



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

Volume 43 No. 11

Be The Church

November 2023

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

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

Regular Events:

Adult Choir:
Wednesdays, 6:45PM

Adult Hand Bells:
Wednesdays, 6PM

Afternoon Hand Bell Group
TBD

Bible Study: Zoom
Wednesdays, 10AM

Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Wednesdays, 10AM

Quilt Guild:
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



Board Meetings: ZOOM

Christian Ed: Nov. 5, 11:30AM

Council: Nov. 16, 7PM

Deacons: Nov. 1, 7PM

Finance/Property: Nov. 9, 7PM

Media/Tech: TBD

Missions: Nov. 14, 7PM

Music: Nov. 30, 7PM

Vitality: Nov. 5, 11:15AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

Our annual church fair is just days away and the energy is ramping up here at the church in anticipation! Donations have been coming in for weeks; and now they're being put on display as a visual reminder that excited treasure hunters will fill our church on Saturday. Volunteers are coming and going, working at all of the many details that make the fair possible – transforming our space from head to toe. Through it all the Spirit is working to bring together our community and the many others who the fair will reach.

While the fair is an important fundraising opportunity for our church every year, it's also important to remember the other value it holds for our congregation. Harvest fairs in the fall are historically an opportunity to celebrate the abundance God has blessed us with and to recognize a fruitful harvest. A harvest fair is an opportunity to recognize our own abundance and to also invite others into it with us. While it's hard work to put together a harvest fair, the work is always worth it when these things – gratitude, abundance, generosity, and joy – take center stage.

THAT is why I want to personally invite each one of you to come and join us for the fair this year. There are still opportunities to volunteer (and anyone who is interested in that can contact me or one of the organizers of the fair) but if you can't volunteer you can still support the fair by coming and sharing in the joy of our abundance, which we find in our community life. Our harvest fair is one of our most beloved times together.

Also, finally, I invite everyone to join me in praying for our fair volunteers and the work that they do. Without faithful people taking on the responsibility to lead our fair wouldn't be possible, and each year I'm always amazed at the miracles God is able to work through this time. My prayer is that you'll join us, and that the fair will serve as an excellent start to a season of thanksgiving that flows directly into the holidays. I, for one, am grateful for the community life we share together and for the way God moves among us

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Beloved Community,

As we turn the calendar into November, I am drawn to the concept of an attitude of gratitude. When life feels like it is going 100 miles per hour, the piles of laundry grow taller, the to-do list gets longer, and the weekends get shorter, I fall into the trap of focusing on everything that is hard. I find myself complaining about all the things and having no time, my patience grows thin, and I just want to take a nap. This month I am challenging myself to reframe these moments with an attitude of gratitude. Focusing on the little people who make mountains of laundry, the blessing of a home to move into that cause list making, the time spent in fellowship on the weekends with friends is the reframe. Having an attitude of gratitude doesn't take the hard away, but my hope is that it can ease the sting of the hard, even for a short time.

Jesus experienced all of the human emotions that we do and his life and ministry was certainly filled with hard things, there was much to worry or complain about. And yet, Jesus stopped to celebrate, break bread, and sit with the people he loved. I venture to say that this was his attitude of gratitude.

This skill, this mindset is also applicable to children. I imagine if we can put it into practice as adults and model it, our children will grow with an attitude of gratitude as well. It could be helpful to create a spiritual practice around it. It could be as simple as talking about the day where moments of gratitude occurred during dinner or the ride home from school or work. It could be more concrete like making a list, or writing on a pumpkin, or keeping a gratitude journal. I invite you to this challenge with me this month and would love to chat with you as you observe how it can color and shape your life and those you share life with.

My prayer this month is for families to focus on having attitudes of gratitude. I pray that when tough times come, that they draw closer together and close to this beloved community. I pray with thanksgiving for being able to be in ministry with you and share in the faith formation of our children.

In Peace,
Dani

“So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving.”

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP Sunday November 5

10:00am



All are welcome from ages 0-99 in a special, interactive, accessible worship service designed to meet the needs of all of God's children.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Need a few hours for yourself AND get free, safe, and fun childcare for your kiddos? Drop them off at the church with CORI'd adults. They will enjoy games, free play, dinner (mac-n-cheese), and end the night with a movie and popcorn. Please use the QR code to sign up by 11/15. Appropriate for children ages 4-12.



