

Volume 40 No 10

Creating Beloved Community

October 2020

PASTOR'S PAGE

This will be the last courier article I write as your Bridge Pastor. At the end of this month, Pastor Jeff will begin his time with our congregation as our next settled Pastor. At that point, I will step back into a role similar to the one I held before this interim period, focusing primarily on faith formation. It is an exciting time of new beginnings for this church and for all of you who make the church a living breathing thing.

Do you remember all those months ago when we began this leg of our journey? We sang Woyaya (*we are going… heaven knows where we are going… but we know within…*) together in worship and talked about what it meant to travel into the wilderness with one another as a community. Little did we know what the coming months would bring. This has definitely been a different sort of interim period than any of us had imagined.



But this hasn't stopped our congregation from continuing its journey of faith. We've explored what it means to Be The Church, even and especially when we can't be *in* the church. We've found new ways to worship together from a distance, to share in communion at many different tables, to join in singing hymns from our different zip codes. Our community has stepped up to care for one another with calls, cards, flower deliveries, postcards and driveway visits. Oh and the masks! You've been sewing masks to gift and donate, hosting Church World Service Depot Days, and contributing to the work of Brockton's Mutual Aid Effort. These and so many other things Staff and lay leaders both have teamed up to creatively find ways to continue our life and call as a church.

We are blessed at Christ Congregational Church to have strong and committed lay leaders (aka all of you) who have risen to meet the many challenges of these past months. You have done important work during this interim period. You have bid a loving farewell to a longtime pastor and supported each other in the sadness of that transition. You have discerned the areas that God is calling this congregation to boldly step into. You have asked and pondered hard questions about how we can be safe together, our focus and our finances. You have held together through tough moments and worked towards authentic and caring communication with each other even in the midst of conflict. You have searched for and called a wonderful pastor to guide and serve this congregation in its next chapter.

This hasn't been an easy time to be the church (*it will be hard we know... and the road will be muddy and rough...*). We haven't always gotten it right on the first try or done this perfectly (as anyone who's seen my accidental bloopers in online worship knows). But God does not ask us to be perfect, God asks us to be faithful. And you, my friends, have been faithful. It has been a true blessing and privilege for me to serve you as Bridge Pastor during these last ten months. I have loved seeing God's Spirit move through this community and look forward with joy and hope as our congregation welcomes Pastor Jeff and his family and continues together on its journey (*and we'll get there...we know we will...woyaya!*).

In Peace and Love, Ann-Marie

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely on our website, Facebook page, or Nearly Weekly

Sundays, 9:55AM (Music starts at 9:50)

October 4th Outdoor Service



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Oct. 7, 6:30PM Council: Oct. 29, 7PM Deacons: Oct. 1, 7PM Finance & Property: Oct. 8, 7PM Media/Tech: Oct. 8, 6:15PM Missions: Oct. 6, 6:30PM Music: Oct. 11, 11:30PM OCC: TBD Vitality: Oct. 1, 7PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS

This has been a year of changes and adaptations and adjustments for everyone. Over the past few weeks, teachers, students, families, and all who support them have been working hard to engage in learning in a variety of creative ways. This has created challenges certainly, but in some places has also revealed new opportunities that were previously unknown or unexplored.

Our Board of Christian Education has been working in the past weeks and months to figure out how we can offer opportunities for our folks of all ages to learn and deepen their faith. Recently, we invited parents and anyone else interested to brainstorm with us. One of the questions we asked was what they valued about Christian Education... what were the essential things they wanted their children and youth to access. You can see some of the answers we received in the word map below. What's missing? What would you add to it?

We know that many families are feeling stressed and overwhelmed right now. But we also believe that our faith has much to offer us around building resilience, finding strength and comfort in God's love and caring for one another through difficult times. Our hope is not to create another obligation for you meet, but rather to offer resources, both physical and spiritual, to support you. One way to help us do this better is by letting us know what support looks like for your family. Recently, we sent out a survey in the Nearly Weekly email. If you haven't yet had a chance to fill yours out, you can access it at the link below. It's pretty brief and should only take 5-10 minutes to fill out!

