



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

Volume 42 No. 5

Be The Church

May 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: May 11, 5:30PM  
Council: May 19, 7PM  
Deacons: May 5, 7PM  
Finance/Property: May 12, 7PM  
Media/Tech: May 17, 7PM  
Missions: May 3, 7PM  
Music: May 15, 11:15AM  
Vitality: May 1, 11:15AM

### PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of May, still feeling the glow of Easter resurrection, I'd like to share with you about some work I've been doing with Deb Bowman and other members of our Stewardship and Trustees committees. For the month of May we'd like to invite you to join us in *Planned Giving Month* – a month dedicated to sharing the benefits of planning a financial gift to the church as part of your estate plans, or by giving in other less traditional ways than a weekly envelope or electronic offering. This is part of a new shift where we will focus on stewardship in the fall, as we always have – but then we can also focus on planned giving each spring.

Most of you know why stewardship is important – because our stewardship campaign each year helps us to set our operating budget. With planned giving, the goals are longer term. Our church has invested funds that earn interest from year to year with the goal of steady, continual, growth. Our Trustees manage those funds with Rockland Trust and they are always looking for opportunities to shore up those funds as a foundation to our future. Throughout Planned Giving Month you will hear stories from others who have given, and planned to give, in this way – and the Trustees would also like to invite you to a planned giving workshop on May 21<sup>st</sup> where we will have a scripture study on some of what the Bible has to say about money, as well as workshops on questions folks might have about wills and estate planning. Be on the lookout for more details in the weeks ahead!

Being resurrection people is about keeping our eyes to the future and helping to cultivate the garden now, not necessarily so that we ourselves will benefit – but so that we might build something that lasts in sharing the good news of God's eternal love.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



# MAY

## 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

#### May 1st

Class will remain in worship. Activities and focus devices will be available in the Youth Prayground.

#### May 8th

Monthly compassion bible story class in the the wing following the Time For All Ages.

#### May 15th

Communion Education class #1 (second class will happen the first week of June).

#### May 22nd

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

#### May 29th

Class will remain in worship. Activities and focus devices will be available in the Youth Prayground.

## Y O U T H G R O U P

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

#### Friday, May 20th - 6pm to 8:30 PM

The Mac & Cheese Off has been rescheduled for May, which means there's still time to compete for the Golden Noodle!!

## K / 1 C L A S S

### KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE

After doing a wonderful job on Palm Sunday (see the next page for photos!) and completing Communion Education, the K/1 class is returning to their regular weekly classes on Bible Story Basics for the rest of the spring.

They'll be learning about the time after the resurrection these coming weeks - Jesus appearing to the disciples and the apostles journeys.

## 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

Confirmation will have their final meetings before the summer in May and will then resume in the fall. After learning about church history, the class will be turning to focus on the faithful response to pain in the world.

May 15 - Faith in Action

May 22 - Attend Annual Meeting  
Class to follow

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.



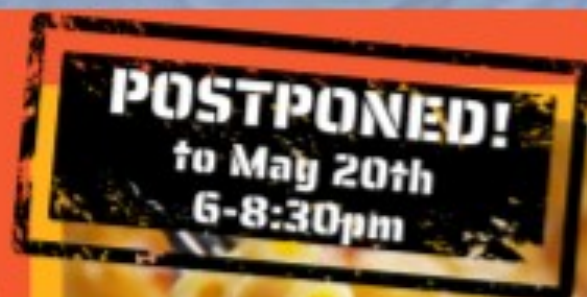


CCC YOUTH GROUP  
**MAC &  
 CHEESE  
 OFF!**

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



### Communion Education

The K/1 class shared their learnings from Communion education with the congregation and then celebrated communion together!

(photo credit: Cara Harrigan)

### 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.**

### Camperships are available!

Camperships are available for young folks or families interested in going to religious camps this summer. **The deadline for applying is May 10th, 2022.** Please see Pastor Ann-Marie or a member of the Christian Education Board for more information. Many of our young folks have attended Silver Lake Camp in CT.

