



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 43 No. 4

Be The Church

April 2023

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: Apr. 12, 6:30PM

Council: Apr. 20, 7PM

Deacons: May 4, 7PM

Finance/Property: Apr. 13, 7PM

Media/Tech: Apr. 18, 7PM

Missions: TBD

Music: Apr. 27, 7:00PM

Vitality: Apr. 2, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

"...He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there."

~Matthew 28:7~

The women in the resurrection account from Matthew have quite a morning. As they approach the tomb they experience an incredible earth quake, see an angel roll the stone away from the front of the tomb (a stone that would have weighed several tons), and then they saw with their own eyes that the tomb was empty. That's when the angel tells them to head to Galilee where he's gone ahead. So, they do what we as readers of the story would expect them to do – they turn on their heels and basically *RUN* toward Galilee with fear and excitement.

What's unexpected – I'm sure to the women, but also to us as readers – is that the very next thing that happens is Jesus meets them and greets them as they're on their way! As disciples the women have been given a point to go to (Galilee) and they were headed straight there. As readers we're expecting what the context clues tell us will happen – that they'll find Jesus in Galilee instead of the tomb, and if we're being honest that's still a really powerful account of the resurrection.

But Jesus meets them where they are. While they're going where they've been instructed to go as disciples. It seems his only message is a message of encouragement, *"Don't be afraid, I'm here with you and I will be where you are going."* The subtle message is that Jesus is there no matter where we go – whether we're arriving at our spiritual destinations, or still on our way to them.

I think for this Easter it's important to remember that message – because we so often make resurrection a goal, or a destination when it's really something that happens all along while we're "on the way". We remember and celebrate Jesus' triumph over the grave on Easter Sunday every year, but we also experience it in our worship and lives together week in and week out. As we come to the close of our worship series aimed at trying to cut down on our busyness I encourage you to take this with you as a final lesson, regardless of how busy or how hurried we are in our journeys God is with us reminding us never to be afraid.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Greetings, Beloved Community.

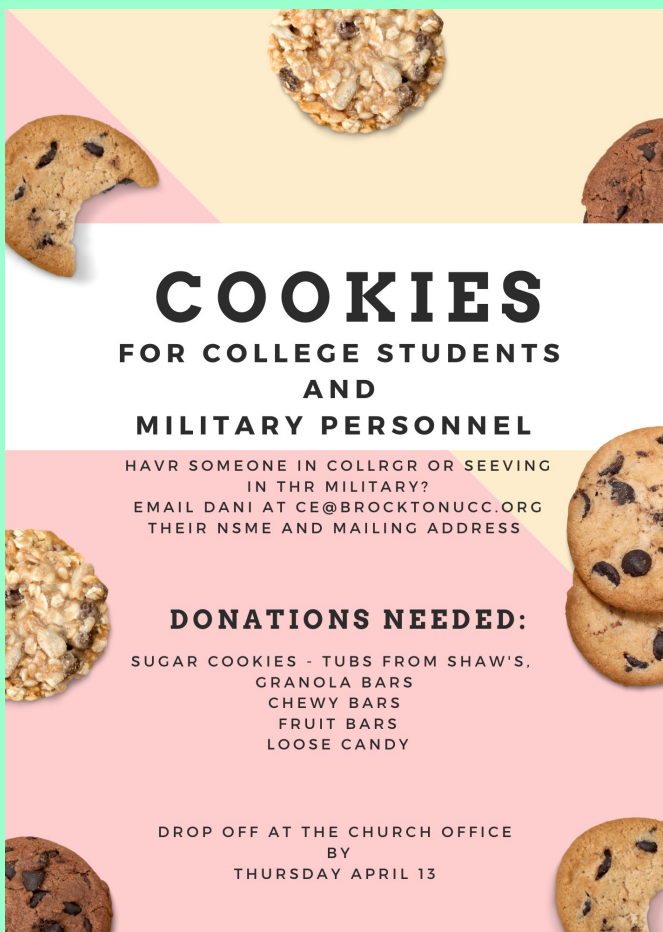
It is with great pleasure that I have been called to serve as the Christian Education Director. In March I spent time with the intentional, enthusiastic, and quite frankly, fun CE Team learning and planning together.

