



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

Volume 43 No. 6

Be The Church

June 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:

**ALL
COMMITTEE
MEETING
JUNE 4TH**
12:00 - 3:00pm

See your committee leader if you are having a meeting during this month

PASTOR'S PAGE

~In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.~

Matthew 5:16

Dear Friends,

According to *The Trevor Project* (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>) there are some deeply troubling trends among LGBTQ youth in our country. 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year – nearly 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth attempted suicide and LGBTQ youth of color reported higher rates than their white peers. Fewer than 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth found their home to be gender-affirming. 60% of LGBTQ youth who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it. When we look at the data, for all the gains we have made in our country for the rights of LGBTQ people there is still urgent work that must be done – because people are actually hurting and dying. Places like Florida keep doubling down on making their state unsafe for LGBTQ people, and the politicians leading the charge have support from constituents.

But there's hope – because we are the salt of the earth as Jesus says just a few verses before this, and we can shine the affirming light of Jesus' love like a city on a hill. And if that sounds like "pie in the sky" thinking, the *Trevor Project* survey also bears this out.

LGBTQ youth who felt high social support from their family reported attempting suicide at *less than half the rate* of those who felt low or moderate social support. LGBTQ youth who found their school to be LGBTQ-affirming reported *lower rates of attempting suicide*. LGBTQ youth who live in a community that is accepting of LGBTQ people reported significantly lower rates of attempting suicide than those who do not. In every instance creating spaces where LGBTQ people can not only be welcome, but also affirmed and accepted and loved for who they are, there are very *REAL* and *DEEP* positive effects. We are an Open and Affirming church, and have been since 2009. In becoming an ONA church we didn't commit only to creating affirming space in our own building. We committed to doing the same in all of the places we can reach as a congregation.

On June 25th I invite you to join us for our special service dedicated to LGBTQ pride. For the rest of the month of June I want to invite you to think about how you can create Open and Affirming spaces outside of our sanctuary and church walls. Think about how you might invite others in our beloved community to join you – and then let your light shine as Jesus has told us.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Happy June, Beloved Community.

With Pentecost's arrival the Spirit has descended and we feel it moving in Christian Education! There is much to look forward to this month.

Baccalaureate Sunday is on June 11th where we will announce scholarship recipients and recognize those graduating this year: Ang Colby, Sofia Shelley, and Gabe Swisher Rosa.

On June 18th the Children and Youth of our congregation will lead us in worship as we focus on The Golden Rule. We are working hard on preparing this service during Sunday School. Any youth (8th grade-12th grade) that would like to participate should meet me on June 11 in my office at 11:30am- they can participate by being ushers and greeters, reading prayers, or leading the Time for All Ages.

Our summer schedule will begin on June 25th. There will be no Sunday School until September 10th. Children are always welcome in our worship. Starting on June 25th, children may grab a worship tool box from the playground and join their families for the beginning of worship. After the Time for All Ages, children will be given a task to complete at the Playground during the sermon and will be dismissed back to their families during the offering. At the conclusion of the worship service, please return the worship tool boxes to the Playground so they can be used each Sunday.

Last, but certainly not least, we will be hosting CHANGEMAKER'S LAB VBS from Monday August 14 - Thursday August 17 from 5:30-8:00pm for ages 4-12. More information will be available soon!

We need volunteers to help prepare for and run VBS. We will be having work days at the church from 9:00am-12:00pm on July 1, 8, and 29 to prepare for this fun event! EVERYONE is welcome to help make this year's VBS a smashing success.

My prayer this month is for each of our children, youth, teachers, bus drivers, and support staff to feel peace and connectedness as they complete their school year. May it be a time of celebration and reflection as you head off to enjoy the summer break!

In Peace,

Dani

BROCKTON UCC MISSIONS



*Beloved Community
Hair Care Collection*

SUPPORTING MIGRANT FOLKS

ITEMS NEEDED: Unrefined coconut oil - Shampoo & Conditioner for type 3 & 4 hair. Brands appreciated include: MIELLE, CAMILLE ROSE, IVYEES & ORS

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Brockton UCC Missions

FOOD MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

♥ CASSAROLES FOR MAINSPRING GUESTS

This ministry benefits Brockton folks experiencing housing insecurity. Cassaroles needed by 6/11.

