

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Regular Events

Worship: Remotely on our website, Facebook page, or Nearly Weekly Sundays, 9:55AM (Music starts at 9:45AM)



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



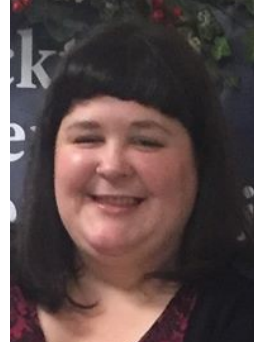
Board Meetings

- Christian Ed: June 4, 6:30PM
- Council: June 18, 7PM
- Deacons: June 4, 7PM
- Finance & Property: June 11, 7PM
- Media/Tech: June 11, 6:15PM
- Missions: June 2, 7PM
- Music: TBD
- OCC: TBD
- Vitality: TBD

PASTOR'S PAGE

Greetings all,

As we enter the season of Pentecost, I'm drawn to thinking about where and how the Holy Spirit is moving in our congregation during this time. Living in this time of pandemic has made it necessary for us to find new ways of being beloved community for one another. Even though we are physically apart, I feel the Spirit moving.



Our scripture readings these past weeks have often been about the church in its earliest days. Long before there were church buildings and sanctuaries, people gathered in homes to worship. Paul, the apostle, after starting a church and then leaving a city to start another, would write letters to stay in contact with the churches. And while Paul's letters sometimes have some interesting thoughts about the church and its members, I think he's definitely got the right idea with these parting words at the end of his letter to the church in Corinth, "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Cor 16:13-14)

In the coming weeks and months, we'll be figuring out what this next phase of life looks like, in our personal lives as well as the life of the congregation. For our congregation, this will be true both because of the ongoing pandemic and because there will come a point at which you call a new settled pastor. As we discern how to move forward together, my hope is that we hold close Paul's words and let all that we do be done in love.

Many of you have asked how transitioning into Phase 1 will impact our church life together and particularly our worship services. The Council has developed a task force that will be reviewing guidelines and making recommendations as to how we move forward. Right now, we are not planning to resume in person worship in the immediate future. This stems primarily from a concern for everyone's safety. Gathering online and at a distance has been a vital part of our community and will continue to be going forward. When we do begin to make steps towards regathering in person, it will be just as important to continue staying connected in this way for those who won't be able to join us in person

With much love,

Ann-Marie Illsley, Bridge Pastor



1 Corinthians 16:13

**LET ALL THAT YOU DO
BE DONE IN LOVE.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS



YOUTH GROUP

For the past couple of months, the Youth Group has been meeting on zoom for gathering and games. So far we've played charades, pictionary, and a getting to know you game. Join us this month for a new game at a new time! We'll be meeting again in June on Friday the 12th at 6PM. Look for a zoom invite by email and Remind.

GRADUATION

Are you (or your child or grandchild) graduating this spring? If so, let us know so we can celebrate them on Baccalaureate Sunday (June 21st)! We are assembling a list of graduates (high school and higher education). To be included please contact the church office.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are being received for college scholarships, to be awarded in June. If you are studying post-high school (college, graduate or trade school) we would love to support and recognize your efforts. The deadline has been extended to June 7th and applications may be submitted to the office. Please contact Ann-Marie Illsley (pastor@brocktonucc.org) or the office (office@brocktonucc.org)(508-586-3022) for more information.

After a brief pause, confirmation will be returning for two more meetings before breaking for the summer. Zoom invitations will be sent out by email and Remind.

Class: June 7th @1pm - Topic: How does Christ Congregational Church work?

Annual Meeting: June 14th - Attend the online annual meeting, gather for a brief discussion afterwards.



HOMEWORK HELPERS

Members of Christ Congregational Church are facilitating an effort to help families with school aged children, during this difficult time.

- If you are a family with a student in grades 1 through 10, you can match up your child or children with a Homework Helper to work with them, once or more per week.
- If you are a high school or college student, or an adult member of the church who would like to help a student and their family, you could become a Homework Helper.
- An email will be sent to families on our Board of Christian Education list with more information on how to become part of this Homework Helper Network.



*High school & college students, who need community service hours, this would certainly work!

For more info please contact Donna Costa, Lisa Sparling or Michelle Young-Ferguson

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in participating in online worship? The worship team is hoping to include members of the congregation each week during worship. If you're interested in being part of worship one week, please reach out to Ann-Marie (pastor@brocktonucc.org).





