



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 46 No. 5

Be The Church

May 2026

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: May 17, 11:30AM

Council: May 21, 7PM

Deacons: May 7, 7PM

Finance/Property: May 14, 7PM

Missions: May 17, 9AM

Music: May 28, 6:30PM

Vitality: TBD

PASTOR'S PAGE

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

~Deuteronomy 31:8~

Sixteen years ago, on new year's eve 2010, I made one of the biggest decisions I'd ever made to that point in my life.

I decided I didn't want to live anymore.

I made a plan, I thought it through, I prayed and cried about it, I wondered when I might do it. Regardless, my life felt hopeless and I didn't know where else to turn. When I told my primary care doctor about it she smiled at me compassionately and said, "Well, let's get you the help you need. And your plan wouldn't have worked anyway, it just would have made you feel even worse for a few days." And so my journey to manage my mental health began. Sixteen years in I can say with confidence there will never be a place where I can say, "I've made it" or that I've somehow reached some mental health destination end point; but I can also say with confidence that admitting I needed to do this work has changed my life profoundly. To the point that I look forward to keeping up with it because at every turn I learn more and more about myself; which means I get to know ME better and better all the time.

May is mental health awareness month, and so I wanted to take that candid moment to illustrate something simple but profound – the journey to better mental health isn't one anybody can do alone, and no matter how bad things may feel in any given moment there's incredible power in sharing the burden of what's weighing you down. Tell someone. It will make a difference.

This passage from Deuteronomy talks of God never forsaking us, and if you'd shown me this passage sixteen years ago I would have laughed at you. It certainly felt like God had, indeed, forsaken me. Now, all this time later, I understand this passage differently.

God often shows up for us with skin on.

Continue...



...Continued

Meaning God shows up through the people we know and love; but also through strangers and compassionate neighbors. God goes before us in real ways – in the experiences of others who have been in the difficult places we might find ourselves, and the wisdom they so often share. God never leaves us or forsakes us – because contrary to what we might believe in any given moment, there is always someone we can turn to. God won't magically clear the way for us that we never experience anything painful or challenging; but through God's love we never have to be alone.

I, for one, am happy to help anyone find the help they need. I'm not a trained mental health counselor, but I know how to utilize resources to find one. I'm sure there are others in our beloved community who can do the same. Or, even if you feel uncomfortable sharing those things outwardly here, most work places or school systems have something in place. Even failing that, the national suicide and crisis lifeline is 988. Text or call that number and a trained person will pick up on the other end to be that first person you tell. It's 100% confidential and judgement-free; and those who answer calls are trained and ready to help with any issues involving mental health, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, and more.

If you're reading this Courier article and you're thinking "this isn't for me" – good, I'm glad for you! If you're reading this and it's bringing something up for you, know that God goes ahead of you and will never leave you or forsake you. I'm alive today because that's true, we just have to look for it.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 17th
After Worship

Zoom information for those who would like to connect remotely can be found below this graphic in our Nearly Weekly and Nearly Weekly-Weekend Edition, or by contacting the church office.

LET US WELCOME THE SPIRIT TOGETHER
ON PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 24
10AM

FAITH FORMATION
SUNDAY
Sunday June 14
10:00am

Celebrating another year of faith formation for all generations in our community!

All are welcome from ages 0-99 in a special, interactive, accessible worship service designed to meet the needs of all of God's children.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Greetings Church!

Happy May! As the world blooms with new life, we are reminded that God is always creating, renewing, and growing something beautiful in and around us. This month, we will explore how faith grows through love, courage, kindness, and community.

In worship and faith formation, we journey through the Easter season—a time when we celebrate that resurrection is not just one day, but a way of living. Easter teaches us that hope rises, love continues, and God is still at work in the world.

Children (K–6th Grade)

This month in Sunday School, we will follow the **Revised Common Lectionary**, joining Christians around the world in hearing the same stories of scripture each week. These texts invite us to grow in faith, love, courage, and compassion.

Big ideas for the month:

- *How Jesus calms worried hearts*
- *Ways the Holy Spirit helps us be brave and kind*
- *Practicing peace in our homes and communities*
- *Finding joy as we serve others*
- *Knowing Jesus is with us wherever we go*

SAVE THE DATE: Faith Formation Sunday June 14th at 10am

The children will be preparing for Faith Formation Sunday on May 31 and June 7th during Sunday School. Please make every effort to have your children here so they can feel prepared for helping to lead worship on the 14th.