♥ 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





JUNE 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

We will prepare for Children and Youth Sunday during worship on June 1st and 11th.

Children and Youth will lead worship on Sunday June 18th. Please meet in the sanctuary at 9:15am.

Summer Schedule begins June 25th. No Sunday School until September 19th



CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our confirmands who will be confirmed on Sunday June 4th during worship.



YOUTH GROUP

Stay tuned for more information via the Nearly Weekly for our next event!



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



SAVE THE DATES

- **Sunday June 4:** Confirmation Sunday Worship Service
- **Sunday June 11:** Baccalaureate Sunday Worship Service
- **Sunday June 18:** Children and Youth Sunday Worship Service
- **Sunday June 25:** Pride Sunday Worship Service

No Sunday School from June 25-September 10



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

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NOTES FROM MURRAY



Spring has SPRUNG!!!! This week, the weather has been absolutely gorgeous! I am in awe of the foliage in our area of the world. We were given a small sprig of evening primrose last year. I planted it in front of our porch. We emerged from winter and noticed that it has quadrupled in size and is about the size of a large end table. It is beautiful and makes us happy to see it among the other shrubs and greenery. I am reminded, constantly, of this lovely anthem by Rutter set to the Cecil (no 'e') Frances Alexander's, All Things Bright and Beautiful. She wrote several poems that have been set to hymns, including another favorite of mine, Once In Royal David's City, that we have sung during Advent every year since I began. We have almost always had a member or two from our youth choir sing the first verse and this has been a special part of the Advent season for me. Back to Spring! [All Things Bright and Beautiful](#) is such an appropriate homage to the earth on which we are living for the time being. We see rabbits around our neighborhood and many dogs walk by with their people in the warm air. The lilacs have past their peak, but there are still a few bushes with enough blooms to be able to smell their intoxicating fragrance. The Lord made them all! Not all church choirs can sing [this challenging anthem](#), but we have been blessed to be able to hear our choir sing this in our worship services a few times, including a few weeks ago.

As we head into June, we have openings in the summer music for Sundays. If you have interest in singing, please reach out to me and let me know. It can be a hymn or a special song you know from elsewhere. If you play an instrument, we would love to hear you!

As you know, my last Sunday in worship with you all will be June 11th. If you have been in the choir before and wish to come up and join us for any of the music listed in the bulletin, please do so. We are going to sing "Laudate Dominum" by Mozart with Alisa Cassola singing the solo, Let Everything That Hath Breath which we sang on Easter, and In the Stillness of This Moment and a special dismissal by Peter C. Lutkin. We will also sing the hymn, When In Our Music, God is Glorified, so if you have an interest in coming up and joining us, feel free to come on up to the loft and if you want to attend the rehearsal on June 7th, you can run through the music! There will be strawberry shortcake provided by the music committee in gratitude for the choir's dedication and beautiful music making throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Murray

Musicians Wanted For Summer Sunday Music



FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC



Choir and Bell Group Appreciation: June 7

All members of the adult choir and our two bell groups are invited to enjoy an end of year social celebrating all you've done to make wonderful music for worship and special events this year. Please join us on June 7 at 7:30 pm for strawberry shortcake.

Sending Forth for Murray Kidd

Our Music Director, Murray Kidd, has resigned and will be ending his time with us on June 11. During worship, there will be a time for recognizing his ministry with us and sending him on to the next phase of his musical journey. Following worship, there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

Arts & Music at Christ Church

DRUM CIRCLE

About 18 people came to Midday Music in May to participate in an instructive and fun drumming circle with Greg Fernandes, the Director of the Rose Conservatory, which meets here at Christ Congregational Church. It was an intergenerational event which was enjoyed by all!

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

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



Christ Congregational
Church, UCC

SAVE THE DATE

YARD SALE

Saturday, June 10th 2023

9am - 1pm

(Rain Date TBD)

Rent your own table:

\$15 Church Members - \$25 Outside Vendors

Or donate for the church to sell

Volunteers Needed!

Call the office to sign up (see info counter)

or for more info

(508)586-3022



May 2023

Dear Staff at CCC/UCC,

I am honored to have been chosen for the "Light of the World" award. I was quite surprised and very happy. The stained glass desk lamp is beautiful and the perfect choice with birds and flowers on the shade.

My sons wanted to know if I had contacted the Pope to let him know that the light of the world was in Brockton not Rome.

