



### 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

Afternoon 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: Feb. 9, 6:30PM

Council: Feb. 16, 7PM

Deacons: Feb. 2, 7PM

Finance/Property: Feb. 9, 7PM

Media/Tech: Feb. 21, 7PM

Missions: Feb. 8, 7PM

Music: Feb. 23, 7PM

Vitality: Feb. 5, 11:15AM

### PASTOR'S PAGE

*"The real scandal of the gospel is this: humanity's salvation is revealed in the cross of the condemned criminal Jesus, and humanity's salvation is available only through our solidarity with the crucified people in our midst." ~James Cone, The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

I remember reading these words for the first time in seminary – which is the first time I'd ever read any theological insight from James Cone (or any Black theologian to my knowledge). I was 28 when I started seminary, and it took that long for me to be exposed to one of American Christianity's most influential Black theologians. James Cone was an African Methodist Episcopal minister before becoming a professor at Union Theological Seminary in 1969, and in almost 50 years of public theological discourse James Cone wrote some of the most foundational texts in Black Liberation Theology such as: A Black Theology of Liberation, Black Theology & Black Power, God of the Oppressed, Martin & Malcom & America, and The Cross & the Lynching Tree. If you haven't read any of these titles, or if you never heard of James Cone before reading this article, I encourage you to make that a starting point for you during Black History Month 2023.

The truth is that Black History simply IS history – but if even CONTEMPORARY Black voices like James Cone (who only died in 2018) aren't being elevated to a place where everyday lay people in predominantly white churches can be exposed to them we still have a need to emphasize and highlight Black History. Throughout this Black History month I will be committed to preaching and teaching from resources produced by Black theologians and artists. I will be committed to highlighting these voices and experiences during our worship and during my preaching. I will also be committed to learning something new about Black History that I hadn't ever learned before. I invite you all to adopt similar practices during this month – because engaging in racial justice work isn't only about changing the songs we sing or the books we read for one month out of the year, it isn't about putting a new dressing on what's always existed. Racial justice work, and a focus on Black History during the month of February, are about changing and challenging our privileged perspectives so that we CAN have solidarity with the crucified people in our midst.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



# Faith Formation

As our lovely Ann-Marie has left on her wonderful journey to Walla Walla, Washington, the CE Committee will still keep faith formation programs going while we are in search for a new CE director. Please see Cathy Campbell or Bridget Barrows-Penn for any questions.



This month the Missions team sends gratitude and thanks to our generous congregation for donating an abundance of hats, gloves, mittens, socks and scarfs! These cozy items were distributed at the Old Colony YMCA during a January Fair Foods distribution day in celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. Peace art was created by the Kaptimer family to accompany the items being distributed.

Fair Foods is a community food share organization that makes fresh produce available for \$2 per bag. The families were so happy to be blessed with the warm winter essentials at no cost when picking up their food at the Y this past month. Sending a big thank you to our congregation for helping us find ways big and small to warm hearts and hands in the community!

## Lenten Dinners

### MINISTRIES SUPPORT TASK FORCE

The Ministries Support Task Force will once again be preparing take home meals for the six Fridays during Lent. We will have different options every week such as Chicken Divan; Veggie or Meat Chili; Chowder or Soup; Chicken, Broccoli & Ziti (or rice); Shepherd's Pie, and always Mac & Cheese. *We are also seeking volunteers to choose a week to make or provide a dessert item.*

Dinners will start on Friday, February 24th through March 31<sup>st</sup> and must be ordered in advance. Watch your midweek Nearly Weekly emails in the upcoming weeks for ordering information.

## A NOTE FROM THE MODERATOR



### Gratitude

As we lean in to what promises to be a busy New Year, I am moved by so many things to be grateful for in our Beloved Community:

- \* Pastor Jeff, Dani, Ivyn and Judah's return from family leave. Faced with the challenges of Judah's illness, their faith and commitment to knowing God's strength, love and guidance are an inspiration.
- \* Celebration of Pastor Ann-Marie's time with us, with all our prayers and best wishes for her as she begins her call to serve in Walla Walla.
- \* Our Christian Education team, stepping in to oversee the Faith Formation programs essential to supporting the study of how to best honor Christian principles in our lives.
- \* Continued weaving of Stoughton First Congregational Church with CCC, integrating traditions dear to both congregations, and becoming one church family.
- \* Vigorous discussion prior to the affirmative vote to move forward with building a parsonage. Valuable input from all sides of the conversation helped inform this important decision.
- \* Impending resumption of Breakfast and Beliefs- a Lenten program designed to explore a deeper relationship with God and each other.

