

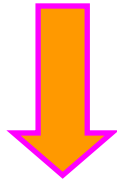
WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Regular Events

Worship: Remotely on our website or Facebook page
Sundays, 9:55AM



Please reach out to your committee chairperson to see how or if they will be having their meeting.



Board Meetings

- Christian Ed: Apr. 2, 6:30PM
- Council: Apr. 16, 7PM
- Deacons: Apr. 2, 7PM
- Finance & Property: Apr. 9, 7PM
- Media/Tech: Apr. 9, 6:15PM
- Missions: Apr. 7, 7PM
- Music: Apr. 12, 11:30PM
- OCC: Apr. 5, 11:30AM
- Vitality: Apr. 2, 7PM

PASTOR'S PAGE



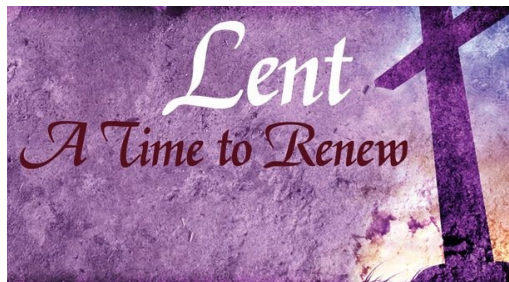
Greetings friends, I pray that this Courier finds you safe and well and in your homes. When we first began Lent, we spoke of it as a journey through the wilderness. Little did we know how true that would feel just a few weeks later. This has been a particularly challenging time for many in our church family. We are dealing with fears around how our families and friends will be impacted by COVID-19. Some in our community have suddenly found themselves out of work or with their hours cut. Parents are trying to balance working from home while teaching and caring for their families. Others aren't able to be with their loved ones or to be with the communities we love and care about. As a friend of mine wrote on Facebook recently, I don't think any of us expected to be giving quite this much up for Lent.

And yet in the midst of everything happening, I have been finding so much hope in the ways I see our community showing up. Phone calls are being made to check in on folks, cloth masks are being sewn to donate to local health care workers, even (contact free) emergency toilet paper deliveries! You are demonstrating every day, how we can show up as the body of Christ in the world (even from our homes)!

I invite you to bring everything that your heart is holding into this Holy week. The story of Holy Week is one full of the same emotions. I invite you to join others in this community who are full of the same emotions as we worship together and look forward to the hope that comes with the new dawn.

Peace be with you,

Ann-Marie Illsley, Acting Associate Pastor



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week Schedule



(all worship services will be offered online at brocktonucc.org/live-videos/)

Passion/Palm Sunday Service – April 5th, 9:55am – Make your own palm or grab a scarf to wave. We'll hear the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and then transition into a Lenten lessons and carols service in which we hear the Passion story. Rev. Mary Perry will be preaching.

Maundy Thursday Service – April 9th, 7pm – A candlelight Tenebrae service

Good Friday - April 10th, 12:30pm – We'll gather for an informal time of prayer and mutual support.

Easter Sunday – April 12th, 9:55am – A joyful Easter celebration with music and scripture. We'll celebrate communion together, in a slightly different way than usual. Ann-Marie Illsley will be preaching.

Easter Communion (BYOC – Bring Your Own Communion)

We will be celebrating communion during our Easter worship service. In order to maintain safety precautions, we're asking everyone to bring their own elements. Don't worry if you don't have pita bread and grape juice, you can use whatever you have for this communion. We'll bless it all and celebrate the sacrament together. So before you log into church on Easter, grab your bread and juice (or crackers and water, or cheez-its and OJ).



Hallelujah Easter Art Project

Since we can't be together this Easter, we're inviting you to share your Hallelujahs with our church in a different way. Get as creative as you like!

1. Use what you have (sidewalk chalk, paper, paint, crayons, string, scraps of wood, etc.) to create a "Hallelujah" banner/sign/message for Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.
2. Take a picture of it (and yourselves!) and send it to Ann-Marie by email or text (pastor@brocktonucc.org or 508-577-2607) by Friday, April 10th.

