



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

Volume 43 No. 7 & 8

Be The Church

July ~ August 2023

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

Worship: Remotely and On-Site
Sundays, 9:55AM

Regular: Remotely

Bible Study: Zoom
 Wednesdays, 10AM

Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Wednesdays, 10AM

Choir, Bells, Fiber Fellowship & Quilt Guild are on summer hiatus. All programs will start up in September



Board Meetings:

ALL COMMITTEES

Check with your committee leaders to see if you are having a meeting during the summer



PASTOR'S PAGE

"Go into the world and serve God with gladness. Be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good, and render to no one evil for evil – strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve your God rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit... And as you go from this place may God be in your going, may Christ be in your doing, and may the Spirit be in your learning. Go in peace, friends, to love and serve God and God's people."



I say these words every week to end our worship together, because no worship service can ever really end without a benediction and/or a commissioning. Liturgically speaking a benediction isn't really an ending; because we're called to worship God at all times. I first learned the words of the beginning of this benediction from my mother, as she solidified them as her benediction over the years while I watched her lead worship as a PK (pastor's kid). The second part I learned from my colleague Danielle Neff, who was my senior pastor at my previous call. These words have held deep meaning for me in my own faith life and so I share them with you each week. I appreciate the power and directive nature of the words – they give you something to do or (if we're honest sometimes) something to think about doing – and I always hope that it will plant a seed for you to take and grow throughout the week ahead as we all depart the sanctuary.

Now, as we find ourselves at the start of July I share these words again here in the Courier – because summer is the time when all of us rightfully take some time away from our usual routines to go on vacations and trips; and so I know I may not see some of you very much over the next month or two until programs begin again in September with Rally Day. The same concept of benediction that we carry out of worship each week also applies to our lives on vacation or while we take time away to rest – no matter where you find yourself worship God and love God's people.

My prayer is that this might be a spiritual practice for you this summer, repeatedly asking yourself where you might see God or feel God's presence – and then acknowledging it in some significant (even if it's simple) kind of way. I pray that as you take on such a practice for the summer that you will find yourself being pulled into worship, in all sorts of places, and that the experience would transform you and bring you closer to God. Most of all I pray that you find joy and rest in God, and in those that you love. Have a joyous and blessed summer!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Notes and a
Double Bar
from Murray

farewell! goodluck

In music, a double bar means the end of a song. I have contributed many Notes from Murray, but this one is with the double bar at the end of a beautiful piece of music! I am filled with gratitude. Thank you for the lovely service last week. It was a gorgeous day with the music of the Chancel Ringers and Chancel Choir and your beautiful hymn singing. Thank you to Jeff and Sue for the lovely ceremony of transition and the gifts. The prayer shawls are so beautiful and the hymnal will be a resource for my liturgical practicing going forward. Also, a final gift came this week (Amazon didn't send it in time for Sunday's service) in the form of a gorgeous conductor's baton and case. It is a beautiful gesture and an instrument I look forward to using in the future. Thank you to the musical staff for their beautiful contributions, as well! I have been so blessed with such amazing colleagues at Christ Congregational Church!

My parting wish is that Christ Congregational Church continues to thrive and grow into the distant future. It is my hope that I have contributed to that in some way. I thank you all for your support of the music over the years. Continue raising your voices loud and proud during the hymns and show the young ones how it is done. If you don't sing loudly, neither will they. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands!

All the best,
Murray



MUSICA DIVINA ~ BY ANTON FAYNBERG

Come Join Anton on

Friday, July 7th @ 6:00pm

Wednesday, July 12th @ 12:00pm

Friday, July 21st @ 6:00pm

Wednesday, July 26th @ 12:00pm

A couple times a month Anton Faynberg will fill our sanctuary with sacred sound and music to help bring God's word to life. Deriving the name from the practice *Lectio Divina* (or divine reading) - where practitioners read, or listen to, scripture in different voices and different tempos - Anton has created an experience that is an hour of continuous sound and music accompanied by scripture readings, meant to bring God's word to life.

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

New Board begins its term

The incoming Board of Music is made up of Carol Bradford, Jessica Gross and Luane Rich. They and the Leadership Development Team are seeking a few additional members. Contact Sue Koza to learn more or indicate your interest.