I'm feeling hopeful. I'm feeling sentimental. And especially, I'm feeling grateful: to members of our Council, our committees, our music program participants, our staff, our many volunteers, and for ALL the hard-working people who make Christ Congregational Church the Beloved Community that we are, thank you. So very many reasons to be grateful. We are blessed.

~Sue Koza, Moderator

**BREAKFAST AND BELIEFS IS BACK!** For the season of Lent the Vitality board will be partnering with Barry Shelley and Pastor Jeff to offer 3 Breakfast and Beliefs events. For those not familiar with Breakfast and Beliefs – it is a simple format where 2-3 speakers prepare remarks for about 5-6 minutes on a topic for discussion, then once all of the speakers have shared the floor is open for everyone gathered to join in a dialogue on the subject matter (all with very *light* moderation by our leaders). Light breakfast will also be served.

Please save the following dates if you want to join us for any (or all) of the offerings. The dates and topics are:



**March 4<sup>th</sup>** – *Parenting Complexity: Raising Neuro-diverse and Medically Complex Children*

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – *Becoming Caretakers: Supporting Those Who Once Supported Us*

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – *Living with Mental Health Challenges: Navigating Invisible Storms*

Each week we will open conversation around life experiences that are often unique (and sometimes isolating) in the hopes of allowing space for our Beloved Community to process together. Those who share will have lived these unique experiences and will highlight unique challenges they wish others knew about – but at the same time each presenter will also share “the God moments” of their experience. The dialogue that follows will allow space for questions, clarification, and (most importantly) and chance for all of us to empathize with one another.

Be on the lookout in the mid-week Nearly Weekly throughout February for more details on speakers, finalized meeting time, and more. In the meantime please contact Pastor Jeff ([pastor@brocktonucc.org](mailto:pastor@brocktonucc.org)), Barry Shelley ([barryshelley@gmail.com](mailto:barryshelley@gmail.com)), or Michelle Young-Ferguson ([michellebrian@comcast.net](mailto:michellebrian@comcast.net)) with more questions.



## NOTES FROM MURRAY

On February 22, we will begin the season of Lent. We have some exciting services during the month of February, aside from our usual, amazing services. On February 5th, our Intergenerational service will include the Youth Choir singing some wonderful service music. The youth will sing the doxology and a benediction response. They have learned these songs and are proud to present them in the context of a worship service. Later in the month, we will have the Rose Conservatory joining us and singing during the worship service. The more times I see the Rose Conservatory in action within our walls, the more I am impressed. If you missed their concert in December, you missed an incredible display of education and musical experiences that most children don't get access to. We are so fortunate they will be able to join us during our worship service.

One of our featured songs in February will help us to celebrate Black History Month. It is composed by Undine Smith Moore and is titled; I Would Be True. She is considered the "Dean of Black Women Composers". Together, with Alton Trend Johns, she helped to create the Black Music Center at Virginia State College. Through this organization, she helped spread knowledge of "contributions of black people to the music of the United States and the world."



If you have been considering joining the Chancel Choir or handbells, but weren't sure what it would be like, maybe you would like to join for a shorter time span as a trial. If you want, consider joining for the Lenten season (Feb. 22) to see what it is like. It is amazing music and ramps up to a grand finale of Easter on April 9th. The gift of song is one of the most profound we have from God. God, indeed, specifically calls us to sing Psalms and spiritual songs in several scripture passages. Those who join can have a free voice lesson from our wonderful soprano soloist, Alisa. You can use this as a kick start if you used to sing "in an earlier life" as they say. She can help you find your voice again, so you can make a joyful noise that won't be as noisy as you might think. We specifically need tenors and basses to make more friends for our current members in the back row. That said, we will gladly take any voice type!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to chat with me after a service or send me an email.