Youth Ministry (grades 7-12)

Last month we met for pizza and a time to learn about overcoming barriers. Students played games and had some pretty deep discussion and reflection about barriers in their personal lives, in their community, and the systemic barriers in place around them.

Confirmation

Confirmation Check In
Sunday, May 10th @ 11:30am

Youth Group

This month, we will meet on Friday 5/15 from 6:30-8pm for frisbee golf, hot dogs and s'mores at the parsonage. Be on the lookout for an email coming soon.

Scholarships

Scholarship applications are due by Friday, May 29th. Scholarship Sunday will be June 7th during worship. Applications can be found [here](#) or by emailing ce@brocktonucc.org. Scholarships are available for folks pursuing higher education.



Adult Faith Formation

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

Even if you haven't been able to attend previous sessions, you are welcome to join us. Please email me and we can make it happen! So far this class has been full of good conversation, learning, and community building. We'd love to have a few more folks join us!

As we venture through spring and into summer, I am reminded that where there is new life, there is hope. My hope is that our community continues to grow and learn together toward who Jesus calls us to be whether we are 1 or 101. I am so thankful to be alongside all of you in this endeavor.



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Applications due
May 29th

If you are headed to higher education and a part of our beloved community, you are welcome to apply for the scholarships we have available.

We will recognize scholarship recipients on Sunday, June 7 at 10am worship.

Contact Dani at ce@brocktonucc.org with any questions

With a grateful heart,

Dani

"Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

John 14:27



Friday 5/15

Youth Group

6:30-8:00pm

All 7th-12th graders are invited for Frisbee Golf in the church parking lot and then hot dogs and s'mores at the parsonage!



Mini Youth Group

grades 4-6

Sunday, June 7th
11:30am-1:00pm

Join us for lunch and learning through games and conversation surrounding the concept of change and transition in a fun and developmentally appropriate way!



YOUTH GROUP





MAUNDY THURSDAY



EASTER 2026



NOTES FROM ALEX

Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, our souls. So said John Rutter, one of the preeminent choral composers of modern times. Curiously Mr. Rutter is an avowed agnostic, at least, and yet has carried much of the sacred choral music repertoire on his shoulders, going back decades.

Here's one we did as a choir two years ago:

<https://youtu.be/Eve2y-P-Zjk?si=DyRr2JWhpgMLBEJo>

I think John Rutter aspires to faith, and certainly writes of belief and Christian tenets quite freely and beautifully. One of my most faithful choir members at my last church confessed he did not believe. I've struggled occasionally with my faith, and have had doubts about many things, but lived, to this point, in a state of constant prayer, even if I was shouting at or blaming God.

Mostly I pray asking for courage, for perspective, for strength to do what is going to help myself and others. I want to make the world a better place, and nothing anyone says may change the fact I always wish I could do more. I enjoy making music. I hope you enjoy making it too, or at least enjoy what we make, as musicians in the church.

Personally I resist thinking of myself as a musician; I feel more like someone who makes music, rather than a musician. It's like being a Christian, perhaps, in that I aspire to be like Jesus—the servant of the people who teaches grace and wisdom and courage and strength.

As an aspiring Christian, I believe in mercy for the downtrodden, for the forgotten. Often I'd like to see more justice for the unmerciful. I'm not like Jesus except perhaps that I strive (imperfectly) for what is good, and to see more of that in the people who claim to be.

Whoever we are, I hope we can agree there are ways of making community, of reaching our humanity, as John Rutter said, whether that's making music together or creating justice in a church basement.

We are less who we claim to be and more who we aim to be.

