



Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation *Creating Beloved Community*

Volume 41 No 6

Be The Church

June 2021

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely and On-Site
(with restrictions)

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

Regular: Remotely

Bible Study: Wednesdays,
10AM

Prayer Group: Tuesdays, 7PM

Hymn Sings: Wednesdays,
6:45PM

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



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: June 2, 6:30PM

Council: June 17, 7PM
Plus Committee Retreat

Deacons: June 3, 7PM

Finance/Property: June 10, 7PM

Media/Tech: June 15, 7PM

Missions: June 1, 6:30PM

Music: June 13, 11:30AM

OCC: June 8, 2:00PM - Final

Vitality: June 10, 6PM

PASTOR'S PAGE

On the evening of June 28th, 1969, police in New York City raided the Stonewall Inn at Greenwich Village forcing patrons into waiting police cars – for the sole reason that they were gay. The Stonewall riots weren't the first time that LGBTQ+ people had resisted police harassment – others at Cooper Do-Nuts in Los Angeles and at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco had also resisted similarly – but the riots at Stonewall are the most notable to history, and the reason people hold Pride celebrations throughout the country during the month of June. The origins of Pride month are rooted in resistance, but celebrations of Pride have taken different shapes throughout our country – ranging from parades to town hall forums to food festivals and picnic style gatherings in open spaces. Pride month is still rooted in resistance as the struggle for equity continues – with legislation like the Equality Act languishing in the US Senate, and other harmful legislation being pushed through on the state level that would limit the rights of LGBTQ+ people – but Pride month is also, still, a celebration!



As an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ we would like to emphatically wish a happy Pride month to everyone throughout our community! As an Open and Affirming church we publicly declare that we are allies and friends – and that we will always do our best to ensure that our beloved community is a safe place to turn. As an Open and Affirming congregation we denounce the harmful and hateful theological frameworks that fuel homophobia throughout our communities, our country, and our world. As an Open and Affirming congregation we reject the idea that equal rights for LGBTQ+ people means diminished religious liberties for others. As an Open and Affirming congregation we stand for love, not hate or rejection, because love is the basis of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As your pastor I can say that we are not always perfect at living out our covenant to be Open and Affirming – but we must always be devoted to it. During this Pride month let us celebrate with joy that there have been great strides since the time of the Stonewall riots, but let us also reflect on the ways that progress must still be made. We can't simply say that we are allies – we must *be* allies, because that is what we have covenanted to do.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School
@
Home!



Sunday School

In the past month, our Sunday Schoolers have been learning about stories from the bible, doing science experiments and exploring the connection between them. In June, we'll have our final Sunday School At Home kit before breaking for the summer. This kit will help us prepare for Children's Sunday with art projects and more! Keep an eye out for these kits to arrive in the next week!

Youth Group

After an exciting month of May between the carwash fundraiser and an explosively good time recording a video for the Sunday school (with diet coke and mentos!), the Youth Group is taking a break during the month of June. We'll be checking in with youth to see if there is interest in meeting periodically over the summer.



Children and Youth Sunday

Don't forget to mark your calendars, Children and Youth Sunday will be June 20th! We'll be celebrating the leadership of our young people as they help lead worship. To our families, keep an eye out for more information on how to participate.

Vacation Bible School

The Board of Christian Education is exploring the possibility of having Vacation Bible School this summer and looking at different options including virtual and intergenerational VBS. Please help us by answering this brief (5 minute) survey → [VBS Survey](#)



Confirmation

Many blessings and congratulations to the six members of our confirmation class - Josiah Cora, Hayley Hixon, Eva Lomba, Adam Morales, Bella Morales and Sofia Shelley-Wyss! On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, these awesome young adults were confirmed and entered into full membership with our congregation. This was a choice they made after much study, discussion and reflection. We are blessed to have these Spirit-filled folks as part of our community!

