



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 42 No 2

Be The Church

February 2022

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 Hand Bells:
Wednesdays, 6PM
- Afternoon Ringers
Wednesdays, 3PM
- Bible Study:
Wednesdays, 10AM
- Fiber Fellowship: Zoom
2nd Tuesday, 3:30PM
- Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

- Christian Ed: Feb. 9, 5:30PM
- Council: Feb. 17, 7PM
- Deacons: Feb. 3, 7PM
- Finance/Property: Feb. 10, 7PM
- Media/Tech: Feb. 15, 7PM
- Missions: Feb. 1, 7PM
- Music: Feb. 27, 11:15AM
- Vitality: Feb. 6, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Howard Thurman is a Black theologian and scholar who lived from 1899 to 1981. He was an American Baptist preacher and theologian, the first African American dean of chapel at Marsh Chapel of Boston University – where he mentored many young black leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr. – and he was a cofounder of *The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples* in San Francisco (the first integrated interfaith religious congregation in the United States) in 1944. As the grandson of former slaves, he lived a life that connected



between the realities of slavery in the United States (and the lasting impact it had on families) and the advent of the personal computer – with IBM's first personal computer debuting in 1981, the year of his death. In 1953 he published a collection of written reflections titled *Meditations of the Heart*, and as we enter into Black History Month I'd like to invite all of you to receive and reflect upon one of his writings – rather than hearing from me. Throughout the month of February we will be committed to centering the voices of often overlooked African American voices, and I sincerely hope all of you will take some time this month to explore voices of Black leaders who you might not have previously heard from. The following excerpt from Howard Thurman's book, *Meditations of the Heart* is titled, "God is Present"

God is present with me this day.

God is present with me in the midst of my anxieties. I affirm in my own heart and mind the reality of His presence. He makes immediately available to me the strength of His goodness, the reassurance of His wisdom and the heartiness of His courage. My anxieties are real; they are the result of a wide variety of experiences, some of which I understand, some of which I do not understand. One thing I know concerning my anxieties; they are real to me. Sometimes they seem more real than the presence of God. When this happens, they dominate my mood and possess my thoughts. The presence of God does not always deliver me from anxiety but it always delivers me from anxieties. Little by little, I am beginning to understand that deliverance from anxiety means fundamental growth in spiritual character and awareness. It becomes a quality of being, emerging from deep within, giving to all the dimensions of experience a vast immunity against being anxious. A ground of calm underlies experiences whatever may be the tempestuous character of events. This calm is the manifestation in life of the active, dynamic, Presence of God.

*God is present with me this day.*¹

Blessings and Peace,
 Pastor Jeff

¹Thurman, Howard. "God Is Present." *Meditations of the Heart*, Beacon Press, Boston, MA, 1953, pp. 50–50.

FEBRUARY

FAITH FORMATION

@CCC

After a brief pause in January, our in-person faith formation programs are back in action and meeting on Sundays.

On this page, you'll find some of what is happening in the wing this month. We've also got some exciting things in the pipeline, so stay tuned for more info!

M I D D L E R S

2ND - 7TH GRADE

February 6th

Class will meet in the wing to explore their bible story for the month before joining the congregation for communion at the end of worship.

February 13th and 20th

Class will remain in worship (or join the K/1 Class as helpers). Activities and focus devices will be available in the Youth Prayground.

February 27th

Class will meet in the wing to work on their mission project for this month.

K / 1 C L A S S

KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE

This month, the K/1 class will be continuing their journey through the bible, picking up with stories in the Gospels about Jesus' ministry.

N U R S E R Y

INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Nursery is back in action with Ms. Tammy! They will be exploring bible studies about Jesus' ministry in the coming months .

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

While our first planned session got snowed out, we'll have a makeup session on February 6th where we're looking forward to kicking the year off! Confirmation meets in the Youth Prayground, from 11:30-1:00pm.

February 6 -	Introduction to Confirm not Conform
February 13 -	Where Do You Stand: The Gospel According to Whom?
February 27 -	Where Do You Stand: Meet Your Mentors

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.