Thank you again to my beloved community.

Janet Eckstrom

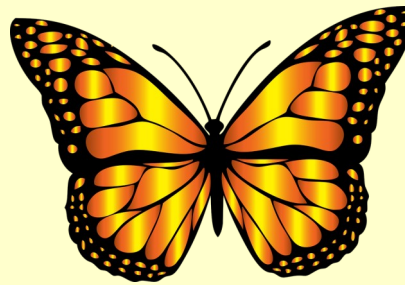
Dear Deacons,

I'm sorry I'm late to thank you for my lovely pink tulips, and the nice card too. I did appreciate them. Also the cards I receive from time to time. Thank you. April wasn't a good month for me at times. Egads.

I wish everyone to take care and enjoy life

Sincerely,

Jean Purificato



p.s. I enjoy the courier, and I still have my Christmas flowers. Not doing bad hanging in there like me.

Dear Friends On The Board Of Deacons,

Your kindness is greatly appreciated...so much so.

I hope you know and feel what a difference you make. The delivery of beautiful flowers and thoughtful cards greatly affect the recipient as well as the family. Thank you!!



Bonnie Bittner

5/12/23

To The Deacons,

I am much blessed by your continued thoughtfulness (the cards, notes, flowers & plants), certainly all bringing me comforts and pleasure.

Thank you all,

Best Wishes,

Ricky Soncrant



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for all that you do! Not only for the Scholarships, but also the countless messages of encouragement (and of course the cookie care packages!). It truly all means more than you know. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Serenty Young-Ferguson



SAVE THE DATE!

Board Retreat

Who? Come one – Come all Committee members!

What? The 2023 Leadership Retreat

When? Sunday, June 4th, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m

Where? Fellowship Hall

Why? Our annual gathering of outgoing and incoming committee members, a time to enjoy lunch, conversation, and a planning session, and to get acquainted or (re-acquainted) with your fellow board members for the upcoming term.



Please see future announcements and emails for further information



We pray for the families of Judy Giannangelo and Carolyn Bennet, may they 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!

Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Rick Davis, Moriah Illsley, Barbara Moody, Bob Gair, Jillian Larson, Layne Moline, Nancy Goodwin, Sean Stevens, Jr., Brad Weatherbee, Michelle Dias, Pat Hennebury, Matthew Howard, Lillian Lee Stone, Denise Cahill, Angela Colby, Jeff Illsley, David Jones, Janet Eckstrom, John Boutwell, Mary Poole, Serenity Young-Ferguson and Sawyer Young-Ferguson

(listed in order of day of month from 1 to 30)



A NOTE FROM VITALITY

Vitality hosted our annual “Spring Fling” Scholarship Event on Saturday May 6th. We did things a little different this year with a “Trivia/Minute to Win It” night and it was a success!!! Everyone who attended had a FUN time working in teams to answer trivia questions and compete in game challenges. The winners of each team received a raffle ticket for every correct answer or win! Tickets were also purchased for all the AMAZING prizes. There were themed baskets, such as Entertainment, Mexican, Italian, Summer, Chocolate, etc. etc. etc. and there were gift cards to everywhere! Of course, there was plenty of food to eat. Nobody ever leaves hungry when Vitality is involved! It was so wonderful to see everyone enjoying each other’s company (we mixed people up a bit). There was a lot of laughter, and a genuinely good time was had by all.

We want to thank everyone that attended and enjoyed the night with us. We also want to thank all those who couldn’t attend but helped by making a donation. Also, thank you to all the committees for making beautiful gift baskets to raffle off, that definitely helped in the sale of raffle tickets! Vitality is VERY happy to report that the “Spring Fling” raised over \$1,100 to go into the Scholarship Fund! YAY!!! We look forward to next year!

Spring Fling Scholarship Event



*FUN
&
GAMES*



FELLOWSHIP

RAFFLES



Our Annual May meeting was on May 21st. Above we awarded Janet Eckstrom the “Light Of The World” award. Below Sue Koza is receiving her thank you/recognition gifts for her role as moderator.



ROSE CONSERVATORY

FIRST ANNUAL

"Plant A Rose Gala"

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY RONDILEAU STUDENT UNION

Saturday JUNE 24

19 Park Ave, Bridgewater
6:00pm-9:00pm

Scan Me For Tickets



DONATE NOW!



