



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

Volume 44 No. 5

Be The Church

May 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: May 5, 11:30AM

Council: May 16, 7PM

Deacons: May 2, 7PM

Finance/Property: May 9, 7PM

Missions: Jun. 2, 8:45AM

Music: May 23, 7PM

Vitality: May 5, 11:30AM

### PASTOR'S PAGE

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

~Matthew 5:14-16~



This is, quite possibly, one of our tradition's most notable and memorable scripture verses. Even if you don't know it word for word from memory, the idea behind it is one that each Christian has internalized and put away somewhere in our hearts and minds. We are the light of the world.

I got to thinking about this passage as I've received nominations from our church staff for the annual Light of the Word award that's presented each year at our spring congregational meeting. For those who might not be familiar with the award, it was established by the church staff in 1981 and, "It is presented each year to a lay person (or persons) who has displayed outstanding leadership in the life of this faith community." This year's award will be our 44th presented as a church.

While it's always nice to give the award each year to one specific person, or group, I'm always struck by how meaningful the nomination process is too. Every year I've done this with the staff we start with a list of nominees that's incredibly full, and every year we all look at the list and think "Wow, EVERYONE here deserves to be recognized for one reason or another." To me it's always a reminder of just how much light is shining here at Christ Congregational Church.

As we celebrate that with another presentation of the Light of the World award I think it's important to also remember that Jesus said these words to the disciples in Matthew immediately after he'd given them the Beatitudes – a list of folks who will be blessed in God's kin-dom, and why. Jesus' words about being the light of the world speak to the idea that the disciples, and us by extension, are meant to be visible expressions of blessing. We're called to project hope into the world, and in the process we ourselves experience God's hope – because things like hope, joy, blessings, and grace have a way of multiplying upon themselves when they're shared among people. And we're working at being a shining light to the world around us.

You are the light of the world, friends – let it shine and amazing things will happen in the world around us.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Hello, Beloved Community!

May has arrived and I've always felt that May was the month of transition. As a child in school, a young adult in college, and a teacher, May has always been the springboard to summer. A time where we wrap up loose ends, look ahead to the future, and reflect on where we've come from. I encourage you to do the same in your faith journey and help your children do the same. Take a deep breath, clear your mind, and enter a time of prayer and let the Spirit flow through you as you reflect and look ahead. I'd love to hear about this practice and how you are feeling the Spirit moving in your life.

We will also be doing this practice in Sunday School this month. Revisiting what we have learned, finding themes that we can remember and use as the building blocks of our faith. As always, we will play, snack, sing, dance, create, and learn together.

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteers in this ministry area for the month of April: Bridget Barrows Penn, Tammy Blackler, Cathy Campbell, Betsey Clifford, Deana Colby, Cara Harrigan, Matt Howard, Preston Keenan, and Brenda Wyss.

In Peace,  
Dani

*"As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart."  
Proverbs 27:19*



## 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



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

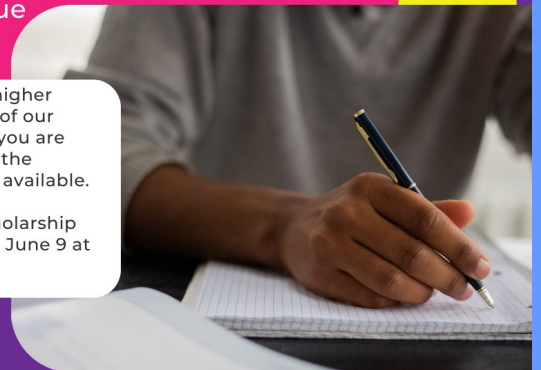
## EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Applications due  
May 26th

If you are headed to higher education and a part of our beloved community, you are welcome to apply for the scholarships we have available.

We will recognize scholarship recipients on Sunday, June 9 at 10am worship.

Applications will be available on May 1st in the Nearly Weekly.  
Contact Dani at [ce@brocktonucc.org](mailto:ce@brocktonucc.org) with any questions



# APRIL FAITH FORMATION



# Faith Formation

# MUSIC

## News



I write music but don't often bring it to completion (that perfectionism thing), but thank you to those who received my performance of at least one piece that I gave the week after Easter, on April 7, as that service's postlude.

It's called "Walk on Tears," about someone speaking to a child. The child in this case is me—a conversation with the kid who still lives inside of me. I believe we all live with those children and the stories they were told and lived.

### From Alex

I come from a family of a great many children—10 kids and one set of twins: me and my brother. My youngest sister died at 33, not long after the start of the pandemic. Two uncles have died since. Also since the pandemic began I had a failed engagement to a woman in England and was fired from my last position under circumstances that some still feel unjust.

When I sang about dreams that walk on tears, I meant to say that we can go through things and come out better, but they cost us, and the support we give each other is at least as important as the support we offer ourselves, to all the parts of ourselves.

Music has been healing to me—mostly in the making of it, whether writing or playing or singing.

I welcome any to come make it with me and with the choirs here at Christ Congregational.

~ Alex Green  
Music Director

A decorative border of colorful musical notes and symbols surrounding the text.