SUNDAY'S COMING

Katrina Clinton

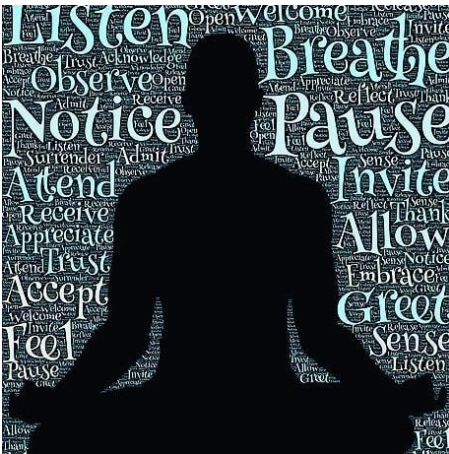


Notes from Murray

My soul waits upon the Lord - Psalm 130. At the time of this writing, it is very hard to know the immediate future for the rest of the season and Easter and many things that we hold as traditions in our lives. The one thing I know is true? We can overcome this! It might be difficult at times or for a long time, but we can and shall overcome.

Currently, I am teaching even more hours for my school job. I teach a music theory class, three choirs and a beginning guitar class. Many of you might be thinking, "But Murray, I didn't know you knew how to play the guitar." Well, I am not very practiced up, but I took guitar as a young lad in Modesto. That,

combined with my years as a professional musician has made it so I can pick up where I left off so many years ago. The students, I am finding, are practicing a lot more than before the quarantine. And several of my choir kids are commenting that they have picked up long abandoned instruments of the past. I, too, am finding the exercises of re-learning this instrument quite comforting and distracting from the stress of this situation. I encourage you, if you played an instrument in the past or have an instrument handy, take a look at a Youtube video about the instrument and get going. For guitar, <https://www.fender.com/articles/how-to/free-guitar-lessons> is providing free lessons. You will find that it is a GREAT way to pass the time and might even keep your mind occupied so that you aren't like me and going to the fridge every 20 minutes (or more!).



At this very moment, I am in my home and there is very little sound; an occasional bird, a plane somewhere up above, the stirring of one of my sons in the next room. There is much less sound and it is peaceful. The Creator is at work. I pray that you are able to use this time to recharge rather than to worry; not so easy, I know. I encourage you all to breathe and listen. Listen to your hearts. Listen to your family and friends. Listen to nature. Listen to music. What do you hear? How will you use this time? Will you come out of it better than when you started? Barring a health situation, it doesn't take much to make strides. Read a book or small parts of many books. Learn a poem. Sing some songs you know from childhood. Would some of you write a paragraph or page or two about your youth or younger years? If you send it in to music@brocktonucc.org, we can post it. You never know, it might inspire someone or amuse someone

or help someone pass the time easier. Hope is something we need to keep hold of and cultivate. Music, stories, art, dance, and literature are God's healing potions and can provide in so many ways.

Thank you for tuning in to the streamed services. We are working hard to make the services meaningful and provide you with a strong connection to Christ Congregational Church. Encourage others to tune in by sharing our link on FB each week. Share the church's website where they can see other services and music.

All the best and missing you,
Murray

ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

A Project Pipes Update from our Organ Builder, Czelusniak & Dugal:

In these unprecedented and uncertain times, we are happy to report that the public health crisis has not impacted the work on the Choir division within our own firm. Outside forces are in effect however and may influence the completion date.

For instance, forced shut downs in Pennsylvania have shuttered two of our most trusted suppliers, and a business shut-down in Connecticut has left operations of the Austin Organ Company up in the air, so we have yet to contact them for supply information.

All six of our employees are healthy and able to work daily at business as usual.



- In our shop, there has been additional engineering, cleaning, and preparation of the expression shades that will stand in front of your Choir division for dynamic control of the sound from those pipes. The shades themselves are black already (as they need to be), and the tall, vertical members of the shade frame have been cleaned and sanded; all these parts will get fresh black paint after their final fitting.

• Gary Smith has put some bench time into re-leathering more Austin manual-note actions for the key playing systems. The images attached show these proprietary parts both in pieces as well as a finished product.



Midday Music Cancelled for April 15

Thanks to Richard Bunbury for accepting our invitation to play for Midday Music in April.

However, due to concerns about corona virus and audience exposure, the program will not be held.

If there is a YARD SALE: APRIL 18 2020

The Organ Completion Committee will have a table at the church yard sale this month.

