



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

Volume 41 No 12

Be The Church

December 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

Afternoon Ringers
Wednesdays, 3PM

Bible Study:
Wednesdays, 10AM

Fiber Fellowship: Zoom
2nd Tuesday, 3PM

Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Dec. 8, 6:30PM

Council: Dec. 16, 7PM

Deacons: Dec. 2, 7PM

Finance/Property: Dec. 9, 7PM

Media/Tech: Dec. 21, 7PM

Missions: Dec. 7, 7PM

Music: Dec. 14, 7PM

Vitality: Dec. 5, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

This year for Advent we're following a worship series called The Inn: Housing the Holy. The entire premise is that our hearts, our minds, our very church – these are all sacred spaces where God is hoping to meet us. These spaces, just like the streets and inns of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth, can be crowded and over busy. That can make it hard to house the holy.

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These are the candles we light at Advent. The connection I've made for this Advent season, with the help of our series materials, is that these building blocks of God's Kin-dom are also the feelings that make our hearts expand... which leads to more room! We have been through a lot since the beginning of last Advent. We have also accomplished a lot since the beginning of last Advent. I firmly believe that with all we've been through, and all we've accomplished, there's no way we'd be where we are right now without Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Paul closes his letter to the Philippians by trying to encourage them to keep living according to the gospel, because it's been a hard road for them but they're a community with so much promise. He writes in Philippians 4:8-9, "From now on, siblings, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things; whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you."

This year, with our hearts set on opening the door and housing the holy in our midst, let's shorten this instruction to say simply, "Focus on Hope, focus on Peace, focus on Joy, and focus on Love – because that's where God can be most easily found." Friends, I pray that you find God in new and exciting ways during this Advent season – and that you will share your findings with the world.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



DECEMBER 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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

K/1 CLASS AND MIDLERS

DECEMBER 5TH

Both classes will meet in the wing before rejoining the congregation for communion. During the session, there will be a chance to sign-up to participate in the pageant.

DECEMBER 12TH

Children and youth will prepare for the Christmas pageant during Sunday School.

SATUDAY, DECEMBER 18TH PRACTICE - 10:00-11:30AM

The day before the pageant we'll have a brief rehearsal, allowing participants to practice in the sanctuary.

DECEMBER 19TH - PAGEANT

Participants will gather at 9:15 in the wing to put on costumes. During worship they will share the story of Jesus' birth with the congregation!

CONFIRMATION

8TH GRADE AND UP

Confirmation classes will begin in January. Confirmands and their families will be receiving a schedule in the mail shortly.

NURSERY

INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our nursery folks will also be participating in the Christmas pageant and will have a chance to practice with Ms. Tammy.

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

YOUTH GROUP

MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

Our Youth Group will be selling baked goods at the Artisan Fair on December 11th. We hope you'll stop by and purchase some tasty treats! Proceeds will be donated to a cause to be chosen by the youth.

COOKIE DECORATING PARTY DECEMBER 10TH, 6-8PM

Grab an apron and some frosting as we decorate cookies for the bake sale at the Artisan Fair! We'll also enjoy some pizza for dinner as we decide where to donate our proceeds.

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.

Stewardship in Sunday School

This month our Sunday School classes will be taking some time to learn about stewardship and what it means to make an offering to God. We'll also be talking about how we can return some of the gifts God has given us and working to create a practice of giving and offering. As part of this, children and youth will receive their own special offering envelopes.

CALLING ALL
SHEPHERDS,
ANGELS, AND
WISE FOLK!

Christmas
Pageant
Dec. 19th

SIGN-UPS
BEGIN
DEC. 5 IN
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Who's Ready for an Intergenerational Advent Messy Church?

What does it feel like to be a shepherd? How many people can fit on a donkey? What was Joseph's job like? To answer these questions and more, join us on Saturday, December 11th from 5-7pm, for a special, interactive worship experience – Intergenerational Advent Messy Church! We'll hear a story about Jesus' birth, enjoy dinner together and explore different activities (including art, games, puzzles and more!). All ages are welcome to this Second Saturday Fellowship collaboration between the Vitality Committee and the Board of Christian Education.



Vitality News

Now that we're back in person, Vitality is ready to get us all together in varying ways to fellowship and connect.

We are starting a **Bring Your Own Mug (BYOM) initiative for Fellowship** after church. Due to Covid precautions we have to use disposable cups for coffee, which isn't super green. So, we'd love it if you brought your own mug to fill up to eliminate some of the waste! Thank you for your help in this matter.

