



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

Volume 42 No. 12

Be The Church

December 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

Daytime Hand Bell Group  
Wednesdays, 3:15pm

Bible Study: Zoom  
Wednesdays, 10AM

Fiber Fellowship: Zoom  
2nd Tuesday, 6PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Wednesdays, 10AM

Quilt Guild:  
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



**Board Meetings: ZOOM**

Christian Ed: Dec. 8, 6:30PM

Council: Dec. 15, 7PM

Deacons: Dec. 1, 7PM - **On-Site**

Finance/Property: Dec. 8, 7PM

Media/Tech: Dec. 20, 7PM

Missions: Dec. 14, 7PM

Music: Dec. 1, 7PM

Vitality: Dec. 4, 11:15AM

### **PASTOR'S PAGE**

*"For Unto Us a Child Is Born,  
Unto Us a Son Is Given!"  
~ Isaiah 9:6*

Greetings Friends in Christ!

It is with profound joy and gratitude that I extend to you my prayers for a most holy and blessed Christmas! During this time of Advent, as we celebrate and anticipate the presence of Christ in our world and in our hearts, I urge us all to find the time in the busiest of seasons to stop and reflect on the gift that is our faith.

Our souls are naturally drawn to their Creator and 'tis the season of praise and adoration to the One who first loved us. It is for this reason that we gather together, now more than ever, to find the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love in this hungry, broken world.

Christmas is a time that brings church families together, and here at Christ Church, we have many opportunities to celebrate as a family. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome to our special Advent and Christmas celebrations. Come and find a renewed sense of unity and joy to carry you into a bright new year of fellowship with your family of faith. Let us come together and raise our hands, hearts, and voices as one family to God who brought us all together.

It would fill me with joy to worship with you! May God bless you, your families and loved ones this grace filled season.

Blessings!

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick



# DECEMBER 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

This past month the Middler class participated in intergenerational worship, made compassion kits for our unhoused neighbors and created Advent wreaths as an Advent spiritual practice.

#### **Dec. 4th - Intergenerational Worship**

We'll be exploring Mary's story this Sunday as we enter the second week of Advent.

#### **Dec. 11th - Spiritual Practice**

This week, the Middlers will revisit last month's spiritual practice of Advent wreaths and begin to explore labyrinths as a new practice.

#### **Dec. 18th - Pick-Up Christmas Pageant**

This year we'll retell the story of Jesus' birth together in an intergenerational pick-up Christmas pageant!

## Y O U T H   G R O U P

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

The Youth Group is a gathering for Middle and High Schoolers to grow in fellowship and faith!

## K - 2   C L A S S

### KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

Our K-2 class has been diving into our new Celebrate Wonder curriculum and learning about prophets from the Hebrew bible like Elisha, Isaiah and Jeremiah. In the coming weeks, they'll explore the stories and characters leading up to Jesus' birth.

## 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. Ms. Tammy combines free-play and a bible story and structured activity most weeks.

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

### 8TH GRADE AND UP

Confirmation meets after church from 11:30-1pm in the Youth Prayground with Pastor Ann-Marie.

**Dec. 4th - Faith In Action:**  
How We Can Help

**Dec. 18th - Faith In Action:**  
The Issue of Power

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.

**Parent's Night Out**  
A BIG thank you to everyone who made PNO a success and a whole lot of fun!



# Pick-UP Christmas Pageant!

Dec. 18th  
9:55am

Much like the original Christmas story, this year's Christmas Pageant will happen without rehearsal! Folks of all ages are invited to grab a costume (or a crown or beard) at the start of worship and join in fun of this congregation-wide retelling of Jesus' birth!



Both the Middler and K-2 classes tried out spiritual practices for Advent this year. The K-2 class made Advent Calendar chains with special activities on each chain and the Middler class made Advent wreaths to take home and light each week with their families. Advent wreath kits are still available for those interested!



