



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 42 No 4

Be The Church

April 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: Apr. 13, 5:30PM
- Council: Apr. 21, 7PM
- Deacons: Apr. 7, 7PM
- Finance/Property: Apr. 12, 7PM
- Media/Tech: Apr. 19, 7PM
- Missions: Apr. 5, 7PM
- Music: Apr. 24, 11:15AM
- Vitality: Apr. 3, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

"But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us. We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out. We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies."

~2 Corinthians 4:7-10~



Dear Beloved Community,

I was just reading my Courier entry from this time last year, and we've come a long way. Last year I was sharing the exciting news that we were on our way to worshipping together again. This year we're not only worshipping together in the same space, but we're also singing together, dancing, having fellowship events again, and so much more. The signs of life in our Beloved Community are easier to see now. As I read that entry from last year's Courier I was taken back to that time – and I remember just how much hope I had placed in our coming together again. In my mind it was almost as if EVERYTHING would be made perfect once we could worship in person again – that everything would be set right, and we could all settle into our lives together.

But God continues to remind me that PERFECTION isn't what we're called to.

God continues to remind me that being settled and content are not what we're called to. God continues to remind me that we're called to show the world Jesus' compassion, empathy, love, and grace.

Since this time last year new challenges have arisen for all of us as individuals, as a congregation, and throughout the world. We've been (as the writer of 2 Corinthians says), "confused, but not depressed. Harassed but not abandoned. Knocked down, but not knocked out," and through the compassion, empathy, love, and grace of Jesus we've endured. The writer says, "We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies." With these words we're reminded that the way Jesus lived (with compassion, empathy, love, and grace) was rejected by the world, leading to his crucifixion – but even in spite of that, the joy of the gospel and the message of God's grace endured and we're invited to join in. It isn't perfect, but it's GOOD. It isn't easy, but it's WORTH WHILE. It's work that never ends, but it will gratify your very spirit.

As we continually do the work of getting back up, trying (imperfectly) to live the way Jesus taught us, the first words of this passage should bring comfort and a sense of purpose. The "awesome power" belongs to God, and doesn't come from us. While we're called to live in the way Jesus taught, we're also not responsible for saving the world on our own – so we continue the journey in Beloved Community with God in our midst.

Blessings and Peace,
 Pastor Jeff

APRIL

FAITH FORMATION

@CCC

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

April 3rd

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.

April 10th - Palm Sunday

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

April 17th - Easter

Easter will be a family Sunday where families worship together. The Youth Prayground will also remain open during this service.

April 24th

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

Y O U T H G R O U P

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

Friday, April 29th - 6pm to 8:30 PM

Get your noodles ready for the Youth Group Mac n' Cheese off! We'll be making our own Mac n' Cheese creations. Will your recipe win the golden noodle?!

K / 1 C L A S S

KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE

Through the season of Lent, the K/1 class has been learning about the Sacrament of Communion, the symbols associated with it and how it connects to Jesus' life.

Communion Education concludes on Palm Sunday with a special service where the class discusses what they've learned and celebrate communion together with bread they've made together.

N U R S E R Y

INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

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

April will be a fun and busy month for our confirmation class. After focusing on the importance of choice and exploring the structure of the bible they'll continue on with three sessions around prayer and church tradition.

April 3 - Teach Us To Pray: The Lord's Prayer

April 10 - Tradition: The Nicene Creed

April 24 - Tradition: Church History Continued

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.



Bringing Lunch to Common Cathedral! The Middler class, along with the Boards of Missions and Christian Education worked together to make **100 bagged lunches** that a small group brought to share with the folks at Common Cathedral's worship service!

CCC YOUTH GROUP
**MAC &
 CHEESE
 OFF!**

Are you a Mac & Cheese connoisseur? A pro chef in the kitchen? Or even just a blue box enthusiast? Join us for the YG Mac & Cheese Off!

We'll be learning how to make this favorite and customizing our own Mac & Cheese recipes. Maybe yours will win the Golden Noodle! Hope to see you there!

RSVP TO PASTOR ANN-MARIE OR DEANA

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH 🦃 6-8:30PM



Scholarships at CCC

Scholarship applications are now available for those pursuing higher education in undergraduate, graduate or other post-secondary programs. Please see Pastor Ann-Marie or the office for an application. **The deadline for submitting an application is June 1st, 2022.**



Parent's Night Out!
 Several of our little's joined the CE Board on March 26th for dinner, games and a movie while their adults enjoyed some well-earned time away.





NOTES FROM MURRAY

[Spring is HERE!!!!](#) At the time of this writing, we have dipped below freezing again and I am none-too-pleased! That is New England! Spring will come, eventually.

As we head into Easter, we will sing [Alleluia](#) with the angels once again at the resurrection of Christ. What a day that will be!