You can learn more about their summer programs at:

[www.silverlakect.org/summercamp](http://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp)





## NOTES FROM MURRAY

Alleluia! Alleluia! What a season! My thanks to all of those who took part in the music at Easter and the Lenten Season! Lisa Sparling did such an amazing job with the Youth Choir on Easter morning!! Thank you to the Chancel Ringers! Most of all, a HUGE thank you to those "unsung" heroes in the choir. They show up twice per week and learn and refine music for our worship services. This church is SO lucky to have such a group of musicians who dedicate so much of their time and effort to the worship life of this church! If you see a choir member, give them a fist bump or a wave or a thumbs up or more! They are AMAZING. The Maundy Thursday service was exquisitely sung! And, the Easter service (it is in two days from this writing) was too!

We have thoroughly enjoyed hearing the playing of our new pianist/organist, Anton Faynberg. His accompanying of the choir, preludes and postludes have been wonderful additions to our services! A great big thank you (again) to the Search and Music Committee!

Summer services are getting close! While the choir is on summer hiatus, we have solos and small ensembles from the congregation members. If you have a song you would like to sing or an

instrument you can play, contact Murray at [music@brocktonucc.org](mailto:music@brocktonucc.org) The summer services begin after Father's Day and go through Labor Day.

Choir members needed! If you have a desire to sing and want to join a special group of people (see above), please make your presence known! We would love to have you with the group or the Chancel Ringers or the Youth Choir or the Covenant Ringers!

Here is a lovely and challenging recording of [Friede auf Erden](#) (Peace on Earth) by Arnold Schoenberg. It is quite dissonant, but give it a chance and I think you find it moving.

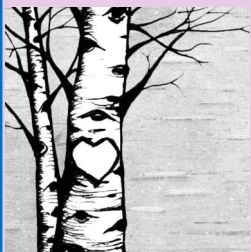
Happy Eastertide!  
Murray

4/22/22

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the gorgeous lily. It surely graced my Easter Sunday!

I'm ever grateful for the thoughtfulness of my church family.



Sincerely,  
Ricky Soncrant



Apr. 22, 2022

Christ Church,

Thank you for the beautiful Easter plant. It helps to make the season more meaningful.

Anna Thomas

Dear Deacons,

Many thanks for the lovely Easter tulips sent to me from the church.

I think of everybody often. I watch online every Sunday.

As ever,

Gini Hathaway



# FROM BOARD OF MUSIC

## Christ is Risen, Indeed! Happy Eastertide!



It was wonderful to have an in-person, festive service for Easter, that included wonderful music by the Chancel and Children's choirs, Bell group, piano by Anton Faynberg and guest musicians, Richard Spicer and Molly Goodale. Thanks to Music Director, Murray Kidd and children's choir director, Lisa Sparling.

## From Arts & Music Planning Circle:

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm:** Midday Music: "Reimagining Brahms" with Anton Fine (Faynberg), performing

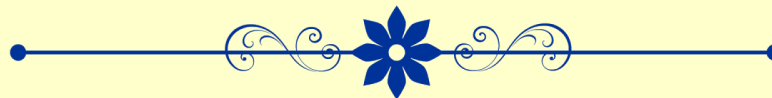
**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm:** "Judy Saves the Day" Puppet Show, in collaboration with Board of Christian Education, presented by the Puppet Showplace of Brookline.



**SAVE THE DATE:** Family Concert on **October 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org)



The next **Board of Music Meeting** will be on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> following worship.

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



4/19/22

Thank you so much for the lovely tulips. I love this time of year when all the flowers and trees bloom. It gives me hope that all is well.

Sincerely,  
Linda Alvilhiera

Thank you so much for the beautiful tulip plant on Easter Sunday.

I've planted it on my husbands grave.

Blessings to all,

Ruth Copeland



To Jeff Illsley/Board of Deacons,

We just want to thank you for the beautiful flowers (tulips) that we received on Easter day. We will be planting them so they will come up again next spring.

Thanks again,

Steve & Carolyn Bennett



# A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRIES SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Thank you to all who participated in our Friday Lenten Meals fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed the meals, and found them to be a good value as well as a timesaver. A special thanks to our chefs- David Wilcox, Sheppo and Thomas Fisher, Donna Costa and Sue Koza. Their delicious creations provided a total of 93 dinner orders, large and small. With your support, we earned \$2900 toward our general budget. Thanks so much!!



## CHURCH GARDENS - MAY 2022

Hello Beloved Community,

Our garden is doing well. More pollinator plants will be planted in May, daylilies and others will have to be thinned, weeds pulled and mulch spread. During the summer, watering, dead heading and tidying up are needed, cutting back in the fall and **I need your help**. Darlene and I cannot do this (even with Thomas' help) by ourselves. If church members could offer their time once or once every 2 weeks it would be so helpful. Please leave your name and phone # or e-mail at the church office, call me directly; Janet Eckstrom @ 508-583-0505 or [swordfish627@comcast.net](mailto:swordfish627@comcast.net) or there is a sign up sheet on the information counter for anyone who is able to lend a hand.