Search Committee Meeting on Open Positions



A search committee, with Doug Anderson as Convener, will be posting information soon on the music staff positions that are open. Anton Faynberg, our organist/accompanist, has indicated his intention to leave his position, effective August 6, 2023, for personal and professional reasons. So, we are looking for a new Music Director and a new Organist/Accompanist, or one person who will perform both functions.

Bon Voyage for Anton

Save the Date: On **August 6** we will celebrate Anton's time with us and wish him Godspeed on the next phase of his musical and personal journey. Please plan to stay after worship that day to add your good wishes and blessings.



Board of Music: Carol Bradford, Jessica Gross, and Luane Rich

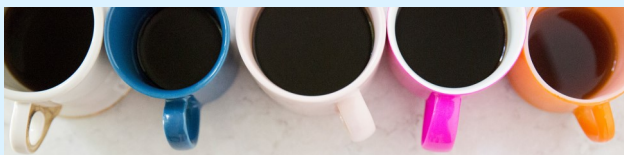
Arts & Music at Christ Church: Donna Costa, Audrey Jones, Candy Savage and Betsey Serjak.



"Vitality's View"

As we enter the summer months, the Board of Church Vitality will be taking a little break. We hope to be all refreshed come the fall! Some events/activities we're hoping to plan include "Breakfast & Beliefs", "Night Before New Year's Eve", and a "Thanksgiving Dinner". We will definitely need help with some of these, so think about where you would like to help.

Fellowship Coffee Hour will continue through the summer. We really could use help! Please consider signing up for a week. We would greatly appreciate it!



Thanks, from your Vitality team: Michelle Young-Ferguson, Elisha Ribeiro, Maryann Selman, Lorraine Wilcox (Outgoing), and Janet Eckstrom (incoming)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Happy Summer, Beloved Community.

I cannot believe that it is July! June was a whirlwind of goodness. On June 11th we recognized our graduates and awarded scholarships to those continuing their education. Sunday June 18th was a glorious day where our young people came together and led a worship service to remind us how to treat others the way we want to be treated. We also recognized our many volunteers and thanked them for their time and dedication to this vital and important ministry area.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is around the corner. Changemaker's Lab VBS will be August 14-17 from 5:30-7:30pm. Children (ages 4-12) will be in groups and travel to different labs learning about how to be changemakers in our world. The evening will begin in Spark Lab with worship and drama, then they will make their way to Bible Lab where the stories come to life, Action Lab where they will get to play games and move their bodies, and STEAM Lab where they will create art projects, conduct science experiments, and engineer various tasks. A snack will be provided and we will close with music and dancing each night. Look for registration in the Nearly Weekly or in the Narthex before or after church.

My prayer this month is for our children to have grand adventures, days of swimming and playing outside, and times of quiet and rest.

In Peace,
Dani



Monday August 14 ~ Thursday August 17

5:30-7:30pm

Ages 4-12

Snack provided

Register via Nearly Weekly or in the Narthex after worship



It May Be July ... But Fair Activities have Begun... And You can Help!!

First - Clear Your Calendar

The Fair Date is Saturday November 4th

Then Think of Ways You Can Participate:

Donations of Clean, Gently Used Items for Fair Areas of:

- Collectables
- Jewelry
- Clothing
- Attic Treasures

If You Enjoy Food Preparation - Plan Food and/or Treat Options

- Possibilities for Frozen Take-Out
- Desserts
- Candy
- Luncheon contribution

Volunteer Opportunities

- Please Pitch in a day or two a month for a variety of preparation tasks
- Please Help during set up week
- Please Be there on Fair Day
- Please Help with Clean-up

Let Us Know What You Can Do - Call the Church 508.586.3022

Email Us: Fair@brocktonucc.org; Sheppo247@comcast.net; Darmok2@comcast.net; sikoza84@gmail.com

Text Us: Sheppó 508.631.1999 David 617.590.1878 Sue 508.613.5674





We are hoping to reestablish a Collation Committee, please reach out to Keith Allen, Deana in the church office, or me if you are able to help.

