# Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

### Volume 40 No 11

### **Creating Beloved Community**

#### November 2020

## WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

**N** N

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

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

#### Regular: Remotely

Bible Study: Wednesdays,

10AM Hymn Sing: Wednesdays,

6:45PM Fiber Fellowship: 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 5:00PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM Christian Ed: Nov. 4, 6:30PM Council: Nov. 19, 7PM Deacons: Nov. 5, 7PM Finance & Property: Nov. 12, 7PM

Media/Tech: TBD Missions: Nov. 3, 6:30PM Music: Nov. 8, 11:30PM OCC: TBD Vitality: Nov. 12, 7PM

## PASTOR'S PAGE

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. ~Jeremiah 29:11~

It's hard to believe it's been just over 3 months since you called me as your new settled pastor. It's hard to believe how much of life has happened in that time. For Dani, Ivyn, and I the past 3 months have involved selling our house in York, moving to



Massachusetts, and saying goodbye to a congregation and church family that have meant a lot to us during our time together. Dani and I were just talking the other day about how this transition to Massachusetts, to be in ministry with all of you, has felt less like a new chapter being started and more like a new volume in the set of stories that are our lives together. In short - we're incredibly hopeful and very excited about what the future has in store. I cannot wait to get to know all of you and for our work together to begin.

This passage from Jeremiah has always been special in my heart. For a long time it had great personal meaning, but over the years I have also come to understand that this passage is simultaneously for each of us individually, but also collectively. The "you" in God's proclamation is a collective "you". In Pennsylvania we might say "yous" or "yinz", other places might say "y'all" or "you all". It is this collective you that has given me hope over the past months.

It's an understatement to say that pastoral transitions are difficult - even during the best of times. It's also an understatement to say that COVID-19 has made everything about life harder in general. But here we are, standing at the beginning of a new thing springing forth. God is still working. That's what this passage says to me, that we as God's people are still working toward the realization of God's kingdom - and that nothing in the world can stop God's redemptive work from happening. There are plenty of reasons to be weary and fatigued - but hope can still shine through these things.

Over the coming weeks I will be working to get to know all of you, and I am looking forward to seeing what realities will manifest out of our collective hope.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Jeff

# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS**



Over the coming weeks in Sunday School, we'll be exploring what it means to be a good neighbor and what kind of neighbors God wants us to be. Because we can't yet gather together, Sunday School is coming to you! We've been handing out kits filled with everything you'll need for each week's activities. Additionally, on Sunday each participant will receive a video sharing a lesson with stories, songs, activities, and maybe even a few visits from our CCC neighbors. If you haven't yet received yours, reach out to the office or Ann-Marie so we can get you one!



### A Message from Silver Lake Summer Camp:

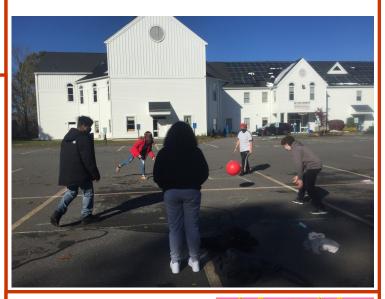
We are extra busy designing something new that will allow us to safely operate overnight camp in 2021. And we want to tell you about it!

We are hosting two Zoom information sessions to give you a chance to hear what we've got planned and to ask your questions.

Register at www.silverlakect.org/campsessions



The combined Junior and Senior youth groups kicked off their year on Saturday October 31st from 1-2:30 with an outdoor meeting in our parking lot. We played some fun games and talked about what we'd like to do this year in youth group. What a wonderful start of the year. Look out for more information and activities for future youth group events.



WANTED: 2021 Calendars for Veterans at Brockton V.A. Hospital. Please leave or send the calendars to the office and the Missions Committee will deliver them.





Today is a beautiful day! The sun is shining and the leaves are beautiful. The air is clear and crisp and fresh. Anyone and everyone are welcome to join in our Hymn Sings, hosted by the choir. Sylvia dropped in this week and played the organ and piano to a few of the hymns and it was lovely to hear our instruments again, played by the amazing Sylvia!

Your music team has worked so hard in the last seven months to create music that is meaningful and complimentary to the worship service. We have been talking about stewardship in our services and one of the songs we have heard (well, those at home on 10/18 didn't hear it too well, so we decided to re-broadcast it on 10/25) is "My Tribute" by Andraé Crouch. We have sung the refrain from this song hundreds of times in our services but the rest of the words are so important to consider.