CE Survey

Like so many parts of our lives, our foundational programs like Sunday School likely won't look the same this year. Nevertheless, the Board of Christian Education is committed to adapting and adjusting (and looking for the revealed opportunities) to make sure that we still engage with our deep values and essential pieces of faith learning and nurturing. We ask and hope that you will join us in this important effort!



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Notes from Murray

October is here...hard to believe. September went by in a flurry of activity. I started teaching again at my school job and it has been a change from how things have gone before! We are getting used to the new normal and finding ways to support each other as teachers and finding ways to make things interesting as well as educational for the students while maintaining distance and safety.

We are eagerly awaiting our new pastor and working with him in order to reach more people and spread the Good News! Until then, music is moving in a positive direction and planning for the future! We are devising ways to have youth and adults participate in the music

program safely. Calls and emails will be going out shortly to families and others who have participated in the past. If you have interested in participating in hand bells or the youth music program, please don't hesitate to contact me at music@brocktonucc.org.

OPEN HYMN SINGS on Wednesdays! If you want to join in singing hymns and meeting to fellowship, please join us on Wednesdays at 6:45 in a zoom meeting. We chat for a bit and then take requests for hymns. The words are shared on the screen so people can sing at home. We welcome everyone!



Contact Murray for the zoom link at music@brocktonucc.org

One of the wonderful pieces of music I have been listening to lately is Haydn's Mass in Troubled Times. It is peaceful, hopeful, and beautiful. If you would like a moment of peace and humanity, take a bit of time to listen to some or all of this. Here is Leonard Bernstein conducting in Berlin. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1EkPFYIYeU&t=622s

If you have any comments or suggestions for the music program, always feel free to send an email to Murray at music@brocktonucc.org

Sincerely, Murray

Hi Everyone!

I had a cool experience today!

I have been working with the south eastern organ association (or something like that) filming an "Organ Crawl". The idea is that a handful of different people play on different organs so that people can hear the different instruments. It's been fun going to all the different churches, but so far our organ is my favorite! Rita, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in N Easton, and I were talking and I mentioned I played Handbells at Christ Congregational church. She said, "Oh that's the church with the music!" I just want to express how much of an honor



it is to be a part of a church with a reputation for good music. I am looking forward to seeing what we are able to do with Pastor Jeff once he gets here, and especially when Covid is ~over~ and we can make music in person again. Thanks to Donna for working so hard to complete our organ & an extra special shout out to Murray and Sylvia who have been able to create a system for getting a taste of our music into our remote worship services.

~Jilliann Larson

FROM THE ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

UPDATE FROM OUR ORGAN BUILDER: CZELUSNIAK & DUGAL

Since the resumption of a full and regular work schedule earlier this summer, by our suppliers as well as in our shop, we have remained busy and solvent as a company, most gratefully. Still, our work load and daily obligations have been a continual juggle, as the supply and demand of tuning and service work, prevailing projects and their deadlines, new business, and the support of collaborating colleagues all change on a daily, if not hourly, basis. Still, we are making headway on your Choir Division project, despite some continuing delays in that work.

PIPEWORK: As for responsibilities wholly under our control, we have completed the shop preparation of all pipework for the Choir division, now including treatment of the Cromorne reed pipes and the application of new slide-tuners to to all pipes needing them, as those custom parts came to us from their manufacturer.

WINDBOX: Shopwork has proceeded forward, albeit slowly, on the factory construction of the new windbox and regulator, windchest, and playing actions for the Choir division of the organ. The pictures below show the construction progress on those parts, as of early September; more work has

continued since.

At left is the special toeboard to support the winding and speech of the first 20 notes of the Choir Lieblich Gedeckt 16-8' unit rank.

At right are the rest of the toeboards for other stops on the new Choir main windchest, during manufacture, and prior to the finishing of the wood (as in the prior picture). Take note, on the far right, of the

special toeboard for the Choir Cymbel III stop, from which three pipes speak for each note played. This is how those pipes will stand and are winded to speak.





