



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

Happy
Pride
month!

Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: TBD

Council: June 18, 7PM

Deacons: June 4, 7PM

Finance/Property: June 11, 7PM

Missions: June 14, 9AM

Music: TBD

Vitality: TBD



PASTOR'S PAGE

"Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic – be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you – bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying."

~Romans 12:9-15~



The first Pride parades were held in June 1970 to mark the one year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. On June 28, 1969 New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn; a place where LGBTQ people had found community together. As the raid carried on patrons of the Inn resisted the raid, riots broke out between patrons and police as well as surrounding neighbors – and then the uprising lasted for six days. We are less than sixty years removed from this heinous night; and yet Pride parades and celebrations continue to this day.

Pride isn't a simple time of frivolity – it's outspoken and unapologetic joy in the face of discrimination. Discrimination that still continues to this day. Paul's words from Romans feel especially apt in that light. As part of his larger discourse about all of us being different parts of the same body, he takes this moment to tell his readers what that actually means. Love each other. Sow more love than hate. Be enthusiastic about it! Hold onto hope and don't let it go – ever. Help each other, even if you don't know each other. Pray for those who would rather suppress *your* joy than find a joy of their own. *Be happy with one another when it's right, and cry with one another when that's right.*

We've come a long way in sixty years since the Stonewall uprising with legal protections for same gender couples to marry, anti-discrimination laws that consider certain harassment of LGBTQ people as hate crimes, and more. But the bigotry and homophobia that led to the raid on the Stonewall Inn in 1969,

Continue...

...Continued

and that had existed for generations even before that, are still present and active in their mission to push people down.

The ACLU is currently tracking 529 pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation working their way through state legislatures across the country. Five of them are working through the Massachusetts legislature. You can learn more about them by going to <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2026>. Paul's words from Romans ring as true for us today as they ever have. We need to be moved, and to cry, with those who are crying.

We have much to celebrate this month. We are an Open and Affirming church, always discerning how we can more fully live into that mantle. This means we're one of the few places where LGBTQ people of faith can find a place to worship and be in community without fear that they'll be judged or that someone will try to "fix" or "save" them. More and more people across the country feel more and more comfortable coming out publicly, and expressions of queerness are being more and more deeply explored. The world is opening up in many ways for God's LGBTQ children. Let's be happy with those who are happy!

Most of all, let's live together as a family – or as many parts to one body. We can't make it without one another. Paul knew and recognized this, and those patrons at Stonewall in June of 1969 knew and recognized this, and countless others in between have known and recognized this.

That's why we celebrate Pride. Together.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



Statement of Welcome



The Love of Christ for Each Person Knows No Bounds, and.....

We, at Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Brockton, celebrate the diversity of God's creation, and seek to be a community of Christians who live in openness to the voice of the Still Speaking God.

We celebrate family in all its diverse forms and honor, support, and bless all loving and committed relationships.

As we seek to live out our mission to live Christ's compassion and promote justice, healing and wholeness of life we welcome into our community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure.

We invite and welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

We remember our promises made at baptism, therefore, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey; you are welcome to this United Church of Christ.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Greetings Church!

As summer begins, we enter a season of growth, adventure, and discovery. In worship and faith formation this month, we'll explore what it means to be guided by God's Spirit, connected in community, and called to share love and justice in the world.

The church season begins with Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with courage and helped people from many different backgrounds understand one another. Throughout June, we'll continue exploring how God invites us to build communities where everyone belongs and where love is put into action.

Children (K-6th Grade)

The beginning of the month is focused on preparing and leading worship on Sunday, June 14th for Faith Formation Sunday. The children are working hard on developing an order of worship, writing liturgy, and preparing a message. Our last chance to prepare will be on 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. We will meet at 9:30 on June 14th to be ready for worship.

Summer Sunday School Schedule

Between June 21 thru July 19 we will be focused on Prayer as a Faith Practice.

From July 26 and August 2 children will be in worship. The services will be intergenerational with activities at the playground.

August 9th-30th we will have a combined Messy Church style Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall during worship.

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 how God is with us through change and transition in a fun and developmentally appropriate way!

Youth Ministry (grades 7-12)

Youth Group

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

Scholarships

The deadline for Scholarship applications has been extended to Wednesday, June 10. Scholarship Sunday will be June 21st 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

- ◇ Our study is continuing through June as we continuing 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!

Summer is a wonderful time for faith to grow through service, play, worship, and community. Watch for upcoming opportunities to gather, learn, and serve together in the months ahead.

May God's Spirit guide us, strengthen us, and help us share Christ's love wherever we go this summer.