"How can I say thanks For the things You have done for me? Things so undeserved Yet You gave to prove Your love for me; The voices of a million angels Could not express my gratitude All that I am and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee"

Mr. Crouch was known as the "father of modern gospel music" and we are fortunate to have our own Alisa Cassola performing an arrangement by Crystal Lewis (with whom I attended college way back in the old days) that has been performed all over the world. It is a tour de force of skill and technique and not many professional singers could achieve this song. We are so blessed to have Alisa in our midst and working so hard for our worship music. All of the music staff has been devoting more time than pre-Covid in order to create the music we hear every Sunday. Learning new technology and getting used to the frustrations of using it has been a real test in patience on an almost weekly basis. We view the results as the payoff. As we see other congregations who don't have any singing in their services or using YouTube videos of people not related to the congregation, it seemed like this was the best way to go. Programming the weekly music is still the same process as I pore over hundreds of music titles to try and find just the right one that fits the sermon and/or the scriptures. Our weekly process is long and involved, but we enjoy working through it each week. When the clock restarts at 11:00am each Sunday, we are privileged to begin a new journey toward the next Sunday morning. David Wilcox contributes amazing interpretations of the music. He is filled with soul and music in every song and we appreciate his contributions. Jillian Larson is a highly skilled video editor. This is not something easily done and we are blessed that she essentially volunteers her time in order to keep us up and running so we can reach our congregation. With only minor Wi-Fi problems, we have had very consistent services. Talking with my mom, who watches every week, and friends who attend Zoom services at various churches, they say we have a very good situation going on. I am proud of what we have been able to achieve and bring to our worship services with our staff, members of the congregation, and guests (thank you, Sylvia!). We long for a time when our ensembles can gather again in person without the worry of getting profoundly ill or spreading illness to our loved ones. When things clear up, we will start our ensembles up again and greatly look forward to that time.

Speaking of ensembles, the Chancel Ringers gathered recently to create a few recordings for our services and we had a lovely time making music in the same room. Everyone enjoyed seeing each other as we played while distanced and with masks. We will be gathering again to learn more songs as well as preparing some Christmas tunes to share with you all. Be on the lookout for a Zoom Christmas celebration in December! Planning has begun!!

Please stay safe, listen to music, create, donate, vote and LOVE!

Sincerely, Murray



# **ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE**

## UPDATE FROM THE ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

### Presenting two online events in November:



PETER KRASINSKI will return with a fall concert to be streamed online starting on **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.** Peter, who is widely known for his improvisations for silent movies, will present a varied program of favorites on our wonderful Austin Organ, including a 10 minute short silent film to which he will play an improvised "soundtrack." This is a FREE event, thanks to advertisers, area cultural councils and our principal sponsor, Ms. Eleanor Calvin. To watch and listen, check out our Facebook page at "Christ Church Pipe Organ Series," and if you haven't done so already, "like" the page. The link will be posted there and also sent out via email to our Constant Contact list. If you don't currently get those organ event

emails, send an email to <u>organ@brocktonucc.org</u> to be added.

DR. STEVEN YOUNG will present the November Midday Music, to be streamed online starting on **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm**. Dr. Young is on the faculty of Bridgewater State University and has been guest organist in the past for Midday Music programs, as well as with the Brockton Symphony Orchestra.



## UPDATE FROM THE ORGAN BUILDER

Work continues in the shop of Czelusniak & Dugal, Organ Builders, on the installation of the Choir Division for our Austin Organ. Now that the pipes are all cleaned and sorted, the major work has been on the windchest. A *windchest* is the component of a pipe organ on which the pipes sit. As the organist plays the instrument, the keys, stops, and windchest work together as a mechanism (called an 'action') to direct pressurized air (called 'wind') into the pipes, thus creating sound.





At left, windchest interior with "actions." At right, windchest top showing toeboards for pipes and wind regulation.