At left is the frame of the Choir main windchest being assembled. The wide board showing many holes, straight ahead, is the wall of the chest to which will be attached each of the 61 individual note-playing actions. Each of the 11 stop-action motors will operate from the wide wall of the chest to the right side of the picture.

Pictured at right is the construction on the floor of the windbox that forms the base – the foundation – of the

Choir windchest as it will be installed in the organ chamber in Brockton. In fact, this framework will sit right on top of the organ-blower box already in the chamber; the wind supply for the Choir division will be piped directly from the blower line beneath up into this box.





Hymn - O Cross of Christ Immortal Tree

Words: Benedictine Nuns of Stanbrook Abbey Tune: Saint Flavian, 1562 The concluding two verses:

> O faithful cross, you stand unmoved While ages run their course; Foundation of the universe Creation's binding force.

Give glory to the risen Christ And to his Cross give praise, The sign of God's unfailing love, The hope of all our days.

This evocative, Spirit-filled, stirring photo of the CCC chancel is replete with images of trees and crosses. (How many variations can you discern?) These images symbolize interconnectedness, deep roots, reaching branches, life's ongoingness, rebirth, resurrection, new beginnings... Signs of "God's unfailing love, the hope of all our days."

With God's unfailing love, this Beloved Community of CCCUCC continues to stand strong in the face of pandemic. With God's help, we are alive and renewing!



AND... we are preparing to welcome Pastor Jeff Kardisco, his wife Dani, and their son Ivyn near the end of this month. Talk about signs of hope!

Let's keep this hope rolling!

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>

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



MISSION MATTERS...

The Mission Committee has been very busy in September! We put together 59 School Kits for CWS [Church World Service] and our building was the depot for two other churches. The BIG TRUCK came and picked up everything. Thank you everyone that helped with your donations of supplies for this yearly event!

The committee also cleaned out the food pantry for fear that the food might get old. The food was boxed up and brought to **The Charity Guild of Brockton**. Then two weeks later we packaged up the left over food from the Wednesday night dinners and also brought that to the **Charity Guild**. Everyone was happy! We cleaned house and they get several cartons of food! Also, The

Charity Guild is looking for clothing. They are located on the corner of Main Street and Dover Street Brockton.

I'm not sure what is next on our list, we'll find out at our next meeting. Please remember to keep up your **pledges** so that our finances will meet our budgeted items for the balance of the 2020 year and into 2021. **Thank you for donating!**

George Manoogian, Mission Committee Scribe



COMMON THREADS



Here are four lap quilts by the Common Threads Quilt Guild. Members worked on them in January and February of this year. Janet Eckstrom and Nelda Hayes finished them up.

Placemats that members have finished can be left at the church office labeled for David Wilcox. Please hold any NICU quilts at home. South Shore hospital is not accepting them yet. I have spoken to them and they know we have about 3 dozen to be donated and will contact me when they can safely take them.

~Janet Eckstrom



Join ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & CRAFTS!



Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday NEW TIME From 5:00 - 7:00 PM

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



October Birthdays



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Virginia Hale, Ariana Vergne, Paula Gair, David Fairbanks, Emma Quesnel, Linda Alvilhiera, Richard Emanuel, Dan Ozelius, Lucas Flanagan, Bill Serjak, Deborah Edwards, Carol Ozelius, Brian Julio, Emily Dasey, George Manoogian, Shelley Blanchard, Ashley Poole, Janice Howard

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

We pray for the families of Barbara Smith and James McGunnigal, may they rest in peace.



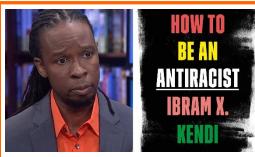


The Wednesday morning Bible Study group has started back up in an online format. Regulars and newcomers alike are welcome to drop in and check out this adult faith formation opportunity. The group meets on zoom, Wednesday mornings at 10am to discuss the lectionary scripture readings each week. Hope to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

https://<u>us02web.zoom.us/j/84061103224</u> Meeting ID: 840 6110 3224 +1 929 205 6099 Password: bible or (423861 if calling by phone)



Here is a beautiful piece of art work called Diamond Art done by Keith Allen. Even though we are not getting together in person, we are still creating fiber art and crafts for our next Harvest Fair. Join Fiber Fellowship and Crafts, we have a lot of fun.