Did you have someone growing up who shaped your faith? Or someone who first introduced you to God? Maybe it was a parent or grandparent, a Sunday School teacher or minister, or maybe even it was just an adult at church that made you feel seen and cared for. One of the first ways we can begin to understand God's love is through the love we experience in others – knowing that there are folks who care about us and think we matter. Churches (and other places of worship) are one of the few places in our society where children and youth have the opportunity to experience intergenerational relationships outside of their families. What an amazing opportunity we have right here in our beloved community to share God's love! I want to invite us all to make a point of saying hello to our youngest folks this month (it's ok to say hi to their adults too ☺). I promise you won't be disappointed and you might just get to experience God's love reflected right back at you!

In Peace, Pastor Ann-Marie



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

Cookies for College Students and Military Members

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2021

DURING FELLOWSHIP HOUR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Help us send some love to those in our community who are college students and military service members in the form of care packages filled with sweet treats. This is an intergenerational event for the whole congregation!

**WE ARE WELCOMING DONATIONS OF
COOKIES, CANDY, SNACK AND MONEY FOR POSTAGE.**

**SIGN UP TO DONATE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS HERE:
[TINYURL.COM/COOKIESATCCC](https://tinyurl.com/cookiesatccc)**



NOTES FROM MURRAY

Lent is around the corner! March 2nd is Ash Wednesday - late this year - and we begin the journey toward the light of Easter. Before that, we have Black History Month. The music is planned to highlight music from composers who are already part of our worship lives. A few highlights from the month's music:

- Spirituals: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, Let Us Break Bread Together, Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Jesus, There is More Love Somewhere, Old Ship of Zion and more!

- Doris Akers - Lead Me, Guide Me
- Margaret Douroux - Give Me a Clean Heart

- Thomas A. Dorsey - The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow, Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- J. Rosamond Johnson - Lift Every Voice and Sing
- Charles A. Tindley - Stand By Me
- Richard Smallwood - I Love the Lord

As you can see, many of these titles are already familiar to our worship lives at Christ Congregational Church. We don't just highlight this music in February. I am very proud of this trait and proud to be associated with a church that values diversity and inclusion every day. The fact that we sing Santo, Santo, Santo in Spanish every month is a good beginning to singing in other languages. Our choir has sung in Zulu, Latin, Spanish, and other languages. This opens up so much more repertoire and other countries and cultures. We will be doing more in the coming months! The choir will be returning in February, as long as things continue to improve and I can't wait to have them back in the services again! If you are interested in being a part of this unique and amazing group of singers, please reach out, or just show up on a Wednesday at 6:45 (not until later in February, though!). We would love to have you with us!

Sincerely,

Murray



Here is a painting made by Lisa Landerholm. It fits her Star Word perfectly "Delight"



All year long we'd like to see how your Star Word has affected you. Send in a picture, comment, poem, etc., about your word. What does it mean to you or why you thought about it at a particular time. We'd like to share your stories.



The same day I received my Star Word, I received a card about kindness from the florist. The next day at church a young lady had on a T-shirt about being kind. It's happening all around me and that is powerful !! ~ Deana

FROM BOARD OF MUSIC

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

From Arts & Music Planning Circle

Come and enjoy Midday Music on Wednesday, **February 16th at 12:15 pm**

"In the Gospel Tradition," presented by guest organist, Judith Conrad.

Sponsored by Magnificat Liturgical Artwork, the program is free, with donations accepted for the "Negro Spiritual Royalties Project – Brockton"

What is the "Negro Spiritual Royalties Project-Brockton?"

Modelled after a project begun at the United Parish in Brookline, MA, it seeks to address the reality that many African American composers never earned royalties for the music they created, and that the "Negro Spirituals" that have enriched worship and justice movements over the years were folks songs created by enslaved Africans, authors unknown. When this music is used in events under the Arts & Music program, the Board of Music will select a local music education program to whom to forward any donations. For February, donations will go to the Rose Conservatory.

Just a few tunes that fit this category – you will find many more in our hymnal:

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot; Let Us Break Bread Together; Wade in the Water; and Were you There?

SAVE THE DATE:

March 27th at 3 pm – Bach Birthday Bash with Guest Organist, Richard Spicer. Ticket information and COVID precautions will be announced soon.

