



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

Volume 42 No. 9

Be The Church

September 2022

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely and On-Site
Sundays, 9:55AM
(Music starts at 9:50AM)

Regular: Remotely

Adult Choir:
Wednesdays, 6:45PM
Adult Hand Bells:
Wednesdays, 6PM
Bible Study: Zoom
Wednesdays, 10AM
Craft Group
Tuesdays, 9:30AM
Fiber Fellowship: Zoom
2nd Tuesday, 3:30PM
Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Sept. 13, 6:30PM
Council: Sept. 22, 7PM
Deacons: Sept. 1, 7PM
Finance/Property: Sept. 15, 7PM
Media/Tech: Sept. 20, 7PM
Missions: Sept. 14, 7PM
Music: Sept. 22, 7PM
Vitality: Sept. 4, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

With our friends from Stoughton getting ready to join us for worship on September 25th I wanted to use my space in this month's Courier to piggy back off of what Sue Koza shared for her moderator's article. The resource she shared articulated the grief our friends will be experiencing very clearly and concisely, please take a moment to read it if you haven't already.

I've always found that walking with people who are grieving is made somewhat easier if I have a playbook going into the experience – a framework of actual, tangible, things that I *know* I can do – because what makes counseling grief so difficult is how unpredictable and varied the process can be, as well as our own feelings of helplessness. So, as we prepare to welcome our friends I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few concrete things that most anyone in our congregation will be able to do!

1. **Wear your name tag for the entire month of October!** This comes directly from the folks in Stoughton as part of our steering team conversations. Name tags also take away the pressure of having to ask, and having to remember, so many names in a new place.
2. **Help them to connect by introducing yourself and then introducing others.** It can be easy to be lulled into thinking that everyone at church knows everyone else, and that everyone at church knows how things run around here, but we are a lively and diverse congregation! Extend low pressure, low commitment, invitations like getting coffee or sitting together at Fellowship Hour and use those opportunities to establish friendship first.
3. **Don't try to talk them out of their feelings.** It can be uncomfortable (for anyone) to walk with another in grief, and often times that leads us to avoid the discomfort by either trying to comfort someone who isn't ready to be comforted or by trying to talk them into seeing things in a more positive way. One way to show the folks from Stoughton how much we love them is to simply listen when they talk, even if they're speaking from their grief.
4. **It's also important to remember that grief can't be "fixed".** Grief lasts a lifetime, our relief from it comes as the pain of it dulls and we learn to live life in a new way. We won't be able to "fix" what hurts and that's OK.
5. **DON'T say "I understand".** There are few of us who will be able to understand what our friends are going through – unless we've been through the closure of a church we attended for our whole life it's fair to say we won't even remotely begin to understand. But what should we say instead? A few phrases I find helpful as substitutes are: "I *imagine* that must be..." "It *sounds* like that experience..." "Could you tell me more about...". What these phrases all have in common is that they revert back to the other person's experience, which helps us to not put ourselves in the center of someone else's experience.
6. **Be yourselves!** Nothing is more refreshing to someone who is in grief than being supported by people keeping things "normal". The steps before this one are important, but being your authentic self to someone who is grieving establishes trust and connection – and you can't do much with these other steps without those!

I trust that everyone at Christ Congregational will lead with love as we welcome our friends from Stoughton, and I'm excited to hear all of the stories of budding friendships and connections being made upon my return from parental leave. God has blessed this congregation with a moving Spirit, and people to be *moved by it*.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Jeff



FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

This year, we'll be continuing our updated model of Sunday School with a few adjustments based on feedback we received from parents and youth. You can read more about our programs below and as always, please feel free to reach out with any questions!

M I D D L E R S

3RD - 7TH GRADE

This class will follow a non-traditional schedule that seeks to balance bible story lessons with exposure to our worship services with spiritual practices and justice projects that put faith into action.

WEEK 1 - COMMUNION SUNDAY

The class will remain in worship this week for an intergenerational service with opportunities for participation and even worship creation.

WEEK 2 - SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The class will begin in worship, then head to the wing to explore a spiritual practice.

WEEK 3 - JUSTICE PROJECT

The class will begin in worship, then head to the wing to participate in a justice project.

WEEK 4 - BIBLE STORY

The class will begin in worship, then head to the wing to learn about a bible story that will be featured in worship the following week. There will also be an opportunity to sign up to participate in worship the following week.