On November 13th we hosted the first Second Saturday Fellowship event. Over 20 people ranging from age 2 to wise joined together for a fun evening of playing games and eating delicious ice cream sundaes. The Spirit was flowing through interactions and it felt so good to be in community. This will be a monthly event so mark your second Saturdays on your calendars!

Join us Saturday, December 11th for an Intergenerational Advent Messy Church from 5 - 7pm.

We are partnering up with Christian Education to have an evening filled with stories, crafts, science experiments, and games for a different way to experience this Advent season. Dinner will be served. Everyone from young to wise is invited!

With joy,

Vitality Committee (*Tricia Gross, Dani Kardisco, Maryann Selman, and Lorraine Wilcox*)

SECOND SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP

*Intergenerational
Advent
Messy Church*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 5-7PM
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
DINNER WILL BE SERVED
ALL AGES WELCOME





Notes from Murray

O come, o come Emmanuel! Comfort ye, my people. People, look east. Christmas is coming! Advent is upon us and the wait begins. Well, I don't know about you, but it started long before now. Advent is a time of great anticipation. What have we done for the poor ones? What have we done for the poor ones, the hungry, the outcast? The Chancel Choir will not produce a Christmas Concert this year, due to many reasons related to this current time we are in. The choir will be caroling within our beloved community. You are welcome to join us! We will be caroling on December 18th, starting at 5:00pm and going to about 7:00. We will finish off with some hot chocolate and conversation in the fellowship hall.

Getting to Know You! Rather, getting to know Steve Young! We are blessed to have our new organist with us and have enjoyed his lively postludes! Due to Covid, we are not able to hold our normal fellowship hour after church, so we thought it might be a good idea to have a little question and answer time in this month's Courier. My

apologies, as I am not Terry Gross, so the questions are a bit basic. Thank you, Steve, for your patience and helping us get to know you. I hope everyone takes the time to welcome Steve, if you haven't already.

1. Where are you originally from?

While I was born in Everett, I have spent the majority of my life in Southeastern MA. I am a local.

2. How long have you played the organ and was it your first instrument?

I have been playing the organ since I was 16. I took a couple of years of piano lessons, but switched to organ early on. A decision I have never regretted!

3. How long have you taught at Bridgewater State University?

I have been at Bridgewater as long as I can remember. I started in 1985 as accompanist to the College Chorale. Two years later, I began teaching as an adjunct faculty member, and in 1998 I was offered the position I now hold. So, in terms of years, I will let you do the math! Suffice it to say I am old!

4. Do you have a favorite piece of music or one that is your favorite currently?

As a performer, there is so much music I like. It is impossible to narrow it down to one piece. My favorite pieces to play come from the late French Romantic tradition, with works by Guilman, Widor, and Vierne. But I also love the music of Bach and Buxtehude. I am currently preparing a piece by Camillo Schumann, a German Romantic composer which I enjoy practicing.

5. Besides our organ here (ahem), what and where is the organ you would say is your favorite? Have you played it recently?

I have had many wonderful opportunities to play instruments across the country and around the globe. I thoroughly enjoyed playing the 18th century French organ at the cathedral of Sens, France as well as the marvelous organ at National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C. My other favorite is the beautiful Helmut Wolff organ at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. I haven't had the opportunity to play any of these in recent years.

6. How did music become your career? Did you know from an early age you would do it for your life?

Once I fell in love with the organ in high school, I decided to major in music. I always assumed I would spend my career as an organist/choir director. Once I started teaching, I was encouraged to pursue the doctoral degree. It was there I developed my interest in musicology. One thing led to another and...here I am.

7. As you mention, you have a doctorate in music. What is the topic of your dissertation on?

My dissertation was on the non-organ music of Louis Vierne. Many had written about his outstanding organ music, so I chose a different path. His chamber, vocal, and instrumental music is totally worth exploring. It also gave me insight into his organ music and his compositional style.

8. Do you have a favorite movie?

I don't get to watch much television or go out to movies often. During the pandemic, I did watch more than my share. I have always been a sci-fi fan but also like comic books, so the Avengers franchise has been among my favorites.

9. Is there a song that you really like that might be a surprise to those who know you professionally?

I came of age in the disco era, so I love the music of all those pop divas from Helen Reddy to Donna Summer and Tina Turner. Not sure there is a favorite, but whenever I hear those women sing, I return to a wonderful time in my life.

