



### **WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:**

Worship: Remotely and On-Site  
**Sundays, 10:00AM**

#### **Regular Events:**

Adult Choir:  
TBD

Adult Hand Bells:  
TBD

Afternoon Hand Bell Group  
TBD

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: Sep. 6, 7PM

Council: Sep. 21, 7PM

Deacons: Sep. 7, 7PM

Finance/Property: Sep. 14, 7PM

Media/Tech: Sep. 19, 7PM

Missions: Sep. 12, 7PM

Music: TBD

Vitality: Sep. 3, 11:15AM

### **PASTOR'S PAGE**

I'm excited to celebrate Rally Day this year with our first baseball Sunday at Christ Congregational Church – and it's hard to believe it's only a week away! Growing up I had the privilege to live just a few miles down the road from the complex where the Little League World series is played every summer. For those who aren't familiar it's a tournament in South Williamsport that includes 8 teams from the United States and 8 teams from around the world, all comprised of 11 and 12 year olds who played for their town's all star team, and these 16 teams play baseball in front of a world stage.



Growing up I remember the experience – there's a huge hill just outside the outfield wall that's awesome for sliding down on cardboard boxes, and the games don't charge any admission just like any other Little League game. Hotdogs are a dollar and the atmosphere is always fun – but what's always struck me most about the Little League world series is the camaraderie among the players. International players and US players alike all stay in dorms on the grounds of the complex, and so they aren't only playing baseball against one another on game days but they're living together and sharing meals while they aren't playing; but there's also a deep tradition among those who are fortunate to make it to the tournament. Each team has a pin that represents their country or region, and each player has a bunch of the pins as they arrive in Williamsport – and one of the favorite traditions among the players is to trade pins with one another throughout the tournament to see if they can get a pin from each team represented. I've always thought that tradition brings into focus the reason we do anything like playing baseball or other hobbies – because they bring us together.

Watching professional baseball players can make the game seem almost automatic, because the margin for error in the game of baseball is so small – and to get to that level means you've really almost perfected some of the elements of the game – but watching the Little League World series over the years I'm always reminded that perfection isn't why people watch or play baseball... they play to have an experience together. That becomes clear when opposing players in the Little League World Series console one another in loss and congratulate one another in their success – because they're all there to succeed, and to celebrate together. As we celebrate baseball Sunday, Rally Day, and pick up where we left off for a new program year I hope we can all encourage one another and remember that we don't get together in church to achieve perfection – but to experience growth together, and to celebrate together when it happens.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Jeff



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Hello, Beloved Community.

As the dog days of summer have arrived and we look forward to cooler temperatures and the change of seasons, I am excited for what is in store not just for our young folks regarding faith formation, but also our adults. Stay tuned to the Nearly Weekly and announcements for adult faith formation opportunities this fall.

On Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> all students, teachers, staff, and bus drivers are invited to bring their backpacks, school bags, and blankies to be blessed during worship before you start your new school year.

Sunday, September 10th will be a FUN day of baseball themed worship followed by fellowship with a hot dog lunch, ice cream, activities, and CCC's first annual kids vs adults wiffleball game! This is a time for our beloved community to come back together after our summer adventures to celebrate the beginning of a new church year! All are welcome, invite a friend!

Regular Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 17th. Families are welcome to sit with their children during the first part of worship in the Playground and then children will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Time for All Ages. Feel free to grab a Worship Tool Box at the beginning of the service or color at the playground tables. There will be no supervision at the Playground, except during intergenerational worship on the first Sunday of the month.

This fall we will be using the VBS curriculum, Changemakers Lab during Sunday School. We will learn how we can be changemakers in our communities and world by learning about different people in the Bible who were changemakers. Each week will have an activity from STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, or math) and a SNACK! This is for children Kindergarten-5th grade. Nursery is available during the service starting at 9:45am for ages 0-PreK.

This summer we used the playground as a way for children to connect to the message each Sunday by creating reminders to take home of what God wants us to do and be. They made suncatchers, mixed media art, cross ornaments, bracelets, prayer beads, lacing art, luchador masks to remind us to surrender to God when we are struggling, and of course the fan favorite: playdoh!

My prayer this month is for all the families adjusting to the change from a less structured summer to the rigor of back to school. May all have peaceful hearts and know that they are loved, valued, and known by our Almighty Creator.

