

Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 41 No 4

Be The Church

April 2021

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Beloved Community,

It is hard to believe that it has already been five months since I joined you as senior pastor because the time has flown by so quickly, and yet there are so many incredible things that have happened during this time. The energy of this congregation, and our passion for doing God's work, are truly special.

While we have accomplished much since I've arrived, and while I'm incredibly optimistic about the direction of our congregation, I am also deeply aware of how hard it has been to remain socially distant since the fall. Harder still is the fact that we haven't gathered for worship in our beloved sanctuary since the beginning of the pandemic. That's why I am happy to share with all of you that we are very close to resuming in person worship in our sanctuary. The Phasing Forward Task Force has found a data driven approach to decide

how safe it is for us to be in person. We will be using CDC guidance for schools to assess the risk, and we will be getting our data on the percentage of positive tests in Brockton from the Massachusetts state website. As of now, using the CDC guidelines and based on the state's data, we are at the level of "low risk of transmission". That means, according to our metrics, the conditions are right for regathering for in person worship.

That being said, there are a few things that need to be put into place. When we do resume worship together in our sanctuary we'll be asking people to sign up ahead of time, to answer screening questions when they arrive, and we will have strict guidelines in place for how people move about the building. We will also be taking an opportunity to train people in how to use our sound equipment so that we can not only resume worship in person, but so that we can continue to live stream as well. <u>All of the steps that remain to be taken will take some time to implement, but we are optimistic that as long as conditions remain "low risk" we will be able to resume in person worship in our sanctuary by the beginning of May.</u> From there we will be following a "phased" approach to increase our numbers for Sunday mornings, which means we'll be periodically reviewing the limit on how many people will be able to worship in the sanctuary at one time.



The next several weeks will be full of anticipation as we prepare for this moment, but they will also require all of us to continue being patient with the process. Other elements of our congregational life, such as nursery care and Sunday school, are still being worked out and may not be in place until the fall. The Phasing Forward Task Force and I are committed to resuming in person worship and other activities, but we are also committed to doing so safely based on the best data we have available. Please continue to be on the lookout for details on our regathering plan and, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to check in with me or any member of the Phasing Forward Task Force. The members on the task force are: Barry Shelley (moderator), Sue Koza (vice moderator), Leo Larson, Lisa Sparling, Jeff Illsley, Emily Swisher-Rosa, and Murray Kidd.

As we celebrate Easter, with our hearts and minds set on resurrection, we can see a new day coming – a day where we will be together in person again as a beloved community, finding our way in a post-covid world. We have much to be grateful for as a congregation, and we have much to be hopeful about as well. As we celebrate Easter may God's promise of resurrection be plain to you in all that you see and do.

6:45PM

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Jeff

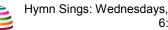


WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely or Outdoors Sundays, 9:55AM (See Nearly Weekly for Info)

Regular: Remotely

Bible Study: Wednesdays,10AM Prayer Group: Tuesdays, 7PM



Fiber Fellowship: 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 5:00PM Board Meetings: ZOOM Christian Ed: Apr. 7, 6:30PM Council: Apr. 15, 7PM Deacons: May 6, 7PM



Finance/Property: Apr. 8, 7PM Media/Tech: Apr. 20, 7PM Missions: Apr. 6, 6:30PM Music: Apr. 11, 11:30AM OCC: TBD Vitality: Apr. 8, 6PM



1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton, MA 02301 🔹 508-586-3022 🔹 www.brocktonucc.org 🔹 office@brocktonucc.org



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Ø Home

Sunday School

Our next Sunday School @ Home box is all about faith and science! Get your safety goggles and gloves ready as we dive into experiments that will help us learn about God's amazing creation! If you'd like to receive a Sunday School @ Home kit, please reach out to Pastor Ann-Marie or Deana in the church office.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group is bursting into the spring season! This past month, we were able to get outside to play Four Square. This month, we'll be meeting twice following confirmation class on Sunday, April 11th and 18th 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.



Confirmation Class Confirmation

Our confirmation class has been going strong through the end of year! We've been exploring what it means to put our faith in action. This month we'll continue on with our Confirm Not Conform UCC curriculum and will focus on the UCC, sacraments and the church year.

April Classes:

April 11th – Tradition: Our Neck Of The Woods April 18th – Teach Us To Pray: The Sacrament April 25th – Tradition: The Church Through the Year

Graduation

Are you (or your child or grandchild) graduating this spring? If so, let us know so we can celebrate them in June! We are assembling a list of graduates (high school and higher education). To be included please contact the church office (508-586-3022).





