



Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 41 No 11

Be The Church

November 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, 6PM

Bible Study:
Wednesdays, 10AM

Fiber Fellowship: Zoom
2nd Tuesday, 3PM

Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Nov. 10, 6:30PM

Council: Nov. 18, 7PM

Deacons: Nov. 4, 7PM

Finance/Property: Nov. 11, 7PM

Media/Tech: Nov. 16, 7PM

Missions: Nov. 2, 6:30PM

Music: Nov. 9, 7PM

Vitality: Nov. 7, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."
~Jeremiah 29:11~*

Friends, we are reclaiming our hope here at Christ Congregational Church. In October we held our first in-person variation on Breakfast and Beliefs with a "Bagels and Beliefs" (bring your own breakfast) event. For those who came out and participated in the conversation it was good to feel the connection that comes with being together, in person, having conversations about our faith. We also had two very special services in Dick Hill's long awaited memorial service, and Ann-Marie's ordination. Those services would not have been possible without the support of faithful members of our Beloved Community coming together to help with serving food, setting up, planning, checking people in according to our COVID-19 protocols, and so many other details. We have been busy with regathering, and the joy at being able to do so has been apparent, and I want to challenge us to keep that going in November!



This week we'll have a "mini" version of our fair, on November 6th. The fair has been an essential part of our lives together for many years not just because it's our strongest fundraiser – but because it's also part of how we come together as a Beloved Community. Whether it's through donating, volunteering, coming on the day of the fair (or even a little bit of all of those) the fair is a touchstone for us to come together. It's not too late to get involved either, just contact Sheppo Fisher or David Wilcox for more information – and let's all thank David and Sheppo for their hard work so far!

Throughout the rest of the month we will celebrate a baptism on November 14th, my installation on November 21st, and a concert to dedicate our organ on the first Sunday in Advent on November 28th – and then we'll solidly be on the road to Christmas!

Friends, in times like these the words above from the prophet Jeremiah ring especially clearly in my spirit – God has plans for God's people, and those plans are founded in hope. We have much to hope for, and much to be hopeful about, because our Beloved Community is celebrating our connection through God's Holy Spirit. Thank you, friends, for walking with me on this hope-filled journey.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



NOVEMBER

FAITH FORMATION

@CCC

Our in-person faith formation programs have continued over the past month!

The Nursery crew and K/1 class continue to meet weekly for Sunday School classes during worship and the Middlers completed it's first monthly service project with the Mission Committee.

MIDDLERS

2ND - 7TH GRADE

NOVEMBER 7TH

Class will meet in the wing before rejoining the congregation for communion. Our story this month is about David and Mephibosheth and what it looks like to show grace to others.

NOVEMBER 14TH

Our mission project will begin this week and will focus on creating hats and scarves for the Mission tree.

NOVEMBER 21ST 28TH

The class will remain in worship and continue working on their scarves and hats in the Youth Prayground with helpers.

YOUTH GROUP

MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

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

K / 1 CLASS

KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE

This month, the K/1 class will be continuing their journey through the stories at the beginning of the bible. After learning about Sarah and Abraham and their descendants, the group will continue into Exodus.

The class is also getting its own dedicated classroom with some pretty cool features!

NURSERY

INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The nursery is also exploring bible stories in the book of Genesis - learning about Abraham and Sarah and their descendants.

Ms. Tammy has been hard at work updating the nursery space, which now has a pretty cool ball pit!

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

CONFIRMATION

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.

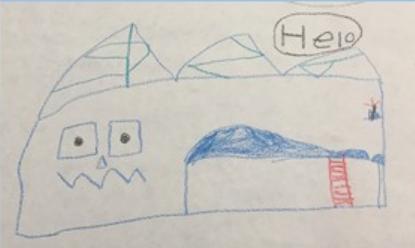
Interested in faith formation for your child/youth, but not ready to return in-person yet? Please contact Pastor Ann-Marie to discuss possible alternatives.

Extra Yarn, Crochet Hooks or Knitting Needles?

