Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

Volume 40 No 9

Creating Beloved Community

September 2020

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Regular Events

Worship: Remotely on our website, Facebook page, or Nearly Weekly Sundays, 9:55AM (Music starts at 9:50) September 20th - Outdoor Service



Board Meetings: ZOOM Christian Ed: Sept. 9, 6:30PM Council: Sept. 17, 7PM Deacons: Sept. 3, 7PM Finance & Property: Sept. 10, 7PM Media/Tech: Sept. 10, 6:15PM Missions: Sept. 8, 6:30PM Music: Sept. 13, 11:30PM OCC: Sept. 16, 11:30AM

Vitality: Sept. 3, 7PM

PASTOR'S PAGE

This fall will be an important time for our congregation. After much hard work by our Pastoral Search Committee, our congregation unanimously voted (in person, on zoom, by phone and text message) to call Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco as the next settled pastor of Christ Congregational Church. Rev. Jeff will begin his time with our church at the end of October. As he



begins the process of bidding farewell to his current congregation and moving to Massachusetts, our congregation will be preparing to welcome him, his wife Dani and their son lvyn. I trust that you will all help make their start with us a warm and welcome one!

Six months in, this pandemic has lasted longer than most of us could have anticipated and it's likely lives will continue to be impacted for some time more. We know that connection is essential in this time. Please know that our church leadership and the Phasing Forward Task Force are working on ways to foster opportunities for us all to connect, both in person and online, while also prioritizing our collective safety. We are hoping to hold an in-person service on September 20th. I would like to invite you to help us stay connected with each other and reach out to those you haven't seen or spoken to recently. A call or a card can make a huge blessing, both for the recipient and the sender.

These are challenging times to 'Be The Church'. But I have faith in our community, it's resilience and creativity, as well as the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Stay safe and well friends, Ann-Marie, Bridge Pastor



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS



Growing in our relationship with God is a foundational part of our faith journey. Like many things this year, our christian education program will likely look a little bit different than it has in the past. But the Board of Christian Education is working hard to create opportunities to learn and grow in faith whether you are 2 or 92. We'll be looking for input from families and others to guide us in how best to support you on that journey. Keep an eye out for more information on an upcoming meeting where we'll discuss the coming year.





Confirmation will be starting up again soon. Look for an email to parents about scheduling and class meetings. If your youth is interested in starting confirmation, please reach out to Ann-Marie (<u>pastor@brocktonucc.org</u>).



Although Angeliza is fairly new to our team, having started as a cashier at our West Brockton store in February of this year, she is making a positive impact. Angeliza is a great worker, who is friendly, approachable, caring, and is always finding ways to help customers. Angeliza knows that even little things like offering to pump hand sanitizer for a customer, can help make their day a better day. Our West Brockton team receives many compliments for the excellent service Angeliza provides.

One of those compliments came from a customer who called Store Director Carl Verderber to express her gratitude for Angeliza's act of kindness. This customer had not been out of her house for a while due to the pandemic and went to our West Brockton store to get much needed groceries. After scanning her items at a self-checkout register, she realized she did not have enough money to pay the full total. Angeliza's generosity, she was brought to tears several times. The customer explained to Carl how much she appreciated Angeliza's generosity, she was brought to tears several times. The customer even called back a second time and continued to praise Angeliza. Angeliza truly made this customer's day a better day and her actions are a shining example of how much kindness can make an impact.

In addition to providing great customer service at our West Brockton store, Angeliza is very involved with school and community activities. Not only is Angeliza an honor roll student, she is also the captain of the Color Guard, performs in the Brockton High School Drama Club and Concert Choir, is a freshman mentor, and is a member of her church's music committee and choir.

We are delighted that Angeliza joined our team and appreciate all the ways she provides exceptional customer service. Many thanks to Angeliza for exemplifying our Associate Promise and for all she does to help make our company a safe, efficient, and kind place to work and shop!

Postcards from Friends at Christ Congregational Church!

Did you know that our children and youth have been sending out hand decorated postcards to the senior members of our community? The next postcards will be sent to healthcare workers and other first responders. We are inviting folks of all ages to be part of this round. Participants will receive a package of stamped, pre-addressed postcards and instructions. You'll add a brief message and a little bit or art to the front before dropping them in the mail. Those (of all ages!) who are interested in participating should contact Ann-Marie (pastor@brocktonucc.org) or the church office

(office@brocktonucc.org, 508-586-3022).