In Peace,  
Dani



Friendly reminder:

Please use the email [ce@brocktonucc.org](mailto:ce@brocktonucc.org) if you need to contact Dani Kardisco for any Christian Education needs. This email is checked regularly and you can expect a response within 24 hours. Thank you!



# CE SUMMMER FUN





You are invited to...

## AWAKEN TO WORSHIP

I have been asked by Mount Moriah Baptist Church to pass on their invitation to members of our congregation to the "Awaken to Worship" liturgical dance program September 15-17. Please see the flyer below and go online to <https://linktr.ee/NLDNMARI> for details. Leaders of the National Liturgical Dance Network will offer movement and non-movement workshops for youth (ages 9-17) and adults on that Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Workshop participation requires registration—soon. There will also be free public worship experiences incorporating liturgical dance on Friday and Saturday evenings (7:30-9:30) and Sunday morning (10:00-12:00).

You are invited to participate in any or all parts of the program. Brenda and I plan on attending the worship experience that Saturday evening, September 16. Please let me know if you would like to join us then or have questions about other aspects of the event: [barygshelley@gmail.com](mailto:barygshelley@gmail.com), 857-210-3152.

For those interested, let me add a little context to this invitation. I know that some of you did not know about the bells when I announced this event in church on August 27. First, a quick Christ Congregational Church history lesson for relative newcomers (like myself). Our congregation was born in the 1980s with the merger of four congregational churches in Brockton. Over time the four church buildings were sold and our current church building was built in the 1990s. One of the four original congregations was First Parish which was located in the downtown area and had a well-known bell tower and carillon. That building was sold in 1983 to Mount Moriah Baptist Church. That sale excluded the bells, however, since many of the bells had been memorial gifts and First Parish members hoped they could be moved when CCC settled into a new building. But for several reasons—moving costs, zoning ordinances, etc.—the bells remained in their original location. Over the years intermittent CCC proposals to resolve the issue were repeatedly followed by periods of inattention. About three years ago renewed discussions led to a proposal that we give the bells to Mount Moriah.

The congregation approved that transfer of ownership in November 2021. It then took a little while to draw up the legal documents to establish Mount Moriah's ownership... 40 years after the original sale.

Earlier this summer Brenda and I visited Mount Moriah to deliver those documents. We had a wonderful meeting with Gwen Hickman, church administrator, and Rev. Eugene Neville, now retired, who was Mount Moriah's pastor when the building was sold. Their current pastor, Cedric Rucker, was unable to join us because of his correctional social services job. During that conversation, mutual interest arose regarding possibilities of exchanges between our two congregations. Ms. Hickman and Rev. Neville extended this invitation to the "Awaken to Worship" event as such an opportunity.

The Network  
NATIONAL LITURGICAL DANCE NETWORK  
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND CHAPTERS

# NEW ENGLAND:

## AWAKEN TO WORSHIP

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! ISAIAH 52:1

DATE: 15-17 SEP 2023

LOCATION: MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH  
24 PLEASANT ST  
BROCKTON, MA

Two day Experience with  
Master Class, Shofar,  
Pageantry, Moves of God,  
Adult, Youth, &  
Non-Movement Workshops,  
Panel Discussion, & more

To Register go to <https://linktr.ee/NLDNMARI>

Dr. Amanda Standard    Judah Marable    Dr. Sumaya A. White

NLDN MASSACHUSETTS@GMAIL.COM

**Welcome September...No Fall Yard Sale, We are focusing our attentions to Fall Fair Activities...  
And You Can Help, Please!!**

**The Fall Fair Date is Saturday November 4th**

We Asked You to Ponder Ways You Can Participate - Now is Time for Action  
We will hold a Fall Fair planning meeting Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall

- ✚ We Need Donations of Clean, Gently Used Items for Fair Areas of:
  - Collectables
  - Clothing
  - Jewelry
  - Attic Treasures
- ✚ Have You Decided on Some Food Preparation?
  - Possibilities for Frozen Take-Out
  - Candy
  - Desserts
  - Luncheon contribution
- ✚ We Are Looking for You to Volunteer - What works for you?
  - Please Pitch in a day or two in September/October for a variety of preparation tasks
  - Please Help during set up week October 29<sup>th</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Please Be there on Fair Day November 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Please Help with Clean-up November 4<sup>th</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Some of Each, Please
- ✚ Gift Baskets for Purchase or Fall Fair Raffle
  - Please donate a basket or themed components for a basket
- ✚ **ALSO Our Popular Calendar Raffle will be for January 2024 Draws after several recommendations that chances could be given as Holiday Gifts -  
So Gift Card Donations are appreciated in amounts between \$25 and \$50**

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

**Email Us:** [Fair@brocktonucc.org](mailto:Fair@brocktonucc.org); [Sheppo247@comcast.net](mailto:Sheppo247@comcast.net); [Darmok2@comcast.net](mailto:Darmok2@comcast.net); [sikoza84@gmail.com](mailto:sikoza84@gmail.com)

**Text Us:** Sheppo 508.631.1999 David 617.590.1878 Sue 508.613.6574





We are hoping to reestablish a Collation Committee, please reach out to Keith Allen, Deana in the church office, or Pastor Jeff 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.