Saturday,
November 18
5-8pm



1350 Pleasant St.
Brockton, MA 02301

CORINTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1350 Pleasant St. Brockton, MA 02301

SIGN UP HERE!



October Sunday School



In Sunday School this month, we will be continuing to focus on how to be Changemakers in the world. In October, we learned that Changemakers ask questions and are problem solvers through the stories of Nicodemus and the friends who lowered their friend through the roof to see Jesus. This month we will learn that Changemakers respond to people in need through the book of Acts early Church and that they build bridges through the story of Peter sharing about the good news of Christ with both Jews and Gentiles. We will explore these stories with different activities in stations that can range from art, engineering, sensory play, and science.



TRUNK OR TREAT 2023!





A HUGE thank you to all of the trunk decorators, volunteers, and donors of candy, cider, and munchkins for Trunk or Treat held on October 22. It was a fun and candy-filled afternoon for adult and child alike. We welcomed about 100 people as they made their way through the trunks and collected their goodies. It was a delight to watch children of the community laughing and playing on the playground together and seeing adults sharing in fellowship. Praise God!

FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC



NOTES FROM AEX

Hi All!

It's been lovely being with you these past couple months!

"I love this stuff," I said out loud as I sat here, alone, in my kitchen tonight looking at long lists of Christmas music. I was planning for the resurrection of our **Christmas Concert** series (planned for **December!**).

I love music and sacred music in general, but Christmas music takes the cake! **Our Choir** is making that music now at our weekly rehearsals, **Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 PM**, in the sanctuary!

In a TEDx video from Australia, Tania de Jong makes the case that people singing together can positively change the brain. She explains how singing is a survival mechanism, how it makes our hearts beat together and can even help people recover from strokes and depression. She recounts how choirs have unified people across cultures and fostered healing from trauma too.

Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_HOBr8H9EM

If you don't want to sing with your voices, sing with your hands! **Our Handbell Ensemble** meets **6-6:45 PM, Wednesdays**, also in the sanctuary! Reading music not required (in either group)!

See you around!

Alex Green
CCC Music Director

November Midday Music to feature Drum Circle with

Greg Fernandes



Come and enjoy being part of the rhythm of life during our Midday Music on Wednesday, November 15 at 12:15 pm, presented by Arts & Music at Christ Church. **Greg Fernandes, Director of the Rose Conservatory**, will lead a Drum Circle where all can participate.

Thanks to sponsorship from Magnificat Liturgical Arts, the program is free. Donations are always welcome, and will be sent to support Father Bill's & Mainspring. Our Missions Board already has a connection with this wonderful agency, through its meals program. Thanks to those who attended the October Midday Music, a check for \$155 was forwarded to this local organization

Father Bill's & MainSpring is a 501(c)(3) agency, whose mission is to end and prevent homelessness in Southern Massachusetts with programs that provide emergency and permanent housing, and to help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and services. The agency helps people who are struggling with homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, to achieve self-sufficiency.

Please come, invite a friend, and enjoy making music and supporting local mission work at the same time. And **SAVE THE DATE**: Alex Green, our new Director of Music, will present a Holiday Program for Midday Music on Wednesday, December 13.

For further information, contact the Arts & Music Planning Circle at arts-music@brocktonucc.org.

A BIG Thank You to the members of the Music Director Search group. You sacrificed time on summer Sundays and for that I am grateful. Kudos to Alice Farnsworth, Luana Rich, Bridget Barrows-Penn, Henok Kaptimer and John Baglole for a job well done.

Doug Anderson



Christ Congregational Church

HARVEST FAIR



Jewelry, Collectables, Clothing, Attic
Treasures, Raffles, Baked Goods, Food to go

9-2

Open

1350 Pleasant St
Brockton, Ma 02301

4

November

More info | 508.586.3022 | office@brocktonucc.org



JOIN US FOR Thanksgiving Dinner

AT CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Come hungry for a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

When: Sunday, November 19 @ 12pm

Where: 1350 Pleasant St Brockton, MA 02301

Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the door: \$15 per
person with \$40 family cap.

