



## Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

*Creating Beloved Community*

Volume 41 No 9

Be The Church

September 2021

### WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely and On-Site (with restrictions)

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

#### Regular: Remotely

Adult Choir:  
Wednesdays, 6:45PM

Adult Handbells:  
Wednesdays, 6:00PM

Bible Study:  
Wednesdays, 10AM

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

Quilt Guild:  
3rd Tuesday, 1PM

Back to School  
Back to Church



#### Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Sept. 8, 6:30PM

Council: Sept. 23, 7PM

Deacons: Sept. 2, 7PM

Finance/Property: Sept. 16, 7PM

Media/Tech: Sept. 21, 7PM

Missions: Oct. 5, 6:30PM

Music: Sept. 1 & 7, 7PM

Vitality: Sept. 5, 11:15AM

### PASTOR'S PAGE

It's hard to believe that Rally Day 2021 is coming right around the corner! Since May we have been working toward regathering for in person worship and activities and the process has felt slow. As I reflect on this summer, though, it's clear that we've continued to move with God's energy throughout these past months even as the pandemic drags on. Rally Day signifies yet another shift, another change of gears, as we resume beloved programs like: Sunday school, youth group, confirmation class, Sunday morning nursery, and so much more. As we approach this significant day, and as we all ponder how we can regather meaningfully, I invite every one of you to consider helping with our programs for children and youth.



I've often heard people say that they just don't know if they could do it – and I will say with confidence that you're qualified if you love kids and love to see them grow. The CE board has been hard at work over these months rethinking how we offer spiritual formation to our youngest community members – and we're all really excited about the directions we're headed – but without volunteers and helpers none of it is possible. That's what Rally Day is really about – not just welcoming back the kids and the programs, but asking ourselves what we can bring back to our Beloved Community after a period of being apart.

Throughout the coming weeks you'll see an infographic from Pastor Ann-Marie and the CE board briefly outlining what jobs they need help with, and what each job entails. I encourage all of you to look at it and to consider it prayerfully. I promise that regardless of whether you're 22 or 92 you can help in fostering the faith formation of our children – all you need is a willing heart and a CORI check, which we're also happy to help you with!

Friends, there are many exciting things for us on the horizon because God has remained faithful. In turn we are called to remain faithful in our stewardship of what God has blessed us with. God has blessed us with this Beloved Community. I have no doubt that the coming months will be fruitful and exciting and full of God's blessings, and I am hopeful that as we continue to regather – steadily and slowly – we will move with new energy by tending to our foundations.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

### ROAD TO REGATHERING

WHERE COULD YOUR PATH LEAD TO ?



# FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

The Christian Education Board has been hard at work these past months preparing for the return to in-person faith formation. This year, we'll be trying out a slightly different structure for Sunday School. Our hope is that these adjustments will continue to help our children and youth grow as disciples of Christ. You can read more about our programs for different age groups below and as always, please feel free to reach out with any questions!

## M I D D L E R S

### 2ND - 7TH GRADE

This class will follow a non-traditional schedule that seeks to balance bible story lessons with exposure to worship and projects that put faith into action.

#### WEEK 1

Class meets in the wing during worship for a lesson with a bible story and fun activities.

#### WEEKS 2 & 3

Students attend worship, sitting with their families or in the Youth Prayground. Activities connected to the monthly lesson available for during worship or to take home.

#### WEEK 4

Class participates in a service project connected to the monthly lesson.

## K / 1 C L A S S

### KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE

With a curriculum focused on bible stories and packed with fun, developmentally appropriate activities, the K/1 Class is a great space for children who are beginning to learn more about God and faith. This class meets weekly, with students present in worship for part of the service.

## N U R S E R Y

### INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Overseen by childcare professional, Tammy Blackler, the nursery is a safe and caring space for our youngest kiddos. Children visiting the nursery can look forward to playtime, bible stories and fun crafts and activities led by Tammy and an additional volunteers. Nursery care is available on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:30am.

## C O N F I R M A T I O N

### 8TH GRADE AND UP

Confirmation is an opportunity for youth to affirm the vows made at their baptism and to become full members of the congregation. This class, led by Pastors Jeff and Ann-Marie, provides an opportunity for youth to explore and ask questions about their faith as they prepare to be confirmed.