K - 2 C L A S S

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

With a curriculum focused on exploring bible stories through the lens of spiritual practice and wonder, the K-2 Class is a great space for children who are beginning to learn more about God and faith. This class meets weekly, with students present in worship for part of the service.

N U R S E R Y

INFANTS - PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Overseen by childcare professional, Tammy Blackler, the nursery is a safe and caring space for our youngest kiddos. Children visiting the nursery can look forward to playtime, bible stories and fun crafts and activities led by Tammy and an additional volunteers. Nursery care is available on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:45am.

C O N F I R M A T I O N

8TH GRADE AND UP

Confirmation is an opportunity for youth to affirm the vows made at their baptism and to become full members of the congregation. This class, led by Pastors Jeff and Ann-Marie, provides an opportunity for youth to explore and ask questions about their faith as they prepare to be confirmed.

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.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER



RALLY DAY WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 11TH

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF!

BACKPACK BLESSING!

ROLL-A-THON FUNDRAISER!

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

ROLL-A-THON FUNDRAISER!



SEPTEMBER 11TH

TO PARTICIPATE:

11:30-12:00

Walk, ride, or roll your way around the church as many times as you can in 30 minutes! All ages are welcome to join. You can also join in by sponsoring a rider (or all riders) with a donation to the church scholarship fund or by cheering the rollers on!

ALL DONATIONS WILL SUPPORT CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS!



Splash Sundays!

With an epic water balloon fight and a fun afternoon of slip n' sliding, Splash Sundays were a whole lot of fun this summer! Thanks to Rose Conservatory for loaning us their slide!



Play-Filled Parables VBS
VBS was a blast this year, with delicious dinners, interesting parables and fun activities for all!





A Shower for Baby Kardisco!
Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the new addition to the Kardisco family who will be joining us soon!



VBS Preview Sunday!
On Sunday, August 14th during worship we learned about the parable that Jesus told about a party and who got invited. Then we all explored the story at different VBS stations!





NOTES FROM MURRAY

Summer has been a welcome time for many this year. I have seen many in my travels who have expressed gratitude for the warmer weather and (somewhat) less pressure that we might feel in the winter months. While I was studying at Oxford this summer, many colleagues were visibly exhausted (and not just from jet lag) when they showed up, as this past year seemed to be even busier and stressful than before the pandemic, if that is even possible. When we left, however, we were energized and uplifted in a way none of us expected. It was an enriching time of collaboration, study, peaceful study, and recharging batteries. I am so grateful for Christ Congregational Church for the scholarship to study in this way!

Music Retreat

Saturday, Sept. 10, 10:00-3:00pm
Christ Congregational Church

Who: All those who are interested in music at Christ Church. No experience necessary!

- Ages 6 through 96(ish)
- Instrumental or vocal (we have it all!)

While we are enriched by music every Sunday, this retreat doesn't mean you need to commit to every single week in order to participate in the music program. We have weekly (adult choir) and other activities that happen periodically or seasonally.

The goal of this retreat is to explore all of the areas in which we can worship musically and artistically at Christ Congregational Church. Everyone and anyone can participate! We have something for you.

Here is the schedule (subject to change):

- 9:30-10:00 Arrival and refreshments (fellowship hall)
- 10:00 Full group greeting and prayer (sanctuary)
- 10:15 Fun time with music!!! Youth and Adult (various locations)
- 12:00 break for snacks/lunch (youth and instrumentalists are done for the day, but can stay for lunch) (fellowship hall)
- 12:45 Choir continues until 2:00pm (sanctuary)

Goals of the day:

Get acquainted with each other again and meet new people (Fellowship!)

Explore musical opportunities at Christ Congregational Church

- **Choir** (intergenerational, adult, and youth)
- **Handbells** (all ages and levels)
- **Orff Instruments** (Youth and Adult)
- **Praise Band** (guitars, basses, drums and/or percussion, any and all other instruments, too!)

On Saturday morning, refreshments, coffee, and juice will be provided. For lunch, the church will provide drinks, but please bring your own bag lunch to help keep things simple. If you are youth and/or not in the adult choir, you can leave at noon or stay for lunch. The adult choir will continue until 2:00 to prepare for Sunday morning.

Part of the day will be spent learning a short, fun song with everyone (young through young-at-heart) and we will sing as part of the service the next day, Sunday, Sept. 11th.

We will need to meet at church on **Sunday at 9:20 for run-through** of the music, but it will be easy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Murray at murray_kidd@hotmail.com

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

WELCOME BACK CHOIR AND MUSIC PROGRAM:

WE WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM RETREAT ON SEPTMEBER 10th. ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART OR LEARNING MORE, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.



ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH PRESENTS A FAMILY CONCERT

COME AND ENJOY THIS FREE CONCERT ON OCTOBER 2nd, SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AGE 4 AND OLDER, WITH CHILD CARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUNGER ONES. INVITE FRIENDS, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, MUSIC STUDENTS – IT WILL BE A FUN TIME.

The Southeastern MA Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists, and
ARTS & MUSIC at CHRIST CHURCH Present

A Family Concert: Peter and the Wolf

Sunday October 2 at 1 pm

With Nicole Marane, Pipe Organ;
Hope Vazquez, Percussion; and
Matt Cunningham, Narrator



FREE

**DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

CHILD
CARE
AVAILABLE
FOR AGES
INFANT TO
4 YEARS
OLD

With support from the
Brockton, Easton and Stoughton

Cultural Councils



SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY THE ORGELKIDS ORGAN KIT

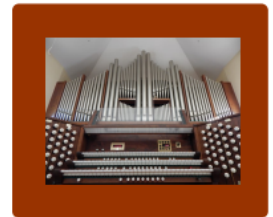
Come and help build a small working model of a pipe organ
before the concert

At Christ Congregational Church
1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton
508-586-3022

E-mail: boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org

•All parking in rear of building

•Handicapped Accessible



Christ Congregational
Church, UCC

SAVE THE DATE

**ARTISAN'S, VENDORS AND
YARD SALERS**

Saturday, September 24th 2022

9am - 1pm

(Rain Date October 1st)

Rent your own table:

\$15 Church Members - \$25 Outside Vendors

Or donate for the church to sell

Volunteers Needed!

Call the office to sign up (see info counter)

or for more info

(508)586-3022



CCC Fall Fair – Good Things Come in Threes



We have heard from many members and friends of our beloved CCC, we are encouraged and blessed: Let's have another safe and enjoyable Fall Fair Trilogy!

- **First**, we will hold an outdoor Attic Treasures Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 24th** with a rain date of October 1st. We have begun accepting your donations and are ready for more with appointments through the office. Hopefully it will be a crisp, sunny and beautiful fall morning. We are encouraging Vendors and table rentals for this event.
 - ◊ Spaces are \$15 for church family and \$25 for vendors
- **Next** we are holding a Mini-Fair event on **Saturday, November 5th** from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. if there is lunch. We expect to be able to support about 6 themed areas with at least one possibly under a tent.
 - ◊ Last Year the Mini-Fair Event was successful and included:
 - Take-Out & Treats
 - General Store including Crafts
 - Clothes Galore
 - Jewelry
 - Raffles & Furniture
 - Donation Tent and
 - Electronics
- **Third** is a Fair Calendar Raffle for December.



Attic Treasures and Fair donations are being gratefully accepted with appointment. We request that donated items be sent as soon as you are able. Please contribute items that are cleaned and in working order. Volunteers and time are limited, **only 4 weeks** until the Attic Treasures Yard Sale and only 9 weeks until the Fair. Based on the items received the Fair team can better determine what themed areas will be included for the Fair event.

Another significant consideration for our Fair is our shared space partnerships. We are proud of the growth and work of BIC, true Community Partners. And Rose Conservatory offers a wonderful music-filled after-school program. These active groups have required changes for our preparation work areas as well as the configuration of the Fair on November 5th



For the Fair Calendar Raffle we are hopeful members will reach out for business donations. Donations of \$25 gift cards for the calendar raffle have begun to arrive and are greatly appreciated.

Finally, we need to get the word out of each component of our Fall Fair Trilogy to our family, friends, friends of friends, and community. **Hold the Dates – Make CCC the place to be on September 24th and November 5th!** And don't forget your raffle tickets (on sale in November)!!

We cannot say Thank You enough for all the ways you participate and support the life of our Beloved Christ Congregational Church!!

Sheppó Email: sheppo247@gmail.com
Phone #/Text (508)631-1999

David Wilcox Email: darmok2@comcast.net
Phone #/Text. (617)590-1878

Church Office Email: office@brocktonucc.org Phone: (508)586-3022

Celebrating September Birthdays



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Jean Holmes, Carole Clark, Michele Silvernail, Chris Merkle, Renee Matthews, Lynne Mixner, Mason Silvernail - St. Martin, Donald Colby, Lorraine Wilcox, Pat Emanuel, Diane Landerholm, Jean Purificato, Lisa Landerhom-Burke, Alisabeth Burke, Cathy Campbell, Ann-Marie Illsley, Jean Capiello, Seth Creedon, Laurel Fisher, Tavi Swisher-Rosa, Jane MacIntyre

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



COMMITTEE



Missions is collecting 2023 calendars for the Brockton Veterans Hospital. The calendars seem to be mailed very early this year. 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.