If cost is prohibitive, please call the church office and ask to
speak with Pastor Jeff at 508.586.3022

MISSIONS NEWS:

Upcoming opportunities to serve our beloved extended community include our food ministry work with Mainspring House of Brockton and Outdoor Church of Cambridge.

Questions?

Please reach out to Anita Keenan for details on how you can help!

keenans21@gmail.com or text 781-244-7742

Have ideas and want to join the Missions team? Join us on 11/19 at 9AM for our next meeting.

BROCKTON UCC MISSIONS

Sending a heartfelt thank you to volunteers in our beloved community who prepared & served nourishing casseroles feeding over 100 guests of Mainspring shelter this month!



Special Zoom study for Advent: “When God Comes Down”

“Advent is the season in which we watch, wait and prepare to bear witness to the coming of the true Light of God in Jesus Christ. During this time, we train our eyes to see and feel God’s presence so that in the “hubub” of the holidays, we are prepared to celebrate a “holy day” – a day when God came down among us in human form.” (Excerpt from Christian Booksellers)

All are welcome to join the Wednesday Zoom group for a special Advent study, *“When God Comes Down.”* Using a guide written by James A. Harnish, we will explore the lives of people who witnessed the miracle of the Incarnation.

Beginning on Nov. 29, the Advent Study will continue through Dec. 27, meeting each Wednesday at 10 am via the church Zoom link. To receive the link and the scripture passages ahead of time, please contact Alice Farnsworth or the church office (office@brocktonucc.org)

Getting ready? Scriptures for Nov. 29 will be Isaiah 64:1-3 and Luke 1:5-80



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Sofia Shelley-Wyss, Phoenix Pelote, Gabriel Swisher Rosa, Doug Anderson, Michelle Purssell, Pasha Ozelius, Steve Prince, Tricia Gross, Chard Poole, Alan Thomas, Cindy Myers, Shawn Weatherbee, Ruth Ladd, Jean Madden, Jay Sparling, Jean Spatola, Sarah Sparling, Hayley Hixon, Walkerson Bastia, Amy Poole, Jayce Exell, Rev. Patricia

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



Thank you, thank you for keeping in touch with me— the personal notes, the flowers, as well as home communion and visits. I appreciate being able to watch the service on my iPad.

Blessings to all,
Nelda Hayes

Thank you for the scholarship! I really appreciate it. Thank you to the church for everthing these 10+ years!

Sincerely,
Sofia Shelley



October 25, 2023

Dear Deacons,
Thank you for the lovely mum plant. Really nice, WOW! I have it on my kitchen table in the window. Also, thank you Denise for delivering it and the phone call.
Everyone enjoy your Holidays coming up. Take care.



Sincerely,
Jean Purificato

**FELLOWSHIP
COFFEE HOUR
VOLUNTEERS**



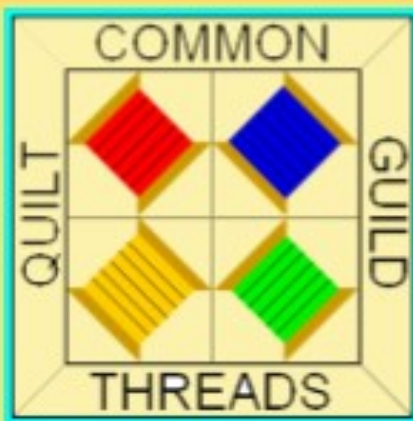
SignUp
.com

There will always be at least 2 people helping with our Fellowship Coffee Hour, so not to worry if you are only one. We appreciate ALL help!

Thank you from your Vitality team – Michelle, Elisha, Maryann and Janet



**The SERRV counter is
open in Fellowship Hall
on the second Sunday of
the month!**



Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 21st from 1-3pm in the quilt craft room. There will be a demonstration on a circle cut ruler and the latest meals on wheels placemats and NICU quilts. Judah Kardisco is due to have his transplant in January and this is an opportunity for us to sent more quilts to Chrildren's Hospital NICU.

We will also be planning our December Cookie Swap party.

Kristine Blanchard will be taking over the chairmanship of the quilt guild, at my request, in January of 2024. She will do a wonderful job and I will look forward to her new ideas. I plan to be at every meeting and hope you will also.