Interested in faith formation for your child/youth, but not ready to return in-person yet? Please contact Pastor Ann-Marie to discuss possible alternatives.

HELP MAKE FAITH FORMATION HAPPEN AT CCC!

# 6 WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

## NURSERY HELPER

Support Tammy, our Nursery Teacher as she cares for our youngest folks during weekly worship.

1

**Time Commitment:** 1.5 hours on Sunday morning.

**A Week In The Life:** Arrive at 9:30 Sunday morning and help Tammy with welcoming students, the weekly lesson and clean up.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Prepare and lead a Sunday school lesson using the provided curriculum, with the assistance of another adult volunteer.

2

**Time Commitment:** 1.5-2 hours (some prep time during the week and about an hour on Sunday morning). The Kindergarten/1st grade class meets weekly, the older elementary and middle school class meets on the first Sunday of the month.

**A Week In The Life:** During the week, review the provided lesson. Let Pastor Ann-Marie know what supplies you'll need so they can be prepared for you. On Sunday morning, arrive for worship and teach the provided lesson during Sunday School.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SHEPHERD

Support the Sunday School teacher as they lead a lesson during Sunday School.

3

**Time Commitment:** 1 hour on Sunday mornings during worship. A volunteer is needed particularly on the first Sunday of the month and occasionally on other weeks.

**A Week In The Life:** On Sunday, arrive for worship and assist the teacher with their lesson during Sunday School.

## MISSION PROJECT VOLUNTEER

Assist with the monthly Sunday School service project.

**Time commitment:** Varies depending on the project.

**A week in the life:** Varies. These volunteers might help prepare the project through the month, assist children and youth participating in the project during worship on the fourth Sunday of the month, or accompany them into the community to complete the project.

4

## YOUTH GROUP LEADER

Assist in planning, communicating and leading youth group meetings with Pastor Ann-Marie and other youth leaders.

5

**Time commitment:** Approximately 4-5 hours a month. The Youth Group meets 1-2 times a month for 1.5-2 hours.

Youth volunteers typically sign on for the year or half-year.

## SUPPLY CLOSET SUPERHERO

Is organization your jam? Help keep the CE closet in working order and assist with special organization projects.

**Time commitment:** Variable, a few hours a month as needed.

6

MORE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUSINESS

## What's a Youth Prayground?

Starting this month, you may notice a new feature in our Sanctuary near the Chapel area. It's the Youth Prayground – a special area that our children and youth can choose to sit in when they are attending worship. This year, we'll be trying out a slightly different model of faith formation program that allows our children and youth more opportunities to experience worship. With extra-comfy seating, a front row view of worship, and tables for quiet activities, the Youth Prayground is designed to help our young folks not only learn to better understand worship but also that they have a place in the worship life of our congregation.

## Youth Group

Calling all middle and high school youth... get ready for another great year of Youth Group! Keep your eyes out for info about our first meeting of the year where we'll be taking ideas and planning our gatherings for the coming months.

## Confirmation

This year's Confirmation Class is forming currently. Open to youth who are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or high school, this program helps youth ask deep questions about their faith, prepare to affirm their baptismal vows and become full members of the congregation. If you are interested in having your youth join, please reach out to Pastor Jeff or Pastor Ann-Marie.

## Rally Day

Join us September 12th as we kick off the year with a return to in-person Sunday School! We'll be blessing our students' blankets, backpacks, and devices during worship and celebrating being back together. And anyone who has not previously registered but is interested in joining the faith formation programs, please speak to Pastor Ann-Marie or Michelle Young-Ferguson, the Chair of the Christian Education Board



SAVE THE DATE FOR:

# RALLY DAY WORSHIP

AT CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

September 12th, 2021

Worship @ 9:55 AM

Walk, Roll, & Rally Event to Follow

SIGN UP FOR A WEEK OR MORE, THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP!

Sign up or find out more at  
<https://tinyurl.com/Volunteer-CE>





## Notes from Murray

Summer is again waning and we are headed into the fall season! I always feel mixed about this, as I wish summer could continue (the good parts of summer, anyway), but my mind turns to the late fall and the comfortable sleeping nights, as well as pumpkin spice in EVERYTHING! Yes, I know, I know, it's too soon, but as the song goes, "We need a little Christmas!"

