



Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 41 No 10

Be The Church

October 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: Zoom
2nd Tuesday, 3PM

Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Oct. 6, 5:30PM

Council: Oct. 21, 7PM

Deacons: Oct. 7, 7PM

Finance/Property: Oct. 14, 7PM

Media/Tech: Oct. 19, 7PM

Missions: Oct. 5, 6:30PM

Music: Oct. 5, 7PM

Vitality: Oct. 3, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

It's finally starting to feel like church is "back" – or at least headed toward our new normal. As we begin October we can feel good about the joys we experienced together in September with Rally Day, the resumption of an in-person fellowship hour as well as our Sunday school and youth programming, celebrating our time with Sylvia Berry as our organist, the return of the chancel choir on Sundays, and a strong showing of our Beloved Community to actually come together for these things. It feels like momentum has been started for us to begin a new program year while still being cautious about COVID. Plans are in place for a modified fair – which includes our fall yard sale tomorrow, October 2nd – and I'm excited to hold our very first "Bagels and Beliefs" on October 9th & 16th. On October 24th we will celebrate the ordination of Pastor Ann-Marie Illsley, which is a big cause for celebration! In many ways we're reclaiming the things that we've always felt made us a church, and a community – and that feels really good.



It's also clear that there's a part of our lives together that will remain different. We still average 16-20 people worshipping online each Sunday, we still continue to hold virtual fellowship hour every Sunday, most of our church meetings are still held remotely on Zoom, and the Phasing Forward Task Force still has plenty of questions and challenges to work through relating to the pandemic. There are some in our Beloved Community who still don't feel safe to venture back into close proximity with others, or among large groups, and our newest challenge is to think through how we will keep these siblings connected to us in real and meaningful ways. It won't be enough to simply have an option for people to "tune in" to what we're already doing in person – we will need to find ways to reach out, to be fluid and creative, and to be as present to the world around us as we are to one another in our space.

No single one of us will have the answer(s) on how to do this – but God has been helping God's people to work through such challenges since the beginning of creation. The end of this month will mark a year since I started in ministry with this congregation – and one thing that has been clear since the beginning is how dedicated this congregation is. As we approach colder months, shorter days, and (sooner than we think) the season of Advent and the lead up to Christmas let us continue to work as God calls us – to be a source of love and safety within our Beloved Community but also throughout the world around us.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

5 things you can do to make a positive difference in your community



OCTOBER FAITH FORMATION @CCC

After an excellent kick-off on Rally Day, our in-person faith formation programs are well underway! The Nursery crew and K/1 class continue to meet weekly for Sunday School classes during worship and the Middlers will begin their first full rotation this month, including TWO mission projects!

M I D D L E R S

2ND - 7TH GRADE

OCTOBER 3

Class will meet in the wing before rejoining the congregation for communion. Our story this month comes from Matthew 25:31-40 and our focus will be on why God places such importance on serving others.

OCTOBER 10 & 17

Worship in the Youth Playground. Quiet activities will be available.

OCTOBER 24 & 31

Partnering with the Missions committee on two service projects focused on recently incarcerated folks and their families.

Y O U T H G R O U P

MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

A fun place to grow in fellowship and faith! Be on the look-out for a scheduling email soon.

K / 1 C L A S S

KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE

In October, the K/1 class will be exploring Bible Story Basics, continuing their journey through the stories at the beginning of the bible. Moving through the book of Genesis, they've been learning that God calls all of creation good and will begin learning about Abraham and Sarah's story.

N U R S E R Y

INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Ms. Tammy has been hard at work updating our nursery space to be safe and fun for all who visit! Like their friends in the K/1 class, the nursery is also learning about the stories at the very beginning of the bible.

Nursery care is available through the service each week, with drop off beginning at 9:45am.

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

8TH GRADE AND UP

This year's cohort of confirmands is forming and will soon begin classes. Led by Pastor Ann-Marie and Pastor Jeff, the class uses the Confirm Not Conform UCC program to explore big questions of faith. If your youth is interested in confirmation, please speak with one of the pastors so they can be included.

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.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who planned, participated, or donated to the Walk, Roll & Rally fundraiser! Together we were able to raise upwards of \$400 for the Campership Fund!

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.

4 *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.

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.

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

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

As we head in to Fall, it is a season that tells us that Spring is coming, regardless of the way it is going at the moment. At the moment, the leaves are turning and the daylight is shortening, but the knowledge of renewal is in our spirits. Speaking of renewal, as we bid Sylvia a fond farewell, it is now time to welcome our newest member of the music team, Dr. Steven Young. Dr. Young comes to us with vast knowledge and experience. He is a frequent collaborator with many of the South Shore organizations, including the Brockton Symphony and many others. He is currently Director of Choirs at Bridgewater State University. His bio is [here](#) if you want to read it. Dr. Young will be playing his first service on October 3rd. Please welcome him with the usual CCC spirit. We are fortunate to have him joining us!