## NOTES FROM MURRAY

Today (the day of this writing) is the day before Thanksgiving. Gratitude is in my heart. I am thankful for you, my church family. I am thankful for the blessings we continue to share in our beloved community. Throughout the life of the church, giving thanks has been documented in works of art, such as paintings, mosaics, sculptures, and music. One particular ritual that shows people bringing their gifts to God is the act of processing. People lined up, carrying their gifts to a central place, like an altar are depicted from the early days of the Church. For example, Ravenna, Italy houses several Byzantine baptistries with processions of varying sizes and with different groups of people; apostles, clergy, shepherds, royalty, and more. The procession is usually begun by the choir singing spiritual songs and raising their voices. The clergy follows, usually carrying a large Bible. The laity does not process but views this ritual from their area in the nave. The leaders of the service (choir/clergy/acolytes) are symbolic of all of us bringing our gifts to God. In short, the clergy does the processing so you don't have to! Coincidentally, we will have a baptism shortly after this gets published. Our baptismal font is octagonal like most - check it out and look at other fonts in other churches. This symbolizes the seven days of the week (creation) and the eighth side refers to the day of Christ's resurrection and eternal life. Curiously, the large, marble baptismal font in the narthex is circular - another symbolic shape - and has a very interesting plaque on it. Does anyone have information regarding the history of this baptismal font? Please reach out to me, if so. Please pardon my tangent!

Since the pandemic, the practice of processing at most churches, including CCC, has been put on hold due to health considerations. Since we are further along in the process of vaccinations and more is known of the virus, it felt time to bring this ritual back to our service. We began on the Solemnity of Christ Sunday and will continue for the foreseeable future. Why is it important to process, you may ask? We seemed to be doing just fine without it. The short answer is that this symbolizes from the first moments of the service that we bring all of ourselves to the worship, not only our bodies, hearts, and minds, but also our gifts; talents, time, treasure, etc. So far, the hymns sung during the processions have been traditional, but as you will see, there really are no firm boundaries for the type of music we can use. It is the hope that this is an uplifting and pivotal gathering point in our service. The choir is enjoying the resuming of this tradition!

Also, the adult choir would enjoy it if more singers joined in our procession and singing! As we heard this season in several parables, we are asked to give of our time, treasure, and/or TALENT. The choir is a very welcoming place to explore the giving of talent and we welcome anyone and everyone to join in. Especially, but not exclusively, we welcome anyone to join singing with our intrepid Leo Larson in the tenor section!

Sincerely,

Murray



# FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

## Daytime Bell Group meeting

Interested in playing handbells but can't make the evening rehearsal on Wednesdays? The daytime handbell group has begun meeting on **Wednesdays at 3:15 pm**, under the direction of Carol Bradford. See Carol with any questions or email to [boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org](mailto:boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org).

## Arts & Music at Christ Church

*Midday Music* on **December 14 at 12:15 pm** –

This program is FREE, so, if interested and able, please bring mittens, gloves or a scarf as a donation for the church "Mitten Tree"

**Board of Music:** Donna Costa, Henok Kaptimer, Leigh-Ann Larson, Luane Rich, Candy Savage and Murray Kidd (ex-officio)

**Arts & Music at Christ Church:** Donna Costa, Audrey Jones, Candy Savage and Betsey Serjak.

## ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH

PRESENTS:

### MIDDAY MUSIC

*"Festive Favorites"*



Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>  
at 12:15 pm with  
Sylvia Berry & Dale Munschy



With Support from  
Easton Cultural Council



Handicapped  
Accessible

FREE EVENT  
DONATIONS ACCEPTED  
FOR  
ARTS & MUSIC  
AT CHRIST CHURCH

LIKE us on  
Facebook

Arts & Music at  
Christ Church



For information

E-mail: [boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org](mailto:boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org)

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

## Friendsgiving!

Our Second Saturday for November was a Friendsgiving. It was a wonderful evening with friends and family! Everyone shared food, stories, and themselves with each other. After dinner, a Thanksgiving craft was made by all and taken home to be enjoyed by families. We were blessed that Pastor Jeff, Dani and Ivyn were able to join us. It was so great to see them!