~ Alex Green
Music Director



FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH

Thanks to all:

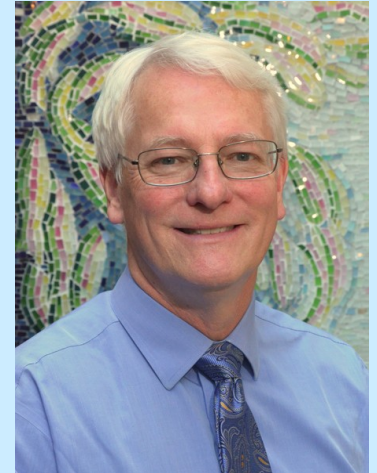
- who attended our April 15 Midday Music
- contributed shelf-stable food for the Community Food Pantry here at the church as well as \$425 for the Board of Missions to use to purchase food as needed in the coming months
- and to Organist Peter Krasinski for a wonderful program on our Austin Organ celebrating the 250th birthday of the USA.



Next Up

Midday Music on June 17th at 12:15 pm

“Broadway and Beyond” to be presented by Rev. Jeffrey Johnson, piano, and Steve Young, organ. Always free, all are welcome.



BYE FOR NOW

And Farewell for Now

The Arts & Music Planning Group has decided to disband as we are no longer able to staff an ongoing concert program with our available volunteers. We have had a great run since 2021 following the end of the Organ Completion Project and have welcomed many members of the community, the church, and wonderful performers into our beautiful space. Thanks to all who supported with time, talent, and treasure. Thanks to the church staff who have helped with set-up, clean-up, printing and more. Thanks to our helpers: Don Myers as Emcee and Audrey Jones, Constant Contact editor. We are also grateful for support from the local cultural councils in Brockton, Easton and Stoughton, which have assisted us in presenting programs through the years.

It is our hope that the Board of Music or a successor group will endeavor to recreate a similar program in the years ahead.

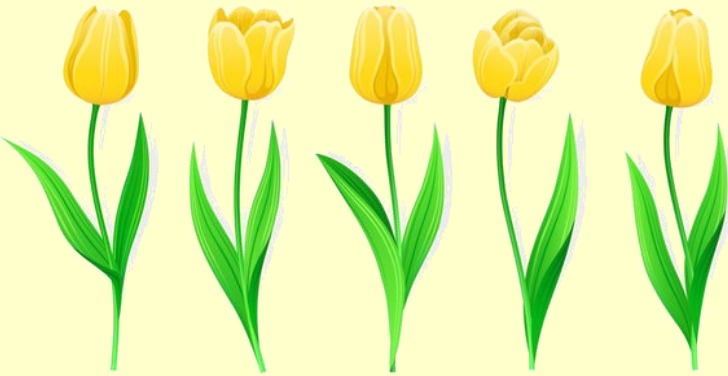
Donna Costa, Alice Farnsworth, Johnathan Lawrence, Candy Savage and Betsey Serjak.

May 1, 2026

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for the beautiful yellow tulips that Jeff Illsley delivered to my home. They made Easter extra special.

Anna Thomas

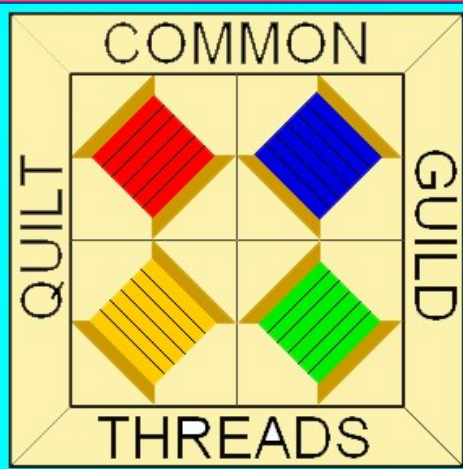


Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Connor Nocivelli, Nancy Simonis, Saundra Alden, Sue Koza, Harriet Dunklee, Nora Deyoe, Darlene Gilson, Janet Hodnett, Nathan Herget, Linda Sampson, Mary Baker, Keith Allen, Kathy North, Andrew Eckstrom, Levi Swisher-Rosa, Alice Farnsworth, Helen Nocivelli-Camara, Salomè Kaptimer, Michelle Young-Ferguson

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

BE THE CHURCH God is still speaking. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Embrace diversity. Reject racism. Forgive often. Love God. **Fight for the powerless.** Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.*



Happy May! The guild will be very busy sorting and organizing our many fabrics to prepare for our move to our new quilt room. Which we hope will be happening soon. We still have some storage and logistics to deal with but we will be on our way soon.

This beautiful modern version of the American Flag is a panel put together and quilted by Janet Eckstrom. She made it in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence celebrated on July 4, 2026. She will hang it proudly on her home.