10. If you could have a song written to capture you as a person, is there a poem or scripture (or bumper sticker) that you would suggest the composer use to capture the essence of yourself?

I am intolerant of what I consider hatred and bigotry in all its forms. I often think of Leonard Bernstein who wrote that: "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."

~Murray



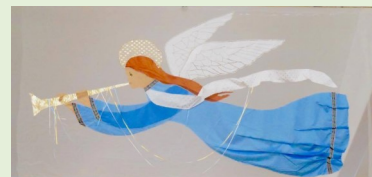
BOARD OF MUSIC

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

Midday Music LIVE: Wednesday, December 15th at 12:15 pm

Guest Organist - Mary-Katherine Fletcher, recent graduate of Bridgewater State University.
Invite a friend – a nice break in the midst of holiday busi-ness. FREE

Love the Arts? The Arts and Music Planning Circle meets on Sunday, December 5th after worship. Come and join us as we make plans for 2022: up for discussion – February Black History Month event; March organ concert; April Earth Day drama; Family Fun in May, silent film in the fall. For more information, contact a member of the Board of Music to share your ideas and/or offer your time, or speak with Candy Savage, Donna Costa or Ann Clark. *Board of Music members:* Donna Costa, Gini Hathaway, Henok Kaptimer, Leigh-Ann Larson, Hector Morales, and Luane Rich.



Organ Dedication Concert: A wonderful afternoon of music and fellowship was enjoyed on November 18th at our dedication concert for the “completed Austin organ.” Special music by our choir and soloist, Carol Bradford, and three wonderful performers on the organ: Sylvia Berry, Leonardo Ciampa and Peter Sykes. Thanks to Pastor Jeff, Murray and Steve, all the helpers, tech team, and the former Organ Completion Committee for taking part and helping.

Three organists:

Leonardo Ciampa, Sylvia Berry and Peter Sykes

Photo by Dale Munschy



Hello Church Members and Friends,
Sometimes you wonder where your donations go.

This past month the Church had a Fair, not the huge Fair we usually have but still a great many items for sale. With the many volunteers this was a fun filled event! I was in the 'donations' tents and had a great time!

One item that was donated to me was a very large container of yarn from the Church members. No I do not knit, but my cousin's daughter and her lady friends make blankets for newborns and donate them to the hospitals. The donation of this yarn helps those that might not be able to afford a baby blanket.

With Missions helping others, this is another way your unwanted items can help others.

Missions will be having the Christmas Card Tree open every Sunday in the Narthex. Make a donation, sign a card and hang it on the tree. All donations will go to the Missions Fund.

The Missions Committee



STEWARDSHIP 2021-2022



Happy late fall! Just a reminder that our pledge dedication is Sunday December 12th. If you can submit your pledges by then, that would be great. If you need a pledge packet, you can reach out to the Church office, or we have attached the pledge packet to the nearly weekly. You can download it from there.

In this season of Stewardship, we are lucky to have so many examples of what Stewardship is. Of course, we all know about stewardship in its most basic form, which is our pledge. Our pledges pay the expenses of the Church and allow our ministry to fulfill its roles within our church and our community. But stewardship is so much more than just money. Any parishioner who serves on a board, committee or task force is being a great steward of the Church. A person who helps at a collation, or at the nursery for an event, or serves as a volunteer for the fair, yard sale, or in Sunday school is performing an act of stewardship. The folks who decorated the sanctuary or cleaned up the church grounds are stewards. The folks that run the booth for the service are stewards. The people who do crafts for the fair, the quilt guild, the Bible study helpers all are great examples of stewardship. The choir, the deacons and everyone else that helps with the service every week are stewards. The volunteers who keep the gardens looking great, the ones who write notes and deliver flowers at different times of the year to folks that can't get to church regularly are fulfilling a vital role of stewardship. I can keep going on, but I think you get the point. We are all stewards of our Church, and we all have a role in helping our Church thrive, whether it is with our time, our talent or our treasure.