Carwash Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who supported our carwash at the beginning of May, especially to those who washed cars, donated supplies or came out to get their vehicles washed. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to raise \$763 to support scholarships and camperships. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Angeliza Campbell (Brockton High School)

Jessica Gross (Brockton High School)

Jenna Hayes (Brockton High School)
(great granddaughter of Glenna Paananen)

Jeffrey Illsley Jr. (St. Anselms College - BA Politics)

David Jones (Oliver Ames High School)

Jillian MacMullen (Rising Tide High School Plymouth)
(granddaughter of Sharron MacMullen)

Bradley Mitchell (Oliver Ames High School)

Serenity Young-Ferguson (Brockton High School)





Notes from Murray

This month, we turn to summer! It seemed like we might never make it while at the same time the weeks seemed to speed by. [This](#) is one of my favorite choral pieces about summer. Here is the poem that it was set to:

*“As torrents in summer, Half dried in their channels,
Suddenly rise, tho' the sky is still cloudless.
For rain has been falling.
Far off at their fountains;*

*So hearts that are fainting Grow full to o'erflowing,
And they that behold it, Marvel, and know not
That God at their fountains
Far off has been raining!”*

~Longfellow

God will restore us and has been at work in us all along. If we have faith, our hearts will fill to overflowing, even if we currently feel faint-hearted and weak. And [THIS ONE](#) is just fun and happy.

We have gotten through this year together, even though for most of it, we were not in our worship space. We are back, now and it feels so good to see everyone and hear live music again! We all look forward to the fall when we will have a Rally Day for the ages! Our choir will, if all goes as planned, be back together and we will be able to hear them sing and we will also be able to sing hymns together, too! We will also have our other ensembles back up and running; Chancel Ringers, Jr. Ringers, the Youth Choir (playing brand new boom whackers and other instruments!) and Orchestra for All Ages. If you have an instrument you have played in the past and want to get back into it, we have a group for YOU! We will work periodically on a couple of songs and, simply, have a great time with the music and probably laughing a lot! As per usual, we will be back to having fun and worshipping God through music and enjoying each other's company! Plan on it!

Sincerely,
Murray

MEDIA TECH TEAM

Media Tech is doing a lot of work for in-person services. We have been practicing in the sanctuary, streaming the Sunday services to iron out all the kinks. As we move forward to returning to full capacity, part of our new normal will include continuing to stream our services to give people an opportunity to watch when they can't be present.

Streaming may seem simple enough, just click the button and watch on YouTube right?

But there is a bit of effort that does go into it.

For instance, a typical in-person service will include the following:

- A video camera to capture video, and a camera operator
- Pre-recorded songs to be streamed at specific times during the service. These are recorded by our musicians and enhanced for streaming
- Pre-recorded songs played through the sanctuary's sound system
- A central computer with software that connects to audio and video capture devices, and pushes it out to YouTube to stream

Currently, we have 3 positions to fill at each service who do one of the following:

1. Operate the video camera
2. Run the streaming service and play the videos/music at the right time
3. Operate the songs for all the people in the sanctuary

As we move forward we will be training people in the various aspects of streaming the service with the goal of creating a rotating schedule at each service.

It may seem overwhelming and nerve-wracking, but it's not as hard as it seems. We are there to help and train others so that we can all have a satisfying experience.

If you think you might want to help out with it, let us know at mediatech@brocktonucc.org.



ORGAN COMPLETION COMMITTEE

CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES PRESENTS:



MIDDAY MUSIC
JUNE 16th at 1 pm

with Matthew Dion, Guest Organist
2021 Graduate of Oberlin Conservatory

Live performance with audience

Pre-registration required

***Form to register will be distributed via our Constant Contact email
and the church Nearly Weekly email***

SHOUT OUT TO OCC MEMBERS

The final meeting of the Organ Completion Committee will be held on Tuesday June 8th at 2 pm at the church.