From the Anti-Racism Study (and Action) Group

Members and new friends of the church started meeting in June 2020 over Zoom to read together and discuss the book, <u>How to Be an Anti-</u><u>Racist.</u> We called it a summer study and action group, but we have continued into the fall, delving into just two chapters at a time from this very deep and thought-provoking volume. We have also watched some clips from Ted Talks and a scene from the movie, <u>Selma.</u>

Here are some thoughts from a few members of the group:

"The Anti-Racism Study Group is a way of examining myself and reflecting with others about racism." *-Bill Sadler*

"This group has helped me to understand how to combat racism. The readings and the discussion help me to feel hopeful that we can overcome this scourge." -Susy Monroe

"Such a must read book, and, with me having moved, such a pleasure to be able to participate with y'all via Zoom!"

Liz Vann (now in Chicago)

"Taking part in the Anti-Racism Study Group this summer has been an excellent component of my self-reflection to change my role in systemic racism from silently complicit to becoming an anti-racist, justice for everyone.

"Everyone in the group has been wonderful sharing their reflections and reactions and Donna and Ann-Marie have been outstanding facilitators! The book, <u>How to be an Antiracist</u>, is both easy and difficult to read. The writer, Ibram X. Kendi, gives us the story of his life that is all too familiar and so distant; where it is appallingly easy to find actions taken by others could have been taken by me or that actions taken were long thought to be "solved" which is inexcusable. This group and the book have helped in many ways to find a voice and re-learn that inaction is worse than making mistakes and starting again." *Sheppo Fisher*



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





Care Teams

Have you heard about our Care Teams? Made up of volunteers from the congregation, these teams provide care for various members of our community. Each team takes one week a month to write cards, make calls, and in a pre-pandemic world, drop off meals and/or visit with other members in the congregation. It's one of the ways that our church community works to take care of each other.

Could you commit to making one call or writing one card a month? Do you have a desire to keep our community connected in this difficult time? If so, perhaps you're called to be part of one of our Care Teams. If you'd like to join a team, or if you have questions, please reach out to our Bridge Pastor, Ann-Marie or the church office.



MASKERAID! From the CCC Harvest Fair Committee! (David Wilcox, Sheppo, Barbara (AKA) Holland Moody, Katrina, Doe)



Maskeraid! What is MASKERAID!? Maskeraid is (we hope) a creative, exciting, entertaining, congregationinvolving fun&fund-raiser developed (and still being developed) by the CCC Harvest Fair Committee. When the 2020 CCC Amazing Harvest Fair had to be cancelled (rightly so - good decision) because of pandemic regulations and needed distancing, the Fair Committee began exploring options, and, thus, Maskeraid was born and is now growing up!

MASKERAID will occur as a church and public event in November and December. It is a calendar raffle of sorts with the selling of ticket packets occurring in November and the drawings of winners happening throughout December. Maskeraid is a twist on a customary calendar raffle with a major difference being that each ticket purchased (up to the first 300 tickets, at least) will immediately result in a "prize" of a Christmas/Winter themed mask (yes, the health-guarding kind) and entry into a drawing for prizes (a surprising array) offered each day during December.

So... here are the basics of MASKERAID, a fun&fund-raiser calendar raffle with some surprising twists! Now, the thing is that we need the help of EVERYONE to make this special event work for CCCUCC! We need you!

Here is some important contact information for you to be able to reach the coordinators of donations and ticket sales! Cheers and deep gratitude to them for taking on this job!

Sheppo FisherEmail: sheppo247@comcast.netPhone #/Text:1 508 631 1999

David Wilcox Email: <u>darmok2@comcast.net</u> Phone #/Text: 1 617 590 1878

So... what donations are needed? -



\$25 Gift Cards - Amazon, CVS or any other pharmacy, grocery store, local restaurants, etc. Elsewhere in this edition of the Courier is an article by Barbara Holland Moody that includes a list of local businesses that donated to the CCC Fair raffle last year, and now we are turning their act of support around to purchase gift cards **from** them! Please consult Barbara's list if you plan to buy a gift card as your donation! Gift cards may be dropped off at the church or mailed in. Please make sure you have David and/or Sheppo's name on the envelope. If you have any questions about gift card donations, please contact Sheppo or David.