Notes from Murray

Welcome to another installment of Notes from Murray! It has been a very busy month!

First off, you may have noticed that we have two more people involved with our Sunday morning services. Jennie Ostrow is the music director at First Congregational Church of Stoughton. She has been playing the postludes for the services and we welcome her beautiful playing! Also, it has been a pleasure seeing David Wilcox interpreting the music each Sunday!

Summer is on its way and we are starting to feel the warmer air on walks and in our homes. The trees have leaves now and the annuals/perennials are really starting to show! God is showing us rebirth and resurrection in this season. It has been a different view than previous springs, but it has perhaps, given us a bit more time to appreciate God's creation. I never noticed how many different trees and shrubs are in my yard before. It is miraculous!

The "ZOOM Talent Show needs to be postponed until June 28th. If you are interested in sharing some of your talent, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at music@brocktonucc.org

People have asked me for some more music that I find enjoyable or uplifting. Here are some virtual ensemble songs I have seen lately that are fun, impressive, and inspirational.

[Dear Evan Hansen](#) - Wales (this one was done remotely, in many locations prior to quarantine)

[New York](#)

[The Whole World \(youth choirs\)](#)

[More Whole World](#)

[Miami](#)



More sing along songs!

[Jerry Orbach](#)

[Sesame Street](#)

[My Fair Lady](#)

[Summer Stock, Gene Kelly](#) (not really a sing-a-long, but great dancing!)

The chancel choir has been gathering on Wednesdays at 6:45 for socialization and planning for some virtual singing. If you are interested in joining in the conversation or want to socialize along with us, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Maybe you are a former member who moved away or were thinking of joining in the choir before quarantine, you can join us! Starting in July, the schedule will be July 15th and August 19th for summer Zoom Choir meetings.

In case you missed it, the Kidd Family gave a concert in May. You can still view it on Facebook. Just search for Murray Kidd in the search engine and scroll down till you see four people in their living room with a few instruments about. Or, it might be a hand written sign saying the Kidd Family Concert. It is only about 30 minutes and has some fun music.

If you are interested in contributing music to the summer church services, please reach out to me at music@brocktonucc.org

If you have any questions or suggestions for the music program, please don't hesitate to send me an email!

Sincerely,
Murray



ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE



MIDDAY MUSIC June 10 2020

Matthew Dion, Guest Organist
“Favorite Organ Pieces to Share”

Livestream online at 12:15 pm.

Please “like” our Facebook page, Christ Church Pipe Organ Series.

Instructions will be posted there on how to listen to and enjoy this program.

With thanks to Jillianne Larson, Tech Support

Organ Completion Committee Highlights

A word of congratulations and thanks to

Audrey Jones,

2020 graduate of
Oliver Ames High School,
Easton, MA.

She will be attending Bryant University in RI in the fall.

Audrey has been an integral member of the committee over the past few years, helping at concerts, yard sales and producing the quarterly Project Pipes News for our email list.

Thanks and Godspeed, Audrey!
Best wishes for your future studies



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 April 30, 2020 we have received

donations of \$164,988 = 612 pipes

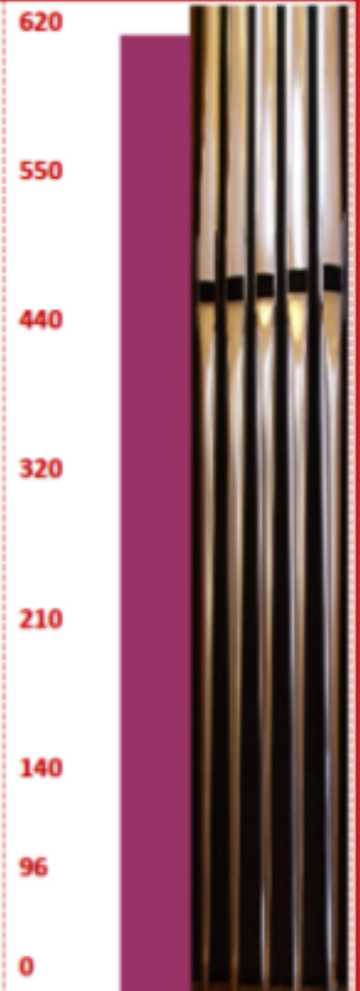
Only 8 pipes remaining!