Notes from Murray

Midsummer is upon us and we see a glimpse of fall ahead! This has been a trying summer in many ways, but seeing beauty on God's earth and in people's hearts is always our call. All of Us. It is all of us who make the earth our home. It is all of us who are God's children. It is all of us who must strive for unity and humanity. All of us are doing our best. All of us want to love. All of us want to be loved. All of us get tired and weary. All of us grow impatient. All of us are God's children. All of us are God's children. All of us are God's children. All of us.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. -Romans 12: 15-18

The music and arts program of Christ Congregational Church has some innovative ways to virtually come together to fellowship in the coming months.

Some announcements related to arts coming up:

Hand Bells! If you are interested in playing hand bells this fall, it is one ensemble that can rehearse safely in small groups and spaced out with masks. Please send Murray an email if you are interested in participating. <u>music@brocktonucc.org</u> Open to those who are 12 years old and above.

Wednesday, September 16th - Adult Choir will be starting up their Wednesday meetings and hymn sings. Yes, we will sing this fall!!! (It won't be in-person yet, but we will sing!) Please plan on attending our first virtual session, via Zoom, on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00pm

Friday, September 25th 7:00pm - Zoom Coffee House, Story Hour, Art, and Poetry Slam! Yes, you heard it right! We are going to have a casual evening of stories, songs, and poetry! Show up with a song to sing, a story to tell, a picture to show, and/or a poem to recite or just to listen!

Youth Music will have some activities starting in October, so be on the lookout!!

There is more to come! If you have an idea or have questions, let Murray know! music@brocktonucc.org

See you on Rally Sunday!!! ~ Murray Kidd

From the Mission Committee

A message from Matthew Stevens, Director of Congregational Giving, **CWS**:

"...Our supplies are nearly gone because spring kit collections simply couldn't take place; I can't think of a time when inventory has been so low going into hurricane season (especially one that's predicted to be as active as this year's).



Just in the last four months, I've heard incredibly moving testimonies from people who received kits and felt the spark of hope in their lives. From neighbors living without shelter to school children who are absolutely devastated by the uncertainty of what "back to school" means this year, to communities who are fighting storms on top of this pandemic...let us continue to bless our neighbors with light in the darkness..."

The Missions Committee at CCC will host a drive-through depot day with careful COVID safety measures from 9 - 2 on Wednesday, September 23rd for area churches to drop off school, hygiene and clean up kits. We are putting together school kits as our congregation's contribution.

ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

FROM THE ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

UPDATE FROM OUR ORGAN BUILDER: CZELUSNIAK & DUGAL

The biggest construction accomplished recently was the design and fabrication of the expression enclosure for the pipework of the Choir division, that box or room which surrounds that section of the organ to permit dynamic control (loudness and softness) during playing. At right, , Jon Van Houten and Joshua Redenz work on constructing that enclosure in our shop.





In its completed form in our shop, fully fitted but with

surfaces as yet unfinished, the entirety of the enclosure is shown at left. The black woodwork surrounding the front face of the Choir expression box is the frame that supports the movable louvres that allow for the dynamic control.

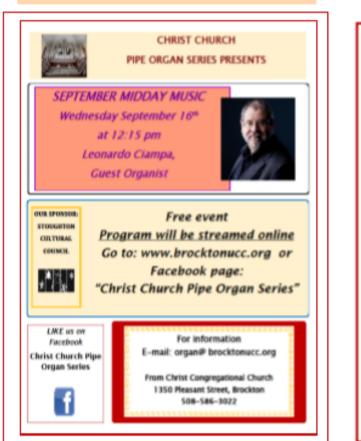
The image at right shows some of those expression shades, laid out horizontally, drying from their fresh coat of black paint.



The Chimes instrument which was removed in July, new as it is, received a thorough cleaning, the application of new striking tips that hit each of the tubes, and shop testing with regulation of the actions, as shown in photo at left.



MIDDAY MUSIC



THE ORGAN FUND



MASKERAID - How Mysterious and Enticing!

Oh, my, how do we even begin to make up for the fact that our much loved and always anticipated Amazing CCC Harvest Fair has been cancelled for this November because of pandemic regulations and needed distancing? Good decision but sad, nevertheless. Lots of discussions and twists and turns (and great fun and laughter) have produced an interesting idea that we are calling Maskeraid!