As many might know, my father passed away and I am currently in California with my family as I write this column for The Courier. One of the songs he treasured and programmed for his Country Club Aires is [Happy Trails](#). He made this song their closer back in 2009 and it remained so until he stopped leading the group three years ago. While I remember him singing it occasionally, I never really paid attention or got past the famous refrain. The lyrics are quite poignant and say,

"Some trails are happy ones,
Others are blue.

It's the way you ride the trail that counts,
Here's a happy one for you.

Happy trails to you,
Until we meet again.
Happy trails to you,
Keep smiling until then.

Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song, and bring the sunny weather.

Happy trails to you,
Until we meet again."

Sincerely,

Murray



Leadership Development is looking for members that would like to serve on a board that is the right fit for them. We are particularly seeking members for Vitality, Finance and Property and Christian Education. If you're a member and are not currently serving on a church board or committee, please consider finding out more by talking to a member of the Leadership Development Committee, which is composed of Deana Colby, Matt Howard, Lisa Sparling, and Barry Shelley. We can explain more about what each board does, the role of members, and how much time would be involved, and answer any further questions you might have. Furthermore, if you receive a call from one us—even if you didn't volunteer first—please give serious consideration to our effort to recruit you. It's a great way to be more involved in our church's ministry and we know there is a lot of talent out there that we'd like to further tap in one way or another. Thank you!

BOARD OF MUSIC

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC



Welcome our New Organist and Accompanist: Dr. Steven Young

Steven Young, DMA, AAGO, serves as a Professor of Music at Bridgewater State University, where he teaches courses in Music Theory and conducts the University's choral ensembles.

He has performed on our organ for Midday Music and also with the Brockton Symphony Orchestra. Steve lives in Taunton, MA, where he enjoys cooking, gardening, and reading in his spare time.

Midday Music continues

Come for Midday Music on October 20th at 12:15 pm!
Guest Organist: Gigi Mitchell-Velasco. Free, handicapped accessible.



Love the Arts?

- ◆ A sub-group to plan and implement Arts events at the church has been formed and is open to ideas and new members. The Arts and Music Planning Circle aims to reach out to the community with a variety of programs, such as chorale groups, drumming circles, visual arts, family programs, organ and instrumental music, etc. Next meeting: Friday October 22nd at 3 pm via Zoom. Please contact a member of the Board of Music to share your ideas and/or offer your time, or speak with Candy Savage or Ann Clark. To be added to the Zoom meeting, contact Donna Costa at boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org

Board of Music members: *Donna Costa, Gini Hathaway, Henok Kaptimer, Hector Morales, and Luane Rich.*



BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



STEWARDSHIP

2021–2022



AS WE HEAD TOWARD OUR PLEDGE DRIVE, WE WANT TO ADDRESS SOME COMMON PLEDGE QUESTIONS:



Rooted in Love

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

Psalm 1:3a

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a very powerful action! It is a promise of a monetary support for our Church, and all it represents in our beloved community. It can be changed as your circumstances change as well by simply telling Pastors Jeff or Ann-Marie or the bookkeepers.

Why should I pledge vs just giving as I can?

Your pledge is an expression of thankfulness in response to God's bountiful blessings! Your pledge (and you) are what makes the Church vital, and helps to ensure that the Church's greater missions in the community and abroad are realized. The church leadership can plan the ministry work with pledges. Pledges helps the church to keep its commitments to staff and vendors and its many ministries. *Even if you pledge online regularly, please fill out a pledge form for how much you give.*

Does my pledge make a difference?

Your pledge makes a HUGE difference! Christ Church relies on the full support of ALL of its members and friends. When we can gather our monies together, we can do more things for our church and community that we couldn't do alone.

What if I cannot make a monetary pledge?

Being a good steward is not just about treasure; There are many boards and committees where your time and talent would be welcomed.

Thank you for the Generous Sharing of God's Gifts with your time, talent and treasure!



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Ariana Vergne, Paula Gair, David Fairbanks, Emma Quesnel, Linda Alvilhiera, Richard Emanuel, Dan Ozelius, Lucas Flanagan, Bill Serjak, Deborah Edwards, Carol Ozelius, Brian Julio, Emily Dasey, George Manoogian, Shelley Blanchard, Ashley Nelson, Janice Howard

(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 31)

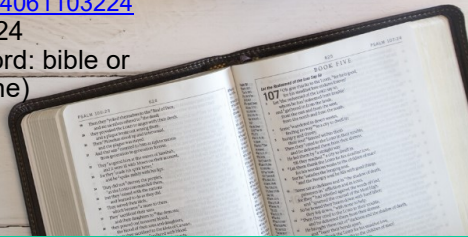


Wednesday Morning Virtual Bible Study

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 Clyde Everett Kidd (father of Murray Kidd) and George Sparling (cousin of Jay & Lisa Sparling), may they rest in peace.