College Scholarships

Applications are being received for college scholarships, to be awarded in June. If you are studying post-high school (college or trade school) we would love to support and recognize your efforts. Applications are due on June 1st Scholarships and may be submitted to the office. Please contact Ann-Marie Illsley (pastor@brocktonucc.org) for more information

Camperships

Silver Lake and other church camps are planning to offer sessions of camp this summer! Silver Lake will be offering two week sessions with adjustments for COVID safety. To learn more, check out their website. Silver Lake: Conference Center - Home Page (silverlakect.org) Camperships are available to any families who are interested. Please contact Pastor Ann-Marie for more info.





Carwash Fundraiser for the Campership and Scholarship Funds The Board of Christian Education, the Vitality Committee and the CCC Youth Group are coming together to raise funds in support of church camperships and scholarships. Drive over to the church parking lot on Sunday, May 2nd between 1-3(4?) and get your car washed by our amazing team of volunteers, while you stay comfortably inside. Our recommended donation is \$10-20 for each car, but you are welcome to donate what TS RAISE SOME CASH! you can. It's a great way to support our youth and wash the last of winter off your car!



Notes from Murray

Spring has SPRUNG!!!! What weather we have had recently and it is so nice to see birds and hear them chirping.

Since we moved from Middleboro, we will not hear the peepers in our swamp. But, we have a nice tree outside our house that has hundreds of small birds chattering away every dusk and sunrise. They are quite busy!!

Easter week will have passed and I want send a huge thank you to Sylvia Berry, Alisa Cassola, and David Wilcox who have worked so

diligently on making our music selections so amazing over the Lenten season and the whole year! We are so fortunate to have such amazing artists and musicians on our staff and volunteering their time. In addition, Jilliann Larson has continued to do yeoman work as our video technician and making it possible for us to be remote, but delivering music and worship over the last year. What a job she has done! Thank you to Emily Swisher Rosa for playing violin in the Maundy Thursday service!

As we go into the Easter season it is a time of renewal. We have shed the darkness and are seeing the light. The choirs and music ensembles have not been able to participate in their usual soul-feeding activities and it has been hard for some, if not all of those who take part in those activities. Speaking for myself, I know I have been in a funk for a long time since not being able to sing (or talk) the way I am used to. It has been very difficult, but it's Friday!...and Sunday's coming! We will get there my Friends! I know the PFTF has been hard at work gathering data for us to return to our regular activities when it is safe. A couple of songs that give me hope and help me to carry on are below. One of them will be one of the <u>first songs the congregation sings</u> (We are walking in the light of God) once we are able to sing together and the other is a <u>very familiar song</u> made fresh by a new approach. They are both very inspiring!

Be safe, everyone. We are getting closer to the light.

Sincerely, Murray





The Missions Committee has been meeting via the Zoom platform and we are discussing where to devote our resources during 2021. Some things have changed.

Since 2014, we have sponsored a child in the Philippines, Lindyle Roy Gabucan, through the UCC's Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program. Lindyle turned 18 in 2020 and so he has "aged out" of the program. The program has matched us with a new boy in the Philippines, six-year-old France Neil Pacatang, and we look forward to connecting with France.

Our board has been pondering ways to be more actively involved in the life of our greater Brockton community. The survey you might have seen in the Near Weekly Email will be counted to see where you would like us to concentrate our efforts this year. We offered a choice of four different initiatives and we wanted your opinion because you are the ones that donate the funds or supplies for these programs. We also hope some of you will join us in donating our energies along with our funds.

Yours truly, *George Manoogian* The Scribe



ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES PRESENTS:



Midday Music on April 21st

Streaming online starting at 12 noon

"It's Spring!"

Featuring Guest Organist, Dr. Steven Young To receive the link by email, send message to organ@brocktonucc.org

Did you miss the BACH BIRTHDAY BASH on MARCH 21st ?

The concert is still available on YouTube

https://youtu.be/8hzF9gBkbXc

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 Link available from our Brockton Cultural Facebook Page: Council "Christ Church Pipe Organ Series"

The Choir Division is done and the organ is complete



Thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, audience members, cultural councils, volunteers and supporters of every kind!

Our Austin Organ #2759 pipe organ was designed and built in 1995 to complement the acoustics of the new Christ Congregational Church building. At that time, the Choir Division was prepared for but not installed, due to insufficient funds. The organ chimes, part of the unfinished organ, were donated by Bob and Sally Cutting in 2002.