Maskeraid will occur as a church and public event in November and December and will require much preparation in September and especially October. Maskeraid, a much needed FUN & Fund RAISER, will be a calendar raffle of sorts (month of December) with a major difference being that each ticket purchased during November immediately results in a "prize" of a Christmas themed mask (yes, the COVID-19 kind) and entry into a drawing for two prizes each day during the whole month of December!

So... these are the basics of Maskeraid, but there is so much more! And... we need lots of help to make this Maskeraid work! We need you! We need everyone!

Here are Maskeraid's immediate needs:

- Your commitment to make some Christmas/Winter themed COVID-19 masks. Katrina and I think we can make 250 Christmas masks, but we know we will need more to give one mask for each ticket purchased. Our goal is to sell a minimum of 500 tickets! Wow! That's a lot of masks. Yes, we need your help! Please...
- Your commitment to donate prizes! We are looking for a variety of \$25 gift cards AND a variety of hand crafted items that would normally sell for \$25 or more at an arts and craft show AND new, interesting items. In this church, we are very generous! The first person I approached for prizes was Joyce C who immediately responded with an offer to cash in points for six \$25 gift cards and to create several beautiful crocheted items including a gorgeous Christmas shawl. We are off to a great start! We need your help! Please...



A lot of the fun of this event will be getting as many people as possible involved in Maskeraid! The challenge will be in NOT being able to do all this in person. We are all in this together! We can do this!

Please email us (Doe and Katrina) at <u>kcjoyf@aol.com</u> with your commitments to Maskeraid regarding Christmas masks and raffle prizes. Thank you very much for your help. This is a start! More details to come in October Courier!

Mask-Maker, Mask-Maker make us a mask ... You should see the happy dance that goes with this!



If You Were A Bird in 2020, Would This Be You!?

Does this Snowy Egret make you laugh? Smile? Nod yes? Shake your head?

Can you relate to/identify with this overwhelmed, fully shaken up, wave-rolled bird? Yes, so can we!!

Life can be overwhelming at times, but we remember that God is here for us! God loves us just the way we are, and Jesus reminds us to pass the love around by loving and supporting one another! We are all beloved members of the flock!!

Please continue to support this Beloved and Loving Community of CCCUCC in many different ways, including financially if you are able.

Please mail in a check: 1350 Pleasant St, Brockton MA 02301 Please use the Donate/Donate Today button at <u>brocktonucc.org</u>

God's eye is on the Sparrow and the Snowy Egret, and I know God watches me!

Photo by Katrina Clinton



QUILT GUILD



Kristine's Dad was at Pearl Harbor. She made this quilt to commemorate his service and that of his mates that served on the USS Franklin. The pattern on this quilt is "Night Sky".



Even though we are not back together yet, some of our quilt ladies have been busy at home. Kristine Blanchard is one of them.



This is an "I SPY" quilt with a different picture in each block.

There is no end to the talent in our quilt group!!

ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & CRAFTS Is Back!

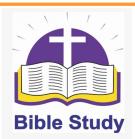


Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday

From 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Come Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint, etc. Or just come for the fellowship!!





The Wednesday morning Bible Study group has started back up in an online format. Regulars and newcomers alike are welcome to drop in and check out this adult faith formation opportunity. The group meets on zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10am to discuss the lectionary scripture readings each week. Hope to see you there!

https://<u>us02web.zoom.us/j/84061103224</u> Meeting ID: 840 6110 3224 +1 929 205 6099

BOTTLE REDEMPTION

If you are looking for a place to drop off your bottles for the church, go to the redemption center on 1250 West Chestnut Street.

Monday & Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



You do not need to count them. Just bag them up and put a label on the bag:

Christ Congregational Church 1350 Pleasant Street Brockton, MA 02302

They will put the total on the Christ Congregational Church account.



This is a great big hug for my Church Family. I want to thank you for nominating me for the "Light of the World award. My light is on my night stand shining brightly. Thanks again!!

Love you all.

Darlene Gilson

Dear Christ Congregational Church Scholarship Committee,

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to the church and the MacIntyre family for selecting me for their scholarship. It means so much to me to receive this memorial scholarship. Knowing that the MacIntyre family is supporting me because of my vocational background will make me work even harder to achieve my goals and make them proud. Thank you CCC for also supporting me on my journey from becoming a teenager to an adult and being there throughout most of my teen years. This church means the world to me, thank you.