Celebrating  
**September**  
Birthdays



**Wishing all the best on your Birthdays**

Jean Holmes, Carole Clark, Michele Silvernail,  
Chris Merkle, Renee Matthews, Lynne Mixner,  
Mason Silvernail - St. Martin, Donald Colby,  
Lorraine Wilcox, Pat Emanuel, Diane Landerholm,  
Jean Purificato, Lisa Landerhom-Burke, Alisabeth  
Burke, Cathy Campbell, Ann-Marie Illsley, Jean  
Cappiello, Seth Creedon, Laurel Fisher, Tavi  
Swisher-Rosa, Jane MacIntyre, Judah Kardisco

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

To Deacons and Friends of CCC,  
A most belated thank you for the visits,  
flowers, notes and bringing communion. All  
help me to stay connected to the church.  
Hopefully I can get to services on a Sunday.



Thank you for all you do,

Sandra Hill

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**TO:**

**Wednesday Bible Study**

10:00 AM each Wednesday  
On Zoom

For more details, or to get the Zoom link, contact:

Pastor Jeff - [pastor@brocktonucc.org](mailto:pastor@brocktonucc.org)

Alice Farnsworth - [grammy58@comcast.net](mailto:grammy58@comcast.net)



Dear Beloved Community,

Jeff and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love, prayer, understanding, and unending support as we journey through Judah's path to transplant. We are especially appreciative of the care we have received during Judah's most recent surgery and hospital stay. Those that cared for Ivyn, sent gift cards for food, and all of the positive thoughts and prayers make these difficult times easier. We are forever grateful to serve in this beloved community.

With all our love,

Pastor Jeff, Dani,  
Ivyn, and Judah



Dear Friends,

A note of thanks is long overdue but sincere thanks for the Prayer Shawl in my favorite colors. I liked your inclusion of the story behind the shawl. It continues to bring me comfort in my difficult times.



Most Sincerely,

Sandra Hill

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of food. The needs are great and your donation will help those less fortunate.

Your generosity is appreciated!

Sincerely,

Society Of St. Vincent De Paul

Christ The King Conference



## **A Note From The Moderator**

I hope you all had an amazing summer! Since June, our church community shared time together during services, said good-bye to music director, Murray Kidd and accompanist Anton Faynberg, and saw some lovely Rose Conservatory camp days. culminating in what promises to be an AMAZING Rally Day and Baseball Sunday! A busy summer to be sure!

As I embark upon my term as your moderator, I have been reflecting on what it means to serve you in this capacity, my goals for the next two years and what it means to be a part of a Beloved Community. To me, a Beloved Community is one that loves unconditionally. It recognizes that each person is unique in the gifts they offer, their background, and how their bodies and minds work. It then strives to create a welcoming, equitable, accepting, and accessible place that shines God's love on all.

To help our Beloved Community operate at its best, I would like to focus my time and efforts in four key areas: 1) Using our gifts and respecting our time 2) Experiencing the Beloved Community 3) Caring for those inside and outside our walls and 4) Building upon our foundations.

Using our Gifts and Respecting our Time- Have you ever been overwhelmed by the idea of joining a committee? Or are on a committee but are interested in the work of another? During my moderatorship and beyond we will be taking a hard look at how our Beloved Community operates. We will consider how best to share our gifts so that we can love, experience, and support each other while feeling less of the dreaded "committee burn out".

Experiencing the Beloved Community- From a young age I have felt the love and light of our Beloved Community. Some of my favorite memories from childhood are going to VBS and Sunday School with my friends, singing in the Junior Choir, and helping my dad set up Communion. As I grew up, I went through confirmation and Senior High Youth Group with those same friends and after college became an adult leader for the next generation of Senior High Youth Group kids. These experiences are a large part of why I am still an active member of our congregation. This community loved me and gave me a safe place to discover who I am and what I believe. As a congregation we have a unique place in each other's lives where we can offer and create these spaces and discover ourselves in Christ.