We have expected pledges and grants totaling \$1560. through 12/31/2020.

Any donations received above our \$166,000 goal will stay in an “Organ Fund” for maintenance.

ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
BROCKTON, MA



I Need to Tell My Story

by George Manoogian

While reading the booklet the Church made, "Being the Church – Testimonies of Faith" I saw through the words people wrote what the Church means to them. Growing up I was a member of the First Congregational Church in Malden, Ma. I sat in the balcony with the other teens. My parents at the time did not attend Church.

Then I thought, I need to tell my story. Yes, each month my story comes back to me. I'll share this with everyone for if you see a tear in my eye at Communion you will know why and the meaning behind it.

One Friday night at home mom served a whole chicken for the four of us. Mom cut up some of the pieces and put them on a platter. As the platter went around the table, my brother handed me the platter. I took a few pieces of white meat. My father bellowed, "NO! You take some of the dark meat or nothing!" So, I put the white meat back and didn't take any other chicken. Father said, "Nothing to eat until you eat some of the dark meat." and he took my plate away. That was Friday night. Saturday, no breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sunday morning no breakfast.

I went to Church and it was Communion Sunday. When the ushers passed around the bread and wine cups, I said to my friend Dave, "FOOD!" He said, "What are you talking about?" I told him about the chicken episode and he said, "That's not right, your parents are not here, after services let's go down stairs for cake and cookies!"

This is why Communion means so much to me. Yes, I know the religious part of course, but for me, it has a very special meaning.

After the service we went down stairs, we had cake, cookies and milk. I was SO THANKFUL, that I stayed and helped clean up the tables. After I got home I told my mother what we did at Church. She said something like, "God wanted you to eat something, lunch will be ready in an hour and you WILL eat with us, I'll see to it."

Dad never said a word, never apologized, nothing. That hurt the most.

Now, even all these years later, Communion is a very special time for me.

Now you know my story.



TIME ISN'T STANDING STILL

but...

**PHYSICAL DISTANCING IS WITH US FOR ANOTHER SEASON OR MORE
SO TO KEEP OUR MEMBERS SAFE OUR YARD SALE IS ON HOLD**

Once it's safe to do so we will reschedule the Yard Sale. We are talking about various options; what possibilities could be satisfactory for all participants, it's not simple. We hope to learn more in the weeks ahead as others make (hopefully successful) event with distancing choices.

So if you have taken the time to set aside items, thank you and continue to keep us in mind for the future.

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

From the Mission Committee

Hello Church Fathers,

This year Father's Day is June 21st. The annual gifts have been in for months, just waiting for this special day to recognize the fathers in our Church. Too many times the fathers do not get the attention they deserve and the annual gifts is a small way of saying Thank You for being a father.

I'm not sure how we are going to distribute these, but I will work this out with the guidance of our leaders.

This year's HINT: **Something you need when working outside.**

George Manoogian
a.k.a. Mister Nice Guy



Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord...

From the Hymn "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"
By Doris Akers - 1962



Even if we cannot be together in our CCCUCC building at this time, we know that each and every one of us carries this Sweet Spirit with us! We are the church together, even though we need to be at a distance. So... when we are apart, we are still a part of one another and of the Body of Christ in the world! We are doing the work that Jesus calls us to do!

Please continue to support this amazing church of ours financially if you are able!

- * Please keep up with your pledge, tithes, and giving.
- * Please give extra donations as the Spirit moves you to do so...

How?

- * Mail in a check: 1350 Pleasant St, Brockton MA 02301
- * Use the Donate/Donate Today button at brocktonucc.org

Oh, did you happen to notice the light orb at the foot of the cross on the front of our church building? No, Katrina did not photoshop this. Hmmm...



It's the perfect opportunity to call, write, facetime and zoom all the people in our beloved community. The person you usually sit in the same pew with, someone you have coffee hour with, someone you're in a group or committee with, someone alone. Love thy neighbor!

NO CCC HARVEST FAIR



Saturday, Nov 7th 2020

Church activities such as our yard sale and fair have been put on hold. **Please hold** all your contributions until further notice.

Dear Christ Church Family,

A Big thank you for the beautiful yellow tulips delivered by Janice Urban at Easter time, along with communion elements and order of worship.

So special and thoughtful. Many thanks to all.

