



WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

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

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

Regular: Remotely

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 10AM

Prayer Group: Tuesdays, 7PM

Hymn Sings: Wednesdays, 6:45PM

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



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Mar. 3, 6:30PM

Council: Mar. 18, 7PM

Deacons: Mar. 4, 7PM

Finance/Property: Mar. 11, 7PM

Media/Tech: Mar. 16, 7PM

Missions: Mar. 2, 6:30PM

Music: Mar. 14, 11:30PM

OCC: TBD

Vitality: Mar. 2, 6PM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

As we begin the month of March and anticipate the coming of Spring there is much to be thankful for here in our Beloved Community. Vaccines are being distributed all across the country and, for the first time in many months, we can see light at the end of the tunnel. Here within our community our church remains socially distant, but certainly not closed.

The usual work of our boards and committees has continued. We have been encouraged by the responses we've received to our fall pledge drive, the organ is close to being complete, and we have engaged in important work to develop our strategic pathways of pursuing racial justice and improving our community engagement. On January 25th we held our very first Anti-Racism Institute, led by Pastor Ann-Marie Illsley in partnership with Will Dickerson of the Brockton Interfaith Community. The institute ran for 4 consecutive weeks and we had 25 participants, with roughly half of the class being members of Christ Congregational Church and the other half being from various community partner organizations. We received such interest in this first offering that we hope to offer the training again, with the possibility of the Anti-Racism Institute being an ongoing collaborative ministry between our congregation and BIC. The CERJ (Community Engagement and Racial Justice) taskforce also continue with their work in focusing on our strategic pathways and how to bring our entire congregation along. For now a great place to start is for all of you to check out and follow the CERJ group on our Facebook page, where updates and educational resources will be shared. When we all take a moment to stop, and step back, it's clear that our congregation has remained as active as ever!

In the coming weeks and months the landscape will change as vaccines continue to be distributed and as the weather warms – allowing for more outdoor activities. The Phasing Forward Task Force, the group dedicated to discerning how and when we will regather, will continue to work at keeping our congregation safe – but we are also committed to finding data driven bench marks for how and when we will regather for in person activities. As Easter approaches and spring unfolds we are reminded of resurrection and renewal – and we can take comfort in knowing that these things are real promises for us and for our future. We will gather again in Beloved Community, and we will continue our work of being the best disciples we can be. Most importantly, we will do it all together.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jeff



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School

During Lent, Sunday School @ Home is continuing with coloring based Lenten devotionals from Illustrated Ministry. The kits are great for children and adults alike! If you would like a kit for your family (or yourself!), please reach out to the church office (508-586-3022). Keep an eye out for announcements about outdoor activities as we move towards spring!

Sunday School
@
Home!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group

Youth Group fun continues through the winter! This past month, when weather made it hard to meet outside we gathered online and played games like Quiplash, Drawful, and Tee Shirt KO! As we move closer to spring, we're hoping that the weather will improve and allow us to continue meeting outdoors. This month, we'll be meeting twice following confirmation class on Sunday, March 14th and 28th from 1-2:30pm. Weather and temperature permitting we'll be meeting outside at church. In case of freezing or inclement weather we'll meet online. A live game version of Among Us is in the works... stay tuned for more info!

Confirmation

Our confirmation class has been going strong through the end of year! We've been exploring prayer and the history of Christianity. This month we'll continue on with our Confirm Not Conform UCC curriculum and will focus on putting our faith in action.

March Classes:

March 14th – Faith In Action: How We Can Help

March 28th – Faith In Action: The Issues of Power



Confirmation

Lenten Devotionals Available

Weekly Lenten Devotionals from Illustrated Ministry are still available for anyone interested. Creative weekly reflections on prayer, complete with art prayer sheets and art supplies. If interested, please contact the office or Pastor Ann-Marie.

Lenten Devotional



For Families



Playspace

During the month of March, we will be opening the church nursery room as a playspace. Families can sign up to visit (one at a time) on Saturday mornings and a volunteer will sanitize the space in between visitors. We'll have activities available to use or take home and other fun toys. To sign up, please follow the link: ttsu.me/3h9vmb

Camperships

Silver Lake and other church camps are planning to offer sessions of camp this summer. Camperships are available to any families who are interested. Please contact Pastor Ann-Marie for more info.





Notes from Murray

[O Happy Day!](#)

Here is a song (click on O Happy Day above) I have thought about many times lately. We have sung it a few times in the sanctuary and this will be one of the first songs we sing when we are able to gather again to raise our voices in praise.

Here are the lyrics:

Oh happy day (oh happy day)
Oh happy day (oh happy day)
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)
When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)
He washed my sins away (oh happy day)
Oh happy day (oh happy day).