Hello Fellow Members,
The collection of items for the released inmates will surely make a difference in their new beginnings when they are released. Can you imagine having ALL your possessions in one plastic grocery bag and then enter a new city to start anew? Not a very good way to restart your life.

The Back Pack program was developed to help these people with some of the bare necessities of life until they can get adjusted to a new location in housing, jobs and friends. This Back Pack will give them some confidence in that there ARE people out there that care about them when they are on their own for the first time in years.

Thank you again everyone that helped make this program helpful to those that need a bit of help to get restarted.

Missions is collecting 2022 calendars for the Brockton Veterans Hospital. 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 2nd Tuesday (On zoom for now)

NEW HOURS: From 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Come Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint, crafts, etc.

Or just come for the fellowship!

(call or email office for zoom link)



COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

Last month we arranged the squares for two lap quilts. Squares have been sewn together and next step is to baste the layers together. We will be doing that at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 19th from 1 to 3pm in the CRAFT ROOM. Join us for quilting and conversation.

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



CCC Fall Fair – Yes We Can, Its Almost Here!

We have heard from many members and friends of our beloved CCC
You want the Fair – We Need Your Help!!

Let's have a safe and enjoyable **Fall Fair Trilogy!**

- ◆ This Saturday, October 2nd, Outdoor Attic Treasures Yard Sale 9 AM – 1 PM
It's forecasted to be a cool and beautiful fall morning, hope to see you there!!
- ◆ On Saturday, November 6th, we hope to hold a smaller Fair event. We expect to be able to support 4 to 6 themed areas with at least one possibly under a tent.
- ◆ Lastly, will be a Fair December Calendar Raffle going on sale in November.



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 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 4th, 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 6th.



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 Date** – Make CCC the place to be on November 6th! And don't forget your raffle tickets, selling and buying, 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!!



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FROM THE MODERATOR

Members and friends – we have an important conversation ahead regarding helping Pastor Jeff secure appropriate housing within the City of Brockton. Pastor Jeff, Dani and Ilyn currently reside in an apartment in Bridgewater, and would prefer to live here in Brockton for a variety of reasons. As a congregation, we are responsible for facilitating comfortable and safe housing for our Pastor and their family.

In February 2020 we voted to sell the previous parsonage, due to its need for expansive and expensive repairs and updates, as well as its impractical location. As a refresher, the motion pertaining to the sale is below:

Original Motion: The Council calls a special congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, February 16, 2020 for the purpose of (a) acting on the recommendation of Council that the church cleans up the parsonage and sells it as is, and (b) if such a sale is approved by the congregation, explaining the Council's decision to invest the funds received for the sale of the parsonage in a reserved fund to be managed by Council for the most appropriate housing needs for the in-coming settled pastor.

Motions were approved at the Special Congregational Meeting on February 16, 2020.

At Council this month we agreed to begin the exploration process for determining a housing option – researching multiple possibilities, including procuring another parsonage. Also brought forward is an idea to break off a parcel of our own property and build a parsonage on land we already own.

Because congregational input is essential to this process, we have set up a number of informational cottage meetings- some in person, some via Zoom. Please look at the schedule below, and plan to attend one or more of the meetings listed. We look forward to hearing your ideas, and hope to bring an earnest housing plan before the congregation for a vote at our scheduled November 14th congregational meeting.

Sunday October 3rd after Worship (in person)

Tuesday October 5th 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Thursday October 14th 1:00 pm (Zoom)

Sunday October 17th after Worship (in person)

Wednesday October 20th 10:00 am (Zoom)

Monday October 25th 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Sunday October 31st after Worship (in person)

Tuesday November 9th 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Wednesday November 10th Noon Bag Lunch meeting- in person *and* via Zoom

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Prayerfully submitted,
Sue Koza, Moderator

A graphic with the words "Save THE Date" in a gold, cursive font. The word "THE" is in a smaller, sans-serif font and is positioned between "Save" and "Date".

Bagels and Beliefs

A pandemic twist on our previous "Breakfast and Beliefs"

Theological Worlds

Join us and find out what "Theological World" you belong to.

October 9th, 9-11 AM - The Worlds of the...
Adventurer & Mystic

October 16th, 9-11 AM - The Worlds of the...
Crusader & Sinner



For more information, and to get your survey
contact Pastor Jeff (pastor@brocktonucc.org)



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CONTACT US

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

Sunday Worship Time: 9:55 a.m.



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