We will also be discussing our June luncheon at our meeting.





Seeking Attic Treasures Donations

Due to the generosity of our church family and friends, we have sold many "finer fleas" items on Facebook Marketplace. We are always looking for vintage or antiques items, collectibles, new in box items, small pieces of furniture, unique or higher quality items in new or very good pre-owned condition. Please contact Marcia Olson (baglole.olson@verizon.net) or the church office to make arrangements to drop off your donations



Find our online sales on Facebook Marketplace

- Enter Marcia's seller profile URL into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/profile/1094073446/>
- Scroll down to see "**Marcia's listings**".
- With few exceptions, all items are marked with a "**All proceeds benefit Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant St., Brockton, MA**" disclaimer in the description.
- You can also go to the Marketplace tab on the Facebook app: https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/?ref=app_tab
- Enter "**Christ Congregational Church**" AND **Brockton** in the Search Marketplace box.



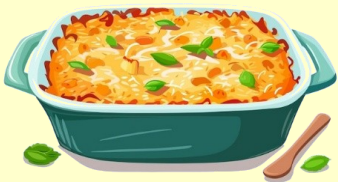
BOARD OF MISSIONS

What's Happening This Month



Our church is once again serving as a **CWS Regional Drop-off** site on Wednesday, May 6 for a variety of humanitarian relief kits including Hygiene & School Kits, Emergency Clean Buckets, Baby Care Kits and Welcome Backpacks for refugees.

As our church's contribution to these efforts, the Missions teams purchased the supplies needed to fill 20 Period Packs. The menstrual hygiene kits provide essential supplies to women and girls facing poverty, displacement, or natural disasters. The kits are meant to restore dignity and support health when access to basic supplies is limited. Thanks to our "assembly crew" who made quick work of getting our kits ready to ship! Please contact **Jan Howard** if you are able to help with the depot drop-offs on May 6 or truck pick-up on May 11.



MainSpring Casserole Ministry

"Cooking is love made visible".

Thank you for the generosity you showed last month—together we delivered **14 homemade casseroles**, including a vegan option, to the guests at Father Bill's & MainSpring. Your care truly makes a difference.

As we look ahead to June, we have another opportunity to offer a warm, comforting meal to our neighbors at the shelter. We're hoping to gather **14–16 Easy Cheesy Chicken & Veggie casseroles**, and we'd love for you to be part of this ministry of nourishment and compassion.

We'll be handing out foil pans and recipes after worship on **May 31** and **June 7**. Once your casserole is prepared, please wrap and label it, then place it in the church kitchen freezer by **Sunday, June 14**.

If you can make a casserole, would like the recipe emailed to you, or prefer to contribute toward the cost of ingredients, please reach out to **Marcia Olson** (baglole.olson@verizon.net).



How is the Spirit calling us to lift up and nurture the emerging ministries of the United Church of Christ? Through the **Strengthen the Church Offering**, we join together—locally and nationally—to support the growth of vibrant new ministries, renew and energize existing congregations, invest in leadership development, and create meaningful opportunities for our youth and young adults.

When you give to Strengthen the Church, 80% of your contribution remains within the Southern New England Conference, and the remaining 20% strengthens supports national ministries of the United Church of Christ, extending the impact of your generosity well beyond our region.

Throughout the month, you're invited to share your gift by using the **Strengthen the Church** envelope in your pew, or by noting "Strengthen the Church" on the memo line of your check and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

Together, we can follow the Spirit's leading and help build a just world for all. Thank you for giving so generously and faithfully.



Community Food Pantry At CCC

Shelf-stable, non-perishable donations to our church food pantry are always appreciated as we seek to help to 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

Most Needed Pantry Extras:

- Individually wrapped rolls of toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap
- Menstrual products
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Bars of Soap

Tip for Donating

- Canned goods with pull-tab lids are easier for seniors and those experiencing homelessness.