Thank you.

**Since plants have to be**



**thinned, Janet was going to bag up thinned plants for people to take home to their garden. She could have them ready for Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>. They would be in plastic grocery bags and labelled. Otherwise these thinnings go in the mulch pile. Please let Janet know if you are interested.**



The Missions Board has been reviewing the agencies that we donate to and checking to see that they are still in business. The Pandemic might have caused some to close shop and we do not want to send checks to a closed agency. So far only one has closed.

With new Missions members coming on board in July we want to make sure everything is in great shape for them to carry on the tradition of helping others that are in need of help.

Thank everyone for their support of the many Mission projects!

George Manoogian, Mission's Scribe



## A NOTE FROM VITALITY

Happy Spring! April's Second Saturday Fellowship: Paint Night was a huge success. It was an evening of stretching creative muscles, laughing with friends, and sharing in a lovely experience. If you missed out on this one, don't worry! There's sure to be another in the fall. Mark your calendars now: **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** for a Game Night and **Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** for an Outdoor Movie Night. Details can be found in your Nearly Weekly emails or the church bulletin.



# Celebrate May Birthdays



## Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

James Ferguson, Connor Nocivelli, Sharon Silvernail, Nancy Simonis, Sandra Alden, Sue Koza, Harriet Dunklee, Richard Calvin, Nora Deyoe, Darlene Gilson, Mickey Carey, Janet Hodnett, Nathan Herget, Beth Eaton, Linda Sampson, Mary Baker, Keith Allen, Gregory Davis, Bob Cutting, Kathy North, Andrew Eckstrom, Gini Hathaway, Levi Swisher-Rosa, Alice Farnsworth, Sharon Quesnel, Helen Nocivelli-Camara, Salomè Kaptimer, Michelle Young-Ferguson

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

## Vitality Event

SECOND SATURDAY  
FELLOWSHIP

# GAME NIGHT

Saturday May 7  
5-7pm

Dinner will be served  
Gluten Free options available



We pray for the family of Robert F. Sheppard (father of Sheppó Fisher), may he rest in peace.



Fun & Creative  
Indoor & Outdoor  
Activities for Kids  
Grades 2-6



# KIDS SUMMER CAMP

**JULY 5 - JULY 29  
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

at Rose Conservatory  
From 8:00am - 2:00pm  
1350 Pleasant Street Brockton

## ACTIVITIES

Storytelling  
Arts & Crafts  
Fun Games  
Tie Die  
Sports  
Music & Dance  
Pool Party  
And a Lot More...

**REGISTER BY  
EMAIL**

SPACE IS  
LIMITED

\$200 PER  
WEEK

[WWW.ROSECONSERVATORY.COM](http://WWW.ROSECONSERVATORY.COM)

[ROSECONSERVATORY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ROSECONSERVATORY@GMAIL.COM)

## LOVE THY NEIGHBOR



**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

A Christian ministry of loving service and education

# Pop Your Trunk Drive

**Saturday May 14th • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Theme: Baby Products and Cleaning Supplies**

My Brother's Keeper is hosting a Pop Your Trunk Collection Drive focusing on Baby products and cleaning items that will be delivered to local families in need.

### Locations:

**My Brother's Keeper  
Easton Facility**  
534 Washington Street  
South Easton

**My Brother's Keeper  
Dartmouth Facility**  
1015 Reed Road  
Dartmouth

For more information please visit:  
[www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/pop-your-trunk](http://www.MyBrothersKeeper.org/pop-your-trunk)





The next quilt guild meeting is Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm in Fellowship hall.



Keith Allen is making this lovely star quilt for his mom.



A close up of a lap quilt Janet Eckstrom is working on.



This "Solar Flare" quilt pattern is all quilted up and done by Janet Eckstrom.



Sharron MacMullen and Dee Hayes are basting the newest lap quilt at our April meeting.



A lot of hand sewing was done on this table runner that Nelda Hayes created.





## 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.



**\$\$\$ 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 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](mailto: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](http://brocktonucc.org)  
Email: [office@brocktonucc.org](mailto: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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