



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

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Mar. 9, 6:30PM

Council: Mar. 16, 7PM

Deacons: Mar. 2, 7PM

Finance/Property: Mar. 9, 7PM

Media/Tech: Mar. 21, 7PM

Missions: Mar. 8, 7PM

Music: Mar. 26, 11:30AM

Vitality: Mar. 5, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

There's an old Pennsylvania Dutch saying that folks where I come from are fond of. It says, "the hurrier you go, the behinder you get." I remember my first experience with that saying was on the last day of school in 7th grade, and my best friend and I **SPRINTED** down the hall toward our summer freedom – until we got caught by Mr. Drees who walked with us the whole length of the hall back to where we had started, calmly reminded us that running wasn't allowed (or safe) in the halls at school, and then imparted this wisdom. Now, as an adult, I can appreciate this wisdom – even if I still find myself sprinting toward things sometimes. I'm sure we can all appreciate that on some level.

That's why I'm so excited to invite you into this year's Lenten worship series "Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God" – because Lent is a season that's always ripe for reflection and taking stock. Often we do this by giving something up – and the idea with that practice is to make more space for God in our lives. So often what people talk about giving up are things like chocolate, or coffee, or video games, or some other vice – and I'm often left to wonder whether giving those things up actually makes more room for God, or if it simply makes us feel like we're sacrificing by giving up something small with low stakes. This isn't to say that giving up chocolate, or coffee, or video games would be a bad thing – and if giving up something like that would truly open more space in your heart for God then I would encourage you to stick with it! But, if you're reading this and find yourself thinking that giving up those sorts of things has never really done much for your faith life in seasons past I invite you to join me in giving up busyness.

This isn't to say that we should all just stop everything we're doing and working on to go and meditate for 12 hours a day. I'm sure all of us who commit to this pledge will still have things in our lives to keep us moving on a daily basis – like family responsibilities or work or school – because we all have obligations, but we might find that **HOW** we engage with those responsibilities can make a difference. For all of us the saying holds true, "the hurrier you go, the behinder you get" because when the busyness of our lives get out of balance our relationships – to one another, to ourselves, and to God – get out of balance and that leaves us feeling "behind" emotionally and spiritually.

So, what are the things keeping you busy that can be let go during this Lenten season? The answer will be different for everyone, but I'm confident we can all answer it. How can you let these things go? What will you find in their place?

The answer to that last question is simple: God will fill that space in ways that only God can – and I think we'll all find that what God fills that space with is far more meaningful and joy-filled than anything we could come up with on our own.

Finally, I pray that all of you have a very blessed Lenten season no matter where the Spirit may lead you on your journey. I pray that we will all find God, and one another, along our individual Lenten Roads.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff





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.

All sessions begin at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall
Contact the church office for more details

Breakfast & Beliefs @ Christ Congregational Church



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 4th – *Parenting Complexity: Raising Neuro-diverse and Medically Complex Children*

March 18th – *Becoming Caretakers: Supporting Those Who Once Supported Us*

April 1st – *Living with Mental Health Challenges: Navigating Invisible Storms*

FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL DATES

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.

If you have questions or need more details Please contact Pastor Jeff (pastor@brocktonucc.org), Barry Shelley (barrygshelley@gmail.com), or Michelle Young-Ferguson (michellebrian@comcast.net) with your questions.



A Note On The Paraments

The liturgical color for Lent is purple. The antependium on the pulpit depicts the journey of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. The hangings show a world bursting forth after a winter of hidden seeds. In this time of reflection and preparation we anticipate the joy that is to come on Easter.

MINISTRIES SUPPORT TASK FORCE



Christ Congregational Church, UCC
1350 Pleasant Street
Brockton, MA 02301
508.586.3022

e-mail us: LentenTakeOut@brocktonucc.org

2023 Lenten Friday Take-Out Dinners Overview

One less thing to do on Friday night. During the 6 Fridays of Lent, Christ Congregational Church (CCC) will be selling dinners for pick-up. Beginning Friday, February 24th through Friday, March 24th swing by the CCC church kitchen between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. for a fully prepared, delicious meal.

Many of the planned menu items offer recipe options for vegetarians and/or gluten-free needs. Dinners will be sold as small, 2 portion size, and large, 4 portion family size. Generally dinners will be priced small \$20.00 and large \$35.00; please refer to weekly order sheets for details.

Our famous and favorite Macaroni and Cheese will be available every week.

Desserts will be offered each week; no drinks are planned.

Orders and payment must be received by noon the Wednesday (*payments may be made on-line and/or by credit card*) prior to the Friday night dinner.