With a grateful heart,
Dani

"There are different gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are different services, but the same Lord." — 1 Corinthians 12:4-5

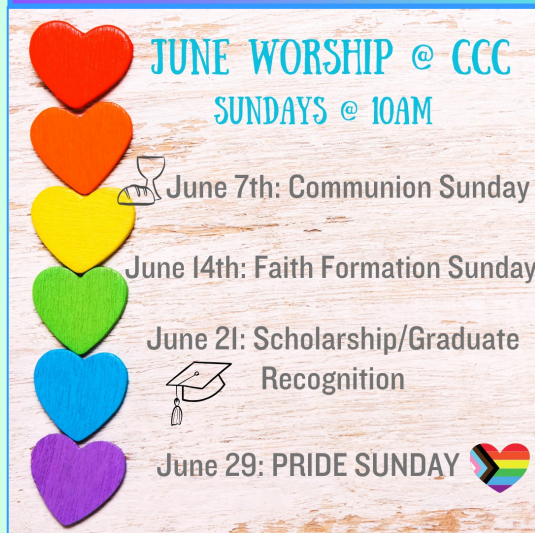


FAITH FORMATION
SUNDAY
Sunday June 14
10:00am



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.



JUNE WORSHIP @ CCC
SUNDAYS @ 10AM

- June 7th: Communion Sunday
- June 14th: Faith Formation Sunday
- June 21: Scholarship/Graduate Recognition
- June 29: PRIDE SUNDAY



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!

PRIDE PARTY

June 28th
2-4pm

Christ Congregational
Church
1350 Pleasant St,
Brockton



**Let's Celebrate!
Food, Games,
Bounce House, Face
Painting and More!!**

We need help with setting up, serving food, and clean up for our Pride Party.

Please email Dani (ce@brocktonucc.org) or text (717-387-1559) if you can help!



NOTES FROM ALEX

My piano student launched into a piece. “I want to learn ‘In the Hall of the Mountain King,’” she stated, Friday. She was eager, as I began the process of rote learning with her. And reckless.

I often want to learn things faster. Who doesn’t? I find my progress is slowed, however, by wanting results now. In her haste, she made early mistakes and then kept making them. I want success now, money now, the piece I’ve been practicing to be easy now. At least I think I do.

Sometimes we’re afraid of success, afraid of sticking out. That’s my theory. It may not be true for you, but I think it’s more common than many of us may believe. We throw out excuses, or engage in subtle forms of self-sabotage, like going too fast or acting rashly.

Personally I think those parts of us that go against our stated or even our conscious goals are just trying to protect us, to keep us safe, even if it means being small. Especially if it means that.

I’ve been working to reduce the attention I give my inner fear-mo-meter and see the ways I may be resisting exactly what I say to others—or to myself—that I actually want. Meanwhile I hope I can give myself the grace I need to work through these patterns that seem deep inside.

Also I’ve been putting myself out there. After years of practicing vocal exercises and writing music, I just posted a video of myself singing and playing a piece I wrote. It gave me an outlet to express my feelings about wars going on in the world, especially the U.S./Israeli war with Iran.

Making music is something I’ve devoted myself to, and a gift that I’ve given myself, even if there are costs, which there are. But there are costs all around: costs of doing this, or of not doing this. Of acting rashly, but also of not acting with any purpose at all.

Whatever we do, I hope we do it with the intent of blessing ourselves and others. Because blessing ourselves will bless others, I believe, and blessing others without fearing what will come of it can and often does bless our own selves.

Blessings,
Alex Green, Music Director
music@brocktonucc.org

“War”
<https://youtu.be/5oFr53tund0>



FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH

Next Up - Midday Music on June 17 at 12:15 pm

"Broadway and Beyond" presented by Rev. Jeffrey Johnson, piano, and Steve Young, organ.

This, our last Midday Music program, is dedicated to now deceased church members who helped to make the incorporation of the Choir Division into our Austin Organ possible through their efforts: Eleanor Calvin, Dot Quimby, David Stewart and Richard Hill. The Midday Music programs started in 2016 at the beginning of the Organ Completion Project and were continued by the Arts & Music Planning Group once the organ work was completed.

As always, everyone is welcome, and the program is free, so invite a friend. A light lunch will be offered in Fellowship Hall after the program.



BYE FOR NOW

And Farewell for Now

Thanks to all who supported this community outreach 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.



To my wonderful church family,

Thank you so much for honoring me with the “Light of the World” award at this year’s May Annual Meeting. When Pastor Jeff texted me with the news while I was vacationing in Scotland, it felt like a little tug of love from home - surprising, humbling, and deeply touching.

I am truly grateful to be part of such a compassionate, light-filled community where kindness is lived every day. The beautiful lamp now sits in my living room, a daily reminder of your warmth and generosity.

Thank you all for shining so brightly.