Love, Jayce Exell



We pray for the families of Alton Frank Hefler, Lynley Menard, Mya, Richard (Dick) McMahon and Bedford (Bud) Wheaton, may they rest in peace.





Wishing all the best on your Birthdays Jean Holmes, Carole Clark, Jeff Purssell, Michele Silvernail, Chris Merkle, Renee Matthews, Lynne Mixner, Mason Silvernail-St. Martin, Donald Colby, Lorraine Wilcox, Pat Emanuel, Diane Landerholm, Jean Purificato, Lisa Landerhom-Burke, Alisabeth Burke, Cathy Campbell, Ann-Marie IIIsley, Jean Cappiello, Shirley Strangis, Seth Creedon, Laurel Fisher, Tavi Swisher-Rosa, Lily Radau, Jane MacIntyre

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

Dear Deana, Janet, Cara and Sharon (Scholarship Committee),

During my time at CCC, this church has quickly become a family. I thank my God everyday for placing me here at this time. I feel extra blessed knowing that our church (or at least four of them) desire to support me in my academic endeavors. Thank you for awarding me the Priscilla & Arthur Illsley Jr. Scholarship. I pray that God protects us all throughout this time of major health concerns.

In Christ's Name, Jilliann Larson

Dear Christ Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for choosing me for the William MacMullen Music Scholarship to continue my education. This year has been absolutely crazy, however, I am blessed to be able to continue my education on campus! (Band may be a little different this year) Thank you for all the support from my church family. I hope everyone stays healthy and safe.



Thanks and Love, Angela Colby

To the Scholarship Committee,

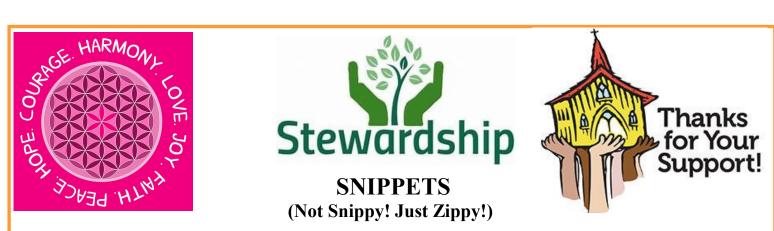
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship you gifted me for the new school year. It was massively helpful in paying for my fall semester books!

As you may or may not know, I lost my original summer job due to COVID-19. While this was unfortunate, it allowed me to pursue a passion project with local civil rights attorney Wendy Murphy. The financial and emotional support I



received from the scholarship committee and the church community at large reinforced that I made the right decision in pursuing my passions even throughout this weird summer.

> From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Kate Howard



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! Romans15:13

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!
- * 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



VITALITY

The Vitality Committee is looking forward to a fun filled year! The Pandemic restrictions have given us the opportunity to explore new endeavors and activities. We are looking for new participants to join us with fresh ideas to welcome newcomers, encourage church fellowship, and build upon our connections with the community. We are looking for new members to join us. Consider yourself invited to join us on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 for a socially distanced meeting outside of the church, contact the Church Office, or email <u>loren.stott@gmail.com</u>.

Thanks to our 2020-2021 Vitality Crew: Tricia Gross, Nancy Simonis, Loren Stott and David Wilcox.

Respectfully, Loren Stott

From the CCC Harvest Fair Committee! (David Wilcox, Sheppo, Doe, Katrina)

Thank you to all CCC Crafters, Artists, and Cleaning-Outers for all your ongoing creativity, work, and generosity that continue to generate an abundance of donations for the church! Because of the COVID-19 Crisis with all of its distancing and safety precautions, the Amazing CCC Harvest Fair will not be possible for November of this year. However, as all Red Sox fans are accustomed to saying, "Just wait until next year!" Really! What an event and celebration the Harvest Fair of 2021 will be!

So... what about all the beautiful crafts, artwork, and cleaned out items we have generated so far? Do we keep on creating our crafts? We all have some decisions to make! Some things to think about...