Special Due Date Notice: Your donation of gift cards is due to church by Thursday, October 22nd, so we can organize them and place them on the raffle calendar which needs to be ready by November 1st! Thank you!

Special Prizes (other than gift cards) Maskeraid is also looking for hand-crafted artistic items such as shawls, quilts, glass art, and any other manifestations of your talents. These donations may be dropped off at church, or David and Sheppo said they would be happy to pick them up. Please contact David and Sheppo!

Special Due Date Notice: Your donation of special prizes is due to church by Thursday, October 22nd, so we can place them on the raffle calendar which needs to be ready by November 1st! Thank you!

Masks Yes, we still need masks! Please keep creating! The more, the better. Please drop masks off at church or make contact for a pick-up.

TICKET SALES! We need lots of volunteers to sell tickets! Ticket sales begin on November 1st but we are trying to line up volunteers and deal with the details of ticket sales now! This can be a fun, exciting activity even if you are "distanced" at home. Ask your family and friends and neighbors. If you work, please take packets to work to sell. This is all for the church! Remember that all ticket buyers (up to the first 300 and more, we hope) will receive a Christmas/Winter mask!

David and Sheppo are coordinating the selling of ticket packets. Please email, text, or call to let them know you are on board for selling some tickets! We need you!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER - A lot of the fun of **MASKERAID** is involving as many people as possible! The biggest challenge will be in NOT being able to do a lot of this in person in our church building. But... we remember that we really are a part of one another even though we are apart. We can do this! Let the **Maskeraid** begin!





Last year our Harvest Fair was able to have a very successful raffle table. In addition to numerous tangible items we were well supported by many of our local businesses.

This year as you read elsewhere in this Courier we are having the "Maskeraid On- Line Fair!" as an alternative.

And we need your help! IF you are financially able we thought THIS year we could thank those businesses in these tough economic times and purchase a gift card from them to raffle. We are asking that the gift card (or cards) have a monetary value of \$25.00.

If you are able please speak to the manager and let them know whom you represent and why this year you are supporting them as well as the church.

Here is our list from last year as we:

The Beanery in Easton Bill's House of Pizza in Easton Boston Tavern in West Bridgewater China Town restaurant in Brockton Colonial Donut Shop in Taunton Daybreak Family Restaurant in West Bridgewater Doggie Boutique in Brockton Dollar Tree in North Easton The Farmers Daughter in North Easton Hilliard's Candy in North Easton Good Days Restaurant in West Bridgewater Panera Bread in Stoughton Roche Brothers in Easton Stonebridge Restaurant in Easton



And please if you patronize any of these establishments please let them know that you appreciated how they helped Christ Congregational Church last fall.

Any gift cards can be mailed to the church to the attention of David Wilcox, Sheppo Fisher or Barbara Moody... Thanks so much for your support!!!



A note from the Moderator

The past month has been a challenging one at Christ Congregational Church as church leaders made the difficult decision to terminate the employment of our Facilities Manager and as members of our congregation differed in opinion about how to best inform our faith community of that action. It is important to acknowledge the pain and sadness generated by both the action itself as well as the differences of perspective on the communication.

It is also important to recognize the honest and fruitful way you discussed these issues during our two open congregational conversations and in one-to-one talks with me, our Bridge Pastor, and members of the Personnel Committee. From my standpoint, it seemed that participants of all viewpoints spoke with passion, compassion and insight while you also listened to others with respect, interest, and appreciation. For that I am deeply grateful; it is an encouraging indicator of the wisdom, maturity, and care that help hold our community together. I hope you feel similarly.