Books, LP's, CD's, puzzles

Have something to contribute?

Email to

organ@brocktonucc.org



THANKS TO ALL: LOOK HOW CLOSE WE ARE!!

PROJECT PIPES:

620 by 2020

Our goal: \$166,000 to install 620 pipes to complete the Choir Division on the Austin Organ Opus #2759

As of March 19, 2020 we have received pledges and donations of approximately \$164,907 = 611 pipes

Only 9 pipes remaining!

ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
BROCKTON, MA

620

550

440

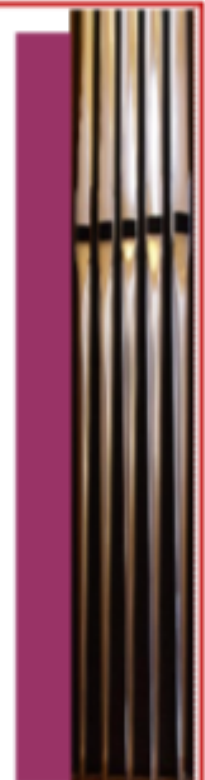
320

210

140

96

0



VITALITY VIBES

As of now, our Scholarship/Campership Dinner is on **HOLD!**

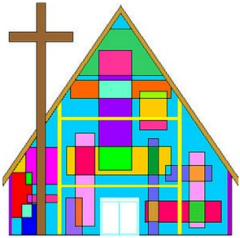
We are collaborating on a different type of event so we can make sure we get Scholarship/Camperships to our church students.



The Vitality Committee

Keith Allen, Deana Colby, Tricia Gross, Lisa Landerholm, Nancy Simonis, Loren Stott and David Wilcox

POSTPONED!!!



OUR YARD SALE NEEDS TO WAIT UNTIL LATER

More time for some extra Spring Cleaning? If you're finding some items that no longer fit your décor you still have opportunities to pass them on.



Once it's safe to do so we will reschedule the Yard Sale.

So while you're cleaning, keep us in mind for the future event where you can host your own table or donate items for the Church Fair tables.

Blessings to you and your family and loved ones while we are physically apart but together, spiritually united.

From the Mission Committee

Keeping safe is of prime concern right now and we on the committee want everyone to follow the guidelines for safe living.

While you may not be able to attend Church services in person, please remember to keep your pledges current as expenses do not know what a virus can do.

As we all plow through this rough time, please keep your family and self safe from others, by keeping your distance. [I tried telling that to my cat and she said, "No way, I'm right beside you."]

Guess I got to live with that!

George Manoogian, Mission Committee Scribe



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.

FOOD PANTRY



So we are all adjusting to this new normal. Unfortunately many people are out of work during this time. If you need food, please remember that our food pantry is available. The shelves are fully stocked at this time. Just call the office and let us know that you will be stopping by.

Along those lines, we realize that many people are experiencing a shortage of toilet paper. Please let us know if you need a couple of rolls. We have a lot of toilet paper in stock.

For those that do have extra food, please consider donating to the food pantry. We ask that you check the expiration dates carefully. We cannot accept any food that has expired.

Thank you to everyone. Together we will make it through this very trying time.



Caring.com is a leading senior care resource for family caregivers seeking information and support as they care for aging parents, spouses and other loved ones. We have been featured by AARP, The Administration for Community Living, The National Legal Resource Center, and Forbes, as well as referenced by many governmental agencies and organizations across the Internet.

[See what is available in your area](#)

Be the Church:

“Share earthly and spiritual resources.”

Time to share! Please donate today!

Mail a check: 1350 Pleasant St, Brockton MA 02301

or

Donate online by credit card: brocktonucc.org



The Transition Team

As we practice social distancing during this time of extreme caution, our transition committees have been meeting through various online means. The work of the church continues unabated.

The Transition Team continues to work with Council on developing the Strategic Pathways of expanding Community Engagement, and working toward Racial Diversity and Justice.

The Interim Search Committee is continuing the process regarding our Interim Pastor search. As previously announced, in the meantime, for questions or pastoral concerns, please consult the Gap Time chart for information on whom to contact.