The Middler class will be making hats and scarves as part of their service project in November and December. You can help them by contributing any extra yarn or fleece you have, as well as any knitting needles or crochet hooks. Larger sized yarn and hooks/needles are especially helpful for small hands. It's a perfect way to get rid any extras in your yarn stash!

Additionally, if you're a knitter or crochet-er and would like to help our young folks with this project, please speak to Pastor Ann-Marie.

Check out this beautiful art created by some of our young folks in the Youth Prayground!



Welcome Back-Packs Project!

Many thanks to the Missions Committee for organizing the Sunday School service project in October and everyone who donated supplies. Together, they were able to assemble almost 30 Welcome Back-Packs full of toiletries and other essentials. These packs will be used to help folks who are leaving incarceration as they adjust to living outside of prison.

The **Board of Vitality** would like to invite everyone to come and join us for games and ice cream on Saturday, November 13th from 6-8 PM! Just bring your favorite board game and an appetite for ice cream, along with some quality fellowship with our Beloved Community. For more information reach out to a member of the Board of Vitality: Tricia Gross, Dani Karidsco, Maryann Selman, and Lorraine Wilcox.

SECOND SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP
AT CHRIST CHURCH

ALL CHURCH GAME AND SUNDAE NIGHT

November 13 6-8pm

Christ Congregational Church

BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD OR CARD GAME!

ALL AGES WELCOME.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN AS A BELOVED
COMMUNITY!

THE PILGRIM ASSOCIATION
of the SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
and the members of
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
INVITE YOUR PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021 AT 3PM

in person at
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
1350 PLEASANT STREET
BROCKTON, MA 02301
508-586-3022

or online at
WWW.BROCKTONUCC.ORG/LIVE-VIDEOS

To Be Followed By A Reception

Clergy are invited to gather beginning at 2:30 to robe,
and encouraged to wear a colorful stole.

PLEASE NOTE: MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED

Notes from Murray



I thank You God for most this amazing day For the leaping greenly spirits of trees.

This poem by E.E. Cummings has been going through my mind lately. As we lose the presence of green colors outside, heading into late fall, it is important to remember that the spirit of trees remains ever green. We can learn a great deal from the charity of trees and their quiet presence in our lives. If you can, take a moment to notice a tree within your daily travels or that is part of your daily view. Take the time to go out of your way to touch it; feel its strength. Trees are miraculous! Just because they are recharging during these months, they are no less fresh and formidable. Knowing myself, I know that I find it hard to remember that our spirits remain green by the grace of the Divine. It can be easy to forget our strength of spirit as we head into these months each year. The joy and faster pace leading to Christmas and, possibly, our concern for staying on the "good" list might keep our spirits a bit brighter for the moment. As we start looking towards Advent, keep in mind the passage of 1 Corinthians 13 that is used in this setting of [Ubi Caritas](#), "Charity (Love) suffereth long, *and* is kind." Keep your spirits "greenly" and give thanks for this amazing day. Trees are joyous as they reach to the heavens!

The Chancel Choir and Ringers need you! The Phasing Forward Task Force has approved the choir to increase its numbers in the choir loft to 20. If you are interested in helping lead worship, singing wonderful music and being part of this fun band of musicians, please reach out to Murray or just show up on Wednesday's at 6:45pm. If you are not sure and want to just try it out, that is fine, too! Our hand bells welcome new members, too! In addition to our Chancel Ringers who rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm, we have a group - the Covenant Ringers - that is hoping to start meeting again on Wednesdays in the mid-afternoon. Carol Bradford is heading that group, so feel free to reach out to her or Murray. The youth music program is still on hold for the time being, but we look forward to a time when we will hear little voices and see little ones playing our Orff instruments and Boomwhackers!

Sincerely,



Murray

Dear friends,

Patricia and I would like to thank everyone who helped with Ann Marie's ordination. We were overwhelmed by all the help and support received on that day and throughout her journey. We feel truly blessed to be part of this church community.