Project Pipes: 620 by 2020 set a goal of \$166,000. to complete the organ with its Choir Division, and to provide for maintenance in the coming years. We reached and surpassed the goal in June 2020.

An additional feature, the Zimblestern was donated by Rev. Katrina Clinton and Jo-Ellen Fisher.



WE NEED YOUR TIME AND TALENTS!

A note from the Moderator...

Despite COVID fatigue and the limits of virtual worship and meetings, we continue to work energetically at Christ Congregational Church both to hold our community of faith together as well as to move into our future with intentionality and purpose. For example, three important task forces are currently leading our thinking on (a) our strategic pathways of community engagement and racial justice, (b) what staff models might best facilitate our fulfilling our mission, and (c) how we can generate more income to support that mission. Another task force guides us as we consider how to safely return to in-person worship and other gatherings. In addition, Council is beginning to work on a Mission statement for the next 3-5 years. Meanwhile, all the other Boards and Committees continue their dedicated and creative work as we collectively strive to "Be the Church": Deacons, Finance and Property, Christian Education, Music, Vitality, Missions, Stewardship, Endowment Trustees, Leadership Development, Organ Completion. This is not just "busy work" they're doing. This is ministry work.

Now here's where you come in. WE NEED YOUR TIME AND TALENTS for the road ahead. The Leadership Development Committee is currently recruiting volunteers to fill openings in church officer positions and on standing Boards. We as a congregation will vote to confirm those nominations at our upcoming annual spring meeting on May 16, and then new terms will begin July 1. Please give some prayerful thought to how you might best contribute to our beloved community and our mission outside our church walls. Where are you interested in serving?

If you are contacted by someone on the Leadership Development Committee, please seriously consider their invitation to serve in new ways or continue serving in what you're already doing. And if you're not contacted? Then please contact Adam Mitchell, Chair of Leadership Development (<u>imakepix1@gmail.com</u>) or me (<u>barrygshelley@gmail.com</u>) and let us know of your interests. Please don't hesitate because you're relatively new in our congregation and/or don't have experience in church leadership. That's all the more reason to get involved in some way. There are roles for every member—whether an elected position or not. We can help find a good fit—one that will be fulfilling and do-able for you given other responsibilities in your life, and that will contribute to the mission of our congregation.

Barry Shelley, Moderator

Board of Deacons – responsible for the preparation of the Sacraments; the visitation of newcomers, the sick, the shut-ins, and the members of the congregation; the preparation of the Sanctuary for services of worship; overseeing the church membership rolls, and the promotion of the spiritual life among the members of the congregation.

Board of Finance and Property responsible for the financial affairs and property of the church.

Board of Missions responsible for the supervision of the Christian outreach and mission programs of the church.

Board of Christian Education responsible for the educational program of the entire church.

Board of Music - responsible for the music program of the church.

Board of Stewardship - responsible for planning and conducting the annual stewardship drive and will plan and conduct a year-round continuous education and outreach program on stewardship to the members of the church.

Board for Church Vitality - responsible for emphasizing fellowship opportunities, church growth, inclusion, greeting and welcoming newcomers to the church and promoting the mission and work of the church to the surrounding communities.

Endowment Trustees will be responsible for those trust funds or other assets transferred to them by wills, trusts, or other funds as may be directed by the membership of the church.





I bring a spring message to you today from the Stewardship Board. All around us there are signs of new beginnings: little shoots emerging from the winter ground, baby chicks at the Swisher-Rosa house, warmer weather, and long walks in the woods with my wife, Jan.

We are a resurrection people and each year we are given the opportunity for re-birth, re-building, and feeling new again. From our grief and isolation, we are all emerging.

Most of all we have hope. Hope that our new vaccine will bring some safety, some ability to venture out cautiously, to again see our many friends and family after this long period of quarantine.

Most of all we have gratitude that we have been given so much! Through our many trials, there continues to be gratefulness for our blessings and hope and promise for our Beloved Community.

Who would imagine during a pandemic and quarantine that we would be led by the Holy Spirit to call our new Pastor and his family to our midst? Or that we would virtually be able to join together in prayer each week? Or that our beautiful organ is coming to completion? All around us, the work of the church continues day to day and with bountiful planning for the future.