Orders from the general public are welcome for our Pick-Up Lenten Friday Dinners. During Lent plan a stop through the CCC kitchen parking area.

Here are the Lenten Friday Weekly Dinner Menus:

- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday February 22nd for Friday February 24th: Shepherd's Pie
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 1st for Friday March 3rd Baked Ziti and Meatballs
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 8th for Friday March 10th: Chili/ Butternut
Vegetable Chili
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 15th for Friday March 17th: Chicken, Broccoli and Ziti
or Rice
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 22nd for Friday March 24th: Chicken Divan

Also Available for Purchase Each Week are:

- Macaroni and Cheese
- Dessert

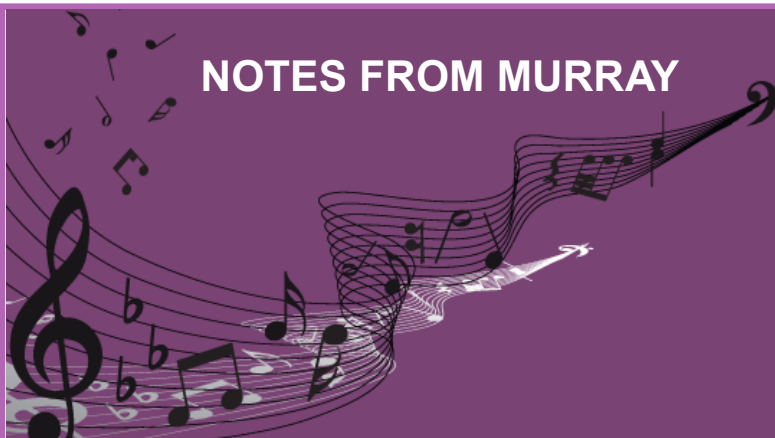
LET US KNOW

Last Lenten Meal - Community Meal 5 pm Saturday April 1st or a final pick-up Friday March 31st

Mexican Menu planned

Questions? Please e-mail us: LentenTakeOut@brocktonucc.org

NOTES FROM MURRAY



As we approach Lent, it is hard not to also think ahead to the warmer weather, especially as I write this, we have had a lovely cold snap in the low teens for past couple of days. Lent is a journey that we take every year, as Christians. I hear many people around me as well as references in the media for people giving this up during Lent. Many pass it off as a wishful-thinking sort of situation. My family never really did that, so I don't partake in that ritual, if I am honest. The music of Lent is usually reserved to more on the dour side of things, but I have always tried to find music that reflects light during our dark journey toward Jesus' passion and resurrection. One Lent II, we will have an intergenerational service. The kids and I have been preparing for it for a few weeks and they have enjoyed one of the songs that speaks to a journey; Honey in the Rock. It specifically repeats the words, Feed Every Child of God. In today's world, we are seeing so many examples of famine, tragedy, and suffering all around us, far and near. The kids and I have been talking about how important it is to help those in need and they have enjoyed the song that helps remind us of our calling to help whenever and wherever we can. The kids have been learning the other music of the service, as well. When the service occurs on March 5th, we will all be encouraged to sing along with the music that should be quite familiar to most of those in this beloved community. As adults, it is sometimes hard to lift our voices in song, especially when we think others are listening. That is the time, says the scriptures, when we should lift our voices even higher. If we don't set the example, what will they think? It doesn't matter if your voice is big, small, out of tune or in tune. God didn't say, only lift your voices if you are a good singer. Quite the opposite. In fact, it is mandatory, says Colossians 3:16, Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

So, let the kiddos know that singing is for all of God's people! Lift every voice and SING!!!

The Chancel Choir is participating in the March 25th concert featuring the silent film, King of Kings. They will supply the singing portion of the soundtrack played by Peter Krasinski. The choir was introduced to the movie by Peter last week and they are very excited about it! The movie is gorgeous and the music will be inspiring. Mark your calendars for an amazing evening!

Showers of Blessings,
Murray

Volunteer as a LITURGIST

at Christ Congregational Church

- Read scripture
- Lead prayers
- Lead worship
- Make a difference in our congregational life

Contact Pastor
Jeff with questions

~OR~

SIGN UP using the
link the Nearly
Weekly



If you feel called (or even if you're just curious about what it's like) to read scripture, lead prayers, or to generally participate in other parts of our worship service as a worship LEADER from the chancel with Pastor Jeff on Sunday please consider signing up as a liturgist. Responsibilities of the liturgist will include reading scripture and leading parts of the worship service as assigned by Pastor Jeff. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our worship, to participate in a new and different way, and to have an impact on our church's worship life together.