PROJECT PIPES:	620	T	
620 by 2020			
Our goal: \$166,000			
to install 620 pipes	550	H	
to complete the			
Choir Division		٨	1 M M N N
on the Austin Organ		A	
Opus #2759	440		
We have surpassed our		Ν	
goal !!			
Any donations received above	320	V	
our \$166,000 goal will stay in a		N	
designated fund for organ maintenance.			
ORGAN COMPLETION	210	S	
COMMITTEE	210		
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC			
BROCKTON, MA			

# Gather Us In

Words and Music by Marty Haugen, 1981 Hymn #284 in the Chalice Hymnal (Yes, the one in our pews!)

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, Shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; Gather us in and make us your own; Gather us in, all peoples together, Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Gather us in, God of Hope and Love. Whether we are together in one place or together from a distance, help us emerge into the light of a new day! Help us perceive the streaming beams! Hold us, and help us feel your Power and the Fire of Love! Amen

With God's unfailing Love, this Beloved Community of CCCUCC continues to stand together in the face of a pandemic! With God's help, we look to the light!

Please continue to support this Beloved 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> Thank you, and thank God!

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

# From the Mission Committee

Hello Fellow Church Members and Guests, Some may ask, "Where is my money going?" Here's a short list of the agencies that we help in our small way.

Doctors Without Boarders UCC Child and Elder Support Elon Home for Children Hispanic Ministries ONA Coalition -UCC Oxfam America Back Bay Missions Fisher House Home for Our Troops Science with a Mission



There are a few others, and that will be in next month's issue. Any leftover funds will carry over to the next year, or saved for an urgent need somewhere. Your donations ARE making a difference in people's lives and each little bit helps everyone. So, if possible, please keep up with your pledges so that we can support our list of those in need.

As a reminder, the new pledging system is now ONE line, "General funds". Missions is now part of the General Fund. We did not go away! So whatever you pledge for the next year, remember to keep Missions within the Unified Budget. We are now a line item within the General Fund.

George Manoogian The Mister Nice Guy





**SNIPPETS** (Not Snippy! Just Zippy!)

### Unfolding Grace, Abundant Hope A BOLD "Thanks" Giving

- \* What a powerful, intrepid, and encouraging theme for this Autumn's Stewardship Experience and Pledge Campaign, especially in the face of the COVID Pandemic. Unfolding Grace, Abundant Hope - A Bold "Thanks" Giving! Wow!
- Stewardship's sustaining and guiding bible verse is: "So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without God's unfolding grace."
  2 Corinthians 4:16 The Message
- Pledge Packets will be distributed beginning on Sunday, November 8th. They will be given out in person at any outdoor worship that may occur and mailed out through USPS. Also, pledge packets will be emailed using the Constant Contact list. The return of completed pledges to the church will occur in person (as permitted) and by mail.
- \* Our joyful dedication of pledges will occur on Sunday, December 13th.
- CCCUCC is in a season of transition and renewal! We have abundant hope and see God's unfolding grace all around us. Praise and thanks to God for giving us abundant gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure to share with one another and with the world. We are always learning to be good stewards!
- \* A Prayer for These Times: God of Unfolding Grace, grant us even more Abundant Hope in trying times. Come to us with your light and joy. Fill us with a renewed faith that will claim

the beauty all around us and find delight in all the used-to-be-invisible glimpses of glory in our daily lives. Open our eyes to the possibilities of service and the connections to our brothers and sisters even in times of distancing. Let compassion rule our hearts. Let praise be ever on our lips. Let your love shine through us, your stained-glass people. Amen





Wishing all the best on your Birthdays Sofia Shelley-Wyss, Phoenix Pelote, Gabriel Swisher Rosa, Doug Anderson, Michelle Purssell, Pasha Ozelius, Steve Prince, Tricia Gross, Chard Poole, Alan Thomas, Cindy Myers, Shawn Weatherbee, Ruth Ladd, Jay Sparling, Sarah Sparling, Hayley Hixon, Walkerson Bastia, Amy Poole, Jayce Exell, Rev. Patricia (listed in order of day of month from 1 to 31)

We pray for the families of Michelle Medas and Greg Campbell, 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061103224

Meeting ID: 840 6110 3224 +1 929 205 6099 Password: bible or (423861 if calling by phone)

> BAPTISM October 18, 2020 Nevaeh Martins (born on October 24,2015) and Amari Martins (born on April 10, 2019)

> Blessings to parents Amanda Jenkins & Nelson Martins!