As most of you know, we have only a few short weeks left with our wonderful organist, Sylvia. While this will be a change, I am happy that she will be staying involved in the church! I am even more happy that she will be able to go forward with many engagements and projects with us behind her, all the way. September 19th is Sylvia's last Sunday with us as official organist. Hopefully, though, she will be one of our regular substitutes in the future and we will get to hear her wonderful playing. If you want to keep her playing in your homes, you can own her London Sonatas by Haydn and hear them whenever you want! I highly recommend it! Mark your calendars for September 19th, as that will be her last day with us as organist. There will be a celebration/coffee hour outside, after church and the choir will be back singing with her, one last time! It is bittersweet, to be sure, but I applaud Sylvia and all she brought to the music program of Christ Congregational Church.

CHOIR is going to be BACK!!! I know so many (including myself) have been chomping at the bit to sing together again and for those not in the choir, to hear the choir again in-person! Well, we have a plan! Thanks to the Phasing Forward Task Force for working so hard on how we can adapt safely, we are confident we can move forward with in-person choral singing. If you are part of the choir and didn't get the email sent out by Murray in late August, please reach out to him. If you want to join the choir, please reach out to Murray. If you have an interest in handbells or have youth in your household who want to participate in music, please reach out to Murray. If you have an amazing recipe for whole grain bread or creative salads, please reach out to Murray! I digress...

[music@brocktonucc.org](mailto:music@brocktonucc.org) is how you can reach me.

Once again, here is a song for you to listen to! Okay, two performances of the same song. It is Brahms *Requiem*, second movement, performed [as it was written](#) and the second one is [performed as if Brahms were born much later](#) and belonged to a heavy metal band. The heavy metal version is performed by one man singing all of the parts and is quite impressive, at the very least.

Sincerely,  
Murray



## WALK, ROLL and RALLY

**When: September 12, 2021**

**Where: Christ Congregational Church**

**Time: start time 11:15**



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Come have fun with us! Whether you are 2 or 92! There will be Music! Decorate your wheels! Walk! Roller-skate, scoot, skateboard, roller blade around the church to help us raise money for camperships! Prior to the event, participants are encouraged to collect pledges (either a flat donation or per lap). We'll have 45 minutes to circle the church as many times as they can.

**To sign up or volunteer:** Call the church office at 508-586-3022, add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the office or sign up online at [www.tinyurl.com/WalkRollRally](http://www.tinyurl.com/WalkRollRally)

# BOARD OF MUSIC

## FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

### *Fond Farewell to Sylvia Berry:*

- ◆ Sylvia will be leaving her position here at Christ Congregational Church to pursue her concert career with historical instruments. Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> for a special **outdoor** coffee hour and reception so we can honor her and send her off with our best wishes!



### *Midday Music continues*

- ◆ The monthly Midday Music programs formerly presented by the Organ Completion committee will continue this year. Various kinds of music and instruments will be planned.

Save these dates – start time is 12:15 pm.

Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup> – Guest Organist Gigi Mitchell-Velasco and

Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> – Guest Organist Mary-Katherine Fletcher

### *Organ Dedication Concert*

- ◆ The Board of Music is working with Pastor Jeff and our music staff on plans for a gala dedication concert celebrating the “completion of the Austin Organ.”

Save the date: Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> (afternoon)



### *Love the Arts?*

- ◆ We are forming a sub-group of our Board to plan and implement Arts events at the church. The Midday Music program, and two organ concerts each year will be part of these plans. In addition, we want to reach out to the community with other kinds of programs, such as chorale groups, drumming circles, visual arts, family programs, instrumental music, etc. Please contact any member of the Board of Music to share your ideas and/or offer your time.