If you'd like to signup as a liturgist please [CLICK HERE](#) to add your name to the signup sheet.

For those who signup - Pastor Jeff will contact you on the Monday before you're set to serve as a liturgist so that he can provide you with a worship outline and other details for the service. Liturgists will also be asked to arrive on Sunday by 9:30 AM to check in with Pastor Jeff.



We pray for the families of Elizabeth Wehr (niece of Jen Brosky) and Kent Hallamore (brother of Tracey Hixon), may they rest in peace.

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC



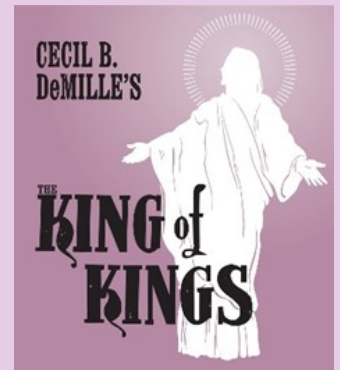
Join the Choir for Lent and Easter

Have you been enjoying music during worship and think you would like to join the singing? **You are invited** to join the choir “short-term,” from now through Easter Sunday on April 9th. See Murray about schedules and you might be eligible for a **FREE VOICE LESSON** from Alysa, our Soprano Section Leader and Soloist.

Arts & Music at Christ Church

Early Ticket Sales at church for King of Kings

On two Sundays, March 12 and 19th, we will have tickets available for pre-sale for church members and friends following worship. Prices are Adults: \$15, Seniors and Students: \$10 (children under 12 are free).

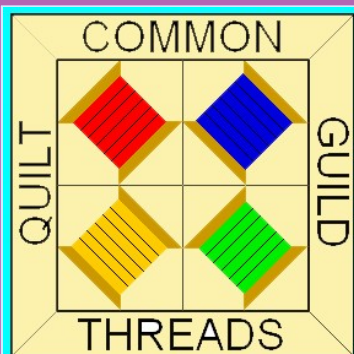


Saturday, March 25 at 7 pm, Improvising Organist Peter Krasinski returns to present the classic silent film, *King of Kings*.

Our church choir will be participating in this event too. Run-time is about 2.5 hours including a short intermission.

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.



The next meeting of the quilt guild will be held on Tuesday, March 21, from 1-3pm in the craft/quilt room. We will work on NICU quilts and celebrate 21 years as a guild at Christ Church. A sample of fabric collage will be presented and a completed flannel quilt.

The Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild is having their quilt show on March 18-19, 2023 at the Blue Hills Regional Technical School, 800 Randolph Street, Canton, MA. Admission is \$10 and food and drink are available for purchase. There will be vendors and a raffle quilt called “Blue Plate Specials”. We will car pool and if you are interested in going call Janet at the number below.

All are welcome to attend our quilt guild meetings and if you need a ride call Janet @ 508-583-0505.



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Britton Copley, Keland Dickerson-Sinclair, Leigh-Ann Larson, Paula Stevens, Kailana Pelote, Matthew Weatherbee, Stephanie Sinesi, Jennifer Hefler, Angeliza Campbell, Cindy Bowman, Cindy Maloof, Ivyn Kardisco, Ricky Soncrant, Maryann Selman, Lindsay Alden, Heather Mitchell, Sharron MacMullen, Ken Stevens, Doe Fisher, Carol Bradford, Ruth Copeland, Priscilla Keyser, Troy Hixon, Manna Poole, Art Sawyer, Madison Herget, Loren Stott

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

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.

"BE THE (NEWLY WOVEN) CHURCH" CAMPAIGN

Board & Committee Fair

March 5th after worship in Fellowship Hall

Please come and share fellowship with different Boards & Committees and have some delicious snacks and see what interests you

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.

EASTER MEMORIAL FUND

Each year the church orders lilies and tulips to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. A memorial list is created and placed in the Narthex and published in the Courier with names of loved ones you wish to have remembered or honored. The Deacons will be delivering the plants to our homebound members after church on Easter Sunday April 9th. Below is the order form, please fill out and return to the Church Office. **The deadline to order is April 1st.** You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

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

I, _____, would like to order _____ Tulips/lilies for delivery to a homebound member.



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



Join Us!



Community Night

Do you want to be a part of building a bold and beautiful Brockton and to share your commitment to the community?

Join us for the next Community Night hosted by Brockton Interfaith Community and learn about the powerful work of our teams as they share stories from throughout the city and how you can help write the next chapter.

March 15, 2023
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Brockton Public Library
304 Main Street
(in the auditorium)



Registration is appreciated:
<https://bit.ly/bicnight31523>

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.

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