*"Walk on Tears"*  
*Sick one, rise and take your bed.*  
*Something whispered in my head.*

*Chorus:*  
*Is there anyone there who cared*  
*Who sees the dreams that we made were true?*  
*Was I there for you, child, who dared to say*  
*I can, I will, I do?*

*Was that advice for me misled?*  
*And lifted from the dead, I said, [Chorus]*

*Are you crying out to me,*  
*Stranger walking 'cross the sea? [Chorus]*

*Longing for life; anticipating...*  
*You are a song in everyone's song.*

*Sick one rise and take your bed*  
*Something whispered in my head. [Chorus]*

*Am I there for you, child, who dares to say,*  
*"I can, I will, I do"?*

*Muse Paintables*

## ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH


### A very Special Midday Music on May 15:

Set aside the time and invite a friend to this month's Midday Music. Performing will be the award-winning **Concert Choir from Brockton High School**, directed by Matt Cunningham. The program runs from 12:15 pm to 1 pm and will be followed by cookies and lemonade in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to support from local cultural councils, the program is free. Thanks also to Market Basket for help with refreshments.



And **THANKS** to those who volunteered or baked for our April 7 concert featuring Leonardo Ciampa, former Composer in Residence at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, and founding director of the Worcester Organ Festival. We had tough competition for an audience as the championship game of NCAA women's college basketball was held that day at 3 pm. However those present were delighted and moved by wonderful organ, piano and vocal selections.





Christ Congregational  
Church, UCC

**SAVE THE DATE**

# **YARD SALE**

**Saturday, June 8th 2024**

**9am - 1pm**

(Rain Date: June 15th)

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



# **CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE**

**June 8th from 9 - 1pm! Same day as the CCC Yard Sale**

**Money goes to the Christian Education Committee. Please turn in the tabs on the cans, it goes to children with Cancer. See Maurine Upton for further information**

## Celebrate May Birthdays



### Wishing all the best on your Birthdays

James Ferguson, Connor Nocivelli, Nancy Simonis,  
Saundra Alden, Sue Koza, Harriet Dunklee,  
Richard Calvin, Nora Deyoe, Darlene Gilson,  
Mickey Carey, Janet Hodnett, Nathan Herget, Linda  
Sampson, Mary Baker, Keith Allen, Gregory Davis,  
Bob Cutting, Kathy North, Andrew Eckstrom, Levi  
Swisher-Rosa, Alice Farnsworth, Sharon Quesnel,  
Helen Nocivelli-Camara, Salomè Kaptimer,  
Michelle Young-Ferguson

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

4-6-24

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely tulip plant. It is such a pretty color and still very healthy!



It's nice to be remembered in such a nice way.

Carrie Sievers

Dear Friends,

I was so thrilled to receive the beautiful quilt you created for me. I intend to display it on the back of my sofa for all to see.

Even though I have not been able to participate as fully as I would have liked the last couple of years, I was always met with a positive "Just sit and visit." What an amazing group you are! I will always be proud to say "I was a member of Common Threads."



Again, thank you for the beautiful quilt, your friendship and wonderful memories.

Always,

Lucille Berg

## prayer group

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

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

### Spiritual Formation for Adults: Going Deeper

Are you interested in delving deeper into the scripture lesson from worship each Sunday? And wondering how to apply what you learn to your daily life? The Wednesday Zoom study group offers the opportunity to do just that each week at 10 a.m. Led by a rotating team made up of Doug Anderson, Donna Costa and Ray Medeiros, the group reads, listens and shares questions and insights. All are welcome to be part of this remote learning community. Alice Farnsworth coordinates the schedule and sends notices and link via email. Help is available to access the zoom link.

During the year, plans are to offer a thematic study during Advent and Lent.

To learn more, speak to any of the folks named above or send an email to Alice at [grammy58@comcast.net](mailto:grammy58@comcast.net).





Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21st, 1:00 - 3:00pm  
We also gave Pastor Jeff 36 more NICU quilts to bless and bring to Children's Hospital. Thank you Pastor Jeff and family!

This darling quilt panel of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit was made by Janet Eckstrom for her niece who is having a baby girl. What a lucky baby.



These two lovely pieces from Sandy Hill were beautifully finished by Carol Bradford. Thank you Carol. The Holly wreath piece will be featured at the Church Fair. The gorgeous quilt block with the Dresden points is so delicately finished by Carol, is the envy of the Quilt Guild.





# NOTES FROM MISSIONS



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**



On May 1<sup>st</sup> Christ Congregational Church, UCC Brockton will serve as the drop off depot for Church World Service (CWS) kits drop-off location. The kits will be assembled by several other churches in Massachusetts, and they will all be brought to us to then be distributed to those in need. Thank you to Keith, Deana, Judy, Susan and Anita, for managing this project.



- On June 8<sup>th</sup> We invite 6 representatives from Christ Congregational in Brockton to join us in Cambridge to distribute food to the street involved. We will not be providing the food this time.
- On June 16<sup>th</sup> MainSpring House casseroles are due in the church freezer.
- On June 19<sup>th</sup> We invite 4 representatives from Christ Congregational in Brockton to join us at MainSpring House in Brockton to serve dinner.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, have questions, or want to know more about the Missions Committee please feel free to contact Anita Keenan at 781-244-7742 or [keanans21@gmail.com](mailto:keanans21@gmail.com)



Hello Everyone,  
Every now and then we have to clean out the Food Pantry. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the pantry was cleaned out and all of it given to: The Charity Guild of Brockton on Main Street. We donated 16 cartons of food for the needy. The food is given away FREE.

With many thanks for those who donated for our members and the community, you ARE making a difference! Thank You!

## Annual Scholarship Dinner Fundraiser

June 1st 2024

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

CEASARS SALAD

NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER

LEMON TUSCAN CHICKEN

ZITI BROCCOLI ALFEDO BAKE

ASSORTED DESSERTS AND COFFEE

RAFFLES & FELLOWSHIP

TICKETS

\$20.00



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

## 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.



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Brockton, MA 02301-2840