The work would involve setting the food tables with tablecloths and serving utensils; placing food (provided by the family) onto the food tables; assisting with serving the food; and cleaning up afterwards.

Providing a Collation for our grieving families is one way of offering comfort and support to those in our Beloved Community.

Thank you for considering this important mission.

PLANNING FOR A FUNERAL

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

One form per person please, return it to the Pastor (keep a copy for yourself to put with your estate documents). Completed forms will be stored in the Pastor's office and can be updated at any time.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Name of person with whom you have shared this plan: _____

What setting do you prefer for your memorial service? *Examples include: the church, a funeral home (specify if you know which one), a cemetery or military base (please specify), a family location, etc.*

What hymns would you like? Generally, 2 or 3 hymns are sung, with additional music included in Prelude or Postlude. *Examples include: Blessed Be the Tie that Binds, Precious Lord Take my Hand, Amazing Grace, His Eye is on the Sparrow, How Great Thou Art, Peace Perfect Peace, It is Well with my Soul, On Eagle's Wings, Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore, God Be With You til We Meet Again*

Are there other musical selections you would like included?

What scripture readings would you like? (Generally, 2 or 3 passages are read) *Examples include: Psalm 139, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 14, 1 Corinthians 13, 2 Timothy 4:6b-8, 1 Thessalonians 5: 9-11, Psalm 121, Matthew 11:28-30, Psalm 46, or other scripture passages that have been meaningful to your faith journey*

Are there additional readings, including poetry, that you would like shared?

Who do you envision participating in the memorial service? Clergy, family, friends?

Are there specific events about your life (accomplishments, associations, memories, etc.?) that you would like shared?

Have you made preparations with a funeral home for your burial arrangements?

Funeral home name: _____ Phone: _____

Would you like to designate the church or another charitable organization to receive memorial gifts in lieu of flowers? _____

Do you have any special requests or symbolic items that you would like included in the display area and service? *Examples include: a solo sung by a family member or friend, or items such as an American flag, a special piece of jewelry, or photos of you or family members.*

Please check here _____ if you would like a pastoral call regarding this form.

Please check here _____ if you would like information on how to include Christ Congregational Church in your estate planning.

Please check here _____ if you have already included Christ Congregational Church in your will.

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To the members of our Beloved Community -

Thanks so very much for the honor of serving you as Moderator, I hope I have served you well. And thank you to the Council for the generous gifts - I found a perfect spot to hang the beautiful picture tray- I love it!

In Gratitude and Faith
Sue Koza

The
Gardens
are
Flourishing
at
the
CCC



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

July:

Reagan Lacourse, Sam Fisher, Christopher Colby, Kevin Weatherbee, Cecilia Creedon, Donna Costa, Donna Hefler, Tom Sampson, Alexander Owens, Deana Colby, Abby Morales, Penny Ackley, Abigail Murphy, Leo Larson, Holly Matisis, Nicholas Colby, Cody Cappiello, Chris Madden, Abby Quimby, Zachary Alden, Emily Swisher-Rosa, Brenda Wyss, Alan Bradford, Mike Camara, Jenn Alden, Audrey Simmons, Andrew Howard, Max Flanagan, Brad Mitchell

August:

Mark Deyoe, Kate Howard, Stephen Bennett, Jillian Haskell, Betsey Serjak, David Stuart, Ariella Bastia, Candy Savage, Lisa Sparling, Eddie Poole, John Hagberg, Anna Camara, Rich Brosky, Jenn Brosky, Karin Davis, Caple Rich, Ann Clark, Karl Koza, Jayden Quintero

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



We pray for the family of Arthur Sawyer, may he rest in peace.

Prayer
Shawl Ministry



Come join the Prayer Shawl group every Wednesday in the library from 10 - 12 PM.

The group will show you how to knit these lovely shawls that have a specific pattern. Then they are blessed by the Pastor. If you would like a shawl to give to someone that needs a little extra love and prayer, please see someone in the group or come to the office. Or if you just want to come and hang out with this lovely group, come on down!



THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

The State of the church - The state of our church is Change - some for the better, some bringing extra challenges, but change nonetheless. We continue to evolve, to write new chapters in our story, honoring long traditions and embracing new ones. We have a solid foundation, not only our physical building, but also in the faithful members and friends who contribute so much to our congregation. God has granted us so many gifts, we are truly blessed.

I hope each of you is eager to begin your committee work, bringing your ideas for activities that support our Missions, our Core Values, and Strategic Pathways. Seeing and participating in the things that make us shine - Social activities, fundraising events, meals and missions, there is always something going on. We must continue to build on our strengths and focus on the future of our church, our vigor, and our opportunities for growth. Our work confirms the soul of our church, and keeps us vital, bringing God's mission for us to life.

We have adapted our Worship model to include candle lighting and prayer requests; we have made online Worship a regular part of our Worship experience; we have embraced the Pray-ground, as a way to let our youth know they truly are a valued part of our Beloved Community. Another activity that our friends from Stoughton have brought to our midst is baseball Sunday – stay tuned for the date. We change, and while change can be scary, it also opens us to possibilities.

We are about to embark on a search for a new Music Director, who will have big shoes to fill. Murray gave us almost ten years of wonderful music, expanding the talents of our choir and all those who participate in our music program. Another change, but one that may open us to new directions and ideas. We will place our trust in the search committee to find someone who will be a good fit, and keep our hearts open to what that someone will bring.

We anticipate the disruptions that building a parsonage will bring to our property, but look forward to helping Pastor Jeff and Dani bring their family into the home to offer them a secure and settled place to raise their boys.

We will continue to adapt, and welcome innovative ideas to restructure our governance model. Our Bylaws are long overdue for revision, to fit who we are now as a church. We support the growth of our community partners, Brockton Interfaith Community and Rose Conservatory, as they bring their energy and focus on filling a need in the wider community. We are blessed to partner with them.

I thank you all for YOUR commitment to your committees, to our mission, and to our church body as a whole. Each and every one of you is important, everything you do makes a difference.

In closing, I would like to offer Moriah and Matt all good wishes as they begin their tenure as Moderator and Vice-Moderator.

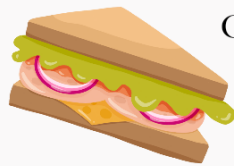
Let us support them in Joy with optimism, energy and enthusiasm for our Beloved Community.

~Sue Koza

Brockton UCC Missions
**FOOD MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES**

♥ **CASSAROLES FOR MAINSPRING GUESTS**
This ministry benefits Brockton folks experiencing housing insecurity. Cassaroles makers needed!

♥ **BROWN BAG LUNCHES FOR OUTDOOR CHURCH**
This benefits unhoused Cambridge folks who attend Outdoor Church. Lunch packers needed on 7/29.



Contact Anita & Preston Keenan
to sign up at
Keenans21@gmail.com



BROCKTON UCC MISSIONS

Our recent delivery of 17 personal care bags & 6 strollers for Haitian refugee families living on the South Shore!





The quilt guild enjoyed a pot luck salad luncheon in June and were joined by members of the Prayer Shawl knitting group. On Childrens' Sunday we had 54 (fifty four) NICU quilts made by the guild blessed by Pastor Jeff. He and Dani will bring them to Childrens' Hospital neonatal intensive care unit in mid-July.

Quilt guild meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 19 from 1-3 pm in the quilt/craft room.

Peggy, Maurine, and Dee from the Prayer Shawl Group joined our year ending Quilt salad luncheon.



This table runner was given to Murray Kidd on his farewell celebration from the CTQG.



A pastel pinwheel baby quilt made by Kristine Blanchard

Some of the fifty-four NICU quilts were displayed on June 18th and all were blessed by Pastor Jeff.





This lovely tree quilt was made by Linda Alvilhiera.



This quilt made by Linda Alvilhiera was made by using the Paper Piecing Method.



Lots of rich colored flannels were used to make this quilt. Made by Kristine Blanchard for her husband.



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JULY 5TH- AUGUST 11TH
MONDAY- FRIDAY
8AM- 4PM

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PER WEEK

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ACTIVITIES

- Music and dance
 - Tie dye
 - Sports
- Arts and Crafts
- Improv Games and a lot more..

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CONTACT US

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 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