



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

Volume 44 No. 4

Be The Church

April 2024

### WORSHIP AND PROGRAMS:

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

#### Regular Events:

- Adult Choir:  
Wednesdays, 6:45PM
- Adult Hand Bells:  
Wednesdays, 6PM
- Bible Study: Zoom  
Wednesdays, 10AM
- Prayer Shawl Ministry:  
Wednesdays, 10AM
- Quilt Guild:  
3rd Tuesday, 1PM



#### Board Meetings: ZOOM

- Christian Ed: Apr. 7, 11:30AM
- Council: Apr. 18, 7PM
- Deacons: Apr. 4, 7PM
- Finance/Property: Apr. 11, 7PM
- Media/Tech: TBD
- Missions: Apr. 21, 8:45AM
- Music: Apr. 25, 7PM
- Vitality: Apr. 7, 11:30AM

### PASTOR'S PAGE

*Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God,  
But only those who see, takes off their shoes,  
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries,  
And daub their natural faces unaware.*

~Elizabeth Barrett Browning; *Aurora Lee*  
(seventh book)~



After all the writing of liturgies, and messages, and other parts of Holy Week I have to admit to a certain "dryness" when it comes to the writing well of my soul for this passage of the Courier. This happens every year after Easter Sunday, because the season of Lent is so full on its own and Holy Week has a fullness unto itself. So as I prepared something to share with all of you for this month I was delighted to find that April is National Poetry Month. You can find out more by going to <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>.

So, in that spirit I wanted to share the poem above from Elizabeth Barrett Browning in the hope it might inspire some poetic creativity in all of us! I especially love this metaphor because it confirms something I've always felt to be true, that the opportunity to see God and to be inspired is *always* present in the world around us – as long as we're willing and able to see the things God is trying to use to get our attention. So, first, I want to invite each of you to think about where God might be trying to inspire you in your life. With the burning bush in Exodus God inspired Moses to go to Egypt to free his people, but our own "burning bush" could be inspiring us to just about anything. Maybe it's reconciliation with someone, or building up the courage to the advocate we always wished we could be for others, or maybe it's as simple as being inspired to find the joy in our work or other mundane aspects of our lives. No matter what – earth's crammed with heaven and I want to challenge you to see it and to take off your shoes.

Then, following that first challenge, I'd like to offer a second – write about it. Poetry can take all sorts of forms, so anything you write will be poetry. In the spirit of National Poetry month I want to challenge each person in our congregation to not only be inspired, but to write poetry led by God's inspiration. You don't have to share your poetry with anyone if you don't want to, but let it be a spiritual practice that helps you to channel what God is saying to you. If you *DO* feel inspired to share, though, please don't hesitate to share on our "Beloved Community Connections" page on Facebook, or on our public Facebook page by tagging the church's Facebook profile when you post on your own page. Regardless of whether you share or not, our beloved community's spiritual richness will be deepened if we all try this simple practice.

Thank you all for being in beloved community together, and for the ways you all work so hard to keep our community deep and strong. I look forward to hearing how the Spirit might move among you in this Easter season!

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Jeff



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Happy Easter, Beloved Community!

Spring is springing and Christ has risen, Alleluia! We are starting to see new life all around us. I invite you to take a moment to step outside at night and listen for the peepers or in the morning and hear the birds chirping. Taking these moments can often reset our spirits and remind us of the new life we find in Jesus.

In Sunday School, our lessons will follow the lectionary readings for the month of April. Mainly focusing on the time after Jesus' resurrection and how the disciples responded to the miracle. As always, we will play, snack, sing, dance, create, and learn together.

Mark your calendars for the following events sponsored by CE.  
Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 12:00-1:30pm **Intergenerational Spring Hike**  
Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm **Parent's Night Out**

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteers in this ministry area for the month of March: Bridget Barrows Penn, Tammy Blackler, Betsey Clifford, Cara Harrigan, Matt Howard, Preston Keenan, Lauren Selman-Kaptimer, Candy Savage, Brenda Wyss.

In Peace,  
Dani

*"He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives,  
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"*

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAYS

@ Christ Congregational Church

**APRIL 7TH, 2024 DURING WORSHIP**

**MAY 5TH, 2024 DURING WORSHIP**

If you're interested in joining  
Or you want to know more  
Contact Pastor Jeff for more details!