Our pledge work has been inspiring and the response robust. We are making great progress in our goals; we are at roughly 75% of our goal, however, we need your help to continue to meet and hopefully exceed our financial projections. The pandemic has been psychologically, health-wise, and financially devastating to our community. Yet ...we remember that we are a resurrection people that delights in hope, promise, and new beginnings.

Will you join me in celebrating the resurrection, our resurrection? If you have pledged, we are most grateful and thank you. If you have not, we ask you to prayerfully consider pledging at an amount that works for you and your family. Pledging is an amazing and deeply faithful act by which we join in community. With our new unified pledge, we are each promising to support and nurture ALL of our beautiful programs, our staff, our building, our music, our children, and the many Mission projects that we hold dear. Recognizing that all contributions are blessed, we appreciate each individual pledge of time, treasure, and talent. In addition to weekly pledging, I encourage you to consider one-time donations as the spirit moves you. There is no amount too small or too large!



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Kim Cords, Adam Morales, Ryan Cinelli, Isabel Cinelli, Jeffrey Illsley, Calei Nocivelli, Chris Satcher, Lataisha McNary, Thomas Fisher, Fred Hayes, Amanda Davis Maksy, Adriano Swisher-Rosa, Anna Thomas, Lexy Mitchell, Katrina Clinton, Tamra Fisher, Debbie Bowman, Benjamin Loftus, Sheppo Fisher, Dani Kardisco

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

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 Stephen McGunnigal (brother of Patricia Illsley), Priscilla Bailey, and Carole A. Duhamel, may they rest in peace.



Psalm 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 April 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)

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.

We would like to replenish our pantry. Please bring an item of two when we gather for outdoor service.

Dear Pastor Jeff, Pastor Ann-Marie,

and Beloved Community,

Our hearts are full with memories of our mother Priscilla Bailey, even as we grieve. We are so thankful and blessed by the comfort, support, and guidance from Pastor Jeff and by Pastor Ann-Marie. Thank you, too, to members and friend for your prayers, calls, cards, and presence.



In Christian Love, Candace Savage Scott Bailey Penny Tonan and family



COMMON THREADS



Here is the quilt the guild made for the Landerholms. They received it today and were surprised and happy. The pattern is "disappearing nine patch"



Dear Friends,

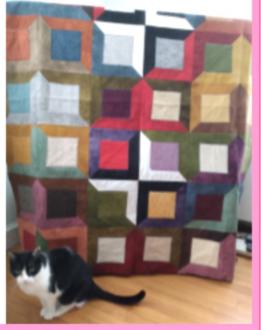
A simple "Thank You" does not really express our feelings when we opened the box that Janet had said was in the mail. It was a complete surprise!!! The beautiful "Disappearing Nine Patch" Quilt is beautiful and we know that it brings lots of love with it. For now its on my bed, but I'll share with Lisa and then Ally. We miss you all.

Thank you again. Love, Diane, Lisa and Ally Landerholm



The latest lap quilts are done. The backing material was donated by Lucille Berg.

Enclosed is a picture of a flannel quilt I'm working on for a friend. My cat in the lower left is waiting for me to put it on a flat surface so she can take a nap. She is an expert napper. Janet Eckstrom





Easter Memorials 2021 A

Mr. & Mrs. Merton L. Alden Merton "Sonny" Alden, Jr. Terrence "Terry" L. Alden Christopher Allen Harry & Jennie Allen Nicole Allen David H. Anderson Jeannine L. Anderson Aida Azoukou в Forrest Bailey Priscilla Bailey George & Constance Bamford Horace W. Bamford L. Elsie Bamford Sandra Ellen Bamford Endicott & Marguerite Bennett Larry Bennett Geoffrey N. Berry Dick Bouthillette **Richard Bowman** Alice & George Boyer Anne Brooks Frances Burke Joann Burns C George & Amy Cahill Mrs. Eleanor Calvin John A. Campbell Martha E. Campbell Rev. Warren C. Campbell Robert E. Campbell Blanche Cavanaugh Joseph A. Clark Joseph D. Clark Russell Clark Bud Copeland Ryan Copeland

Dorothy Copley John Copley Abraham V. Courtney Eva V. Courtney

D

Mr. & Mrs. Howard W. Dalton Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dalton Mr. & Mrs. Albert D. Daniels Nancy Davis Jeffrey Dawson Robert L. Day Ann DeGrechie Steve DeGrechie Mr. Joseph Dodd Mrs. Mabel Dodd Phyllis M. Duhaine Carole A. Duhamel Peggy Dunford Shirley Dunford Peggy Dunham Daniel E. Dunklee, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Daniel E. Dunklee, Sr.