Sincerely,

Murray

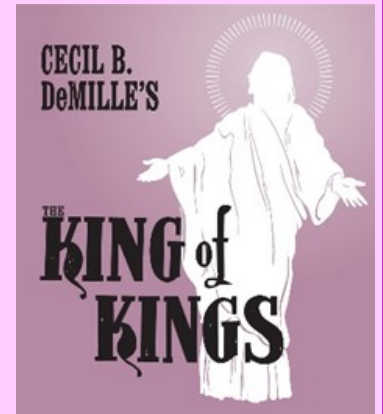


# FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

## Arts & Music at Christ Church

**Save the Date – Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, Improvising Organist Peter Krasinski returns with the presentation of the classic silent film, *King of Kings*.**

This moving drama of Jesus' Passion will include music sung by our own Chancel Choir. Tickets will be available at the church starting on Sunday March 5. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend but need transportation.



## Negro Spirituals Royalties Project: Online Giving

This project, approved by the church council, helps us to acknowledge the musical heritage of enslaved people and composers of color who received no compensation or royalties for their creative work. On Sundays when these pieces are used during worship, we receive a special offering that is designated to support the Rose Conservatory. Online givers can donate through the website too: Just look for the "other" line in the options and put in NSRP and the amount of your donation. Thanks to all who have supported this work of justice.

**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.

## BIRTHDAY MONTH FELLOWSHIP

Many folks enjoyed the Birthday Month Fellowship time on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Music and Vitality Boards. It was fun having conversation with both old and new church friends!



# NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Please fill out the Time and Talents survey from the Leadership & Development team!



"...serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts." ~1 Peter 4:10

## "BE THE (NEWLY WOVEN) CHURCH" CAMPAIGN 2023

We are looking forward to all the wonderful things we can accomplish together in our new woven community. Please take a few minutes to participate in the time and talents survey linked below. We would love to hear from our Stoughton family on how things have been done with their committees.

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE SURVEY](#)

If you have questions about the campaign, or about the survey, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jeff or a member of our Leadership & Development Team - Deana Colby, Matt Howard, Lisa Sparling, and Barry Shelley.

## 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**

*Mary Woodman, Sarah Sinesi, Samantha Sinesi, Janice Urban, Tracey Hixon, 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)*

January 1, 2023

Dear Christ Church Family,

Thank you so much for the holiday cards. It sure was nice to hear from you. It sure made Christmas and New Years a good one. I think it is awesome that you send out cards to the members. Like I said I sure did love it and it was a very nice surprise and touched me this holiday season.

I hope that the Christ Church family had a happy and great holiday season. I sure do miss being able to attend on a regular bases. Around the end of November of this year I should be coming back home for good. I sure do miss everyone there. Please let everyone know that I say hello and send my best wishes to all.

I can not begin to thank everyone at the church who has helped me growing up and in life. From all the Sunday School lessons, to all the fun youth group activities at church or trips to go places. There are so many fond memories that I am extremely thankful for and grateful for.

I just want to reiterate how thankful I am for my letters. It was so kind and thoughtful. I hope you all have a great holiday season and god bless.



Love,  
 Andrew Johnson



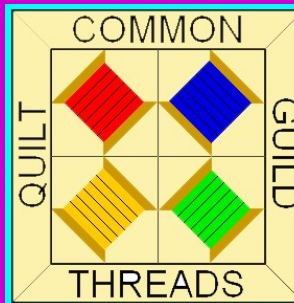
We pray for the family of Januarisuz Szydowski, may he rest in peace.

**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.



There will be **NO** meeting in February. We will resume March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3pm in the craft quilt room at church. Till then stay well and call me if you need batting or fabric. Janet – 508-583-0505.

**ZOOM**

**Fiber Fellowship & Crafts**



Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
 From 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Come Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint, crafts, etc.

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

Dear Jeff,

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. We are!

My husband, Chuck Bittner, at Life Care Center in Taynham was so happy to be remembered at Christmas with a lovely poinsettia from the church. It made a difference.



Thank you,

Bonnie Bittner  
 (formally from Stoughton)

January 17, 2023

Dear Christ Congregational church,

I'm sorry I'm late with my thank you for my Poinsettia plant. It is lovely (I put it in a glass vase to protect it). It is in my living room facing the windows (5 Bay windows). I'm keeping it moist as a magazine article written by a gardener. Thank you for the card too. Also, Thank you again and Jan for delivering the plant. Take care.

Sincerely,  
 Jean Purificato



# Musica DIVINA

*By: Anton Faynberg*

STARTING AT 6:00 PM  
ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH

at Christ Congregational Church, UCC

## 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.

## CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY

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



Christ Congregational Church, UCC  
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Brockton, MA 02301-2840