*Board of Music members:* Donna Costa, Henok Kaptimer, Hector Morales, and Luane Rich (Gini Hathaway is on leave of absence temporarily)







# STEWARDSHIP

## 2021-2022

It is that time again. Your Stewardship team is working on its plans for the 2022 Christ Congregational pledge drive. Our Stewardship theme for 2022 of “Rooted in Love” draws inspiration from Psalm 1: “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.” The Psalmist invited us to imagine all the good things we can bear when well-planted. What might we give away when rooted in love? But the Psalmist also meant something deeper. The word we translate as “planted” in English means “transplanted” in Hebrew. This translation speaks to the power of love to move us from one place to another, the power to convert us from one way of life to another. What would need to change in our lives for us to be fully rooted in love?

We might need to make a move from a “mindset of scarcity” to a “mindset of abundance.” A scarcity mindset makes us think there will never be enough--we must compete, one against another, because there is not enough to go around. Scarcity thinking names all the things we cannot do, all the things we cannot share. But a mindset of abundance sees the fullness of God’s love. Martin Luther King Jr. saw the world abundantly--despite all the injustice he confronted, King knew God’s spirit moved through history, creating and renewing community.

King once described the force of love that animated the Civil Rights Movement. “Agape is not a weak, passive love. It is love in action. Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community. It is insistence on community even when one seeks to break it. Agape is a willingness to go to any length to restore broken community.”

What would it mean for our lives to be rooted in such love?

Board of Stewardship: Matt Howard, Kate Howard and Jillian Larson

### A Note From The Moderator

Super Saturday will be held virtually once again. As in the past, there are many informative workshops as well as presentations by inspirational speakers. Please check out the links below for more information, or sign onto the Southern New England Conference of the UCC (SNEUCC.org) to explore the options available.

### Super Saturday is October 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Building on God's Promises: A Time of Personal Renewal

*3 John 1:2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.*

#### Super Saturday Registration is Now Open!

Register Early: <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/SSOct2021>

Check out the workshop offerings here; <https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/13998647/item/15401931>



# September Birthdays



## Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Jean Holmes, Carole Clark, Jeff Pursell, Michele Silvernail, Chris Merkle, Renee Matthews, Lynne Mixner, Mason Silvernail - St. Martin, Donald Colby, Lorraine Wilcox, Pat Emanuel, Diane Landerholm, Jean Purificato, Lisa Landerhom-Burke, Alisabeth Burke, Cathy Campbell, Ann-Marie Illsley, Jean Capiello, Shirley Strangis, Seth Creedon, Laurel Fisher, Tavi Swisher-Rosa, Jane MacIntyre

*(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 family of Barbara J. Weatherbee, may they rest in peace.



Thank you to everyone that made donations for the Back Pack Project, where we collected various items and back packs to give to released inmates. They will have some items that they will need within their first few weeks in the outside world and WE made a difference.

Thank You!

Missions is collecting 2022 calendars for the Brockton Veterans Hospital. The calendars seem to be mailed very early this year. If you can spare a few for the Veterans, please bring them to the Church Office. All kinds and sizes are needed. These will be delivered a few times starting in November.



George Manoogian  
Mission Committee Scribe

## ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & Crafts

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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

The quilt guild will meet the third Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1-3pm in Fellowship Hall. We are getting the craft/quilt room reassembled (after painting) and will meet there starting in October. We will be laying out lap quilts (2).

October meeting Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm in the craft/quilt room.

Questions or need a ride call Janet @ 508-583-0505 or Nelda @ 508-238-6004.





## CCC Fall Fair - Imagining the Possibilities



We have heard from many members and friends of our beloved CCC, we are encouraged and blessed: Let's have a safe and enjoyable Fall Fair Trilogy!



- First, we will hold an outdoor Attic Treasures Yard Sale on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have begun accepting your stored up donations with appointments through David and/or Sheppó. Hopeful for a warm and beautiful fall morning, we are encouraging Vendors and table rentals for this event.
  - Spaces are \$15 for church family and \$25 for vendors
- Next we hope to hold a smaller Fair event on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>. We expect to be able to support 4 to 6 themed areas with at least one possibly under a tent.
- Third would be a Fair Calendar Raffle for December.



Attic Treasures and Fair donations are being gratefully accepted with appointment. We request that donated items be sent as soon as you are able. Please contribute items that are cleaned and in working order. Volunteers and time are limited, only 4 weeks until the Attic Treasures Yard Sale and only 9 weeks until the Fair. Based on the items received the Fair team can better determine what themed areas will be included for the Fair event.