Please consider supporting the Rose Conservatory by donating, attending the gala, or both! Rose Conservatory students are experiencing a deeply enriching program, that they might not have access to otherwise, a program that doesn't only teach music but also encourages academic excellence and curiosity for all things. We are proud to be the home building for this incredible program, and we invite you to help us support them even further.

Greg Fernandes, the director and founder of Rose Conservatory, writes more about the program and outlines various ways to support Rose Conservatory such as buying an ad in their program booklet, contributing by "planting seeds" in the *Rose Garden*, or by sponsoring a student through the "Rose Petals" program. To find out more [CLICK HERE](#).

To sign up for the Gala on June 24th, or to make an undesignated donation, click the link below.

Official Eventbrite Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rose-conservatory-plant-a-rose-gala-tickets-635450087317?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>



Rose Conservatory

1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton, MA 02301
RoseConservatory@gmail.com---508-266-1826

The Rose Conservatory provides access to exceptional arts education and performance for the Brockton community, fostering creativity, artistic growth, and well-being for individuals of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. We empower a diverse range of children as scholars, artists, and leaders through unique and rigorous academic assistance, mentorship and music education. We enrich the larger community through performance, service, and collaboration. The Rose Conservatory uses the most effective ways to achieve youth development goals through intensive investment in the positive social impact of music ensemble creation, rehearsal, public performance and academic assistance.

PROGRAMS:

- **VIOLIN** - Students learn the parts of the instrument and bow as well as proper positioning form. They are introduced to basic rhythms, note reading, and introductory pieces. Upon successful completion of this, students continue with private lessons.
- **PIANO** - This introduction to piano and music is for students who have little to no experience. They learn how to read music, find notes on the piano and other essentials so you can begin playing pieces.
- **GUITALELE** - This instrument is easy is equivalent to an acoustic guitar. Guitars are amazing but, acoustic guitars can be big for children. Because this guitalele is smaller, it's real easy to hold and handle. Students grasp the essentials needed to begin playing acoustic or electric guitar. They learn to play quickly, through a combination of exploring the instrument, performance technique, and basic music theory.
- **HANDBELLS** - Learning to play these instruments can fulfill several important functions: development of students' musical skills, encouragement of teamwork, socialization and self-esteem, and expansion of the music program. Students can readily address rhythm, dynamics, key signatures, and notation in a group setting with handbells, and over time explore everything from duration and loudness to timbre, texture, and style.
- **VOICE TRAINING** - Students explore vocal technique, choral singing tone, sight-reading and performance techniques.
- **WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING ENSEMBLE** - This class teaches traditional West African drumming techniques. Students start with a solid foundation of the traditional Djembe and Dundun drums. Each child learns new rhythms and history of the West African Drum/Culture.

Gregory Fernandes
Executive Director
RoseConservatory@gmail.com
508-266-1826

ROSECONSERVATORY@
GMAIL.COM

JULY 5TH- AUGUST 11TH

MONDAY- FRIDAY
8AM- 4PM

\$200

PER WEEK

Fun and creative indoor/outdoor
games for kids
grades 2-6

ACTIVITIES

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

at Rose Conservatory





Next meeting will be Tuesday June 20th from 1-3 pm in the craft/ quilt room.

This will be our end-of-year salad luncheon. Everyone brings a salad of their choosing and we eat and socialize. No sewing but show and tell ALWAYS welcome. Lap quilt we worked on using squares donated by Stoughton UCC will be there for show and tell.

June 18th is Children's Sunday and all our NICU quilts will be blessed and then donated to the NICU at Children's Hospital in Boston in thanks for saving Baby Judah's life. Please try to attend this service as you are the people that make all these charity quilts.

Questions or a ride call Janet @ 508-583-0505.



A "scrappy" lap quilt made by Janet Eckstrom. Who knew that a few scraps of fabric could make this lovely quilt.



This amazing applique quilt was made by Carol Bradford. Original artwork for the animals were done by her husband Al.



Lots of wonderful pastels in this "Pinwheel" baby quilt made by Kristine Blanchard.



Sampler lap quilt made with squares donated by the Soughton UCC.
Thank You!



Two more baby quilts for the NICU were made by Deana Colby.



The "Plus Sign" quilt made by Janet Eckstrom found it's new home on her sons couch named Colonel Mustard. A perfect fit!



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