Marcia Olson

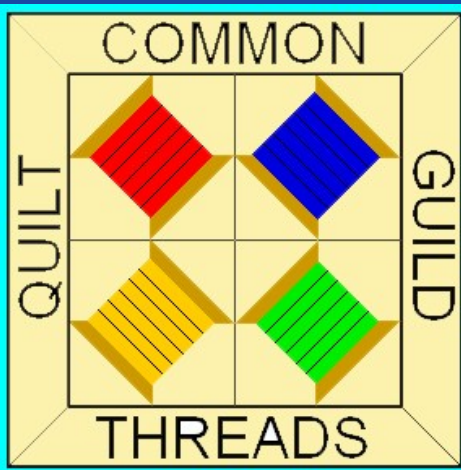
celebrating
JUNE
birthdays



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Moriah Illsley-Park, Barbara Moody, Bob Gair, Jillian Larson, Layne Moline, Nancy Goodwin, Sean Stevens, Jr., Pat Hennebury, Matthew Howard, Denise Cahill, Angela Colby, Jeff Illsley, David Jones, Janet Eckstrom, Mary Poole, Serenity Young-Ferguson and Sawyer Young-Ferguson

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



Happy June! The quilt guild did not meet in the month of May. We had to cancel due to multiple members not being able to attend. June is upon on us and just as the kids are about to move on up, we too are moving on up. Up to a lovely sun filled spacious quilt room on the second floor wing. We are very excited and have lots to do for a successful move.

We are also looking forward to our annual June end of year luncheon. We usually have a pot luck salad luncheon with dessert but last year we changed it up. We had a salad but it was a mixed green chicken salad and it was on a pizza. It sounds crazy but it was very good. Happy Summer!!



FROM THE DEACONS

It's that time of year again where we conduct our bi-annual pastor evaluation. The performance evaluation is an opportunity for the Board of Deacons to give feedback to the Senior Pastor on their strengths and areas of growth. This opportunity for feedback and growth is designed to both strengthen the Pastor's ministry and the spiritual binds that hold our community together.

As a part of their process, the Board of Deacons is requesting that church members fill out a survey so they may better gauge the attitudes of the congregation. There will be paper copies of the survey in the downstairs hallway. Additionally, a copy of the survey has been attached to the courier. Please return your evaluation by email to Jeff Illsley at illsleyj@aol.com no later than June 30, 2026.

The evaluation process is an important part of the congregational process that allows for thoughtful reflection from all members of our community. We look forward to this process as a way to strengthen our community, congregation, and commitment to our values.

[LINK TO SURVEY](#)



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Crash the Choir dates this summer, if you dare!

June 28th, Pride Sunday

July 5th

Aug. 2nd

Sept. 6th

See you then!

BOARD OF MISSIONS

What's Happening This Month - Missions And Outreach



MainSpring Casserole Ministry

"Cooking is love made visible".

Summer brings two more chances for us to extend God's love by providing a nourishing meal for our neighbors at the shelter. We're aiming to prepare **14-16 Easy Cheesy Chicken & Veggie casseroles** in **June and August**, and we invite you to join this meaningful outreach.

Foil pans and recipes will be available after worship on the two weeks before the casseroles are due to Father Bill's & MainSpring. Once your casserole is assembled, please wrap, label, and place it in the church kitchen freezer by the following dates:

Sunday, June 14 & Sunday, August 16

If you'd like to cook, need the recipe emailed, or prefer to support the effort financially, please contact **Marcia Olson** at baglole.olson@verizon.net.



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.



Community Food Pantry at CCC

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. Please be sure to check the expiration date!. Monetary donations are also welcome. Donations may be dropped off at the church any time while the pantry is open:

Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM and Sun 9:00 AM – 12:00 NN.

The **most needed summer food pantry items** tend to be high-protein staples, kid-friendly snacks, and shelf-stable fruits/veggies — especially because summer increases demand when children are home from school and free-meal programs pause.

Most-Needed Summer Pantry Items:

- Canned tuna, chicken, salmon and Spam
- Peanut butter or other nut butters
- Canned beans and lentils (black, kidney, chickpeas)
- Shelf-stable milk or protein shakes
- Shelf stable meals – hearty soups, stews, chili, ravioli
- Low sodium canned vegetables
- Canned fruit in light syrup

Pantry Staples That Stretch Meals:

- Rice, pasta, quinoa and oatmeal – whole grain options preferred
- Mac n' cheese
- Pasta sauce
- Cooking oils
- Spices & salt/pepper
- Sugar & flour
- Shelf-stable tofu

Kid-Friendly Summer Items:

- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Fruit cups
- Granola or protein bars
- Kid-friendly snacks
- Whole grain, low sugar cereals
- Instant oatmeal
- Juice boxes – 100% juice

Most Needed Pantry Extras:

- Individually wrapped rolls of toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap
- Menstrual products
- Shampoo, deodorant, soap
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Can openers
- Baby supplies – formula, diapers, wipes

Tip for Donating

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



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.



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