Blessings,
Jeff and Pat Illsley



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for helping make my ordination service and reception possible. I was so honored by all those who helped make the day possible, the tech team folks who made it possible for folks to join online, the choir members who offered their music, the deacons who checked folks in and made sure everybody was served, and the huge number of folks who helped set-up, serve and clean up the reception. Moreover, having so many of you attend the service in person or online and participate in they laying on of hands was incredibly meaningful to me. I will treasure the beautiful rainbow stole and lovely cross you gifted me as well as the memories of that day. Not everyone is blessed with such an amazing church community and I feel so fortunate to have one that has loved and supported me through my discernment journey. Thank you!

With much love,
Rev. Ann-Marie



BOARD OF MUSIC

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

Midday Music LIVE: Thanks to organist Gigi Mitchell-Velasco for performing "Fanfares and Fantasies" for Midday Music on October 20th.

Special thanks to those who helped out: *Keith Allen, Ann Clark, Deana Colby, Don Myers and David Stuart.* The program was recorded by Brockton Cable. If you don't live in Brockton, you can access it through this link:

<http://96.70.243.49/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1>



Love the Arts?



- ◆ The Arts and Music Planning Circle aims to reach out to the community with a variety of programs, such as drama, chorale groups, drumming circles, visual arts, family programs, organ and instrumental music, etc. Next meeting: **Sunday, December 5th** in person at the church following worship. 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.

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



COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

Our next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 16th from 1-3pm in Fellowship Hall. We will have a black and white quilt to layer and baste. There will be two lap quilts that need binding to finish them up.



Sylvia Berry is still raving over the quilt we gave her. She calls it "a stunning piece of art" and you ladies did it. Pat yourself on the back.



STEWARDSHIP

2021-2022



Your Stewardship team, along with help from Endowments and the Treasurer, is finalizing 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: *Jilliann Larson, Kate Howard, Matt Howard*



Dear Jan & Board of Deacons,

Warm and special thanks to you for all the considerate things you do. Thank you for the lovely mum flowers, nice & full. The card and communion items were nice too. Thank you.

Take Care,
Jean Purificato



9/12/21

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful chrysanthemum, the nice note and communion packet. I deeply appreciate your thoughtful generosity.

Sincerely, with affection,
Ricky Soncrant

To My Christ Church Deacons and Friends, 10-21-21

Your thoughtfulness in bringing such a beautiful plant to my home recently brought so much Joy to my heart. The purple colored mum brightens up my front porch where I see and enjoy it each day. I am so glad to belong to this wonderful Community of Faith and Love. In my prayers, “For all things work together for good for those who love God and for those called according to His purposes”
Rom 8:28

In Christian Love,
Donna Hefler



To the Board of Deacons,
Thank you for the beautiful mums left at my door. Such a nice surprise when I got home that day.
Sincerely,
Linda Alvilhiera

Dear Friends, Oct. 16, 2021

Thank you so much for the mum plant I recently received. I always enjoy hearing from all my friends and hope we will all be together soon.

Blessings & Love, In Christian Love,
Shirley Bamford



To the Deacons,

I really appreciate the beautiful mum plant & communion elements. Sorry I missed your delivery Saturday. I am so Blessed to have such a caring church family.

Thank you & God Bless,
Ruth Copeland

Dear Janice and the Board of Deacons, 10/19/21
Am looking at my beautiful plant, and it is loaded with little red blossoms - and I mean loaded (hundreds in this plant)! I put it on my porch during the day and bring it into the living room at night. That seems to keep it healthy and happy. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and for expressing it in such a lovely way. I am doing well and keeping up with my appointments and social activities. I miss the personal contacts (as we all do), but things seem to be slowly getting back to normal. My best to all!



Sincerely,
Janet Hodnett

October 4th
Thank you for the lovely plant.
Glenna Paananen





Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Sofia Shelley-Wyss, Phoenix Pelote, Gabriel Swisher Rosa, Doug Anderson, Michelle Pursell, Pasha Ozelius, Steve Prince, Tricia Gross, Chard Poole, Alan Thomas, Cindy Myers, Shawn Weatherbee, Ruth Ladd, Jay Sparling, Jean Spatola, Sarah Sparling, Hayley Hixon, Walkerson Bastia, Amy Poole, Jayce Exell, Rev. Patricia

(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 Daniel J. Harrigan (husband of Cara, father of Ethan), Beatrice McIntyre-Smith, Jeanne Bowker (sister of Carol Bradford), Shirley Strangis and Louise Duhamel, may they rest in peace.