My thoughts turn to peace in our world. [Here is beautiful song of peace sung by the Cape Town Youth Choir.](#)

Ukuthula - Peace Kulumhlaba we zono - In this (broken) world of trouble Igazi like Jesu lin yenezey' - The blood of Jesus flowed (so that you could have:) Ukuthula - Peace Usindiso - Redemption Ukubonga - Praise Ukutholwa - Faith Ukunqoba - Victory Induduzo - Comfort

If you are new to the congregation or not new, but interested, we want you in the CHOIR! No experience is necessary. Singing is the "praying twice," as the saying goes. We have a great deal of fun on Wednesday nights, preparing the music for our worship services and collaborating. One of my favorite scriptures refers to singing: Put your singers in front...let them sing, "Thanks to the Lord, God's love endures forever!" We are looking for new members and it isn't too late to join for the Easter service! Contact Murray at music@brocktonucc.org or talk to him after a service.

Come and have fun and be a part of the magic that happens every week!

Sincerely,
Murray

HOSANNA in the HIGHEST

JOIN US FOR
IN PERSON WORSHIP
PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 10 @ 9:55AM

ALL ARE WELCOME



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

Holy Week
at Christ Congregational, UCC

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae service
with communion

Thursday, April 14, 2022
@ 7:00 PM

Good Friday

Service of remembrance for Jesus
around the Advent wreath

Friday, April 15, 2022
@ 7:00 PM

<https://brocktonucc.org/>



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH INVITES YOU



REDEEMED &
REJOICING

CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP WITH US IN
PERSON OR AT HOME ONLINE AS WE SING
ALLELUIA TO THE RISEN ONE

April 17, 2021
9:55am

1350 Pleasant Street
Brockton, MA

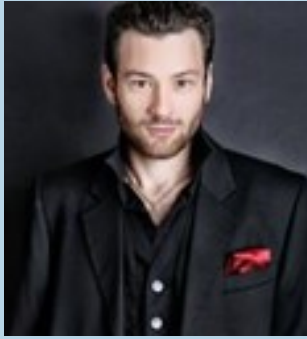
Visit www.brocktonucc.org for more details



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

FROM BOARD OF MUSIC

Welcome: Anton Faynberg



We are happy to announce that Anton Faynberg has been employed as our new organist/accompanist. A resident of Stoughton, MA, Anton is a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, and earned both M.M and D.M.A degrees from the University of Arizona, Tucson. Working as a private music instructor, tutor, composer and performer, he went on to complete a M.T.S. degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific/GTU in California in 2021.

As a performer, Anton (artist name: Anton Fine) also creates contemporary sacred music for contemplation and meditation. Using classical idioms and electronic textures, Anton weaves together sounds and words through improvisation.

In addition to working with the choir and providing music during worship, we are excited that Anton will present a program for Midday Music on May 11th.

Please greet Anton and give him a warm welcome to Christ Congregational Church!

Celebrate Earth Day during April:

Come to church on Sunday April 24th and enjoy a special worship service featuring the Just Peace Players presenting their drama, "Heal the Earth."



From Arts & Music Planning Circle:

Wednesday, May 11th at 12:15 pm – Midday Music, with Anton Faynberg, pianist

SAVE THE DATE: Family Concert on *October 2nd at 1 pm.*

Peter and the Wolf, with Nicole Marrane, organist, with percussionist and narrator.

Please speak to Donna Costa, Audrey Jones or Candy Savage with your suggestions or email to boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org

The next **Board of Music Meeting** will be on Sunday, April 24th following worship.

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



MINISTRIES SUPPORT TASK FORCE

2022 Lenten Friday Take-Out Dinners

It's the Last Week – It's been fun and Hopefully Helpful and Yummy as Well

Thanks for all the support and feedback we have had during the last 5 weeks!! Reviews have confirmed - one less to-do Friday night; no cooking, a varied menu and even some leftovers for another enjoyable meal. We have heard that the meals have also fostered community spirit and family gatherings.

The remaining Friday, April 8th, in Lent, Christ Congregational Church (CCC) is selling dinners for pick-up, swing by the CCC church kitchen between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. for a fully prepared, delicious meal.

Lenten Friday Weekly Dinner for April 8th:

Shepherd's Pie - Order/Pay by noon Wednesday April 6th for Friday April 8th

Description: Hamburger, Potatoes, corn, cheddar cheese Gluten-Free

Also Available for Purchase are:

- **Macaroni and Cheese**
- **Dessert**

Orders from the general public were welcome for our Pick-Up Lenten Friday Dinners – maybe next time your positive comments will entice others to order as well.



NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Are you interested in joining a committee or volunteering in some wonderful way? Please give some prayerful thought to how you might best contribute to our beloved community and reach out to the Leadership Development Team.

