



Christ Congregational Church, UCC An Open and Affirming Congregation

Creating Beloved Community

Volume 43 No. 12

Be The Church

December 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: Dec. 3, 11:30AM
- Council: Dec. 21, 7PM
- Deacons: Dec. 7, 7PM
- Finance/Property: Dec. 14, 7PM
- Media/Tech: TBD
- Missions: Dec. 17, 7PM
- Music: Dec. 28, 7PM
- Vitality: Dec. 3, 11:30AM

PASTOR'S PAGE

"The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." ~John 1:14 (CEB)~

As we began planning this year's Advent worship I met with our worship planning team, and we found ourselves working through an age old church question – should Christmas carols and hymns be included in our Advent worship? Some have argued that the answer is no, because Advent is the season of waiting for the Christ child to come. Some have argued that banning Christmas music from all Advent worship deprives the festive folks among us from truly leaning into the joy of the season leading up to Christmas. You'll have to join us in our Advent worship this season to find out how our team decided to navigate this dilemma!

While we had that conversation I found myself thinking of, and sharing, an analogy with the team – that everyone anticipates their Christmas gifts differently. Some folks love the surprise and the anticipation, and so they'd much rather leave the wrapped gift under the tree right where it is – undisturbed until the time is exactly right to open it and receive the joy within. Others like to pick it up to see how much it weighs, or shake it to see if it rattles, or even try to peek in through the creases in the wrapping paper – anticipating the gift that's to come by trying to imagine what the gift might be. I don't think either way is wrong, but it's worth thinking about which way YOU prefer to anticipate the joy of Christmas that's coming.

But what's most beautiful about Advent, the thing that never changes from year to year, is that no matter how you anticipate the gift of grace that comes with the birth of the Christ child the gift is a promise you can count on. The word became FLESH and made his home among US. God loves us, loves you, so deeply that God left behind the entire power of the cosmos to be here.

As we all get busy with the lead up to the holidays I pray that we all remember that gift is waiting for us, and that it's also already been given to us. It's a "both and" kind of thing. Whether your next weeks will be filled with Christmas songs and tinsel, or whether you're freshly grieving or praying hard for something to change, God is with you in it and feels right at home there – but God is also promising more than your heart could ever hope for.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jeff



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Advent Greetings, Beloved Community!

There is a different kind of buzz during the month of December, whether at church, at work, at school, or at home. Some might call that buzz excitement, or maybe overstimulation, or perhaps anticipation, or even a little grumpiness. This Sunday begins the season of Advent. A season of waiting and preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. I imagine as Mary and Joseph waited and prepared for Jesus' birth they felt all of those things! I encourage you to lean into whatever feelings come up during this time leading up to and through Christmas. If they are sorrowful or painful, share them with your community. If they are joyful, share them with your community. Let us come together in prayer and fellowship in beloved community as we wait and prepare for the coming of our Emmanuel, God with us.

This month in Sunday School and in worship we will be thinking about how our body is connected to Advent with a series called Now in Flesh Appearing where we as a community can claim: Body, have HOPE! Brain, practice PEACE! Self, feel JOY! Heart, feel LOVE! Everyone, CELEBRATE!

There will be Sunday School on December 3rd and 10th. On December 17th, we will have an intergenerational worship service that will include a version of the Christmas Story told by our community. There will be no Sunday School on December 24th in the morning. All children are welcome in the Sanctuary with activities at the Prayground.

On Christmas Eve all children are welcome in the Sanctuary for worship with their families at 7:00pm. There will be a Children's Christmas Bulletin with stickers. There will be no supervision at the Prayground, but families are welcome to sit there with their children.

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteers in this ministry area for the month of November: Cathy Campbell, Deana Colby, Betsey Clifford, Cara Harrigan, Matt Howard, Jan Howard, Jeffrey Illsley, Bridget Barrows Penn, Candy Savage, and Brenda Wyss.

In Peace,
Dani



*"O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"*



Pick-UP
**Christmas
Pageant!**

Dec. 17th
10:00am

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

2024

NIGHT BEFORE NEW YEAR'S EVE

Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 5:00-8:00PM

JOIN US IN A FAMILY ORIENTED CELEBRATION WITH
FOOD AND A PROFESSIONAL DJ TO PROVIDE MUSIC
AND FUN!



**NOVEMBER
FAITH
FORMATION
ACTIVITIES**



FROM THE BOARD OF MUSIC

How do you get into the zone? The zone is a place where you are so involved and uplifted by what is going on in the now.

Maybe it happens when cooking, creating something, making art or music, or even engaging with your occupation. Whatever it is, it's often something we give ourselves, and something we give ourselves to.

What we give ourselves to is often a result of what we see inside. Looking inside is not always easy. And this affects how easily we enter the zone.