In the fall, an initiative to have intergenerational worship on the first Sunday of every month began. Intergenerational worship is an opportunity to not just incorporate children and youth in the service, but to have the entire congregation engage together in both new and old ways. Palm Sunday is the first Sunday in April and boy, is it going to be a special intergenerational service. It will be full of energy, a palm parade, an interactive and participatory sermon experience, and music. The best way to participate in these services is with an open mind and heart. For this month's intergenerational worship on Palm Sunday (April 2), children and youth are expected to sit with their families. The playground will be closed.

We will be having a Christian Education Spring Retreat to plan the rest of the program year and visioncast for next year. Even if you are not a voting member of the CE Team, you're welcome to join us in this endeavor on Sunday April 23rd from 11:30am-2:30pm in the Wing to share in this planning session.

My prayer for this month is that relationships are deepened with children, youth, and parents and that we are all guided toward our Redeemer in this season of Easter.

In Peace,
Dani



COOKIES
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS
AND
MILITARY PERSONNEL

HAVR SOMEONE IN COLLRGR OR SEEVING
IN THR MILITARY?
EMAIL DANI AT CE@BROCKTONUCC.ORG
THEIR NSME AND MAILING ADDRESS

DONATIONS NEEDED:
SUGAR COOKIES - TUBS FROM SHAW'S,
GRANOLA BARS
CHEWY BARS
FRUIT BARS
LOOSE CANDY

DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY
THURSDAY APRIL 13



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

EGG HUNT

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9TH - 11:00 AM
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP)

MEET IN THE CE WING

SPONSORED BY
THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



APRIL

FAITH FORMATION @ CCC

On this page you will find what is happening in the wing this month. You can find reminders and more detail about events and more in the mid-monthly Faith and Family Newsletter as well as the Nearly Weekly emails.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

From now until the end of the program year in June Sunday School (held during worship on the 2nd-4th Sundays) will be combined Kindergarten through 7th grade with break out discussion groups during the lessons.

In March, Mary and Martha taught us that being in relationship and listening is what Jesus wants us to do. We learned that we should focus on building our treasures in heaven doing good works rather than focusing on material treasures. We culminated these ideas with designing and painting beautiful rocks to remind others of what is important and placing them in the wetland reserve behind the church.

CONFIRMATION

Students 8th grade and up meeting at **11:15am** in the Youth Prayground in the Sanctuary with Pastor Jeff on **Sunday April 2**



NURSERY

Nursery is available on Sundays for ages birth-4, drop off starts at 9:45am. Ms. Tammy combines free play, bible story, and structured activity most weeks



YOUTH GROUP

Students 8th-12 grade
Let's get to know each other.

Meet me in my office on **Sunday April 30th** immediately after worship for Dunkin' and conversation.

SAVE THE DATES

- **Sunday April 2:** Intergenerational Palm Sunday Worship
- **Sunday April 9:** Easter Egg Hunt immediately after worship
- **Sunday April 16:** Cookies for College Students and Military Personnel during fellowship hour

Interested in faith formation for your child/youth, but not ready to return in person yet? Please contact Dani for alternative solutions.

CE Director contact information:
Dani Kardisco ce@brocktonucc.org
717.387.1559



NOTES FROM MURRAY

As we approach Easter, the days are increasingly longer and we are approaching a more relaxed time of the year when we can go outdoors more and enjoy God's earth. Our Easter service will be filled with Alleluia's as we have had to refrain from singing them during Lent. We will join with the Angels in singing Alleluia to God, on high as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

The choir just completed its collaboration with Peter Krasinski in singing during the silent movie, King of Kings. Collaboration is so vital to our lives as Christians and within our professions. Working with Peter was a joy and seeing how he worked with the music. As the 155 minutes of the film unfolded, I heard quote after quote of beautiful liturgical music, ranging from Gregorian chant, Vicitimae Paschali Laudes and Pange Lingua as well as quotes from Mendelssohn's Elijah and other oratorios. As each scene went by, my ears were pricked with some familiar musical phrase that helped to create the soundtrack that accompanied the Passion of Christ. It was a unique experience and one that most of us will not soon forget. Thank you, Donna Costa, for arranging for this event!