Board of Stewardship: *Jilliann Larson, Kate Howard, Matt Howard*



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Don Myers, Jeanie Boutwell, Leo Larson, Hector Morales, Lili Fleming, Scott Weatherbee, Cara Harrigan, Peridine Bastia, Breanna McNary, Emma Milton, Janis Creedon, Dorothy Edyth Liolios, Glenn Carey, Joey Izyk, Diane Prince, Nicole Milton, Nathan Eckstrom, Bobby Gair, Piper Garner-MacKinnon, Betsy McMahon, Carolyn Bennett, Audrey Jones, Robbie Sinesi, Luke Creedon, Brian Ferguson, India Vergne, Stephanie Pursell

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

Wednesday Morning Virtual Bible Study

10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

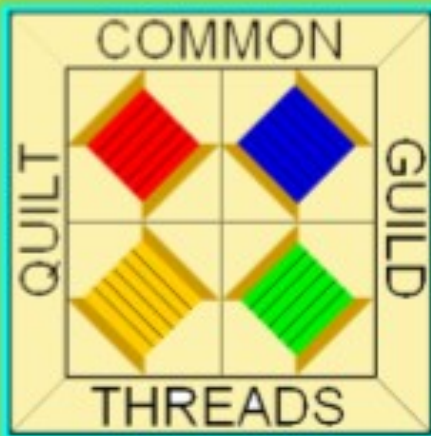


Join us for Wednesday morning Bible Study group. Regulars and newcomers alike are welcome to drop in and check out this adult faith formation opportunity. The group discusses the lectionary scripture readings each week. Hope to see you there!

<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 Geneva Prince and Shari Gay Sommer (mother of Matthew and Stephanie), may they rest in peace.



A NOTE FROM THE COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

The December meeting of the guild will be a cookie swap and show and tell of members projects. Dessert will be served.

Date is Tuesday, December 21st from 1 – 3pm in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions or need a ride call Nelda Hayes @ 508-238-6004 or Janet Eckstrom @ 508-583-0505.



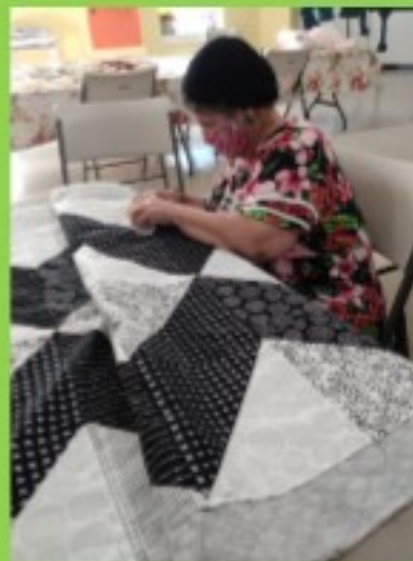
Finished lap quilt



Martha Binda, Lucille Berg and Nelda Hayes binding (the last step) the edge of a lap quilt



Black and white lap quilt with blocks arranged by Deana Colby and Jean Purificato



Jean Purificato basting a lap quilt



Keith Allen's personal quilt done in flannel

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 Restuarant \$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!!**
 Tickets are on sale now!

You can still buy tickets in December but ticket will be entered in the barrel the day it's received

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
1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton
10 am to 2 pm

A showcase of handmade crafts by local artisans

- Quilts and Quilted Items
- Knit hats, mouse ears and embroidered items
 - Candy, fudge and baked goods
 - Hot chocolate bombs
 - Needlepoint Coasters
- Handcrafted soaps and scrubs
- Jewelry, suncatchers and crystal décor
- SERV international goods



Memorial Poinsettia Orders

Please place your Poinsettia order by December 12th. The plants will decorate the chancel for our service on the 19th, and the Deacons will deliver the Poinsettias to our homebound members after the service on December 19th. Some of the plants will be retained to adorn the chancel throughout the Christmas season. Please fill out the order form below and return it to the Church Office. You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

Please complete this form and return it to the church with \$15 per poinsettia:

I, _____, would like to order _____ poinsettia plants for delivery to our homebound members on December 19th.



The names I would like listed on the memorial list are **(4 names per plant)**:

Blue Christmas
2021
Christ Congregational Church

- December 20th
- In Person & Online
- 7:00 PM
- Service of Anointing & Prayer

*Jesus said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
~Matthew 11:28~*



Christmas Eve
At
Christ Congregational Church

Traditional Christmas Eve Service
With Candle-lighting & Communion
Dec. 24th at 6 PM
In Person & Online
<https://brocktonucc.org/live-videos/>




CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA
www.brocktonucc.org
@brocktonucc



CONTACT US

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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.



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