MISSIONS NEWS

Hello Fellow Church Members and Friends, We did it! Finally got the pack packs packed with the great help from the Sunday School Classes. They will be delivered soon to the agency that distributes these to released inmates so they will have something to work with once they are on their own. **Thank you to all who donated items!**

Second note: Our Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall is VERY out of date because COVID-19 took over! We will be writing to different agencies and asking for updates to keep us informed as to how they are doing and what their plans are for 2022. Then we will post these responses for all to read.

Our budgeted items are almost the same as before with one or two changes.

Thank YOU for helping with the Missions Team!

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



Can homeless children count on you?

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

UPCOMING ORIENTATIONS

11/18/21, 6-8:30 PM Online

Give. Volunteer. Connect
horizonschildren.org/playspace
774.260.2612



2021

CCC Holiday**DECEMBER****Calendar Raffle**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01 Good Days Restaurant \$25 GC winner: 99 Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	02 Target \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: Panera Bread \$25 GC winner:	03 Emma's Pub & Pizza \$25 GC winner: CVS \$25 GC winner:	04 Lowe's \$25 GC winner: Market Basket \$25 GC winner:
05 Target \$50 GC winner: Home Depot \$50 GC winner:	06 Michaels \$25 GC winner: TJMaxx/ Marshalls/Home Goods \$25 GC winner:	07 Pet Smart \$25 GC winner: Hilliard's Candy \$25 GC winner:	08 ALDI \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	09 Stonebridge \$25 GC winner: Barnes & Noble \$25 GC winner: Target \$25 GC winner:	10 Be Dazzled \$25 GC winner: Brack's Grille & Tap \$25 GC winner:	11 Italian Kitchen \$25 GC winner: American Express \$25 GC winner:
12 Amazon \$50 GC winner: Barrels & Boards \$50 GC winner:	13 Olive Garden \$25 GC winner: Walmart \$25 GC winner:	14 TJMaxx/ Marshalls/Home Goods \$25 GC winner: Gas \$25 GC winner:	15 Bill's House of Pizza \$25 GC winner: Shaw's Supermarket \$25 GC winner:	16 Daybreak Family Restaurant \$25 GC winner: Lowe's \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:	17 Home Depot \$25 GC winner: Texas Roadhouse \$25 GC winner:	18 Trucchi's Supermarket \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:
19 Boston Tavern \$50 GC winner: The Chateau \$50 GC winner:	20 Starbucks \$25 GC winner: Pet Smart \$25 GC winner:	21 Roche Brothers \$25 GC winner: Walmart \$25 GC winner:	22 Hilliard's Candy \$25 GC winner: Barnes & Noble \$25 GC winner:	23 Gas \$25 GC winner: Good Days Restaurant \$25 GC winner: ALDI \$25 GC winner:	24 Cape Cod Café \$25 GC winner: Trucchi's Supermarket \$25 GC winner:	25 CVS \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:
26 Vanilla Mastercard \$50 GC winner: Maul Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	27 Bertucci's Italian Restaurant \$25 GC winner: Barrels & Boards \$25 GC winner:	28 Stonebridge \$25 GC winner: Good Days Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	29 Domino's \$25 GC winner: Gas \$25 GC winner:	30 Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: Uno Pizzeria & Grill \$25 GC winner: Target \$25 GC winner:	31 Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: El Mariachi Mexican Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	01

THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY CALENDAR RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**FROM CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**All drawings will be in December 2021 **Two Drawings Each Day; Three Draw Thursdays!!**Ticket Sales Begin at our Fair Saturday November 6th **Please Help Us Sell Tickets throughout November**Tickets are \$10 and the Purchaser receives December calendar for the fridge,
as well as a Ticket for the chance to win a Gift Card each day **throughout December.**

Artisan Holiday Faire
Saturday December 11, 2021
At Christ Congregational Church, Brockton, MA

A showcase of visual art and handmade crafts by local artisans

- * Do you or your friends create beautiful or practical things to show or to sell?
- * Consider getting a table at the Artisan Holiday Fair next month.
- * First, send in an application, as we may need to limit tables due to space and for variety.
- * Deadline for applications to be received is NOVEMBER 13.
- * Selections announced by November 20, 2021
- * Table fee: \$25. Church members: \$15.