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

Arts & Music at Christ Church

Despite the rainy evening, about 70 people came out to experience the silent film "*King of Kings*," with organist Peter Krasinski and our own Chancel Choir, directed by Murray Kidd.



We heard high praise from audience members: *unbelievable, beautiful, organist amazing, choir fantastic!* Thanks to all the helpers who made it possible, and to our sponsors and area cultural councils for their support!



Intergenerational Worship

Part of the Board of Music's responsibility is care and maintenance of all the church's instruments. We are happy to see how the children and youth have been participating in worship on the first Sunday of each month: from helping as liturgists, to playing the Orff instruments and drums, to singing with the choir. All ages are part of worship at our church.



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.

Welcome

A Note From the Moderator, UCC Stoughton

Have you ever experienced struggling to find the just the right words? A few weeks ago, Pastor Jeff asked me to share a few words with you as the Stoughton church is in this frenzied period of transition. What to say? This morning as I tuned in to CCC worship remotely and clicked on the order of worship, my eyes fell upon the words of the Threshold Moment: *"Journey's ended, journey's begun: to go where we have never been, to be beyond our past ..."* There it is. Our time at 76 Pierce Street has ended and was but part of our long faith journey, one that began in 1744 and led us to several houses of worship through the generations. And now the journey continues. The Spirit has called us to this "beloved community" at Christ Congregational Church so that our shared ministries can be woven together and made stronger.

Change can be difficult and scary. Change can be good and full of hope. But change is always inevitable. We have been so blessed to have been given such a warm welcome by everyone at CCC as we have been getting to know one another and navigate this journey of endings and new beginnings. You have been gentle with us, given us a soft landing as you walked beside us, and allowed us the time and space we needed to catch our breath. Thank you.

There is much to love about beginning anew at CCC – caring people with helping hands outstretched, a beautiful and welcoming sanctuary space, a vibrant music program, and a truly engaging intergenerational community with so many opportunities to grow and serve. We also appreciate how accepting you have been to incorporate some of our traditions such as the prayer shawl ministry and the lighting the votive candles during worship. As we continue to weave our two congregations together, we look forward to sharing other ministries we have supported at UCC Stoughton such as Mainspring House dinners and the Outdoor Church to see if they might be a good fit in Brockton.

It is perhaps fitting that we are end our ministry in Stoughton just after Easter and start our next chapter at Christ Congregational Church with the promise of new life and new beginnings. We are an Easter people. So let me close with the words of one of my favorite Easter songs from our former children's choir. *Every morning is Easter morning from now on.*

Blessings,

Marcia Olson
Moderator,
First Congregational Church of Stoughton

SCHOLARSHIP



FUNDRAISER

Join us for a FUN FILLED night
of games, raffles, yummy food & good friends!

Challenging
Trivia Questions!

**Saturday May 6th.
5:00 – 8:00 pm**

"Minute to Win it"
Competitions!

Tickets - \$20
(\$25 at the door)

- Work with a team and WIN raffle tickets for a chance at some AMAZING prizes!
- You can also buy extra raffle tickets, for even more possibilities to win!
- Allergy friendly food options will be available.

Tasty
Appetizers!

Tickets will be on sale
after church starting 4/16
or at the office.

Scrumptious
Desserts!

Childcare with pizza, fruit & cookies will be available.

Hosted by your Vitality Team: Michelle, Lorraine, Maryann & Elisha

"Vitality's View"

It's been a great start to the year!

With Barry Shelley and Pastor Jeff, Vitality has hosted 2/3 "Breakfast & Beliefs". We've shared, learned & discussed some important topics. Our first week was "Parenting Complexity: Raising Neuro-diverse and Medically Complex Children". Our second week was "Becoming Caretakers: Supporting Those Who Once Supported Us". Both topics covered different ends of the caretaking spectrum and were both very informative, eye opening and in some ways heartbreaking. Our third and final "Breakfast & Beliefs" is Saturday 4/1 at 9:00 am. The topic is "Living with Mental Health Challenges: Navigating Invisible Storms". Like the other topics, this one probably hits home personally and/or with someone you love and care about. Of course, as usual, there will be childcare and a yummy breakfast to enjoy!