Thanks to all these folks who worked hard to present high quality music events; staffed yard sales and other fundraisers; spread the news via flyers and social media; donated time, money and energy; and were a great team with which to work:

Deb Bowman, the late Eleanor Calvin, Ann Clark, Alice Farnsworth, Audrey Jones, Amy Korim, Dot Quimby, Shirley Strangis, and David Stuart

Plus Sylvia Berry, Deana Colby, and Jilliann Larson

Heartfelt Thanks from Donna Costa, chairperson



SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MET TO SIGN OFF ON THE LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE WITH OUR ORGAN BUILDER ON APRIL 30 2021.

SHOWN IN PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT:

DAVID STUART, DONNA COSTA, BILL CZELUSNIAK (BUILDER); SHEPPO FISHER, TREASURER; DOT QUIMBY, ANN CLARK, SYLVIA BERRY AND ALICE FARNSWORTH.

[PHOTO BY DEANA COLBY]





Thanks to all of you who provided feedback about potential service projects identified by the missions board. On the basis of congregational interest, we have decided to move forward supporting the WELCOMEBACK packs program of Concord Prison Outreach. This program assists men and women in the first crucial weeks after they are released from prison, by distributing backpacks filled with hygiene, safety, and educational resources.

Stay tuned for further information about how you can become involved with this project.



CWS

Church World Service

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a CWS Kit Depot Volunteer. The past year has been filled with prayers and you are an answer to those prayers. You made sure we had kits to respond to our neighbors in need by hosting a kit collection. That meant supplies for families to clean their homes, hygiene kits for people to stay clean, and school supplies for children who no longer have daily access to resources that their schools traditionally provide every day... and more. You exemplify what it means to be charitable and you show God's love to others. Thank you!

*Your friends at
Church World Service*



A Blurb from Missions....

Everyone should have on their cell phone, wallet and refrigerator... The I.C.E information....
In Case of Emergency

- Name
- Medications and dosages
- Allergies
- Whom to contact

If you are unconscious how can you convey to an EMT you are allergic to whatever?
How can you tell whom to call?

Write it out now before you forget...always keep with you.

George Manoogian

Greetings from the **Ministries Support Task Force**. We have been tasked with developing innovative projects in the hope of providing sustainable income streams for our church. There are multiple projects under discussion including:

- Yard Sale/ Vendor tables
- Food and Meals: Pie sale, Dessert sale / Family Dinner Takeout / Lunches to go, Picnics
- Business Co-op that allows local businesses and artists to sell their creations
- Church worship video production company
- Online silent Auction



In order for these endeavors to be successful, we will need volunteers and leaders. Please consider joining us as we work toward continued success and vitality of our church. This is one more exciting aspect of our reopening process; we look forward to seeing you soon! Please reach out to any of the members noted here if you are able to volunteer or have ideas to add to our list.

Members: Deb Bowman, Deana Colby, Donna Costa, Sheppo Fisher, Sue Koza, Lisa Sparling



SNIPPETS

(Not Snippy! Just Zippy!)

I heard a wise man, in a Church meeting about Endowments, say; “We are eating fruit from trees that we did not plant.” He was speaking about our invested funds that we draw on annually to pay any shortfalls in our budget. In the same meeting, it was noted how fortunate we are as a congregation, to have our invested funds. That being said, we have been the benefactors of a strong stock market that has helped our invested funds maintain their current level of value. What if the market had been doing poorly and our return had been less? Where would we be long term? Although our current endowments carry a value of just over \$2 million dollars, we don't have the use of all of that money, as a good percentage of it is locked into funds that target a specific aspect of the Church, and those funds can ONLY be used for that department. For example; The Deacons fund can be used only for Deacons needs; the Flower fund can only be used for flowers, the Music fund can only be used for music needs, etc. We are indeed lucky that our forebears of the Church helped us to prepare, not for their present, but for our present.

To quote from “*The UCC Planned Giving Manual*”:

“Stewardship in the Church is often limited to meeting next year’s budget by members giving out of their current income. Seldom is the holistic perspective of stewardship cited—that all we are and have been given is a trust from God, including one’s accumulated assets.” Stewardship, as our committee over the years has often said, is more than just pledges; it extends to all facets of the Church community, and encompasses our time and talent, as well as our treasure.

