our neighbors. Many thanks to **Karl Koza** for installing them. Most of all, thanks to our church family for faithfully filling those shelves week after week.



Shelf-stable, non-perishable donations to our church food pantry are always appreciated as we seek to help those in our community facing food insecurity. Donations can be dropped off at the church Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM – 12:00 NN. Please be sure to check the expiration date!

Items that are always needed:

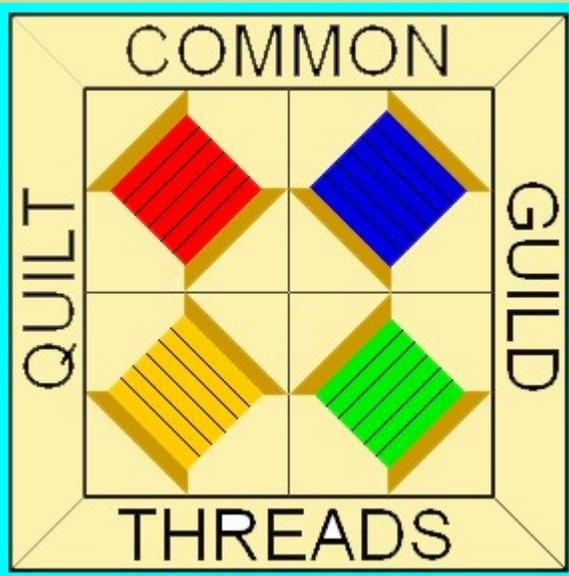
- Canned tuna, salmon, chicken and Spam
- Whole grain, low sugar cereals
- Quaker instant oatmeal (Individual packets)
- Breakfast bars (granola, protein and cereal bars)
- Shelf stable milk
- Mac n' cheese, rice, instant potatoes, pasta
- Hearty canned soups, beans, chili
- Peanut butter, almond butter, jelly
- Low sodium vegetables
- Canned fruit in light syrup

Pantry Extras:

- Condiments
- Cooking oils
- Spices & seasonings
- Coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Individually wrapped rolls of toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap
- Menstrual products

Tip for Donating

- **Opt for Pull-Tabs when available:** Canned goods with pull-tab lids are easier for seniors and those experiencing homelessness.



This month the Quilt Guild has some exciting news. We have been offered a new location on the second floor in the wing to be our new home. We are very happy to have this lovely light filled room to continue our guild work. We have many charitable organizations we work with and will continue to support them.

At our meeting last month we had two more HFOT baby quilts from Linda that are whole cloth quilts which means it is one piece of cute fabric and a cute colorful one with bunnies from Janet.

From Janet Eckstrom



From Linda Alvilhiera

EASTER MEMORIAL FUND

Each year the church orders lilies and tulips to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. A memorial list is created and placed in the Narthex and published in the Courier with names of loved ones you wish to have remembered or honored. The Deacons will be delivering the plants to our homebound members after church on Easter Sunday 4/5. Below is the order form, please fill out and return to the Church Office. **The deadline to order is March 26th.** You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

Please complete this form and return it to the church with \$15 per plant:

I, _____, would like to order _____
Tulips/Lilies for delivery to a homebound member.



The names I would like listed on the memorial list are:
(4 names per plant):



Please bring your bottle/can returns to church in fellowship hall. The money goes to the Christian Education Committee. Please turn in the TABS on the cans, it goes to children with Cancer. See Maurine Upton for further information.



CONTACT US

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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Brockton, MA 02301-2840

Tel: 508-586-3022

Web: brocktonucc.org

Email: office@brocktonucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday:

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

Sunday Worship Time: 10:00 a.m.



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