Vitality is also working hard to plan a "Spring Fling Scholarship Fundraiser". This will be held on Saturday 5/6 from 5:00-8:00 pm. More details are in our full flyer in this month's Courier.

Thanks, from your Vitality team: Michelle, Lorraine, Maryann & Elisha.



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)



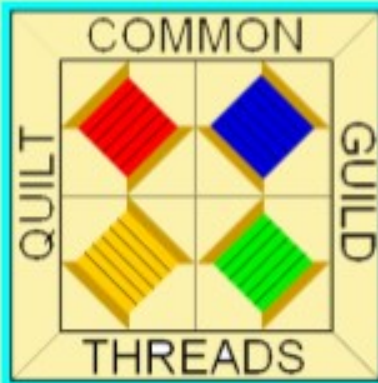
We pray for the family of William Madden (father of Chris) and Lynne Balsavich Bower MacDowell (friend of Barbara Moody), may they rest in peace.

Transgender Day of Visibility March 31

All Transgender individuals are deserving of safety, belonging, and autonomy. We stand in solidarity with all our Trans siblings today and everyday. And we will continue to work to make it safer to be visible.



SERRV table
open Sunday,
April 2nd



COMMON THREADS QUILT GUILD

The guild will have it's regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18th from 1-3 pm in the quilt/craft room. We will be working on lap quilts. There will be one to layer and squares to lay out. We have some polyester batting from Stoughton UCC that is available to anyone who wants it. We have cotton batting on a roll, a really big roll (90" x 25yds) and I will cut what ever you need. Stoughton has donated many, many, squares that you can look through and take home.

Guests and show and tell always welcome.

If you need a ride call Janet @ 508-583-0505.

Questions – call Nelda @508-238-6004.

Here are two baby quilts Nelda Hayes made for the NICU. We have a pile of baby quilts from our group ready to send to the NICU!



Here is an old scrap quilt find from Kristine Blanchard's daughter. You can imagine the history of the fabrics.



This is a fabric collage piece by Janet Eckstrom. It's made by lots and lots of fabric scraps of various colors and shaped into this amazing fish. Two more to go!



Another wonderful quilt by Janet Eckstrom. A pattern she's been waiting to make. The possibilities are endless.

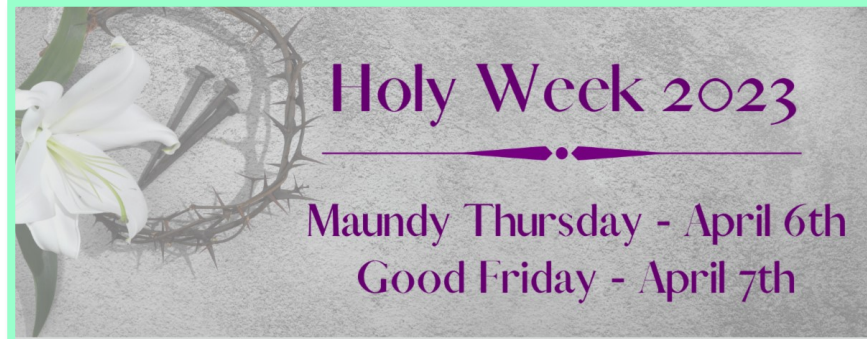


This quilt was made and presented to Nelda Hayes for her 90th birthday. She is the co-founder of this Common Threads Quilt Guild of Brockton, MA.



Deana Colby joined the Quilt Guild just as much for the fellowship as the quilting. They are the best group of ladies. This is her first quilt, a queen size Carpenter's Star pattern.





Please Note: There will be two services on each date, look below for the best option for you!

Maundy Thursday

3:00 PM - Meditative prayer service
& communion.

7:00 PM - Tenebrae with music
& communion.

Good Friday

3:00 & 7:00 PM - Meditative prayer
service with music, using the Advent
wreath to reflect on Jesus'
personhood and sacrifice.



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

CONTACT US

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1350 Pleasant Street
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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