Let me introduce you to planned giving, where we build our community not only for our present, but for our Church’s future. In the coming months your Stewardship committee will be working with your Endowments committee to educate ourselves, and you, on preparing our Church for the next 100 years. We will do this by hopefully bringing in speakers and experts to discuss subjects such as financial planning, wills, and what planned giving is all about. These are all topics that are important to us all on a personal level, but (at least in my case) often get put off as “something to take care of later.” It is a scary thought, but “later” gets here sooner than we think, and we all should do the best we can to prepare for our “later.” By planting seeds now, we can nurture them and watch them grow into the tree that will sustain us down the road.

Your Stewardship team:

Jane MacIntyre, Jillian Larson, Kate Howard, Matt Howard



Hello Friends,

Heartspot Gallery in East Providence had an exhibition called “Light” (at the end of the tunnel). Andy’s quilt was accepted and the opening was Thursday night.

It drew some attention as it was the only quilt there. It was exciting to see our project properly hung and lighted. Thanks to Jill Whiffen for her longarm quilting skills.

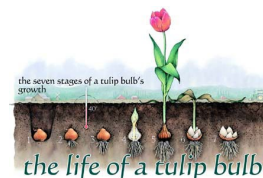
The quilting pattern “breath of the gods” showed up beautifully. Special thanks to Jean Sampson, my late sister in law, for her contributions of design, fabric and encouragement on this project.

As always, I am proud of Andy.

Love, Janet

We’re also introducing a new plant program - Bring Back Your Bulbs!

Now that your Easter plants might be finished blooming, you might be tempted to throw them away. **Don't!** Janet Eckstrom and Sylvia Berry want you to bring back your Easter plants so we can plant the bulbs in the fall. This will add to the tulips that Darlene planted last fall, giving us an ever increasing number of Easter flowers in our own yard for us to enjoy! Leave plants at the church any time from now until August.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Rick Davis, Moriah Illsley, Barbara Moody, Bob Gair, Jillian Larson, Ruth Poole, Layne Moline, Nancy Goodwin, Sean Stevens, Jr., Lilliana Milton, Brad Weatherbee, Michelle Dias, Pat Hennebury, Matthew Howard, Lillian Lee Stone, Glenna Paananen, Denise Cahill, Angela Colby, Jeff Illsley, David Jones, Janet Eckstrom, John Boutwell, Mary Poole, Serenity Young -Ferguson and Sawyer Young-Ferguson
(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 30)

"Be Still

And

Know that I am God"

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 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

Wednesday Morning Virtual Bible Study

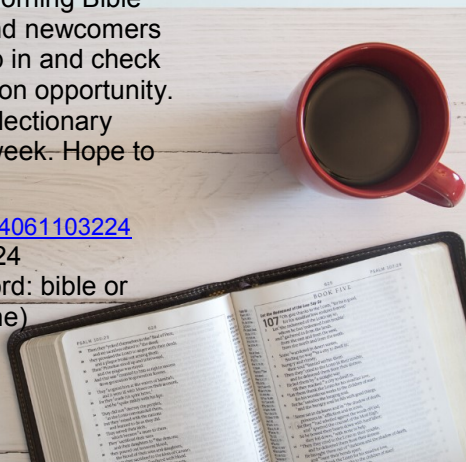
10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

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)



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)



COMMON THREADS
QUILT GUILD

NEXT MEETING

Yes! We can meet again. Join us on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021 (*third Tuesday*) from 1-3pm in **FELLOWSHIP HALL**. We will have tables set up so bring whatever you have been working on during the pandemic and we will have a big show and tell. If what you have made has been given as a gift then bring a picture. We will discuss our next project—yes, we have one—and what to do about the craft/quilting room. It was painted but not put back together before Bill left. We can consider summer meetings and a autumn salad luncheon. New members welcome. Questions or need a ride call Janet @ 508-583-0505 or Nelda @ 508-238-6004.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Leadership Retreat

(Incoming and Out-going church leaders and Staff)

Thursday, June 17th from 6:30 - 8:15 pm
via Zoom



We pray for the families of Donald Marvill, Jennifer Colby (stepdaughter of Deana) and Clyde Savage (brother-in-law of Candy), may they rest in peace.