Caring for those inside and outside our walls- In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1/3 of people, almost 2.3 million, struggle with food insecurity. We will strengthen ourselves as partners in the common wealth, ensuring that our pantry, already full of food, is accessible to our Beloved Community whether they be inside or outside the walls of this church.

Building upon our Foundations- Understanding our traditions and foundations is important to who we are as a community. We look back to discover precedent and to identify where we came from. To better understand our congregational heritage, we will spend time studying, researching, organizing, and preserving documents and artifacts stored in the church building. These actions will allow us to preserve the foundations of our Beloved Community.

The term Beloved Community was popularized by Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends." Join me friends as we build pillars of love and spirit on the foundations of this Beloved Community.

In God's Spirit and Love, Moriah Park



# M I S S I O N S

On September 30th the Missions Board will be sponsoring the Outdoor Church in Cambridge.

We will be asking for donations, making sandwiches and distributing food with the Outdoor Church leaders in Central Square and Harvard Square.

Please contact Anita Keenan at [keenans21@gmail.com](mailto:keenans21@gmail.com) or 781-244-7742 for more information.

Photos attached are of our most recent outdoor church lunch making event held in July!

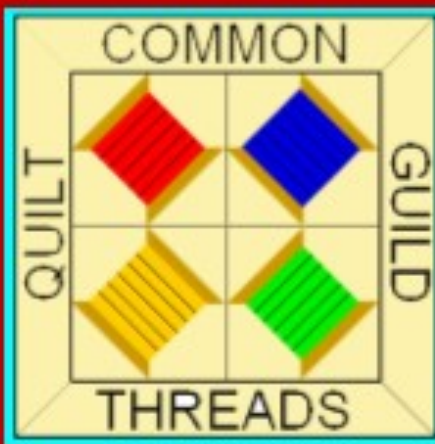


# THANK YOU!

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for all the donations of casseroles to the MainSpring House! Since the beginning of COVID, we have not donated more than 8-10 every other month, but because of your generosity, we were able to donate 15 casseroles! That means 150 people were fed a nice warm meal thanks to all of you!!!

We will be participating in this MainSpring House offering again in October, and we plan to include the makings for salad and dessert as well, which we have done in the past. We will also be looking for volunteers to help serve this meal. Please stay tuned for more details. -Anita Keenan





The guild will meet Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM in the craft/quilt room. Sandy Hill has donated her stash of fabric, thread and notions to the guild. Christmas has come early so bring a bag to add to your stash.

We will take a second look at the disappearing nine patch quilt and a new template for cutting circles. Show and tell always welcome.

Fifty four NICU quilts were delivered to Children's Hospital NICU by Pastor Jeff and Dani. Dani said the NICU nurses handed them out immediately. Three baby quilts were given to HFOT, a charity in Taunton that supports wounded veterans and their families.

Questions...call Nelda at 508-238-6004 or if you need a ride Janet @ 508-583-0505.



These three baby quilts are panel quilts made by Janet Eckstrom. They are for Homes For Our Troops organization. When a military family has a new little one, HFOT makes up a basket of needs and goodies for them. These quilts will be a lovely addition to each basket.



# FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC



The Board of Music has been meeting through the summer. The Search Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates for a Music Director. Due to changes, the music programs will not be in place until a candidate is found. The music programs and choir rehearsals will not be starting until a new director is in place. We will keep you all informed. This is a great time to think about joining our choir. Things will be new for all of us.

~The Music Committee



The Kardisco Family delivered the quilts to Boston Children's Hospital NICU (some of our favorite nurses) made by the quilter's guild in honor of Judah.





## LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE GALA

Saturday, September 30

5:30–10:30PM

WORCESTER DCU CENTER

You are cordially invited to an evening of celebration, dining, and dancing. Come meet with asylum seekers, as they share their stories of trial and triumph! This event is where we raise about 25% of our annual budget, so your help is needed to help make it a success.

Click Link For More Info: <https://www.lgbtasilum.org/gala>

Doug Anderson will be going and will be happy either to meet others there or to car pool. It's always a fun time and he will be happy to answer any questions at [douginmass@gmail.com](mailto:douginmass@gmail.com).



Christ Congregational Church, UCC

1350 Pleasant St.

Brockton, MA 02301-2840

## CONTACT US

**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**

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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!