In gratitude,

Nelda Hayes



Board Of Deacons,

Thank you so much for the lovely Easter Tulip. It fully bloomed on Easter Sunday. It will be planted in my garden.

I also appreciate the cards and notes of support. It helps to ease the pain of my loss.



Most sincerely,

Sandra Hill

Dear Deacons,

Thank you so much for the lovely tulips - my favorite color, purple. We have planted them in the front garden. Having communion delivered was a blessing! Also, thank you for the cards, notes and phone calls.

We are both doing well at the moment and trying our best to stay that way.

God bless you all!

David & Marilyn Fairbanks



Dear Friends & Deacons,

Thank you for thinking of me and sending the beautiful tulip and the communion elements for us to share on Easter.

The several calls are much appreciated as I miss seeing and talking with my church family and friends.

In Christian Love,
Diane Landerholm



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Rick Davis, Moriah Illsley, Barbara Moody, Bob Gair, Jillian Larson, Ruth Poole, Layne Moline, Nancy Goodwin, Eleanor Calvin, Sean Stevens, Jr., Lilliana Milton, Brad Weatherbee, Michelle Dias, Pat Hennebury, Matthew Howard, Lillian Lee Stone, Glenna Paananen, Denise Cahill, Angela Colby, Jeff Illsley, David Jones, Janet Eckstrom, John Boutwell, Mary Poole, Serenity Young-Ferguson and Sawyer Young-Ferguson

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



COMMON THREADS
QUILT GUILD

The quilters are still sewing from home. I am hoping we can resume in September. If you have placemats for meals on wheels you can drop them at the church for David Wilcox. Call Deana at the office first so she knows you are coming and she can alert David. We promised 600 placemats....just 150 more to go.

Stay home, stay safe and wash those hands. And don't forget your mask.

~Janet Eckstrom

I wish to thank you for the beautiful tulips delivered to Michelle and myself on Easter by Jeff Illsley and Moriah, and I would also like to thank the board of Deacons for all the cards I have received. It really helps in this most difficult time.

Thanking you again,

Nancy Goodwin & Michelle Pursell



We pray for the families of Florence "Flo" Snow (sister of Carole Clark), Deletta Froio (grandmother of Janice Creedon), John Myers (father of Paul Crane), Gordon Hixon (father of Troy Hixon), Michael Cappiello (husband of Jean Cappiello) and Norman Shippee (father of Dawn Shippee), may they rest in peace.



SNIPPETS (Not Snippy! Just Zippy!)

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Blessings to all!

- * May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope! Romans 15:13

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread, for it is the Lord our God who goes with you. God will not leave you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

Hope, joy, peace, strength, courage!!! Yes! With God's help and encouragement, we can do this physical distancing and quarantining and still remain connected, so we can make it through to a time when we can physically be together again. We are church! We got this!

- * Stewardship reminds all of us to continue in our support of our beloved church in pledges, offerings, tithes, and extra monetary donations. All of our donations are always joyfully received and put to work carrying out the mission and ministry of Jesus! Right now, in this time of remote worshipping, we have no offering plate in which to put our monetary gifts, but we can still mail in checks and/or use our credit cards at brocktonucc.org.
- * Beloved Community, CCCUCC is filled with inventive, courageous, talented people who are working hard to "Be the Church." We are created by a loving God, taught and saved by Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit! We continue to be the Body of Christ in this world, finding new and creative ways to be so! What a church!
- * A Future That's Bigger Than The Past - Katrina Clinton is recommending this book by Vicar Samuel Wells. Vicar Wells is not hesitant about discussing the interrelationships of commerce, culture, congregation, and compassion as he envisions the renewal of the church. Katrina highly commends this book to our reading as a good resource and new perspective as we look to the future of our own church. Please see Katrina's book review in this edition of the Courier.
- * Well, what a resourceful, courageous, and hopeful church we are! CCCUCC is a bold, vibrant Beloved Community that offers plentiful spiritual, mission, social, and educational opportunities! Yes, even in our distancing and confinement! So... despite the vicissitudes of today's pandemic world, we continue to adapt and be a church on the move, even in confinement. We are still following Jesus by serving the world! Praise and thanks to God!

Blessings, peace, love, strength, and joy to all!