Thank you from Vitality! Michelle, Lorraine, Maryann & Elisha



## Fellowship / Coffee Hour

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help! It is really appreciated. If you haven't signed up, there are still plenty of slots available. If you want to sign up, but need a buddy to share in the experience, please reach out to your Vitality team, so we can help!

Thank you from Vitality! Michelle, Lorraine, Maryann & Elisha





# Night Before New Year's!

Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>.

6:00-9:00 pm

Join us for a family friendly evening  
of welcoming in the New Year!

- **DJ Cubey will entertain us with music, dancing & FUN filled games!!!**
- Bring a dessert to share to our potluck dinner & reminisce about "2022".
- At the end of the night, we'll ring in "2023" with a sparkling cider toast!



We just want to thank you for the lovely mum that we received. We are going to plant it so that it will come back up next year for us to enjoy. Thank you again.

~ Steve & Carolyn Bennett

Meal Train for  
**The Kardisco Family**



TO SUPPORT VISIT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.MEALTRAIN.COM/TRAINS/  
5MG3MW](https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/5MG3MW)

OR CALL/TEXT LAUREN AT 508-468-0834

 **serrv**  
creating connections  
fair trade • handmade • nonprofit

**Come do your holiday  
shopping!**



The SERRV table will be open  
December 11<sup>th</sup> after worship





### 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 McMahan, 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)*



### COMMITTEE



Missions is still collecting 2023 calendars for the Brockton Veterans Hospital. Please bring them to the Church Office. All kinds and sizes are needed.

Dear George Manoogian,

On behalf of the Brockton Campus-VA Boston HCS patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of calendars, puzzlebooks and books to the Brockton Veteran Ward 2-2-C.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

Sincerely,

Matthew Edwards

Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement  
VA Boston Healthcare System



COMMON THREADS  
QUILT GUILD

### QUILT GUILD COOKIE SWAP

The next meeting of the quilt guild will be Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1-3pm in the craft room.

All are requested to bring 3 dozen cookies of your choice and you will go home with a variety of 3 dozen cookies. Dessert will be served and show and tell is encouraged. Ricky Soncrant has been working on dolls and may bring some to the meeting to sell. All proceeds will go to Christ Church.

Questions: call Nelda @ 508-238-6004 or Janet @ 508-283-0505.



Join In On Our New Ministry Brought  
From Our Stoughton Church Family

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every Wednesday

In the Library from 10 - 12 PM  
(In the craft room this week because of the Fair)

Looking forward to seeing current knitters, folks who know a little, and anyone who would like to learn. More hands make more shawls! Join us as we weave healing prayers into lovely shawls. For more information please see Dee Hayes.



### ZOOM Fiber Fellowship & Crafts

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 For Our First  
**Holiday Concert**

**Rose**  
CONSERVATORY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

6 pm

1350 Pleasant Street  
Brockton

WWW.ROSECONSERVATORY.COM

**Benefit Concert for Rose Conservatory**

Featuring the Prize-Winning

**ABEO QUARTET**



Sponsored by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

Friday, December 16th at 7pm followed by post-concert reception  
**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 143 Lincoln St., North Easton**  
Donations to Rose Conservatory graciously accepted at the door

**Rose Conservatory** transforms the lives of a diverse range of children as scholars, artists and leaders through rigorous academic remote learning assistance, meaningful mentorship and exceptional music education and performance opportunities.

**The ABeo Quartet**, formed at Juilliard in 2018, is the inaugural Graduate String Quartet in Residence at the University of Delaware under the mentorship of the Calidore String Quartet. The quartet finished an exciting 2022 summer, participating in the Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute, the McGill International String Quartet Academy and the prestigious Banff International String Quartet Competition

## **BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS UP IN THE NARTHEX THIS SUNDAY**

**(or in the office during the week)**

The December Holiday Calendar Raffle Fundraiser  
From Christ Congregational Church, UCC