[pastor@brocktonucc.org](mailto:pastor@brocktonucc.org)  
(508) 586-3022



## INTERGENERATIONAL HIKE

Noon on Sunday, April 14

Join us for a **FLAT** walk in the wetlands  
behind our church building and marvel in the  
wonders of God's creation.

Meet by the trailhead behind the playground.



MARCH FAITH  
FORMATION  
ACTIVITIES



On March 3, about 15 interested people gathered in the chapel to look at a selection of Christ Congregational Church artifacts. We viewed and created identification cards for early panorama photos, silver plates donated by "The Priscillas", a piece of the Porter Church spire, a 1930s Ladies basketball team photo, a large felt banner, and First Parish scrap books. One object drew everyone's curiosity - an approximately 5 foot wide group photo of South Congregational Church. The image was taken in a park in 1913 by a photographer identified as "Wilson". A little bit of research led us to discover that the photo was most likely taken with an early form of panorama technology, where the lens moved but the film remained stationary and that the photographer was Albert M. Wilson. Albert Wilson appears on the 1910 Census record at the age of 40, living on Belmont Street with his wife Annie (42), who was born in Vermont. By the 1920 Census, Albert, now 50 years old and Annie, listed as 49, had moved to Newbury Street.



This oversized photo attracted a lot of attention, so we decided to put it on display the following week during coffee hour. Some thought the buildings in the background were familiar. Others guessed that the photo was taken in Perkins Park, or maybe at the Eldon B. Keith Field. Some noticed that the congregants held committee, team, and group banners throughout the photo or the people hanging out windows in the background. Elisha Ribeiro was able to guess within three years the date of the photo based on the bows in the girls hair!

Here are some close ups. What do you see? Let us know at [HistoryAtCCC@gmail.com](mailto:HistoryAtCCC@gmail.com) or look during coffee hour in the next couple weeks.



**Join the next History Day on April 21!**



## ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH

Leonardo Ciampa, former Composer in Residence at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, and founding director of the Worcester Organ Festival, will bring a program of his works to the church on April 7. The concert will feature pipe organ, piano, percussion and vocalist, and will include the premiere of a composition based on a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar, honoring Frederick Douglass. Beginning at 4 pm, the program will end about 6 pm and be followed by light refreshments.

Tickets at the door will be \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and free for youth under 12 years of age. The Arts & Music Planning Group will have tickets available at the March 24 Coffee Hour. Helpers are always needed – and are compensated with free admission. If interested, see Candy Savage or email to [arts-music@gmail.com](mailto:arts-music@gmail.com).

## ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH PRESENTS

SPRING CONCERT

APRIL 7, 2024

4-6 PM

**THE MUSIC OF LEONARDO CIAMPA**

FEATURING

Pipe Organ, Piano, Vocalists and  
Susan Caplan, flutist



THANKS TO OUR  
MAJOR SPONSOR

**ROCKLAND  
TRUST**  
BANK

Where Each Relationship Matters®

With premiere of a Musical Setting of Paul Laurence  
Dunbar's poem honoring **Frederick Douglass**

*This program is supported in part by grants from  
the Brockton, Easton and Stoughton Cultural  
Councils, local agencies which are supported by  
the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*

AT CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
1350 PLEASANT STREET, BROCKTON  
508-586-3022  
EMAIL: [ARTS-MUSIC@BROCKTONUCC.ORG](mailto:ARTS-MUSIC@BROCKTONUCC.ORG)



TICKETS AT THE DOOR  
ADULTS \$20  
SENIORS/STUDENTS \$15  
YOUTH UNDER 12 FREE



**This Car Decal or Magnet Can Be Yours!!**



Sign-Up to serve coffee during Fellowship hour and your car will have this new décor!



SignUp.com

It's easy!  
Either scan the code to the left or  
you can sign up in the Fellowship Hall

The Vitality team is here to help you!