Sunday April 24th during morning worship – Just Peace Players present "Heal the Earth"

More dates to be announced soon! Please speak to Donna Costa, Audrey Jones or Candy Savage with your suggestions or email to boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org



Organist Transition

The Search Committee has posted the position of part-time organist/accompanist, and has arranged substitute organists through the end of February. Please keep this process in your prayers as we work to find a musician who is a good match for our church and for our Music Ministry.

The next Board of Music Meeting will be on Sunday, February 27th following worship.

Board of Music members: Donna Costa, Henok Kaptimer, Leigh-Ann Larson, Hector Morales, Luane Rich, and Murray Kidd (ex-officio).



There is NO quilt guild for the month of February.

Meanwhile if you need fabric for any project from the guild's stash or batting for NICU quilts, placemats, or lap quilts please call Janet @ 508-583-0505. Completed placemats may be left in the office for David Wilcox and he will get them to meals on wheels.

Janet Eckstrom has a quilt in progress on her table. Pattern is "solar flare" from the Missouri Star Quilt Co.



The Mission Committee donates YOUR funds to a variety of organizations during the year as funds are collected.

During the next few months during the Church Service there will be a mention of one or two organizations that we donate to so you will know where your money is going.

We received a wonderful letter from the Concord Prison Outreach thanking us for the Back Packs that were donated and the supplies that the Sunday School children inserted into the Back Packs. Every bit helps those released from prison to get a head start in their new life. We Thank You!

We make adjustments to the donated organizations yearly to spread the wealth the best we can. Some are local some are around the country, they all share a common goal: **helping those that need a bit of help to survive.**

George Manoogian, Mission Scribe



Please help stock up our food pantry and please come and utilize the pantry. The food pantry has been very helpful to our church families and neighbors. Thank you for your generous contributions.



Vitality

Flexibility is the name of the game for Vitality! After two successful Second Saturday Fellowship Nights in November and December, we needed to take a break in January per church Covid guidelines. Be on the lookout for information regarding our next fellowship event in the Nearly Weekly emails, Facebook, and announcements on Sundays!

HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING THESE WINTERY DAYS ???
ARE YOU CLEANING ? DECLUTTERING ? SHOPPING ?
CREATING WITH YARN , FABRIC , POTTERY, WOOD etc.....

Did you get a gift for Christmas that although thoughtful was just not you ???

Well... we have an idea for you....

Could you put something aside for the FALL RAFFLE ?

As now is the time you may come across items we would LOVE to have you think of the beloved church community...

Please contact Barbara Holland Moody @ moodytwos@gmail.com with any questions or ideas...
Thanks so much for your consideration. Your future contributions are appreciated and needed.....



Celebrating FEBRUARY Birthdays

Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Mary Woodman, Sarah Sinesi, Samantha Sinesi, Janice Urban, Tracey Hixon, Sheila Klecha, Martha Binda, Sandra Marvill, Ella Alden, Lucille Berg, Joyce Carroll, Aubrey Macfarlane, Ken Maloof, Jeffrey Kardisco, Barry Shelley, Frank Matthews, Mackenzie Copley, Liz Garner, Dot Quimby, Alexander Cords, Ronan Cords, Pat Illsley, Luane Rich, Adam Mitchell

(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 28)

MINISTRIES SUPPORT TASK FORCE



The Ministries Support Task Force will be preparing take home meals (led by David Wilcox) for the six Friday's during Lent. We will have different options every week like, Chicken Divan, Veggie or Meat Chili, Lasagna & Meatballs, Chowder or Soup, Chicken & Broccoli, Meatloaf & Potatoes and always Mac & Cheese. It will start on March 4th through April 8th. There will be a couple different ways to place orders for these dinners. Look out for more information in the coming weeks.



We pray for the family of Ruth T. Melanson, may she rest in peace.

To the Board of Deacons
And especially Judy Copley for the beautiful Poinsettia as well as her visit. Gratefully appreciated.
With thanks
Nelda Hayes



To the Deacons at Christ Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Poinsettia and communion elements. Every bit of kindness and thoughtfulness means so much to me.