Show and tell is always welcome and you ladies never disappoint.

COME TO THE FAIR NOVEMBER 7TH FROM 9-2PM.

Janet Eckstrom



A wonderful Halloween quilt with appliques and blocks. Made by Carol Bradford



This gorgeous Patriotic red, white & blue quilt was made by Kristine Blanchard

Dear Friends,

Mark 12:41-44 is a short passage that's familiar to many who have spent a significant amount of time around church – and it's quite possibly the best passage I could think of to illustrate this year's stewardship campaign of "Count Me In". In the passage Jesus sits and watches as all sorts of folks come to the temple collection box to make their financial offerings, with many rich people putting in large sums of money. Then a poor widow comes forward to put in two copper pieces – the equivalent of one penny as the text tells us. Once he sees this Jesus calls his disciples together and says, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who's been putting money in the treasury." It seems that giving from your heart, according to Jesus, is worth more than the actual dollars and cents of *how much* a person gives.

Last year we introduced a stewardship campaign with the theme "Count Me In" and it was so good we decided to go it again. And it really is as simple as it sounds. Our goal is to reach 100% on pledging throughout the congregation – regardless of the amount pledged. Whether you're able to pledge \$2.00 or \$2,000.00 for the year, whether you're 5 years old or 95 years young – no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey we want to invite you into the exciting ministries that are taking root here in our midst.

What I love most about this pledging goal is that *everyone* can help to have an impact on our goal, because all you have to do is pledge! Please take some time to fill out this pledge packet and return it to the church office so that we can *COUNT YOU IN* – and know that no matter what you're able to pledge, we are incredibly grateful for *ALL* of the gifts you contribute to our Beloved Community.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jeff Kardisco



PLEDGE FORM 2024

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

I/We plan to give beginning January 1, 2024:

Each (circle one) week month quarter

The amount of \$ _____ for our Congregation's expenses, ministries and missions.

Annual total \$ _____

Signed: _____

Please fill out and mail this pledge form to:
Christ Congregational Church 1350 Pleasant Street Brockton, MA 02301
OR

Bring this pledge form with you to worship and place it in the offering plate on Sunday
OR

You can also scan and email it to finance@brocktonucc.org and this private email is used by our church bookkeeper (Jen).

RETURN BY: Pledge Dedication on Sunday, November 12th!

PLANNED GIVING

I would like more information about how to designate the Church in my will, or as a beneficiary of a pension plan or other assets. YES or NO

Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton, MA

Annual Fall Congregational Meeting Warrant

November 12, 2023

In accordance with Article XIII, Church Meetings, Sec. 2 of the Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton, MA Bylaws (amended on November 20, 2016), the **Annual Fall Meeting** of the membership has been called for **Sunday, November 12, 2023** immediately following the 10:00 AM Worship Service. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom and phone. The meeting is called to act on the following articles:

Article I To call the meeting to order.

Article II To hear and act on the minutes of the May 21, 2023 Congregational Meeting.

Article III To hear and act on the proposed 2024 Budget as recommended by the Church Council.

Article IV To hear information on the dissolution of First Congregational Church of Stoughton, and to act on a motion outlining how the resulting assets will be received by Christ Congregational Church.

Article V To hear and act upon any other business that may properly come before the membership.

Article VI To ratify, either individually or jointly, any action taken by the membership at this meeting in accordance with Article XIII, Section 3C of the church bylaws.

Article VII To adjourn the Annual Church Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Gross, Clerk



As many of you know, the daily operations of RC are run with a small handful of staff who focus their time & attention with our young folks. In order to keep our musicians nourished and our shared space in fine working order, we are seeking some Brockton UCC volunteers.

Volunteer needs include:

Friday afternoon refresh- This allows us to make our space tidy before it's used for church service & fellowship.

Snack Support- 2 days a week (4-6pm) helping with snack prep & serving. Our musician gets hungry!



To become a Rose Conservatory Volunteer [SIGN UP HERE](#) or text Lauren at 781-204-3016

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.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.



Christ Congregational Church, UCC
1350 Pleasant St.
Brockton, MA 02301-2840