Another significant change for our Fair will be our shared space partnerships. We are proud of the growth and work of BIC, true Community Partners. And we are very excited to welcome the students of Rose Conservatory on October 4<sup>th</sup>, right after our Attic Treasures Yard Sale. These active groups will require changes for our preparation work areas as well as the configuration of the Fair on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

For the Fair Calendar Raffle, with the continued restrictions of COVID-19, business donations are limited as well. Donations of \$25 gift cards for the calendar raffle will be greatly appreciated.



Finally, we need to get the word out of each component of our Fall Fair Trilogy to our family, friends, friends of friends, and community. Hold the Dates – Make CCC the place to be on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>! And don't forget your raffle tickets (on sale in November)!!

We cannot say Thank You enough for all the ways you participate and support the life of our Beloved Christ Congregational Church!!

**Sheppó** Email: [sheppo247@comcast.net](mailto:sheppo247@comcast.net)

**David Wilcox** Email: [darmok2@comcast.net](mailto:darmok2@comcast.net)

Phone #/Text 1 508 631 1999

Phone #/Text. 1 617 590 1878





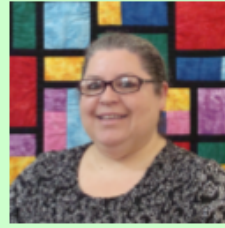
# Meet the Leadership Development Committee



Lisa Sparling



Barry Shelley



Deana Colby



Matt Howard

**Leadership Development** is a committee that strives to match the talents and interests of church members with the needs of our church boards and committees and other volunteer roles. Please keep an eye out over the next several months for information about the many ways you can contribute to our congregational community and to our mission, both locally in the Brockton Area as well as more broadly in our nation and the wider world.



WE ARE INVITING YOU TO

## ROSE CONSERVATORY

Join our meet-and-greet and open house!

September 10, 2021 @6pm  
1350 Pleasant Street,  
Brockton MA 02301

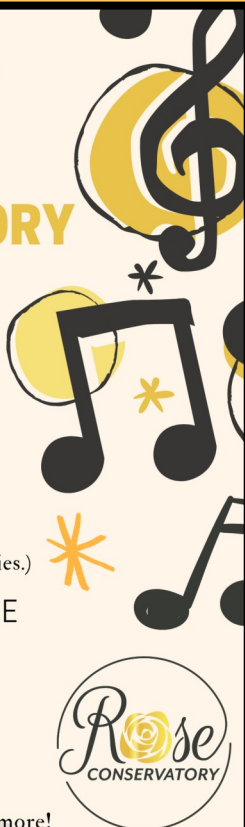
*Come to schedule an appointment / audition for your child with Greg Fernandes!*

(Open to all 2nd & 3rd grade families.)

### OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE

- DJ & Violin
- Rap & Piano
- Brockton West African Drumming Ensemble
- Brockton City Chorus

Visit [RoseConservatory.com](http://RoseConservatory.com) for more!



## 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, Middleboro or Weymouth?

### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS:

Wednesday, August 25th  
6:00-8:30 PM Online

Wednesday, September 15th,  
6:00-8:30 PM Brockton

**Give. Volunteer. Connect**  
[horizonschildren.org/playspace](http://horizonschildren.org/playspace)  
508.510.3250



# OPERATION POWERSHIFT



## BROCKTON CANDIDATE FORUM

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 : 2 PM - 6 PM

340 WARREN AVE, BROCKTON MA 02301



\*\*This event will be hosted outdoors. A rain date and zoom info will be shared in the upcoming days.

## CONTACT US

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
1350 Pleasant Street  
Brockton, MA 02301-2840

Tel: 508-586-3022  
Web: [brocktonucc.org](http://brocktonucc.org)  
Email: [office@brocktonucc.org](mailto:office@brocktonucc.org)

Office Hours:  
**Monday thru Thursday:**  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship Time: 9:55 a.m.

### SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**9 A.M. - 1 P.M.**



**ATTIC TREASURES YARD SALE @**

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**

**1350 PLEASANT STREET BROCKTON, MA**

[TREASURER@BROCKTONUCC.ORG](mailto:TREASURER@BROCKTONUCC.ORG)



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