### ARE YOU RECEIVING THE FAIRLY WEEKLY E-MAIL? READ ABOUT US ON FACEBOOK? JOIN OUR GROUPS AND LEARN THE LATEST ABOUT...

THE MASKERAID FUNDRAISER AT CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC DEVELOPED BY THE CCC HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE

> Tickets Are On Sale beginning Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> – Text, e-mail or call any of us...

Sheppó Email: sheppo247@comcast.net David Wilcox Email: darmok2@comcast.net

Phone #/Text 1 508 631 1999

Phone #/Text. 1 617 590 1878

Barbara Moody Email: moodytwos@gmail.com



Phone #/Text 1 508 728 3896

For \$10, the first 300+ will receive

a Holiday Mask, December calendar

for the fridge, as well as a Ticket for

the chance to win a Gift Card each day!!

# All calendar raffle drawings are in December 2020 **2 winners each day!**

2020	DECE	MBER	MaskerAid Raffle			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	01 Stonebridge Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	02 Bill's House of Pizza \$25 GC winner:	03 Market Basket \$25 GC winner:	04 Dollar Tree \$25 GC winner:	05 Target \$25 GC winner:
		CVS \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$25 GC winner:	Barnes & Hoble \$25 GC winner:	Italian Kitchen \$30 GC winner:	Dunktn' \$25 GC winner:
06 Amazon \$50 GC winner:	07 Hillard's Candy \$25 GC winner:	08 Daggie Boutique \$25 GC winner:	09 Good Days Restaurant \$25 GC where:	10 Cape Cod Café \$30 GC whener:	11 Petco \$25 GC witwer:	12 Crystal's Kitchen \$30 GC winner:
OSW \$50 GC Winner:	Lowe's \$25 GC winner:	Home Depot \$25 GC winner:	Trucchi's \$25 GC winner:	Joann's \$25 GC winner:	Stonebridge Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	Bernes & Noble \$25 GC winner:
13 Target \$50 GC winner:	14 TJMzoy/Marshalls/Home Goods \$25 GC withner:	15 Dominos \$25 GC winner:	16 Trader Joe's \$25 GC winner:	17 Be Dezded \$25 GC winner:	18 The Beanery \$25 GC winner:	19 Good Days Restaurant \$25 GC winner:
Brack's Grille & Yap \$50 GC winner:	winner: Peint Rust & Pbde Dust \$25 GC winner:	Barnes & Noble \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$25 GC winner:	Shaw's Supermarket \$25 GC winner:	Genders Hairdresser \$30 GC winner:	Pizzeria Uno \$25 GC winner:
20 The Farmers Daughter \$50 GC winner:	21 The Beanery \$25 GC winner:	22 Amazon \$25 GC winner:	23 China Toem Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	24 Sunnyside Café \$25 GC witner:	25 Shaw's Supermarket \$25 GC witner:	26 El Mariachi Restaurant \$25 GC winner:
Amazon \$50 GC winner:	CVS \$25 GC winner:	Domino's \$25 GC winner:	Town Spa \$25 GC winner:	Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	Hilliant's Candy \$25 GC winner:	Good Days Restaurant \$25 GC winner:
27 Nocera's Restaurent \$30 GC winner:	28 Boston Tavern \$25 GC winner:	29 The Beanery \$25 GC winner:	30 Roche Brothers \$25 GC winner:	31 Penera Bread \$25 GC winner:	01	02
Jade Leaf \$30 GC winner:	Texas Roschouse \$80 GC winner:	CV5 \$25 GC winner:	Maul Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	Petco \$25 GC winner:		

There have been some very Special Donations by our church members, more information will be provided soon.



10/1/20

Board of Deacons,

Thank you so much for thinking of me and for the home communion. I planted the mums right by my front walk and they are blooming beautifully. Love it! Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

> Sincerely, Linda Alvilhiera

### October 9, 2020

Christ Congregational Church Deacons and Members All,

Thank you for the Fall flowering plant and communion packet. I appreciated your thoughtful visit.

God Be With You All, Audrey L. Simmons





Stopping in to say Hello,

Thank you for the lovely flowers Jan delivered and also the items for communion.

> Take Care, Jean Purificato

Sept. 29, 2020

#### Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the plant and communion Kit! It's nice to know I am remembered and hope to see you all "in person" soon.