FROM OUR BUILDING PARTNERS



SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

MAY 9

Pancake Breakfast & Musical Carwash

Come for a delicious breakfast & take a ride through our musical car wash!
\$10 breakfast \$20 Car Wash
9AM-noon 1350 Pleasant St Brockton

MAY 20

Recital & Art show for Family & Friends

Join us for our piano & strings recital and take a walk through our art gallery.
(\$25 suggested donation per family)
5:30-7PM 1350 Pleasant St Brockton

JUNE 13

Spring Concert: Our Favorite Things, A Rose Conservatory Story

Join us for our 5th annual Spring concert & fundraiser.
Tickets on sale beginning 5/1 via Eventbrite (\$25 Adults)
1 - 2:30PM 1350 Pleasant St Brockton

Questions? Email us at RoseConservatory2@gmail.com



INTERESTED IN SPONSORING AN EVENT?

Scan below for info on sponsorship opportunities



Questions? Email us at RoseConservatory2@gmail.com



ROSE CONSERVATORY SPRING CONCERT

- Our Favorite Things.....A Rose Conservatory Story -

SAT JUNE 13TH 2026 1:00PM

1350 PLEASANT ST.
BROCKTON



PURCHASE TICKETS HERE





Easter 2026



*The Easter Flowers and Memorial
Donations are given to the Glory of God
and in Honor of and in Loving Memory of:*

A

Mr. & Mrs. Merton L. Alden
Merton "Sonny" Alden, Jr.
Terrence "Terry" L. Alden
Christopher Allen

Donna Allen
Harry Allen
Jennie Allen
Nicole Allen
Aida Azoukou

B

Ernest Baglole
Mary Baglole
Forrest & Priscilla Bailey
George & Constance Bamford
Horace & Shirley Bamford
L. Elsie Bamford
Sandra Ellen Bamford
George & Alice Boyer
Anne Brooks
Aida & Bernhard Bruns

C

Martha Cushing

D

Mr. & Mrs. Howard W. Dalton
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dalton
Mr. & Mrs. Albert D. Daniels
Jeffrey R. Dawson
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dodd
Carole Duhamel
Daniel E. Dunklee, Jr.
Ruth Dunklee Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Dunklee, Sr.

E

Harriet G. Eastman
Kerry Eckstrom
Wayne Eckstrom
Kerri-Ann Exell

F

Allen & Connie Fisher
Bernice Fisher
Harold & Marjorie Fisher
JoMary Samuelson Fisher
Suzy Fisher
John & Theresa Forest

G

Mary & Bob Gibson
Rev. Edwin Gibson
Davis & Louise Goodwin

H

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Haase
Darlene Habteh-Yimer
Getachew Habteh-Yimer
Gini Hathaway
Janet Higgins
Dorothy Lendh Holland
Sister Helena Holland
Vincent G. Holland
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin J. Holmquist
Mr. Robert Holmquist
George & Arleen Hutt

I

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Illsley, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Illsley, Sr.

J

Aaron Johnson
Bob Johnson
Constance "Penny" Johnson
Davy Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Jones
Carlos Carrillo Joubert

K

Eljiah Kaptimer
Frank & Elsie Kittredge

L

Robert Lawson

M

Joan B. Manoogian
Walter & Flora Marlenga
Mr. & Mrs. James J. McGunnigal
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McGunnigal
Mr. Stephen G. McGunnigal
John Molander
Margaret & Arthur Molander
Mark Molander
Rita & Arthur Molander
Babe Moline

N

Kathy North

O

Catherine Marie Olson
Laura Christine Olson

P

Ray Placentino
Robert & Ruth Poole
Sandy Poole
Dick & Alice Poyse
Joseph A. Prioli

R

Susan Reynolds
Michaela Jane Ronan

S

Jean Sampson
Cutty Samuelson
Faith Samuelson
Clyde & Mabelle Savage
Duane C. Savage
Richard Schofield
Margaret A. Sheppard
Richard Sheppard
Robert F. Sheppard
Terry Sheppard
Vivian Sheppard
Linda Siegrist
Danny Ray Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert J. Sinclair
Bill & Janet Smith
Robert Soncrant
Ethyl Southworth
Winslow & Doris Staples
Scott & Jayne Stevens

T

Michael Tardie
Mr. James C. Thomas, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Thomas Sr.

U

Gail Uhlman

W

Beverly & Bedford "Bud" Wheaton
Douglas & Doris Wilbur

Y

Mrs. Mildred Yecius



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

1350 Pleasant Street
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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Brockton, MA 02301-2840