Your Stewardship Committee



Accessing Online Worship and Fellowship Time

Chances are we will be continuing to worship online for awhile longer. And to make church accessible for everyone, we will continue to make worship services available online going forward. You can access Sunday morning worship and the worship bulletin at the link below. If you are not online, there is an option to call in and hear the service. If you'd like to call in on Sunday mornings, dial the number below and when asked, enter the Meeting ID, followed by pound. If you are then asked for a Participant ID, just enter pound again. You will then be able to listen to the service. Both options are available for the fellowship time following church as well. Hope to see (or hear) you there!

Worship:

<https://brocktonucc.org/live-videos/>
Call in Number: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 549 066 082

Fellowship:

<https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/530651259>
+1 301 715 8592 or +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 530 651 259



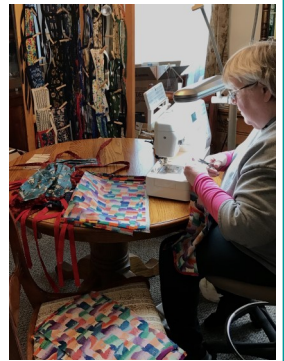
Learn to Zoom!

Have you been hearing lots about Zoom lately, but are unsure how to get connected? Join Ann-Marie for a judgement-free Zoom gathering where you can learn, try things out, and ask all the zoom questions! This will be offered twice - **Friday, June 5th at 11am** and **Monday, June 8th at 7 pm**. To join just click on this link -> <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84760201745> or call +1 929 205 6099 and enter the meeting id when prompted (Meeting ID: 847 6020 1745). Questions can be directed to Ann-Marie (pastor@brocktonucc.org or 508-577-2607).



FACE MASK MINISTRY

Jo-Ellen and Katrina have been very busy with their face mask ministry between all the other things they do. They have lovingly made over 500 masks. They have also put out a sign and a table full of masks for their neighborhood and it keeps on growing.



VITALITY VIBES

As of now, all events including Scholarship Dinner is on Hold! We are still collaborating on different types of events to make sure the Scholarships get to our church students. Unfortunately Silver Lake has cancelled camp this summer. We will still have Camperships scholarships for next year.



Vitality Committee Chair
Lisa Landerholm



The Transition Team

The Transition Team continues to refine the Strategic Pathways plans, for presentation to the Congregation at a later date.

The Settled Pastor Search Committee has been actively interviewing candidates- we have been blessed to consider many candidate profiles which appear to fulfill the congregational needs we have been charged to address. Our discernment process will continue as we seek our next Settled Pastor.

Prayerfully submitted-

Sue Koza, Co-Chair, Pastoral Search Committee



**Transition
Team**

A Note from the Moderator...

The **COVID-19 crisis** continues and, barring a miracle, will continue for some time. I continue to pray for all of you who belong to our church community as well as for sisters and brothers in our broader geographical community. My **prayers** both give thanks for the many who have stepped up to help hold our community together and keep us moving forward, as well as ask for God's compassion and healing for all those who suffer from illness, grief, loneliness, exhaustion, and financial stress.

The landscape of the COVID-19 crisis has changed somewhat since Gov. Baker announced a gradual re-opening of the economy that includes permission for houses of worship to return to congregational in-person gatherings. In light of those changes, it's understandable that some of you may be anticipating our imminent return to Sunday worship services in our sanctuary. I must tell you that **the Church Council has no plans for such in-person events until at least late summer**. We are aware that a number of houses of worship returned to in-persons gatherings this past weekend. However, following the advice of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Massachusetts Council of Churches, we believe it's too soon and too risky - even with special safety measures--to gather for worship or other activities at this time. That's disappointing, I know, even for those who agree with that decision.

The Council has appointed a "**Phase Forward Task Force**," chaired by Ann-Marie Illsley, that is charged with monitoring the situation, making some decisions regarding meetings of a few persons, and making recommendations to Council regarding more significant steps toward re-opening. We will be exploring various options for gradually coming into closer contact with each other—e.g. perhaps initially gathering outside, maybe staying in our vehicles--and for providing remote options for those who are especially vulnerable to the effects of the virus. We know that even when most of us are prepared to see each other again without the medium of computer cameras, there will be those who cannot take any risks at all until perhaps a vaccine is developed. We are committed to making our phasing forward as inclusive of all participants as possible. We welcome any suggestions you may have, and we will keep you informed. I'll say more about this at our annual congregational meeting on June 14.