We pray for the families of Henry Lawson (father of Leigh-Ann Larson), Sheila L. Klecha, Margaret Fuller (aunt of Sue Koza) and Shirley J. Bamford, may they rest in peace.



ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & Crafts

Meets the 2nd Tuesday
From 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Come Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint, crafts, etc.
Or just come for the fellowship!!
(call or email office for zoom link)

Please join us on September 13th (zoom) so we can have conversation about best times, how many times a month and on-site or zoom options.



The craft group meets every **Tuesday from 9:30 - 11:30am**. We are getting ready for the FAIR.

Please come join in on the fun and fellowship.

Would you like to lead a fun project? Please contact Carol Bradford or Lucille Berg.

YOU'RE INVITED!

TO:

Wednesday Bible Study

10:00 AM each Wednesday
On Zoom

For more details, or to get the Zoom link, contact:
Pastor Jeff - pastor@brocktonucc.org
Alice Farnsworth - grammy58@comcast.net





The guild will meet on Tuesday, September 20, from 1-3 pm in the craft/quilting room in the wing.

The husband and daughter of an Abington woman have donated her fabric stash to us and it's a beauty. We will sort through and organize the fabric at this meeting and you are welcome to take home all the fabric that strikes your fancy. Lots of Christmas fabric to choose from too.

We will work on a "I found a heart" project. We make and decorate hearts (cloth) and hang them in a public space for someone to find and brighten their day. Go to IFAQH.com for more information. I will make some for us to decorate. We have lace, ribbon and buttons. We can discuss this and see if we want to do it again or never again.

The quilt for Baby Boy Kardisco was given at the shower and Ivyn wrapped himself in it right away.

We have exceeded our promised 600 placemats for Brockton Meals on Wheels. There is still a need so keep sewing and leave them in the church office with David Wilcox's name on them. He will see that they get distributed.

See you at the Guild meeting. Call Nelda, 508-238-6004, or Janet, 508-583-0505 with questions.

Dear Christ Congregational Family,

Jeff, Ivyn, and I want to thank you for welcoming us so warmly and intentionally into community with you over the last two years. Even in the depths of Covid and online worship, you used social media channels to make me feel included and welcomed in our Beloved Community.

Second, thank you for our lovely shower on August 21. We were blown away by the generosity and love that day. A special thank you and big hug to those that helped plan, prepare, and execute a beautiful afternoon: Patricia Illsley, Jan Howard, Sue Koza, Ann-Marie Illsley, Kate Howard, Maryann Selman, and Lauren Kaptimer-Selman.

Most of all, thank you to everyone for your support, prayers, and love over the last 8 months since finding out about our second miracle boy, as well as your continued support as we venture into the next season as a family of four.

Many blessings and much peace,

Dani Kardisco



Two lovely frogs crocheted by Carol Bradford for the Kardisco boys



CHECK OUT OUR BUILDING PARTNERS

brocktoninterfaith.org
&
roseconservatory.com



On Facebook too!

Hello Ladies and Gentleman,

Finally I was able to deliver the NICU quilts to South Shore Hospital. COVID had them trapped in my sewing room for 2 ½ years. Caitlin O'Leary from SSH was thrilled to receive the **51 (yes, fifty one) quilts** we made. I told her we would keep sewing and I would call her again to make a donation.

The quilts should be all cotton with cotton batting with the size being 18" to 20" square. I or you can sew one of our labels on the back. Could be a summer project as they are quick to make. Thank you, Thank you for all you do.

Enjoy the summer and see you in September.

~Janet



Photo by Danna Costa



"The Craft group has been busy this summer getting ready for church fair. Here they are making unique snowpeople figurines. Join them any Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 am."

A Note From The Moderator

Here we are at the start of a new season, how exciting! Our Christian Education, Music programs and Fair preparations are ramping up; the busy work of our congregation is resuming (although it never really stops), and we are ready to welcome the newest member of our Pastor's family. We are also preparing to officially welcome our sisters and brothers from Stoughton First Congregational Church into our Beloved Community. The weaving of our congregations follows Christ Congregational Church's history of the melding of church families, which became one congregation from four, soon to be five.