The Settled Pastor Search Committee completed the Profile work, and sent it along for Conference review prior to being posted. The posting went up April 2nd. This week we conducted a mock interview with Rev. Jane MacIntyre to help prepare us for the interview process ahead. We appreciated her input as we reviewed and refined the questions we had composed. We are excited to be ready for what we hope will be a deluge of prospective candidates.

Prayerfully submitted-

Sue Koza, Co-Chair, Pastoral Search Committee



SAVE THE DATE

November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Saturday, Nov 7th 2020

CCC HARVEST FAIR

Fiber Fellowship & CRAFTS!

We are still meeting up remotely with "Zoom". We will send out an invitation to join. Call or email the office and we will add you to the join list.

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday
From 7:00 - 9:00 PM

All Welcome! The more the merrier!



COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

The quilt guild is suspended until further notice. If you are working on placemats for meals on wheels you may drop them at the church during the week (Monday - Thursday, 9 - 2pm) and the office will give them to David Wilcox. Any NICU quilts you are working on can be stockpiled till the COVID-19 threat has passed. I will collect them and deliver them to South Shore hospital. I have a roll of cotton batting at home, so if you need some call Janet @ 508-583-0505. We can arrange a drop off.

Stay home, stay safe and wash your hands.



Needles & Friends Quilt Guild



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Kim Cords, Adam Morales, Jeffrey Illsley, Calei Nocivelli, Chris Satcher, Lataisha McNary, Thomas Fisher, Fred Hayes, Amanda Davis Maksy, Adriano Swisher Rosa, Anna Thomas, Lexy Mitchell, Jeff Johnson, Katrina Clinton, Tamra Fisher, Debbie Bowman, Benjamin Loftus, Sheppo Fisher

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



amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

Shop AmazonSmile For All Your Household Needs!

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (Christ Congregational Church) every time you shop, at no cost to you. It's easy! Simply visit smile.amazon.com, select Christ Congregational Church, Brockton, and shop! You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.



Stewardship

SNIPPETS (Not Snippy! Just Zippy!)

But first, some pre-snippets comments:

Greetings and blessings to all! Well, we find ourselves in an upside down world where things are very different from what they were just a few weeks ago. We cannot be close to family and friends. We need to maintain a safe distance. We cannot visit those who need our contact the most. Someone we might have hugged in February, we now can only wave to or send a note/email. We cannot gather in our own holy space, our thin place, our sanctuary. Instead, we worship together, yet apart, online because we are afraid that we or our friends and family will contract the coronavirus. And so it goes during this pandemic time.

But here's the thing. We know that God is with us in all our sadness, frustration, confusion, grieving, and loneliness. We know that God did not cause this pandemic. We know that God walks this pandemic path with us. We know all this, but because we are human, we still have deep feelings of fear and anger. Know that God will not give up on us! God loves us and will comfort us and will show us a new way...

In the Old Testament, in the Book of Isaiah (excerpts from chapters 43 and 51 of The Message translation), God tells us, "Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands... I, God, will comfort Zion, comfort all her mounds of ruins. I'll transform her dead ground into Eden, her moonscape into the Garden of God. A place filled with exuberance and laughter and thankful voices, and melodic songs..."

Praise God! We can hardly wait!

* So what can we do during this pandemic time? First of all, we continue to rely on our Loving God and on one another. We worship and we pray and we reach out to one another in our Beloved Community and in the world! We act! We do! We think, and we plan and we work together with God's help. We carry out this important work in ways very different from our recent past, knowing that we must maintain social distancing. We continue to be the Body of Christ in this world, finding new and creative ways to be so!