I also want to encourage you to attend our **spring annual meeting that will be held via Zoom on Sunday, June 14, at 10:45 a.m.** Please see the warrant included in this issue of the Courier for the detailed agenda. One among several important issues on the agenda is a proposal from the Council to **unify our pledging system**. Please see the article "Why a unified pledge?" in this issue for further explanation.

We want to **make this meeting accessible to all**, so please look for connection details in forthcoming communications. If you prefer, you may join the meeting via a simple telephone call. **Council members are available to orient anyone that needs help with how to join the meeting**. If you need such assistance, please contact our church office.

I'll fill you in on additional important matters during the congregational meeting. I hope you'll join us for worship and Virtual Fellowship Hour each Sunday and for that annual meeting on June 14.

~Barry Shelley, Moderator



Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton, MA

Annual Church Meeting Warrant

June 14, 2020

In accordance with Article XIII , Church Meetings, Sec.I-B of the Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton, MA Bylaws (amended on November 20, 2016) ; the **Annual Church Meeting** of the membership has been called for **Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 10:45 am**. The meeting will be held via Zoom and phone due to the ongoing pandemic.

- Article I** To call the meeting to order.
- Article II** To affirm by those attending that this Zoom meeting will serve as an official meeting. (Per Massachusetts law, an electronic meeting must be voted by the meeting members and must be unanimous for the meeting to count).
- Article III** To hear and act on the minutes of the November 16, 2019 Church Meeting and the minutes of the February 16, 2020 Special Meeting.
- Article IV** To hear an update from the Pastoral Search Committee.
- Article V** To hear an update from the Moderator on other church matters, including our efforts to navigate through COVID-19 as safely as possible.
- Article VI** To hear and act upon any reports of the Officers, Boards, Committees, Organizations, and Church Staff.
- Article VII** To hear and review the Financial Reports for the Fiscal Year 2019.
- Article VIII** To hear the annual report of the Endowment Trustees.
- Article IX** To hear and act upon a motion to move to a unified pledge model which eliminates separate pledges for missions and the general budget.
- Article X** To hear the report of the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee for Officers, Boards, Committees and Delegates for the Church year 2020-2021 and to elect persons to those positions.
- Article XI** To hear and celebrate the presentation of the annual “Light of the World” award.
- Article XII** To hear and act upon any other business that may properly come before the membership.
- Article XIII** To ratify, either individually or jointly, any action taken by the membership at this meeting in accordance with Article XIII, Section 3C of the church bylaws.
- Article XIV** To adjourn the Annual Church Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Kimberlee Cords, Clerk

Why a unified pledge?

At our June 14 annual meeting, the Church Council will ask the congregation to approve a proposal to change from a dual pledge system to a unified pledge system. With this change pledgers would commit to one amount for the church instead of committing separately to one amount for Missions and another amount to Current Expenses (i.e. the General Fund). This article will explain the proposed change, and then discuss some of the key reasons the Council believes it's important to take this step.

Currently, the Board of Missions' budget amounts to the actual funds received that are designated by the donors for Missions, either through their Missions category pledge or an unpledged offering for which they note their desire to have the funds go to Missions. In FY 2019, the total funds received that were so designated was \$18,836. As expected by the congregation, the Board of Missions directs a significant portion of this amount to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support, which helps sustain the conference and national programs and missions of our United Church of Christ denomination. In 2019, CCC's contribution to OCWM Basic Support was \$10,000. The Board of Missions then decides how to spend the remaining funds entrusted to it directly by the donors. In 2019, that amount was \$8,836. The vast majority of those funds were donated to various local, national, and international organizations that reflect the mission values and purposes our congregation wishes to promote in the world outside of our church building.

Under the proposed change, pledgers would no longer designate one amount to "Current Expenses" and another amount to "Missions." Instead they would commit to giving one total combined amount to the church. Funds for OCWM Basic Support would be budgeted under the Council, now consolidated with other funds we give annually for Conference Membership Dues. (For accounting purposes, Basic Support and these dues already appear under the Council in our 2020 Budget.) The budget for the Board of Missions, which now would not include the responsibility for Basic Support, would be decided as part of the overall budget process, like other boards and committees. The amount would be approved by the Council and then taken to the congregation for a vote in our November annual meeting. In the current motion adopted by the Council on May 21, the church would commit, as a transitional step, to keeping the 2021 Board of Missions budget the same as the non-Basic Support amount pledged for 2020, which is \$7,950.