E

Harriet G. Eastman Kerry Eckstrom Wayne Eckstrom Kerri-Anne Exell

Irene Ferguson Russell Ferguson Wilma Jean Fields Allen & Connie Fisher Bernice Fisher Harold & Marjorie Fisher JoMary Samuelson Fisher Nancy Fisher John & Theresa Forest

G Zoev Gardner

Bob & Mary Gibson Howard, Carolyn & Barbara Gill Albey F. Gillpatrick Archer I. Gillpatrick Helen L. Gillpatrick Lura A. Gillpatrick Phyllis M. Gillpatrick Russell Gillpatrick Noah Goodale Shirley Goodale Davis Goodwin, Sr. Louise Goodwin Guy Gove н Mr. & Mrs. Richard Haase Mariorie Hall Raymond & Dorothy Hall **Constance Hallamore** Harold H. Hallamore, Jr. Brett Hart Francis & Alice Hathaway John C. Hathaway Carolyn Hayes Alton F. Hefler Richard W. Hill (Dick) Janet Higgins Fredericka Hixon Gordon Hixon Dorothy Lendh Holland Sister Helena Holland Vincent G. Holland Marcus M. Hollis Mr. & Mrs. Edwin J. Holmquist Mr. Robert Holmquist

George & Arleen Hutt Ι Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Illsley, Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Illsley, Jr. л. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jewell Aaron Johnson Bob Johnson Constance "Penny" Johnson κ Elijah Kaptimer Frank & Elsie Kittredge L Carl W. Landerholm Gail Laughlin Emily Lawson Frank Lawson Marilyn & Wayne Legge Harold Robert Lendh Susan Lindstrom Charles Liolios, Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Earle G. Lovell Mr. & Mrs. Earle W. Lovell Ronald & Charles Lovell Μ

Corinne M. MacIntyre J. Gordon MacIntyre Mary C. MacIntyre Z. E. & Joanna MacIntyre Naomi Manoogian Walter & Flora Marlenga Mr. & Mrs. William L. Marine Patricia McCrone Robert McCrone McIntyre Family Loved Ones Richard "Dick" McMahon Mrs. Agnes "Nancy" McGunnigal Mr. & Mrs. James J. McGunnigal Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McGunnigal Mr. Stephen G. McGunnigal Mr. & Mrs. James Metcalf John Molander Margaret & Arthur Molander Mark Molander Rita & Arthur Molander Babe Moline Christopher Munschy Evelyn Munschy Maurice "Mike" Munschy **Robert Murray**

Kimberely Paananen Leo Paananen Henry W. Park Methyl Park Ethel Parlow Ray Placentino Dick Pope Joseph A. Prioli **R** Carol Ranney Elva Lendh Rayment

Ρ

Doris Richmond Judith A. Rooney Philip A. Rooney Earl Russell s Cutty Samuelson Faith Samuelson Clyde Savage, Sr. Duane Savage Mabelle Savage Mr. & Mrs. Arthur B. Sawyer Arthur C. Sawyer Lorraine E. Sawyer Fred & Palmira Seaberg Walter Seaberg Annette W. Shelley John C. Shelley, Sr. Margaret A. Sheppard Richard Sheppard Terry Sheppard Vivian Sheppard Linda Siegrist Mr. Herbert S. Simmons Thomas Simonis Mr. & Mrs. Herbert J. Sinclair Barbara Smith Flora & George Smith George W. Smith, Sr. Helen L. Smith Robert M. Smith Robert E. Soncrant Ethyl Southworth Winslow & Doris Staples Scott & Jayne Stevens т Mr. James C. Thomas, Jr. Margaret Tower U Urban Family Loved Ones Aleta Vokey w Anna Watt Malcolm Laird Watt Gerald Wentzell Beverly & Bedford "Bud" Wheaton Henry White Douglas & Doris Wilbur v Mrs. Mildred Yecius Billy Young



Charlie Young





Can homeless children count on you?

Can you spare 2 hours a week to **PLAY** with homeless children in Brockton, Fall River, New Bedford, or Norwell?

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER **ORIENTATIONS:**

Wednesday, April 14th 6:00-8:00 PM Tuesday, May 18th 6:00-8:00 PM All online via Zoom **Give. Volunteer. Connect** horizonschildren.org/playspace 508.510.3250

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