> In Christian Love, Shirley Bamford





10-12-20

I'm sending a BIG thank you to deacon Janice Urban for her visit in September - bringing good cheer, communion sets and a beautiful arrangement of fresh flowers. They brightened my table for weeks.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Blessings, Nelda Hayes



From the CCC Fair Committee!



**Thanks so so much** for your wonderful response to our call to donate gift cards for our upcoming Masker Aid calendar raffle!!!!

With your **very generous monetary donations** I was the designated ambassador for Christ Congregational Church. I went to the local places that supported us last year as well as additional localities that needed US this year as much as we needed them in the past years.

It was explained to the manager that WE were thinking of them in these difficult times and that WE were giving back to THEM this year by purchasing gift cards from them. It was also stated how much we appreciated all they have done for us in past years.

What an honor it was for me to represent all of you. They were awestruck and several were close to tears. They just could not believe your generosity. One business owner told me he was worried about people asking for donations this year and he hoped that next year he could help US again.

A letter with letterhead was left with them that reiterated what we were doing and why we were doing it.

It is no surprise that our beloved church community is also stepping up for the SPECIAL ITEMS that will be an additional holiday fundraiser for the church.

Categories so far include: handmade knitted, crocheted, fabric, pottery, paper, glass and food items. We have gift baskets and ornaments as well as an offer of services. The items are ranging in prices to assist you in finding special items for your holiday shopping (or for yourselves) Please contact any of the committee members with your ideas and/or donations. We will need an approximate worth of your items.

On behalf of the Masker Aid and Special Items planning committee - Barbara Moody

Sheppo Fisher Email: <u>sheppo247@comcast.net</u> Phone #/Text: (508)631-1999 David Wilcox Email: <u>darmok2@comcast.net</u> Phone #/Text: (617)590-1878

Barbara Moody Email: <u>moodytwos@gmail.com</u> Phone #/Text: (508)728-3896 Katrina Clinton & Jo-Ellen Fisher Email: <u>kcjoyf@aol.com</u> Phone #/Text: (774)504-0116



We would like to thank the church for delivering a beautiful yellow mum to us. It's just gorgeous!! We planted it in our front yard for everyone to see. Thank you for thinking of us.

Steve & Carolyn Bennett



Thank you for the flowers and communion kit. Everything is great at home and hope all is well at the church.

Donald Marvill

Oct. 18, 2020

Dear Deacons,

Thank you so very much for the huge cranberry-colored mum. It is on the deck so I see it for a good part of every day. A special thanks to Janice Urban for delivering it.

Thank you also for all the notes and cards we keep getting. They are a bit more exciting than emails.

We pray you all stay safe and well.

In Christian love,

Marilyn & David Fairbanks





Thank you to the church for the beautiful mum plant that was given to me. It indeed was a real nice surprise, and it definitely made my day. Thank you again for the thoughtfulness!

Ruth Copeland

#### 9/28/20

Dear Members, Staff, and other CCC friends,

Thank you so very much for the gorgeous yellow chrysanthemum. It brightened my day, and much longer! I did so appreciate the special communion elements baggie also. It's so heartening to have my church respond so very thoughtfully.

> Sincerely, Ricky Soncrant



# Imagine That! IMAGE- IN THAT!

(A column on Visual Arts by Katrina Clinton)

### FRAME!

Another photography lesson was all about the frame of the picture: seeing the background and foreground and how they relate to each other. And then in printing the picture we make decisions on how to crop the picture for the most effective and artistic visual. It makes a difference how we frame or reframe the picture.

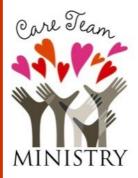
When we extend the metaphor, we can ask how our faith helps us frame the experiences of our lives. In a time of pandemic, how do we understand separation, quarantine, loss and depression when we say our God is a God of Hope and Vision ("Behold I am making all things new")?

There is a lot of talk these days about REFRAMING! By that we mean that historical events and their interpretations are being reexamined for how they have impacted folks and who are the beneficiaries and/or victims of decisions and laws of the past. Again, noting the foreground and background makes a difference in what we actually see as truth and beauty and justice.

So, what needs to be cropped and what saved? What speaks truth and beauty to us in these times? Check out the pictures below as examples of how FRAME makes a huge difference in how we see our world and give meaning to our lives.



### 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.



# **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.





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