Thanx again & God Bless!
Ruth Copeland

To The Beloved Community and Board of Deacons of Christ Congregational Church,

Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the Christmas season and to Janice and Matt Howard for delivering a poinsettia to my home. It brightened my home filling it with much Joy. It was the prettiest I have ever seen. Christ is the reason for the season and it's beauty lightens my heart. Thanks once again.

In Love, Joy, Peace and Hope

Donna Hefler

J
O
Y

I really appreciate the notes, cards, flowers, phone calls and visits that I have experienced over the year. I was thrilled that I was able to attend Pastor Ann-Marie's Ordination. She has been especially helpful to me in difficult times. Thank you for your patience and understanding of the the delay.



Sincerely,

Caroline J. Clark

Board of Deacons,

A note to you with a personal touch Just to say thank you ever so much! The poinsettia is beautiful and has provided a bright spot in my living room. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

Thank you

Sandra Hill



Report of Fundraising Activities for 2021

Thank you to everyone for innovations, participation, purchases, and donations of time and / or treasure!!!

For all you did we are happy to report the income to our beloved CCC in 2021.

<u>total by event less expenses</u>		
7/17 & 9/25	\$2,279.89	Yard Sales
Nov 6th & post sales	\$5,699.86	Fair sales
December	\$4,028.00	December Raffle
July	\$268.26	Lobster Roll Fundraiser
December 11th	\$200.00	Artisan Faire
various	\$45.00	candy donations
	\$200.00	donation Quilt Guild
Net Earnings	\$12,721.01	
	\$13,356.75	Gross Revenue
	<u>\$635.74</u>	Expenses
	\$12,721.01	

There are many ideas contemplated for 2022. If you can offer your time and talents to activities being developed or have an idea you want to be considered please reach out to a member of the Ministries Support Task Force (Deb Bowman, Deana Colby, Donna Costa, Sheppó Fisher or Sue Koza) or our Pastors

Christ Congregational
Church, UCC

SAVE THE DATE

YARD SALE PLANNED

Saturday, May 7th 2022

(with a rain date of Saturday, May 14th)

We hope to make this our biggest yard sale yet.
Church tables, Church Family tables, Vendor tables
All are welcome!!

Can you help? Do you have donations?
Should we have food?

Please get the word out early:

Fun and Fellowship and Lots of Items for Sale!

Why did Stewardship and Endowment Trustees create a Christ Church's Planned Giving Program?

Here are some of the education goals...

- Normalize talking about money and faith since Jesus and the bible talked about money a lot. For example, money is mentioned 140 times in the King James Version of the bible or 11 out of the 39 Jesus's parables are about money.
- Normalize talking about planning for after your death both in money and funeral arrangements.
- Teach about making good financial decisions for now and the future so we can be good stewards for God.

Here is how we plan to do it...

- The month of May is a focus on "Planned Giving"! During the services, we will have witnesses and education of planned giving by our members.
- Also, on a Saturday in May, offer a full day workshop on a topic that will assist people with finances and planned giving matters.
- Offer a two-hour workshop in September or October to teach more financial education and stewardship.
- Offer helpful planned giving and money management articles in the courier every month.

Any questions please reach out to Deb Bowman Chair of Endowment Trustees at deb@act-cpa.com or members on the stewardship or endowment committees.

A NOTE FROM THE MODERATOR

Thank you to the following members who have volunteered to serve on our newly formed Pastoral Housing Committee. They have been tasked with discerning the most appropriate option for our pastoral housing needs, current and future. This decision will honor our congregational responsibility for facilitating comfortable and safe housing for our Pastor and their family, in a manner sustainable to our overall budget considerations.

Doug Anderson

Sheppo Fisher

Jeffrey Illsley, Jr

Patricia Illsley

Karl Koza

Jane MacIntyre

Heather Kennedy Mitchell

John Hagberg - Chair, Property and Finance



Much gratitude and many prayers to all as they embark on this important undertaking.

~ Sue Koza - Moderator

Happy Valentines Day!



CONTACT US

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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.



CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's
journey, you are welcome here!



Christ Congregational Church, UCC
1350 Pleasant St.
Brockton, MA 02301-2840