Our SERRV table will be open

June 6th





A Note from the Moderator: *GOD CALLS US BY NAME*

It has been a privilege and honor--and even fun! (well, sometimes)--to serve as your Moderator these past two years. In this month's message, my last as Moderator, I want to recognize in writing our congregational leaders — both staff and members--who have not only helped us weather the storm during the past year, but have led us into bold new ideas and initiatives with hope and energy for what lies ahead, even when the path may be uncertain. I want to name these individuals. That can be dangerous, I know, because of the risk of leaving someone out, but sometimes it seems worth that risk. Please read their names. God does.

THANK-YOU...

- **Church Officers**, for being a collective rock during this past year; carrying out your respective roles with transparency and accountability; taking on special tasks when asked; providing guidance and wisdom when needed.... **Sue Koza, Vice Moderator, Lorraine Wilcox, Clerk, Sheppo Fisher, Treasurer, Councilors-At-Large Doug Anderson and Denise Cahill.**
- **Board of Deacons**, for caring for all of us through cards, flowers, visits; for making us aware of those in need of special prayers; for making in-person worship safe.... **Jeff Illsley, Chair, Judy Copley, Janet Eckstrom, Getachew Habteh-Yimer, Troy Hixon, Jan Howard, Karl Koza, Chris Madden, Maryann Selman, Ken Stevens, Janice Urban.**
- **Board of Property & Finance**, for keeping our building maintained; helping us through delicate personnel issues; keeping us digitally connected; helping us envision a comprehensive communications plan.... **Leo Larson, Chair, Donna Costa, John Hagberg, Moriah Illsley, Holly Matisis, Brian Young-Ferguson, Serenity Young-Ferguson.**
- **Board of Christian Education**, for working with our Associate Pastor to design and distribute home Sunday School kits, maintain the youth group and confirmation class during the pandemic, promote summer camp opportunities, provide related financial assistance.... **Michelle Young-Ferguson, Chair, Cathy Campbell, Cara Harrigan, Tracey Hixon, Abby Morales.**
- **Board of Music**, for working with our three music staff members to creatively assure--in the face of great technical challenges--that the music never died during the pandemic; that our worship was filled with moving, resilience-building song; that people had an opportunity to sing together Wednesday evening.... **Lisa Sparling, Chair, Gini Hathaway, Henok Kaptimer, Leigh-Ann Larson, Tim MacIntyre.**
- **Board of Vitality**, for helping us maintain personal connections by facilitating the Sunday virtual fellowship hour, even when all of your usual annual events had to be cancelled.... **Loren Stott, Chair, Tricia Gross, Nancy Simonis, David Wilcox.**
- **Board of Missions**, for keeping us looking outward to the needs of the world around us; supporting those suffering in our area from COVID illness, unemployment, and hunger; continuing our annual traditions of giving through the pandemic.... **Brenda Wyss, Chair, Sandra Hill, Lauren Kaptimer, Beth McIntyre, George Manoogian, Shirley Strangis.**
- **Board of Stewardship**, for facilitating our continued giving even in the midst of a pandemic; contributing to what has made it possible to avoid lay-offs and keep our ministries moving forward....**Matt Howard, Chair, Kate Howard, Jillian Larson, Jane MacIntyre.**
- **Endowment Trustees**, for assuring that we manage our invested financial resources responsibly....**Deb Bowman, Chair, Matt Howard, Adam Mitchell.**