While I believe that healing has begun through this process, I don't assume that it is complete or that we should just move on as though everything is 100% hunky-dory again. While taking care not to re-open wounds that are actually on the mend, let's continue to be aware of places where healing may still be needed, and to respond--when appropriate and invited--with listening, understanding and support. I invite anyone who would like to converse further with me or others who signed the letter to the congregation to let us know. We would be glad to discuss any questions or concerns you may still have.

Barry Shelley

From the Pastoral Search Committee

Exciting times indeed! In July we welcomed Pastor Jeff Kardisco for a candidating weekend. We hosted several 'meet and greet' events on Saturday, July 25- a morning Zoom gathering for those unable to meet in person; an afternoon socially distanced picnic where Pastor Jeff, Dani, their son Ivyn, and Dani's parents circulated among the masked attendees to answer questions and converse; and a late afternoon outdoor meeting of Council and committee members where Pastor Jeff offered more details about himself, his mission, and his hopes for our Beloved Community.

On Sunday July 26 th we worshiped as a congregation, in person for the first time since Covid restrictions began. Our service was live streamed as well. Pastor Jeff led Worship, offering a meaningful message, as all in attendance discerned if the PSC's choice of settled pastor was going to be a good fit. Following Worship, a meeting was held prior to the congregational vote. Votes were received in person, via text message, via telephone, and via Zoom link in order to allow all who wished to participate an opportunity to weigh in. Our candidate, Pastor Jeff Kardisco, was unanimously approved by all participating voting members, to be called as our next settled pastor. Praise God!!!

Pastor Jeff begins his time with us Monday, October 26th; his first worship service will be November 1st, All Saints Day. The PSC and the Phasing Forward Task Force are determining best practices for this welcoming weekend, both for Sunday worship as well as a socially distanced welcome gathering. Please keep an eye out for Nearly Weekly announcements and check our website and Facebook pages for further details.

Prayerfully Submitted, Pastoral Search Committee



Imagine That! IMAGE- IN THAT!

(A column on Visual Arts by Katrina Clinton)

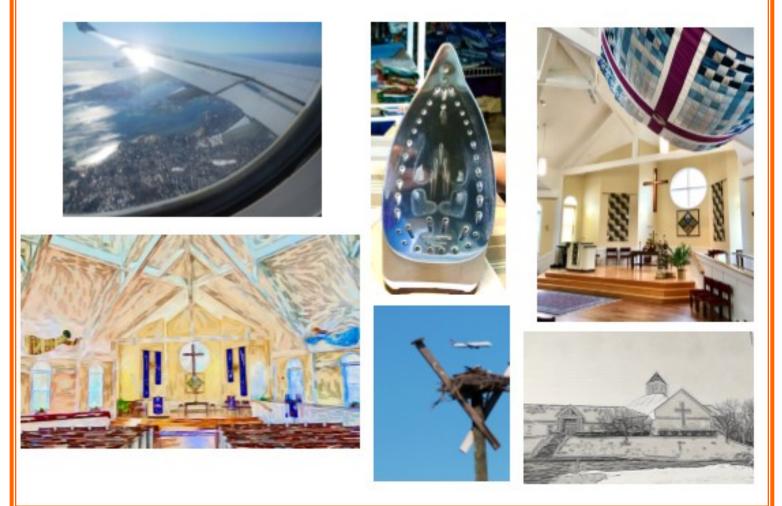
PERSPECTIVE:

When I taught photography to my students, one of the first lessons was on PERSPECTIVE because it matters where you stand to take your picture, what angle you are using, what lens (closeup, wide angle, etc) is on the camera.

When the new Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ was being built, David Keith invited me to take a ride in his airplane so I could take pictures from up above to show the new church and the neighborhood. It was a bit scary, but fascinating, to see the church from a bird's eye view.

Remember the first time you saw earth as a little blue marble in the vast open space of the universe? Talk about a new perspective!

We church folk like to talk about seeing events of the world from a "Faith Perspective". You see, it matters how we perceive the people and events around us. Our Faith Perspective will always land us on the side of HOPE, and compassion, mercy, kindness, and justice. Check out the images below for illustrations of how perspective makes a big difference!





CONTACT US

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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.



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