This reminds me of something I read recently that talked about happiness and gratitude. It is easy to feel down now that vaccinations are so close and yet so far for so many of us. We long for contact with our family and friends and to get rid of the worry that is part of our daily lives. Some of us are struggling to feel happy. This is the case for me, lately. Many say, "Be happy! Smile! Just smile!" We all mean well when we are trying to cheer someone up and I appreciate it when people try to help. I am quite certain I have uttered these same words once or twice. Happiness is not always easy to feel or to create in ourselves. It is much easier to focus on someone else and try to help them, though. However, when we hang up the phone or are alone, it is easy to fall into a funk. It is easy to be forgetful of our blessings. Is it because we aren't grateful? No. I think it is because we lose focus on our many gifts and those things around us. I remember when I was in college, I worked at a 7/11 and had the graveyard shift from 11 to 7am. Saw many colorful characters in a rougher part of San Diego. I had to work the morning before Thanksgiving. A man came in around 6:00am and put a box of a dozen Hostess donuts and a quart of milk on the counter. I clumsily asked if he was looking forward to a nice Thanksgiving. I was 18 and not very graceful. He looked down at his groceries and said with a smile, "This is it! Yes!" I watched him leave and get into a dilapidated, old car and drive away. I don't know what he was thinking, but his smile stuck with me that whole morning. I was fortunate to be able to go to a friend's house for the day when my shift ended and spent a lovely day with her family, stuffing myself silly and napping on their couch before going back to work later that night. My grandfather had just passed away, a month prior to that day and I was down. I was not at home with my parents or my siblings and I didn't know very well the person and their family who had graciously opened their home to me. I had so much! It didn't feel like it at the time. When I read the aforementioned passage, I was down again and wondering why I was feeling so down. Am I happy? No. Why aren't I grateful for the many people in my life and my needs being met? When my mom died in December, I was overwhelmed by all of the cards that came to me from Christ Congregational Church members. Well the thing I read mentioned happiness and gratitude and which comes first. Happiness does not create gratitude, but the opposite. Gratitude creates happiness. While things are hard to handle sometimes, God will not give us things we can't handle. We can, however, choose how we react to those circumstances. It is so easy to focus on what the pandemic and other situations has taken away from us, but if we focus on what blessings we have in our lives, no matter how seemingly insignificant, it will be easier to be happy and might make us very happy, indeed! Music can help us with this task, too. Yes, I mourn every day for the fact that the beloved choirs I am fortunate enough to lead are not meeting in person and we have all but ceased singing as we knew it. I try not to let this idea overtake me. Instead, I focus on the future, when we will gather again and those amazing vibrations will begin again! Currently, we have Wednesday evenings, listening to familiar hymns and singing along to Sylvia playing so beautifully and we get to see each other, even if not in person. I choose to see the wonderful words being pronounced by the singers or those who just come to listen and see their calm faces. I choose to focus on the day when I get to work with the youth of our church again and exploring our new instruments, Boom Whackers! The kids will have such a great time and will delight in creating music while being able to whack something to make a joyful noise! What a happy day that will be! I am not saying choosing to be grateful is easy, especially going on a full year of the pandemic. But God gives us the strength to overcome, at least for long enough to help us through our dark times.

[Here is another song](#) that might help create a brighter day. It is a blast from the past.

Sincerely,
Murray



ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES PRESENTS

MIDDAY MUSIC FOR FEBRUARY *POSTPONED TO MARCH 10TH*



With Alison Read, Harpist

Our featured musician for February, Ms. Alison Read, is a resident of Texas, and along with others in her state, suffered the effects of the severe winter storm there, dealing with lack of power, heat and water. Due to the disaster, it was decided to postpone her program until March, hopefully streaming it on March 10th, starting at 12:15 pm. with the program continuing to be accessible online for several weeks thereafter.

Alison's program will include spirituals (including pieces by Florence Price), French pieces, and some selections from Broadway musicals.

The link to the program will be sent via Constant Contact and also posted on our Facebook page "Christ Church Pipe Organ Series." To be added to the Constant Contact list, please email to organ@brocktonucc.org.

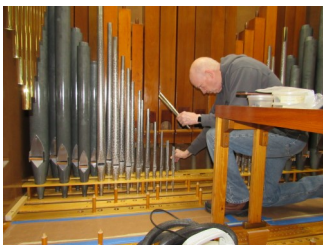
PROJECT PIPES:

CZELUSNIAK & DUGAL

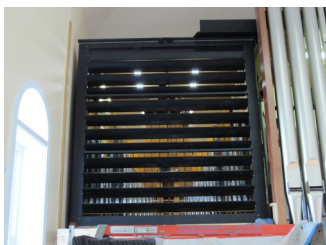
Work is continuing on the installation of the Choir division on our Austin Organ. Here are some photos shared by our organ builders.