- * We are diligent in our financial support of this Beloved Community of Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We continue with our pledges and offerings, even though we are not worshipping at our church building in our Holy Space, our sanctuary. We can mail in our regular checks to the church at 1350 Pleasant St, Brockton MA 02301. We can send in additional checks whenever we can. If we normally place paper money or coins in the offering plate as our pledge or as part of our extra giving, we can put this money aside at home and take it to church when we are able to return.
- * When we participate weekly in online worship, we notice that the offering is still part of the worship service. This reminds us that the missions and ministries of our Church continue, and they rely on our funding. Again, we are the Body of Christ! Our financial support helps carry out the work of Jesus!
- * Online Giving - We live in an ever-changing, modern world. This means that besides mailing in a check to the church, we can give online. Many givers already participate in an automatic, online giving plan, so please continue! Others can join online giving by going to our Christ Congregational Church website and following the directions after touching the Donate Today button. Please note that in addition to the check router system, there is also a credit card donation choice that is quite easy to use. Yes, we gave it a try to make sure it is user friendly. It works well!
- * Our Loving God has given us amazing gifts of time, talent, and treasure. God honors us as co-creators by giving us wonderful abilities of brainstorming and planning and acting in extremely creative ways. Let's do some sharing! Consider the following:
 - + How have you been reaching out to others in this time of confinement?
 - + What have you been doing in your home/neighborhood to keep busy and be creative?
 - + How are you staying connected with people?
 - + What are you doing to act as part of the Body of Christ in this world?Please consider keeping a log/journal of your responses, maybe even sharing some of your responses in emails, Facebook, phone calls, cards, notes, artwork... Really, let's keep "in touch" in our distancing!
- * This Beloved Community of Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Brockton, is alive and adapting and growing. We long to be alert and present to God's presence in our lives. We yearn to be filled with exuberance and to sing thankful, melodic songs with our voices and our actions! Twists and turns lead us in new and renewing directions! We are all in this ministry of Jesus TOGETHER, even in our social distancing! Praise and thanks to God. Let the Holy Spirit swoop and soar!

Blessings, peace, love, strength, and joy to all!
Your Stewardship Committee



A note from the Moderator: HOW ARE YOU DOING? REMOTE FELLOWSHIP HOUR



[Please note: Yes, I know this is long, even for me! Please bear with me and read to the end. Thanks!]

In this time of sheltering in place, Brenda, Sofia, and I are fortunate. So far, we are all healthy. Brenda and I have jobs that allow us to work full-time from home, earn our full salaries, and retain our health insurance. I actually like not having to commute into Boston three hours round-trip each day. Sofia is staying in touch with friends via SnapChat and FaceTime while also taking time for some art, reading, and, music that she hasn't had much time for during the normal school year. We're enjoying more family time together, watching some surprisingly good shows on television together and playing board games. Right now our family is in the midst of a RISK contest of geo-political domination, a board game I haven't played since I was a kid. Ignoring the moral doubts that arise as we attack country after country, Brenda and I find ourselves struggling to survive as our daughter, who has never played this game before, relentlessly and strategically overruns our troops and conquers, so far, South America, North American, and Europe. The showdown between East and West will likely happen later today. Be thankful that you are isolated from this inevitable apocalypse. However, we also are fortunate to have a relatively large home that allows each of us to find quiet refuge by ourselves when someone needs a temporary cease-fire. We go out only to the supermarket and pharmacy, for walks with our dog and each other, to bike—always conscious of physical distancing and caution. (I prefer “physical” rather than “social” distancing.) We're very careful with hygiene related to deliveries like mail, newspapers, and occasional pizzas. While we don't welcome our physical isolation, we have the technology and are technologically literate enough to connect with others virtually. We feel like we're living in a bubble—together, not alone—that is rarely permeated and, so far at least, feels *relatively* safe. We are fortunate.

However, we intentionally remind ourselves each day that we live in stark contrast to the many who are not so fortunate in these unprecedented times: those who are sick with COVID-19, probably in quarantine or isolation; those who face other serious health problems when medical resources are stretched thin; those who work on the front lines of fighting this virus, who must stay apart from loved ones out of fear of their own contagion; those with ill family members whom they can't visit and comfort in person; those who live alone and who face an unknown number of additional weeks without in-person interaction with family, friends, and colleagues (and who can't enjoy the fun of board games with others); those who have lost jobs and sources of income and health insurance, who don't know where they'll get their next meal; those international students who are stuck in Boston, often by themselves, because their home countries have closed all ports of entry; and those—all of us really—who are anxious about catching this disease—especially those who are older, like me, stressed about the uncertainty of what is to come. I could go on. We think about and pray for those who are suffering more deeply from this pandemic. We think about and pray for all of us.