In our eagerness to offer extravagant welcome, it is important that we also be mindful of honoring the grieving process of our newest family members. The decision to close the doors of a long-established church (founded in 1744) is difficult, and fraught with emotion. Recognizing the pain, as well as sharing our hopes and joys as we offer a sincere welcome, will provide space for our brothers and sisters to settle in as they blend into our congregation.

I recently received a mailing describing typical reactions to grief, feelings of:

Numbness	Acceptance	Anger
Confusion	Tearfulness	Being ready to move on
Disbelief	Relief	Focusing on the past
Calm	Emptiness	Gratitude

All of these reactions are normal and part of the adjustment process. As a congregation, we offer our loving support during this transition time. We can reach out and offer our sisters and brothers a safe and healthy place to share their emotions, a place to cry- and to laugh; a place of patience and reassurance as we work together to establish new relationships and routines. The legacy of Stoughton First Congregational church will be woven into our rich history, and our vital work of sharing Christ's missions of faith, fellowship and justice will persist, strengthened by love.

In Faith, Sue Koza, Moderator

UPDATE FROM YOUR BOARD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Hello there! Hope you have been able to enjoy some of the summer season.

Our CCC Boards began new terms July 1st. F and P has started at a reasonable pace meeting our several responsibilities. We have a great team to get the job done and I am very thankful for everyone's participation. As our title says we manage finances and property.

For Finance, at this time of year we are working with all the boards to:

- 1) get a status of our current 2022 budget, which 8 months into the year has a couple items needing tweaks, but no expense surprises;
- 2) build a 2023 budget that meets the priorities of our beloved community, to be presented to the Congregation at our November Meeting.

Now is the best time to hear from you on any thoughts, ideas, or questions you may have regarding the budget or specific line items. You can reach out either through a board you are a part of or directly to F and P. You can reach out to myself, one of our members or send an email to our Board mailbox at FandP@brocktonucc.org. By September 15th is appreciated.

Our significant fundraising plans are underway. Your time and talents are needed to reach the goals set in the 2022 budget voted by the Congregation. Help as much as you are able to make the Yard Sale, Saturday, September 24th; the Fair, November 5th and the Calendar Raffle, tickets will go on sale at the Fair, a Success!

On the Property side, we have been fortunate to have board members through the years who monitor upkeep and routine maintenance of our church. Planned maintenance and/or improvements each year has kept our budget, and our building, in good shape. We intend to practice that model as well.

Media Tech is a sub-committee of our Board. These folks support our Sunday and special service online presence. While many are welcoming the return to in-person worship, we are thrilled to share our message and community support to those at a distance when they need us. If you or someone you know wants to help once a month or once a quarter, please let us know FandP@brocktonucc.org

F and P Members: Sheppó Fisher, Chair, Bill Serjak, Vice Chair, Karl Koza, Secretary, Alice Farnsworth, Ian Penn, Paula Stevens and Tim MacIntyre

Hello from Vitality!



We're excited to bring back our 2nd. Saturday of the Month Activity. For the month of September, we will have a **Game Night!** This will be held on September 10th. from 5-7 pm and dinner will be served. **Fellowship Coffee Hour News...** We will be trying a new format for volunteers. We will have a white board that you can sign up for a Sunday. We are asking for a small commitment of 1-2 Sundays throughout the entire year. The more participation, the easier it is for everyone. Remember "many hands make light work". Thank you from your Vitality team: Elisha, Lorraine, Maryann & Michelle

Thanks,
Michelle

PLEASE JOIN US and HELP SUPPORT OUR CHURCH AND ITS MISSIONS!!!

Our success depends on Volunteers!!!!

Save the dates:

YARD SALE Saturday September 24th (Rain date Oct 1st). Items for donation to the Yard sale may be brought into the church. Also, you can rent a table to sell your own items, \$15 for members, \$25 for outside vendors.

MODIFIED FAIR Saturday November 5th. Please plan to help as much as you are able, we will need volunteers to sort ahead of the Fair, set up, work the day of the Fair, as well as breaking down and sorting/clearing/storing in the weeks following. Many hands make light work.

Also- NOW is the time to start collecting GIFT CARDS for our December Calendar Raffle! Please drop off gift cards at the church office.

A note about Fair donations- **PLEASE** be sure your donated items are clean and serviceable. In the past we have received broken or dirty items; torn or stained clothes, some covered in pet fur. These items cannot be used and must be discarded, creating more work for our volunteers. Thank you.

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.



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