One thing I've learned is that making art naturally and easily sounds better. Making or doing anything is much easier when we enjoy what we do and enter that zone of natural flowing movement and action.

How do you enter the zone? It's often as hard as we make it.

~Alex Green
Music Director



ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH PRESENTS MIDDAY MUSIC

'Tis the Season



Wednesday December 13th
at 12:15 pm with
Alex Green
Organist/Music Director at
Christ Congregational Church

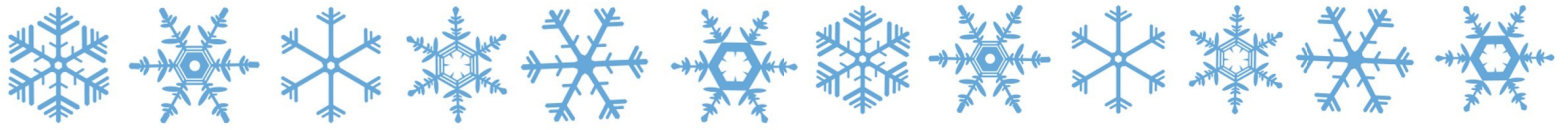
Come and enjoy music of the holiday season at Midday Music on Wednesday, December 13 at 12:15 pm, presented by Arts & Music at Christ Church. Featured musician will be Alex Green, Music Director/Organist Director here.

Thanks to sponsorship by *All Business Realty*, there is no cost for admission. 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 November Midday Music, a check for \$90. 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 beautiful music while supporting local mission work.

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



Winter Glow Calendar Raffle Tickets are On Sale NOW

And You Can Be Our Salesperson – This is our fundraiser for our Beloved Community
 Based on Your Feedback the Winter Glow Raffle was developed to put more light, more Glow, more fun into these upcoming January days.

WINTER GLOW WILL HELP US LIGHTEN AND LIGHT UP JANUARY

- * Tickets are \$10.00
- * Each Ticket remains in each Daily Drawing
- * Tickets make Great Gifts
- * Our Goal is to sell at least 500 tickets
- * 66 Gift Card Prizes
- * The Gift Card Prizes are at least \$25
- * Some Gift Cards are \$30, \$50 or \$100
- * Many Gift Cards are Accepted Regionally or Across the Country
- * Gift Cards are mailed to Winners – pick-up or delivery is not expected
- * Sellers pay for tickets when sold



2024 CCC Winter Glow Calendar Raffle JANUARY

Sunday	MONDAY	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
33	01 Burger King \$25 GC winner: Five Ggs's \$25 GC winner:	02 Jersey Mike's \$25 GC winner: Kodi \$50 GC winner:	03 Panera \$25 GC winner: Oliva Garden \$25 GC winner:	04 Barnes & Noble \$30 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: Wendy's \$25 GC winner:	05 Amazon \$25 GC winner: Billard's Cuddy \$25 GC winner:	06 CVS \$25 GC winner: Market Basket \$25 GC winner:
07 Amazon \$100 GC winner: Outback \$50 GC winner:	08 Honey Dew \$25 GC winner: T.J.Max/Marshalls/RHS \$25 GC winner:	09 Target \$25 GC winner: Chesco's Factory \$50 GC winner:	10 Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: Dunkin' \$25 GC winner:	11 Dunkin' \$50 GC winner: Steelebridge \$25 GC winner: Lowe's \$25 GC winner:	12 Dixie-In-All-In-One \$25 GC winner: Starbucks \$25 GC winner:	13 Dix & Jerry's \$25 GC winner: Hilland's \$25 GC winner:
14 Target \$100 GC winner: Texas Roadhouse \$10 GC winner:	15 Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: McDonald's \$25 GC winner:	16 Dixie-In-All-In-One \$25 GC winner: Steak 'n Shake Restaurant \$50 GC winner:	17 Chipotle \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:	18 Barnes & Noble \$30 GC winner: Target \$25 GC winner: Burger King \$25 GC winner:	19 Oliva Garden \$25 GC winner: Outback Restaurant \$25 GC winner:	20 Jersey Mike's \$25 GC winner: Amazon \$25 GC winner:
21 Amazon \$100 GC winner: Cibo Mito \$50 GC winner:	22 Barnes & Noble \$30 GC winner: Market Basket \$25 GC winner:	23 Panera Bread \$25 GC winner: Home Depot \$50 GC winner:	24 Dunkin' \$25 GC winner: Honey Dew \$25 GC winner:	25 Amazon \$25 GC winner: Starbucks \$25 GC winner: Shaw's \$25 GC winner:	26 Five Ggs's \$25 GC winner: T.J.Max/Marshalls/RHS \$25 GC winner:	27 Daddy's Unionville \$25 GC winner: McDonald's \$25 GC winner:
28 Target \$100 GC winner: El Mariachi \$10 GC winner:	29 Dix & Jerry's \$25 GC winner: Wendy's \$25 GC winner:	30 Steelebridge \$25 GC winner: Barnes & Noble \$30 GC winner:	31 Chipotle \$25 GC winner: Jersey Mike's \$25 GC winner:	01	02	03