So, why does the Council propose this change? Here are a few of the key reasons, briefly stated.

1. It's an ecclesiastical issue; that is, it's about how we conceptualize our church community. With the dual pledge, the congregation left it up to individual households to determine how much the church would budget for the Board of Missions. A unified pledge requires the congregation to collectively make those decisions. It reinforces our covenant with each other to share our resources and to act together in this world as the Body of Christ.
2. It's a question too of how we define "missions." The current structure implies that our missions are confined to the donations we make to external organizations. Our mission, however, is much broader, and should encompass how our paid staff and our parishioners engage with the world, how we use our building and assets for missions, how we work with other churches and organizations in our community, near and far. Under a unified pledge system, our budget process will repeatedly and more explicitly nudge us as a collective body to define who we are, what our mission is, and how we prioritize our resources to fulfill our mission. Primarily for these first two reasons, our U.C.C. conference staff have recommended the change to a unified pledge. Fewer churches today stay with the dual pledge system.
3. Some members have expressed concern that we'll reduce our financial commitment to missions as budget pressures build. That's understandable, and it's possible that would happen. It's also possible that our mission spending will be more, perhaps different, perhaps more specific to our newly embraced strategic pathways of community engagement and racial justice. It's true that a unified pledge will require us to trust each other to remain faithful to our calling and to more intentionally express that calling through our collective financial decisions. The Council believes we're ready for such a challenge.
4. There are also some accounting advantages of moving to a unified pledge. Perhaps, the most important change would be that, with a unified pledge, the Board of Missions budget and spending would appear in the General Fund where all other activities supported by pledged income are budgeted and recorded. Currently, the Board of Missions accounting is somewhat obscured in the Non-General Fund ledger.

Moving to a unified budget has been discussed for several years. The Council believes this is a good time to make that change--as we take a hard look at our finances for the long-run; as we challenge ourselves with new, mission-focused, strategic pathways; and as we hope for the arrival of a new settled senior pastor sometime in the not-so-distant future. This article is a brief attempt to better prepare the congregation for your consideration and vote on June 14. There's more that could be said. If you have remaining questions or concerns that you would like to discuss before the annual meeting, please feel free to reach out to Deb Bowman, Treasurer, at treasurer@brocktonucc.org or Barry Shelley, Moderator, at barrygshelley@gmail.com.



Announcements



Annual Leadership Retreat

Wednesday evening, July 22

For all outgoing, continuing, and newly appointed church officers, and board and committee members. Probably by Zoom.

Further details will be forthcoming.

Spring Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 14, at 10:45 a.m.

Join by Zoom at <https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/530651259>

OR call one of the following numbers:

301-715-8592

312-626-6799

646-876-9923

And enter the meeting ID when prompted: ID: 530 651 259.

We want to make this meeting accessible to all. If you need assistance making the connection, please contact our church office. Council members will be available to orient anyone that needs such help.



Over the past weeks, Brockton Interfaith Community has been organizing and ongoing response to the suffering being experienced by many in Brockton due to and exacerbated by COVID-19. The BIC survey shared in the Nearly Weekly email was part of the first steps in this effort. If you haven't had a chance to fill it out you can still do so on the BIC website or at this link. <http://www.brocktoninterfaith.org/covid-19-emergency-response.html>

Guided by the responses to the survey and by requests for aid, BIC has also created a relief fund that provides direct aid to residents. This past month, the Council voted to donate \$1000 from their budget to support this effort. We recognize that the pandemic has been financially difficult for many, but if you are able to donation we encourage you to do so. There are a great many out of work at this time who are in need of relief. Donations can be made at BIC's website (link below). If you would prefer to make a donation offline, please reach out to Ann-Marie. <http://www.brocktoninterfaith.org/>

If you are looking for other ways to help respond to the hardships caused by the pandemic, BIC has also started a facebook page, called Mutual Aid Brockton, where the community can connect around sharing and responding to needs. If you would like to get involved, visit the link below or reach out to Ann-Marie (pastor@brocktonucc.org, 508-586-3022).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/176443360083205/>



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.
No matter their immigration status.
No matter their sexual orientation.
No matter their economic status.
No matter their gender identity.
No matter their disability.
No matter their religion.
No matter their race.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



CONTACT US

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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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.



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