Barry Shelley (Chair), Lisa Sparling, Matt Howard and Deana Colby

Description Of Boards

Board of Deacons - Responsible for the preparation of the Sacraments; the visitation of newcomers, the sick, the shut-ins, and the members of the congregation; the preparation of the Sanctuary for services of worship; overseeing the church membership rolls, and the promotion of the spiritual life among the members of the congregation.

Board of Finance and Property - Responsible for the financial affairs and property of the church.

Board of Missions - Responsible for the supervision of the Christian outreach and mission programs of the church.

Board of Christian Education - Responsible for planning and overseeing faith formation programs that help people of all ages grow into disciples of Christ.

Board of Music - Responsible for the music program of the church.

Board of Stewardship - Responsible for planning and conducting the annual stewardship drive and will plan and conduct a year-round continuous education and outreach program on stewardship to the members of the church.

Board of Vitality - Responsible for emphasizing fellowship opportunities, church growth, inclusion, greeting and welcoming newcomers to the church and promoting the mission and work of the church to the surrounding communities.

Endowment Trustees - Responsible for all the invested funds of the church and overseeing Rockland Trusts management of said funds. In charge of the planned giving campaign design and execution with stewardship. Steward of the individually named funds to honor donor requests and compliance of the monies being used.



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Kim Cords, Adam Morales, Ryan Cinelli, Isabel Cinelli, Jeffrey Illsley Jr, Calei Nocivelli, Chris Satcher, Lataisha McNary, Thomas Fisher, Fred Hayes, Amanda Davis Maksy, Adriano Swisher-Rosa, Anna Thomas, Lexy Mitchell, Katrina Clinton, Tamra Fisher, Debbie Bowman, Benjamin Loftus, Sheppo Fisher, Dani Kardisco

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



We pray for the families of Ruth Poole, Jean Macleod, Nancy Wentzell and William Lufkin (husband of Dorothy), may they rest in peace.

FOOD PANTRY

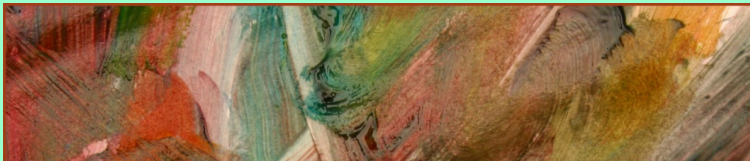
If your own cupboard is bare, please remember you are ALWAYS welcome to help yourself to the food pantry.

We also thank you for all your generous contributions. Please make sure you check the expiration dates before donating.

Thank you for helping one another.



Vitality Event



Second Saturday Fellowship

PAINT NIGHT

Saturday, April 9
5-7pm

Light Snacks and materials provided

Register for participation in the link found in the Nearly Weekly or call the Church Office by April 6.



Join us for a fun filled Paint Night on April 9th as the next installment of Second Saturday Fellowship. Light snacks, materials, and instruction will be provided. Due to the nature of the event, advance registration is strongly encouraged via [THIS LINK](#) or calling the church office by Wednesday April 6th. Suggested ages of 8 and up.

ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & Crafts

Meets the 2nd Tuesday (On zoom for now)
From 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Come Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint, crafts, etc.

Or just come for the fellowship!!
(call or email office for zoom link)



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

EGG HUNT

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 10TH - 11:00 AM

(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP)

IN THE PLAYGROUND AREA

SPONSORED BY
THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION





The Mission Board has been quite busy this month. With a few projects to mention to show all what we have been doing:

We participated in the March 13 event after Church to show what each Board does for the Church and Community. Each explained their roles and if anyone is interested in being part of the greater Church, now is the time to ask to be a member of whatever board you are interested in helping.

We cleaned out the Food Pantry and donating all the food to The Charity Guild of Brockton on Main Street. We didn't want the food to go past the "Use By Date". Thank you for your food donations!

Returned bottles and cans are making a difference as the last count sent in for recycling was over 500 cans and bottles! This was the most ever! Thank you. The funds go for the children's programs.

Sunday March 27, 100 bag lunches were made up by: The Sunday School Class! Amazing job of making up each bag with a sandwich, one orange, a cookie, two napkins and a bag of potato chips. Turkey and Cheese, Tuna and Peanut Butter and Jelly were the sandwiches. These were brought to Boston Common for the "Common Cathedral" by Beth McIntyre Mission Chair, Brenda Wyss, and Rev. Ann Marie Illsley. They handed out these lunches to those in need.

The OGHS One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes were handed out before the service on March 27 and the tally will be reported in the next Courier. Thank everyone for making a donation to help others!

Only two more donations for this year...they are May for Mother's Day Blankets and June, Father's Day garden tools. We will have envelopes for each of these at that time.

That's it folks!
George Manoogian
Mission Scribe



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!



STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure



Happy Spring (although it does not feel like it today) from your Stewardship committee! We hope you are doing wonderful, as we think about the rebirth of the flowers and the greening of the trees in the warming air.

As we currently enjoy the benefits of the (as of now anyway) waning pandemic, we have made tremendous strides in our pledge drive. Currently we are at just about 90% of the way to our goal. The more we can pledge, the less reliant we will be on our invested funds.

If you have already turned in your pledge, thank you!

If you have not turned in your pledge yet, thank you for prayerfully thinking about pledging to the Church and its missions.

As always, if you ever have any questions feel free to reach out to us at any time.

Your Stewardship committee:

Matt Howard, Jillian Larson, Kate Howard

Beloved Community Connections

The past two years have been a challenge, and we know some of our members have struggled with the loss of connections between us. We will be setting up a private Facebook page called **Beloved Community Connections**, to connect those who need support with those who wish to reach out for contact. We will also be setting up some type of 'bulletin board' system where members can post specific needs or offerings, so that we can strengthen our connections and help rebuild some of the fellowship that we have lost during the pandemic. The requests can be posted without identification if desired, to protect the privacy of those in need.

Some examples of needs and offerings:

- Small sofa needed for downsizing member
- Monthly coffee/tea/conversation visits available
- Weekly ride to Sunday Worship needed
- Children's clothing sizes 4-7 available, mostly boys clothes
- Meals needed for housebound member recovering from surgery
- Member available to run local errands once a month

These are only some examples of ways we are able to support each other in our Beloved Community. Please watch your mid-week Nearly Weekly email for more information, or contact the church office.



Celebrating 20 Years With The Quilt Guild



Sharron MacMullen shows a child's car quilt. She stitches every quilt by hand.

We celebrated 20 years of guild last month with cake and show and tell. Three of the founding members still attend meetings, they are Nelda Hayes, Sharron MacMullen, and Linda Alvilhiera.

It is **back to work** at the April meeting on Tuesday, the 19th from 1-3 pm in Fellowship hall. We have blocks for 2 lap quilts to arrange and 1 lap quilt to layer. Individual projects are always welcome. New Christmas fabric was added to our stash and needs a home. Guild members and church family are welcome to look through our stash and take what they like. Please contact Nelda or Janet to arrange this.

If you have questions or need a ride please call Nelda @ 508-238-6004 or Janet @ 508-583-0505. Everyone is welcome at the quilt guild meetings whether you attend frequently or seldom. Hope to see you in April.



Our lovely ladies Nelda and Sharron are still smiling after being in the quilt guild for twenty years.



Kristina Blanchard shows a child's Mystery quilt. Above: different mystery items in each block. To the right: the backside of the quilt is a fun play mat for the child to enjoy.



Keith is one of the newest members of the quilt guild. He shows his very first project with a Christmas runner. Beautiful!





COMMON THREADS
QUILT GUILD



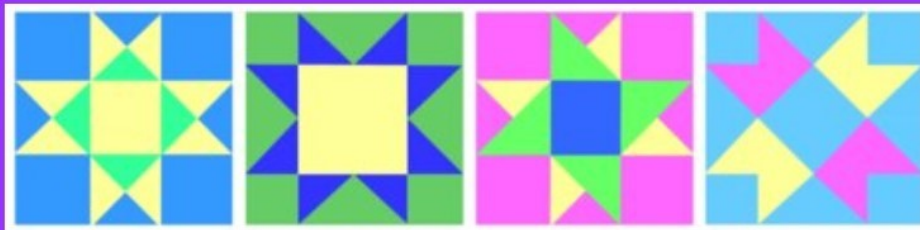
Carol Bradford shows this Holiday quilt.



Here is a close-up of the intricate details of her Holiday quilt.



Janet Eckstrom shows this sign language quilt she made for David Wilcox.



Here is a quilt that Kristina Blanchard made for her new daughter-in-law.



The backside of the quilt has a lot of pizzazz if she wants to reverse it.



This hand sewn quilt basket was done by Sharron MacMullen.

\$\$\$ SAVE THE DATE \$\$\$
Planned Giving Workshop
Saturday 5/21 at 10 am to noon
Zoom and In Person

- Planned Giving Workshop will educate you on various finances, planned giving and how it relates to your faith. It will be both on zoom and in person. Watch for the near weekly email for sign-ups or the next courier.
- What is a planned gift? It is a gift that you plan to give after your death to the church or other charitable entity. A planned gift can involve your assets like stocks, IRAs, or life insurance. Some members of Christ Church have left named the church in their will or estate.
- We will give more information the entire month of May on the many facets of Planned Giving.

Any questions, please reach out to Deb Bowman Chair of Endowment Trustees at deb@act-cpa.com or members of the Endowment Committee: Audrey Jones, Adam Mitchell and Bill Serjak.

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.

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