To receive application, email to:

office@brocktonucc.org

An initiative of the Ministry Support Task Force
 Coordinators: Janet Ekstrom and Donna Costa



FROM THE MODERATOR

What a wonderful day - Congratulations to Reverend Ann-Marie Illsley on her Ordination! What a joy to see so many gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion. We were blessed to have Ann-Marie's leadership and guidance as we navigated the pandemic and pastoral transition. We wish her God's grace and direction as she completes her profile and begins her search process. Go forth with the gratitude and prayers of Christ Congregational Church.

On November 21st we celebrate the Installation of Pastor Jeff as our Senior Pastor. His arrival during the pandemic forced us to postpone this long-awaited event, please join us as we pledge our mutual commitments to each other in service to our church and the wider community. A collation will follow the Installation service.

As a congregation, we are responsible for facilitating comfortable and safe housing for our Pastor and their family. Cottage meetings continue as we discuss options and receive ideas for future Pastoral Housing. Remaining cottage meeting dates are Sunday, October 31st at 11:30 am, in person and via Zoom; Tuesday, November 9th at 6:30 pm via Zoom; and a Wednesday, November 10th bag lunch meeting, in person at the church. The results of these conversations will inform the process, your input is important! It is our hope that a vote to establish a Pastoral Housing Committee will be approved, in order to discern the most appropriate housing needs for current and future ministers who lead and serve our congregation. Please come to the Annual Fall Meeting on November 14th and offer your support.

~Sue Koza

Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton, MA Annual Fall Congregational Meeting Warrant November 14, 2021

In accordance with Article XIII, Church Meetings, Sec. 2 of the Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton, MA Bylaws (amended on November 20, 2016), the Annual Fall **Meeting** of the membership has been called for **Sunday, November 14, 2021** immediately following the 9:55AM Worship Service. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom and phone due to ongoing pandemic protocols. The meeting is called to act on the following articles:

- Article I** To call the meeting to order.
- Article II** To hear and act on the minutes of the May 16, 2021 and August 8, 2021 Congregational Meetings.
- Article III** To hear and act on a report from Barry Shelley regarding the Mt. Moriah Bells.
- Article IV** To hear and act on the 2022 Budget as recommended by the Church Council.
- Article V** To hear and act upon a recommendation from Council that a Pastoral Housing Committee be established, to oversee and review the results of the feasibility studies, and to report progress and findings to the Finance and Property Committee.
- Article VI** To hear and act upon any other business that may properly come before the membership.
- Article VII** To ratify, either individually or jointly, any action taken by the membership at this meeting in accordance with Article XIII, Section 3C of the church bylaws.
- Article VIII** To adjourn the Annual Church Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Eckstrom, Acting Clerk





**Christ Congregational Church
2021**

Fall Fair

Saturday, November 6th

Various "Stores" At Our Fair

Take-Out Food & Treats

General Store

Jewelry Boutique

Clothes Galore

Electronics

SERV

Raffle Tables

Donation Tent

CONTACT US

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

1350 Pleasant Street
Brockton, MA 02301-2840

Tel: 508-586-3022

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.

ORGAN DEDICATION CONCERT **SAVE THE DATE NOV. 28TH**

After completing the work of installing our organ's choir division this past spring we will take an opportunity to gather and celebrate, and to dedicate our organ in prayer and worship. The concert will take place at 3:00 PM on November 28th, and more details will be forthcoming as the planning team does their work.



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

1350 Pleasant St.

Brockton, MA 02301-2840