- **Leadership Development Committee**, for recruiting our members to fill all these important roles cited above, despite the challenges of doing so without regular in-person contact.... **Adam Mitchell, Chair, Doug Anderson, Judy Copley, David Wilcox.**
- **Delegates to the Pilgrim Association and our UCC conference annual meeting**, for keeping us connected to the wider church.... **Doug Anderson and Maryann Selman** (Pilgrim Association), **Sue Koza** (conference annual meeting).
- **Phase Forward Task Force**, for rising to the challenge of a steep pandemic learning curve; staying vigilant with the changing conditions and scientific findings; helping us to protect each other, finding thoughtful, well-designed strategies to bring us together safely.... **Ann-Marie Illsley, initial Chair, Pastor Jeff, current Chair, Jeff Illsley, Murray Kidd, Sue Koza, Leo Larson, Lisa Sparling, Emily Swisher-Rosa.**
- **Financial Planning Task Force**, for working many hours to analyze our financial situation; brainstorm potential strategies to resolve our issues; put together a comprehensive report and a concrete four-year proposal for better aligning our income and expenses.... **Sheppo Fisher, Chair, Deb Bowman, Donna Costa, Matt Howard, David Wilcox, and ex-officio members Ann-Marie Illsley, Sue Koza, Leo Larson.**
- **Phase 2 Financing for Ministry Task Force**, for continuing the work of the FPTF, specifically regarding generating more income; preparing to submit a report and proposals to Council in our June meeting.... **Sue Koza, Chair, Deb Bowman, Deana Colby, Donna Costa, Sheppo Fisher, Lisa Sparling.**
- **Staffing Model Task Force**, for studying the staff structures of CCC and other churches; taking a deep dive into what models might best facilitate our ministry priorities.... **Doug Anderson and Rev. Jeff Kardisco, Co-Chairs, Tracey Hixon, Leigh-Ann Larson, Brian Young-Ferguson.**
- **Community Engagement and Racial Justice (CERJ) Task Force**, for launching our two new strategic pathways; crafting statements of purpose for this work; working with the Anti-Racism Institute; nurturing new alliances in the Brockton Area community.... **Emily Swisher-Rose, Chair, Donna Costa, Emily Dasey, Henok Kaptimer, Jill Larson, Elisha Ribeiro.**
- **Others**, for keeping us learning, creating, planting, and giving... **Alice Farnsworth**, bible study; **Donna Costa**, book study; **Donna Costa**, organ completion; **Janet Eckstrom**, Quilt Guild; **Janet Eckstrom and Darlene Gilson**, landscaping; **Katrina Clinton, Jo Ellen Fisher, Sheppo Fisher, Barbara Moody**, Masker-Aid fund-raiser.
- **Our staff**, for...well, what would we/I have done without you?! What a creative, resilient, adaptive, wise, spirit-filled, dedicated, gifted bunch you are! **Keith Allen, Sylvia Berry, Alisa Cassola, Deana Colby, Thomas Fisher, Ann-Marie Illsley, Rev. Jeff Kardisco, Murray Kidd, Jillian Larson.**

Whew! We have done a LOT of good work in the last year. We are blessed as a congregation to have such gifted and dedicated members and staff. Working with all of you has been a blessing for me. You have been patient with my flaws and mistakes and supportive of our collective vision. And there is more good news: Many of you will continue to serve the church in the coming year, and you will be joined by other committed folks taking on new roles. You will be led by Sue Koza, our new Moderator, and Moriah Illsley, our new Vice Moderator. Given both our lay leadership and our staff, we are in good hands! I look forward to our future together. Just one final point to consider: Did you notice above how many names appear multiple times? Some are carrying heavy loads. We still need reinforcements. How about you? Is God calling you by name?

Barry Shelley





Can homeless children count on you?

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

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS:

Tuesday, May 18th

6:00-8:00 PM OR

Thursday, June 17th

6:00-8 PM

All online via Zoom

Give. Volunteer. Connect

horizonschildren.org/playspace

508.510.3250

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.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

1350 Pleasant St.

Brockton, MA 02301-2840