- First of all, please continue to be creative and motivated! Keep yourself busy in a positive, contributing, gratifying way!
- Some of your "more expensive" (\$25+) crafted items are definitely needed for the Maskeraid celebration which will be an experience from Autumn all the way through December. Please see the Maskeraid details in a separate article in this edition of the Courier!
- If you have created smaller craft items that are so popular at the Fair, please lovingly and gently pack them away for the Grand Amazing Harvest Fair of 2021! Or... maybe these items are on standby for another smaller event that might be in the works for this Autumn, in addition to Maskeraid! Yes, one thing this pandemic has reinforced is the benefit of being flexible and adaptable!
- Have you been participating in the Big Sorting and Cleaning of 2020? Do you have boxes of contributions set aside? If you are able, please label and store these boxes in an appropriate storage space in your own home. We are not able to receive them into the church building at this time. They will make wonderful contributions for next year's Fair! Or...maybe even for a a pop-up church yard sale! Who knows what might happen in the next couple of months...
- Thank you to all for your support, your endurance, your persistence, your creativity, and your flexibility! We are apart from one another right now, but we are still a part of one another! Praise God for this Beloved Community of CCCUCC!

A note from the Moderator...

I and other church leaders are concerned about how we continue to **maintain our sense of connection as a community** as the pandemic stretches from weeks and weeks to months and months. To a notable degree, we have adjusted to the restrictions on our gathering in person by sharing in creative on-line worship experiences, holding meetings and fellowship hours by Zoom, occasionally gathering outside of our building for a prayer vigil and worship services, and reaching out with cards and calls to particularly isolated members. In the early stages of the pandemic, I believe we were energized by our response. Even if we much preferred for things to be "normal," there was a sense of inspiration that came from the novelty and innovation of our shift to a new reality. It was an accomplishment. We were proud of making the adjustments so that we could still worship and meet together virtually.

However, as time moves on and we find ourselves still facing the likelihood of several more months of social distancing and limiting group gatherings, I sense that the energy and inspiration is waning; actually they already have been for a while. For example, the numbers of participants in both worship and the fellowship hour are declining. While grateful for Zoom and all it offers us, we are suffering from the lack of direct engagement with each other in the same physical—real, not virtual—space. This concern has been expressed in church meetings more than once in recent weeks.

My hope is that we can find innovative ways...again...to help us reconnect and feel re-engaged. For example, despite another temporary postponement, we still hope to hold outdoor worship services several times during the next two or more months. Perhaps we could hold a series of small, very carefully distanced gatherings for prayer, study, talking, or whatever—an idea that was just passed on to Ann-Marie (and has not yet been considered by the task force that sets our pandemic guidelines). Maybe we can revive the participation in the Sunday fellowship hour.

We need your help with this. Please think about what would draw you out more, would re-energize you. What kind of small group meetings in the building—or via Zoom—would entice your participation? What changes in the fellowship hour format would bring you back to that time together? Or maybe you need someone to reach out to you in different ways than we have so far, as we all struggle to maintain our mental health in these times. What other ideas do you have for how we can sustain and nurture our community during the next few months? We hope that the arrival of our new senior pastor, Jeff Kardisco, will generate some excitement and energy for renewal. But let's not wait until then or put unfair pressure on Pastor Jeff. So, let's please share your ideas with me (<u>barrygshelley@gmail.com</u>) or with our Bridge Pastor, Ann-Marie Illsley (<u>pastor@brocktonucc.org</u>). Thanks!

Barry Shelley Moderator







Imagine That! IMAGE-IN THAT! A column on Visual Arts by Katrina Clinton

(A column on Visual Arts by Katrina Clinton)

The Peace Crane paraments are hanging in the Sanctuary. Doe challenged us to make 1,000 peace cranes for our Homecoming Celebration.

Here is my box so far. I think I may need to start another one.





So the next challenge we have has to do with the Stewardship Theme for this year: "Beloved, Love One Another".

What does Loving One Another look like?

Is it a picture or a drawing that you could send to me via email or text (with permission to reprint in Courier, Website, FB)?



Does it look like this?



Or this? Or this?

Please send your pictures illustrating "Love One Another" to: kcjoyf@aol.com or text to 1 -774 307-3250.

And then watch for your pictures to be highlighted in Image-In That! This will be fun. Thank you for playing along! BE A BLESSING PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS. DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. LEAD WITH LOVE. PRACTICE PEACE. BE THE LIGHT. WORK FOR JUSTICE. ENCOURAGE OTHERS. BE JOYFUL.

CONTACT US

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC 1350 Pleasant Street 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.



OUNITED CHURCH

BE THE CHURCH WHITED CHURCH 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.

UCC.org





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