Josh Rendez hangs the chimes in the chamber



John Van Houten plants new pipework onto the Choir division windchest

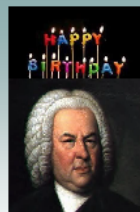


Expression Shades installed

BACH BIRTHDAY BASH MARCH 21st

ARTS @ CHRIST CHURCH AND

CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES PRESENT



BACH BIRTHDAY BASH

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

FREE—ONLINE ONLY

STREAMING STARTING AT 3:00 PM

Nicole Keller, Organist,

& the

Voyager Guitar Duo:

Victor Main & Jim Davidson



Streaming from
Christ Congregational
Church
Brockton, MA
E-mail: organ@brocktonucc.org

With support from
the
**Brockton Cultural
Council**



Link available from our
Facebook Page:

"Christ Church Pipe Organ Series"





UPDATE FROM THE CCC HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE THE MASKERAID FUNDRAISER



Cannot believe it's been 2 months since the end of the MaskerAid Calendar Raffle and Special Items sales. The silly-fun on-line drawings, the drop-in sales days, the nightly calls to the lucky winners and the amazingly wonderful small connections during the socially distant pandemic days will be long remembered and HOPEFULLY...never repeated!!

So many, many thank-yous to so many, many wonderful people ❤️

Our Beloved Community supported the CCC virtual fair in so many ways. From the Thought-Leaders to the Donators to the Crafters to the Sales Folks to the hundreds of Customers – the Christ Church Beloved Community continues to serve.

And for all these efforts we are so happy to report that this virtual fair raised just shy of \$6,400. **WOW!!**



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STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure



On behalf of the Stewardship committee, I am checking in to let you know that even though we can't be together as a church community in person, you are never far from our thoughts. Hopefully, as more of us are vaccinated moving towards the spring, our in-person precautions will begin to ease, and we can all be back together again.

I also want to thank you for your pledges for 2021. I am always amazed, but never surprised, at the generosity of our members! Even in the midst of a pandemic, we are getting closer to our Stewardship pledge goal, and that fills us with gratitude! We as a congregation have many tasks and goals to achieve down many avenues. Thanks to your part, we are so much closer to working toward accomplishing some of those goals!

If there is anything that we, as your Stewardship committee, can do for you, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are always at your service.

All the best,

Jane MacIntyre, Jillian Larson, Kate Howard, Matt Howard



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7



FOOD PANTRY

If your own cupboard is bare, please remember you are ALWAYS welcome to help yourself to the food pantry.

We also thank you for all your generous contributions. Please make sure you check the expiration dates before donating.

Dear Reverend Jeff, Board of Deacons, and life-long friends of Christ Congregational Church,

On behalf of my siblings and I, we wish to thank everyone for all of the condolences, kind messages, and for those daring to venture out during this pandemic, to call upon us in our initial time of grief. We all were blessed and impressed with meeting Rev., aka “Pastor” Jeff for the first time. He was a wonderful help to us. Our Dad would have loved Rev. Jeff.

With sincere gratitude, The Family of Russell Gillpatrick: Ellen, Jeffrey, Brad, Gail & Sandra.



Thank you for the flowers, communion and cards and everything that was sent to me. The were very much appreciated. Me and Sandy plan on coming back to church as soon as things get back to normal. I hope everything is well with everyone's family.

Donald Marvill

Thank you for helping one another.



March Birthdays

Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Barbara Weatherbee, Britton Copley, Keland Dickerson-Sinclair, Leigh-Ann Larson, Paula Stevens, Ruth Melanson, Kailana Pelote, Matthew Weatherbee, Dorothy Lufkin, Stephanie Sinesi, Jennifer Hefler, Angeliza Campbell, Cindy Bowman, Cindy Maloof, Ricky Soncrant, Maryann Selman, Lindsay Alden, Heather Mitchell, Sharron MacMullen, Ken Stevens, Doe Fisher, Carol Bradford, Ruth Copeland, Priscilla Keyser, Troy Hixon, Manna Poole, Art Sawyer, Madison Herget, Loren Stott
(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 31)

Wednesday Morning Virtual Bible Study

10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

Join us for Wednesday morning Bible Study group. Regulars and newcomers alike are welcome to drop in and check out this adult faith formation opportunity. The group discusses 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)



We pray for the families of Bobby Dornan and Ruth Hochstetter (grandmother of Dan Harrigan), may they rest in peace.

*"Be Still
And
Know that I am God"*
Psalms 46:10



Weekly Silent Prayer Group on Zoom

Tuesdays from 7 PM to 8 PM

I would like to invite you to join me every Tuesday in March to learn about and experience silent prayer time. Please email me at deb@act-cpa.com or text me at (508)410-3476 to get the zoom link emailed to you.