**All drawings will be in December 2022**  
**Two Drawings Each Day; Three Draw Thursdays!!**

**Tickets Are On Sale NOW!**

**Please Help Us Sell Tickets throughout November**

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**

# 2022

# CCC Holiday

# DECEMBER

# Calendar Raffle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
Stoneforge \$50 GC winner:	The Beanery \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$50 GC winner: Hillard's Candy \$25 GC winner:	Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	McDonald's \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: Panera Bread \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$25 GC winner: Target \$25 GC winner:	99 Restaurant \$25 GC winner: Market Basket \$25 GC winner:
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Brack's Grille & Tap \$50 GC winner:	The Beanery \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$50 GC winner: Hillard's Candy \$25 GC winner:	Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	Stonebridge \$25 GC winner: Boston Tavern \$25 GC winner: Target \$25 GC winner:	Cape Cod Café \$25 GC winner: Marlachi \$25 GC winner:	Ben & Jerry's \$25 GC winner: Barrel & Boards \$25 GC winner:
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Crystal's Kitchen \$50 GC winner: Legal Seafood \$50 GC winner:	Dorlino's \$25 GC winner: McDonald's \$25 GC winner:	ALDI \$25 GC winner: Kohl's \$25 GC winner:	99 Restaurant \$25 GC winner: Shaw's Supermarket \$50 GC winner:	Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: Lowe's \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:	Target \$25 GC winner: Texas Roadhouse \$25 GC winner:	Roche Brothers \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Shaw's Supermarket \$50 GC winner: Cheesecake Factory \$50 GC winner:	Target \$25 GC winner: White's Bakery \$25 GC winner:	Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: 99 Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	Visa \$25 GC winner: Home Depot \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$25 GC winner: McDonald's \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	Brack's Grille & Tap \$50 GC winner: Truch's Supermarket \$25 GC winner:	Subway \$25 GC winner: McDonald's \$25 GC winner:
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
El Marlachi \$50 GC winner: Doyle's Restaurant \$50 GC winner:	McDonald's \$25 GC winner: Panera Bread \$25 GC winner:	99 Restaurant \$25 GC winner: Texas Roadhouse \$25 GC winner:	Starbucks \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	Shaw's Supermarket \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner: Target \$25 GC winner:	Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: El Marlachi Mexican Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	Amazon \$25 GC winner: 99 Restaurant \$25 GC winner:

Sponsored by CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC 1350 PLEASANT ST BROCKTON, MA 02301 [brocktonuuc.org](http://brocktonuuc.org)

## Memorial Poinsettia Order Form

Please place your poinsettia order by December 12th. The plants will decorate the chancel for our service on the 18th, and the Deacons will deliver the Poinsettias to our homebound members after the service on December 18th. Some of the plants will be retained to adorn the chancel throughout the Christmas season. Below is the order form, please fill out and return to the Church Office. You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plants for delivery to our homebound members on December 18th.



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

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# Stewardship Committee says “Thank You!”



Here are the results so far...

19 New Pledges

17 Increased Pledges

19 Continuing Pledges

9 Decreased Pledges

**Grand Total of \$136,390.04**



The "Count Me In" challenge presented blissful results! We surpassed the pledges of 2022 of \$134,831 and we still have 13 pending pledges from people who pledged for 2022 that haven't pledged for 2023.

If you haven't sent yours in, please do so we can "Count YOU In"!

You can email Jen at [finance@brocktonucc.org](mailto:finance@brocktonucc.org) to tell her your pledge for 2023.

Note, pledge forms are on the website and on the information counter near the office.

If you want to have automatic debits of your pledge, you can do that on our church website at <https://brocktonucc.org/donate/>

## Thank You Again for saying,

# COUNT ME IN

Planned Giving Idea...to save taxes and donate to the church.

If you take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA of the tax-wise **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** option, which makes this distribution non-taxable. You will simply instruct your IRA administrator to send a contribution from their IRA directly to the church and the contribution counts both toward their annual RMD total and is not considered taxable income to the retiree by the IRS. As always, people should consult their tax preparer for advice regarding their specific situation.



Christmas with the  
Back Bay Ringers  
Handbell Ensemble

Saturday  
December 3rd, 7:00pm  
First Congregational Church  
76 Pierce St, Stoughton

Tickets:  
\$20 Adults  
\$15 Students and Seniors

visit [www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org)  
for tickets and event information



## 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.

## BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*  
**Forgive often. Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*  
*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*



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