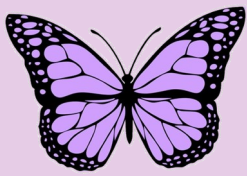
Sponsored by CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC 1350 PLEASANT ST BROCKTON, MA 02301 brocktonucc.org

Please See Sheppó, David or the Office to get tickets to sell as soon as possible

Tickets on Sale all through December

Thank YOU for Your Needed Support of this Important Event!





October 31, 2023

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for the beautiful mum plant that was delivered to my home by Rev. Jeff and his son.

It brightens my living room.

In Christian Love,

Anna Thomas

Deacons of my beloved community @ CCC,

Thank you once again for delivering a seasonal purple mum plant to my home. It is on my porch and it is welcoming to all that enter. Also, the cards sent to me are so welcomed by me with peace and joy. Giving is so much better than receiving.

Love In Christ,

Donna Hefler



A hearty thanx to Christ Church for the the beautiful mum plant that was so graciously delivered to me by Keith, and also for the lovely cards that are sent to me periodically.. It's a nice feeling to be remembered. Much appreciated.

Thank you so much!

Ruth Copeland

Hello Christ Church friends

Sharron and I are finally settling in to our new "digs" at Linden Ponds in Hingham. We will miss being active in the life of this beloved community, but we're excited to be entering this new phase of our lives. Christ Church will always have a special place in our lives.

Blessing and prayers,
Bob Cutting and



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)



Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Don Myers, Jeanie Boutwell, Leo Larson, Hector Morales, Lili Fleming, Scott Weatherbee, Cara Harrigan, Peridine Bastia, Breanna McNary, Emma Milton, Janis Creedon, Dorothy Edyth Liolios, Glenn Carey, Joey Izyk, Diane Prince, Nicole Milton, Nathan Eckstrom, Bobby Gair, Piper Garner-MacKinnon, Betsy McMahon, Audrey Jones, Robbie Sinesi, Luke Creedon, Brian Ferguson, India Vergne, Stephanie Purssell

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



We pray for the families of Dorothy "Dot" Quimby, Teddy Marshall (brother of Dee Hayes), Don Wyss (father of Brenda Wyss) and Amanda Cushing (longtime member of Stoughton, UCC), may they rest in peace.



2024

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

COMMITTEE

Missions is collecting 2024 calendars for the Brockton Veterans Hospital. Please bring them to the Church Office. All kinds and sizes are needed.

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, Maryam and Janet



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



COMMON THREADS
QUILT GUILD

The Common Threads Quilt Guild December meeting will be our annual cookie swap. No sewing at this meeting just coffee, tea, fellowship and cookies.

Date is Tuesday, December 19th from 1-3pm in the quilt/craft room. For a ride call Janet @ 508-583-0505. For further info call Nelda @ 508-238-6004.



Here are the latest NICU quilts made by the guild. They will go to Boston Children's Hospital. These quilts are flannel prints, very soft and cozy.



WE'RE ALMOST READY!

As the parsonage construction is progressing, a few items will be needed before move-in - are you able to help?

We will need a refrigerator, a stove, a microwave, a dish washer, and a washer and dryer before move in day. Please consider sponsoring an appliance, or making a donation toward the purchase of these items. Anything you can do will help!!



Please note "Parsonage Appliances" on your donation, or reach out to Karl Koza at 508-314-0989 or Sheppo Fisher at treasurer@brocktonucc.org if you have any questions.

Christ Congregational Church 2023 Thanksgiving Dinner



ALL ADULTS WELCOME

O COME ALL YE GIFT WRAPPERS WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:00-4:00PM

TABLES, TAPE, SCISSORS, WARM BEVERAGES, AND TREATS WILL BE PROVIDED. JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON TO WRAP IN FELLOWSHIP!



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1350 PLEASANT STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301



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

Memorial Poinsettia Order Form

Please place your poinsettia order by December 11th. The plants will decorate the chancel for our service on the 17th, and the Deacons will deliver the Poinsettias to our homebound members after the service on December 17th. Some of the plants will be retained to adorn the chancel throughout the Christmas season. Below is the order form, please fill out and return to the Church Office. You are welcome to have 4 names per plant.

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

I, _____, would like to order _____ poinsettia plants for delivery to our homebound members on December 17th.



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



**BOTTLE & CAN
RETURN**

Please bring your refundable bottles and cans to the church. The refunds go towards Christian Education. Also, please save the can tabs as it helps out on medical costs on dialysis.

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