Peace, Deb Bowman

ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & Crafts



Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday

From 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Come Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint, crafts, etc.

Or just come for the fellowship!!
(call or email office for zoom link)



Bible Study



Brunch

"Make it Better March!!" We certainly hope the weather will be better this month. NO MORE SNOW!! In February the Bible Study had its first of our new "Bible Study Brunch". These will be on designated Tuesday's once per month. We all get together on Zoom for coffee or tea and a sweet treat. No studying the Bible, just catching up with each other and information about the goings on at Church. In March it will be March 2nd at 10:00 am. The Bible Study is progressing very well and Pastor Ann-Marie and Pastor Jeff are giving us a lot to think about. For Lent we will be studying different parts of The Lords Prayer as it is written in the book of Mark. Donna Costa helps us out with facilitating once a month. We have Pastor Jeff, Pastor Ann-Marie, Donna Costa and myself. If any of you are interested in asking any questions about the group or would like to join, please call me at (508)631-2965 and I will be happy to discuss it with you. All are welcome! We even have someone from San Antonio Texas!

Blessings and Prayers to all,
Alice Farnsworth

SAVE THE DATES! YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THESE! SAVE THE DATES!

(Virtual) BREAKFAST & BELIEFS



Adult Education Lenten Series 2021
**Weekly Programs, Alternating
Saturday & Sunday mornings,
February 21st – March 27th**

Our tradition continues even if we can't enjoy a sit-down breakfast together in-person this year. Please join us as we create space to explore various topics that have been emerging in our community.

This year we'll experiment by alternating between Saturdays and Sundays week to week and by trying a new format on the Saturdays. On the three Sundays we'll gather via Zoom soon after our worship service and begin as we have in the past. That is, to kick-off the program, two or three church members invited in advance will each share prepared five-to-seven-minute reflections on the week's topic. In our Saturday format, Pastor Jeff will begin by laying the groundwork for deeper conversations on that week's topic. In both formats, we'll spend the majority of each session encouraging both individual sharing and collective learning about what we believe and value, and how our faith matters in how we live and act in this world. We hope that such a process will nourish our spiritual health as individuals, enrich our sense of community in all its diversity, and deepen our corporate expression of faith and discipleship.

The schedule of dates and topics follows. Further details about each week's program will appear in Nearly Weekly emails. Meanwhile, save those dates! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jeff Kardisco or Moderator Barry Shelley.

Sunday, February 21, 11:00-12:30: *Signs of hope*

Saturday, February 27, 9:00-10:30: *How and why we worship*

Sunday, March 7, 11:00-12:30: *Transgender identities & experiences*

Saturday, March 13, 9:00-10:30: *Images of God: How we imagine & talk about God*

Sunday, March 21, 11:00-12:30: *Prayer & spiritual practices: How we experience & interact with God*

Saturday, March 27, 9:00-10:30: *Exploring the contours of church & state*

Phase 2 CCC Financial Support for Ministries Task Force

As we formulate preparations for emerging from these Covid times, financial support of our missions and ministries is essential. There were many intriguing suggestions and opportunities discussed, which need further exploration. We are assembling a task force to pursue the ideas for financial support and fundraising that were put forth by the Financial Planning Task Force. Please contact the church office, or email me at sjkoza84@gmail.com to join this group. This is important work that will allow us to support our strategic pathways and sustain our missions, moving forward. Please consider joining, and help keep our church community strong and vital.

Prayerfully submitted-

Sue Koza, Vice-Moderator



EASTER MEMORIAL FUND

Each year the church orders lilies and tulips to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. A memorial list is created and placed in the Narthex and published in the Courier with names of loved ones you wish to have remembered or honored. The Deacons will be delivering flowers to our homebound members on April 3rd or 4th. We regret, due to Covid restrictions the option to take your own plant will not be available this year. Below is the order form, please fill out and return to the Church Office. **The deadline to order is March 28th.** You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

Please complete this form and return it to the church with \$15 per plant:

I, _____, would like to order _____
Tulips/lilies for delivery to a homebound member.



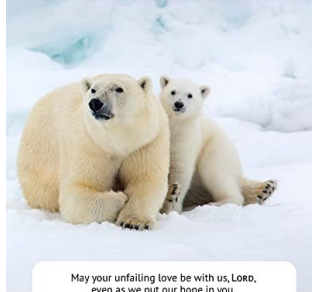
The names I would like listed on the memorial list are:
(4 names per plant):

If you are interested in receiving The Upper Room and/or Our Daily Bread, please call the office and we will mail it to you.



Our Daily Bread

JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH 2021



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.

CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

1350 Pleasant St.

Brockton, MA 02301-2840