Michelle, Elisha, & Maryann



**COME BE A PART OF  
THE VITALITY  
COMMITTEE AND  
HELP PLAN ALL  
SORTS OF  
WONDERFUL AND  
EXCITING EVENTS!**

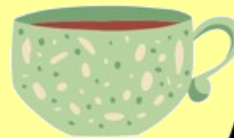
# VITALITY COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

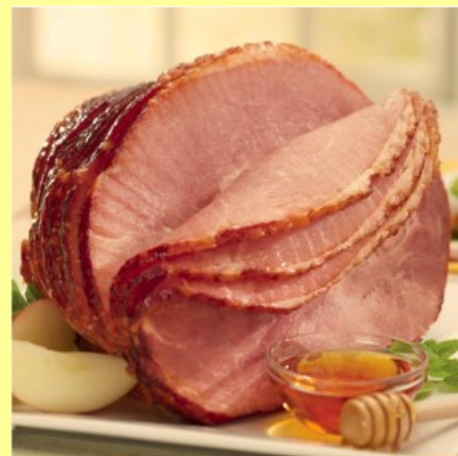


**2ND SUNDAY  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR**



**SUNDAY  
APRIL 14TH**

Spiral Honey Ham, Potato  
Salad, & Fruit Salad  
Gluten & DAIRY free  
options available





### Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

Kim Cords, Adam Morales, Ryan Cinelli, Isabel Cinelli, Jeffrey Illsley Jr, Calei Nocivelli, Chris Satcher, Lataisha McNary, Thomas Fisher, Fred Hayes, Amanda Davis Maksy, Adriano Swisher-Rosa, Anna Thomas, Pheonyx Mitchell, Katrina Clinton, Tamra Fisher, Debbie Bowman, Benjamin Loftus, Sheppo Fisher, Dani Kardisco

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



### Prayer Group Invitation

Join Deb Bowman leading an hour journey to inside yourself to find the “peace that passes all understanding”. Come as you are and go on this journey to feel more JOY and Abundance through prayer. We will explore various prayer methods.

Tuesday April 16 at 7:30 PM on Zoom

And

Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM on Zoom

Email [Deb@act-cpa.com](mailto:Deb@act-cpa.com) for zoom link.

### BROCKTON UCC MISSIONS

Anyone interested in making casseroles or serving our neighbors in need, please have your casseroles dropped off at the church by 4/7. We will be serving food to our friends at MainSpring on 4/10. Sign up after church with Anita, Preston or Lauren.



### Accessibility Update

The Church has purchased new listening devices with the help of a grant from the Pilgrim Association.

Those with hearing impairments or who just struggle to hear the service are encouraged to try out one of our new devices.

If you are already a hearing aid user, there is also an app to download for you to stream the service directly into your hearing aids. We also have a necklace style device for someone who might have a Cochlear Implant.

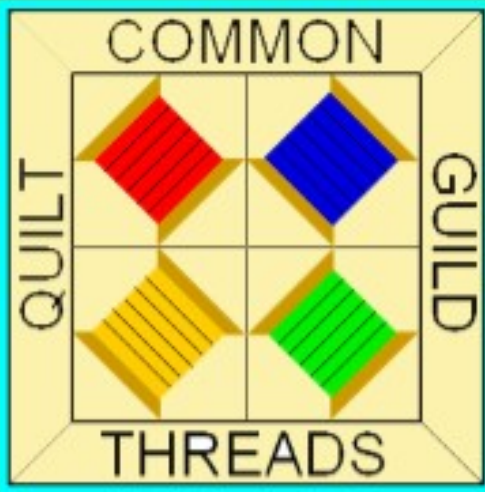
Please see a Deacon for assistance.

We are grateful to offer these new devices as we strive to embrace all of God’s children in our Beloved Community.

~ Jan Howard, Chair of Deacons



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 16, 1:00-3:00 PM



What a sweet quilt! Eighty-One pieces of candy quilt was made by Keith Allen.



One of the projects we do for Missions is make placemats for the Meals On Wheels program. Here are some of the cheery quilted placemats.



The quilt Guild has has been very busy. We have over 20 NICU quilts going off to Children's Hospital.





Janet Eckstrom was presented a beautiful wall hanging quilt as a thank you for her years of leadership to the guild.



Our dear friend Lucille Berg was gifted a friendship star signature quilt. Lucille is relocating to Philadelphia and will be missed by all of us.



Chris Madden's Mom Linda loved the T-Shirt quilt made from her husbands shirts and made by Janet Eckstrom.



David Stuart enjoyed and snuggled under his new lap quilt made by the guild. We miss you David. May you rest in peace.



# BOTTLE & CAN 5¢ 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 with children with cancer.

## CONTACT US

### CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

1350 Pleasant Street  
Brockton, MA 02301-2840

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.

## FOOD PANTRY

If your own cupboard is bare, please remember you are ALWAYS welcome to help yourself to the food pantry.

We also thank you for all your generous contributions. Please make sure you check the expiration dates before donating.

Thank you for helping one another.



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