There's another reason I both share my family's situation as well as remember those who are struggling more than we are: I don't know how a lot of you—those linked to our Christ Congregational Church community in some way—are doing these days. Ann-Marie, Deacons, and Care Teams have been reaching out to stay connected with and provide pastoral care to our most vulnerable. I'm very appreciative for all those teams are doing. I also want to know how everyone is doing. I don't know of anyone in our congregation who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who has a family member who has, or who has lost their job, or who is facing other direct consequences of this pandemic.... But I don't know for sure. I don't like not knowing. It stresses me. The possibilities worry me and the limited options of response in a sea of uncertainty frustrate me. Perhaps you feel the same way.

So, just as our worship team has done a remarkable job creating a “remote” worship experience that has “gathered” a significant portion of our congregation on Sunday mornings, we want also to create a space where the communication can be more two-way, more informal, where we can check-in with each other, where we can deepen our sense of Beloved Community in these strange days. Starting this coming Sunday, we will hold a remote **FELLOWSHIP HOUR**, immediately following the worship service. We'll do this via Zoom, which will allow us to interact live. Believe it or not we can pull together as many as 100 computers at one time that way, and, in addition to having everyone together at once, we can also divide participants into “tables” where smaller groups can spend a few minutes finding out how each other is doing.

If you've never used Zoom, don't panic. The version you'll need to attend Fellowship Hour is free and really not that complicated to download. In the past few weeks a number of Council and Board members have learned how to use Zoom for the first time as we have begun meeting remotely. Everyone on the Council joined our last meeting successfully. Furthermore, if you don't have a computer with a camera and microphone or just don't want to hassle with managing the video conferencing features, you can simply call by a regular telephone to join the audio. Seriously all you need is a telephone!! So, please look for instructions here in this Courier and in a Nearly Weekly coming soon. **SEE YOU AT FELLOWSHIP HOUR!** Oh by the way, it's BYOB&S—that is, bring your own beverage and snacks! 😊

Barry Shelley

JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Every Sunday, immediately following our virtual worship, approximately 10:45 a.m., via Zoom

To join with video-conferencing, click on the following: <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/530651259>.
No password or meeting ID should be needed.

If you have not used Zoom previously, you can set up the basic program for free as long as you have an internet connection and a computer with a camera and microphone. Just following these instructions:

1. Click on the link for this particular event: <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/530651259>. I've set this up as a recurring meeting, so this same link should work each subsequent week.
2. You should see a message that says, "Download should start automatically in a few seconds. If not, download here."
3. If a download does not begin, click on the rectangle that says, "Zoom...exe" and contains a download symbol—i.e. a downward arrow. The rectangle can appear in either the bottom left corner or top right corner.
4. If you get a box that says, "Do you want to let this app make changes to your computer?" click, "Yes."
5. Wait for the download, which shouldn't take long.
6. When you see a box asking for your name, type your name in the space provided and enter.
7. Click "Join meeting."
8. Click "Join with video." At this point you should see yourself on the screen. (If you prefer not to be seen by others, you can select "Join without video.")
9. Click "Join with computer audio." (The alternative is to call in by telephone for the audio, while still using the video through the computer. Try the "computer audio" first. If your computer microphone doesn't work well, you can follow the instructions below for connecting by telephone.
10. Enlarge your video window. Run your cursor over your video window. You'll see the tool bar across the bottom. You can play with these tools to get used to them. Most important to start will be the options of muting and unmuting both your microphone and video, found in the lower left corner.
11. When you set all of this up before the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, which I recommend you do, there will be no meeting to actually join. On Sunday, when you join you'll see the video shots of others who have joined. Once we start we'll go over a few guidelines about how we'll proceed as a group.

If you prefer to call in by telephone, simply call one of the two numbers below:

- +1 301 715 8592
- +1 253 215 8782

Then, when prompted to do so, enter the **Meeting ID: 530 651 259**. You should be placed into the meeting at that point. That's it! Simple enough!

I look forward to hearing and seeing (most of you) on Sunday. It will be wonderful to learn how everyone is doing.

--Barry Shelley, Moderator



Church cancelled
Singing **not cancelled**
Giving **not cancelled**
Forgiving **not cancelled**
Prayer **not cancelled**
Love **not cancelled**
Be the church!

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:

Monday thru Thursday:

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

Sunday Worship Time: 9:55 a.m.



When we say,
“All are Welcome”
We really mean it.



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

1350 Pleasant St.

Brockton, MA 02301-2840