



The Link



First Congregational Church of Stoughton, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

June 2022

Our Vision

*We are called together to embrace God's transformation of our lives and our world
by becoming and serving as Christ's disciples.*



Dear Friends,

All life requires rhythm, and the coming of summer invites us to enter into a quieter and more relaxed pace of life. As people of faith we're called to care for our neighbors, but God also wants us to restore our own bodies, minds, and spirits, and to allow ourselves to be nourished and filled by God's healing love. Without this intentional time of divine restoration, we risk becoming weary in our faith, lackluster in our discipleship, and closed off to the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture teaches us the importance of rest. The Book of Genesis tells us that even God rested. "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creating that God had done." In the Book of Exodus the exhortation to keep the Sabbath by resting is found in the Ten Commandments. In the New Testament, the Gospel of Mark reports, "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

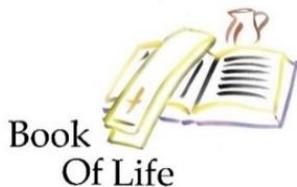
I pray that summer will bring opportunities for you to accept Jesus' invitation to rest your body, calm your mind, and renew your spirit. Catch up on your sleep, read for pleasure, enjoy your family and friends, and revel in the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Caring for ourselves in this way allows us to honor our own needs for rejuvenation and to continue to serve God with strength, focus, and devotion. May your summer be filled with God's blessings of peace and love.

In Faith,

Pastor Mary



We thank **Ed Porter** for his continued faithfulness in attending to the many needs of our church building, and **John Baglole** for preparing the sanctuary for worship each Sunday and maintaining the church computer system. We also thank **Janet Clough** for reorganizing our historical files. Thanks also go out to **Caroline** and **Chris Cesario** and **Anita** and **Steve Keenan** for their support and assistance during this year's Confirmation classes. We are very blessed!



Baptisms:

Ava Ruth Moczula and Rose Claire Moczula, daughters of Caitlin and Andrew Moczula, were baptized by Pastor Mary (their grandmother) on May 21.

Deaths:

Patricia Yanuskiewicz, whose memorial service was led by Pastor Mary at Evergreen Cemetery on May 5.
Douglas Hadley, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at Farley Funeral Home on May 6.



Articles for the **September LINK** will be due by **August 17**. Contact the church office with any changes or additions to the church calendar.



Confirmation Sunday

We are delighted that **Drew Cesario** and **Preston Keenan** have successfully completed the Confirmation program and will be received as members of the church on **Sunday, June 5** during the Rite of Confirmation, which will take place during worship. Please keep these young men in your prayers as they continue to grow in their relationship to God and in their service to the world.

July/August Worship Schedule

With the approval of Church Council, we will meet for worship in our sanctuary only on **July 10** and **August 7**. Communion will be celebrated at both these services. We encourage you to worship at Christ Congregational Church in Brockton (1350 Pleasant Street) on the Sundays that we will not be gathering. They will be hosting a time of fellowship after the service on July 17, and we will host them in **Stoughton** on **August 7**.

“How good and pleasing it is when families live together as one...” Psalm 133:1 (Common English Bible)



What's Happening This Month?



Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM. We worship together each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Please pay careful attention to Pastor Mary's weekly emails and other church communications for any changes in Covid-19 health and safety protocols. If you do not get the weekly email, or have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at office@uccstoughton.org | 781-344-2371.

June/July/August Worship Schedule

All services will be held in the church sanctuary unless otherwise noted.

All services will be live streamed on Zoom

Please follow all current Covid safety protocols while in the building.

- **June 5** (10:00 am): **Pentecost, Confirmation, and Communion Sunday.** Pastor Mary is leading worship.
- **June 12** (10:00 am): Pastor Mary is leading worship. Congregational meeting after the service.
- **June 19** (10:00 am): Pastor Mary is leading worship.
- **June 26:** Pastor Mary's scheduled Sunday off. We invite you to worship at a local church.
- **July 10** (10:00 am): **Communion Sunday.** Pastor Mary is leading worship.
- **July 17:** We are invited to worship at **Christ Congregational Church in Brockton** and enjoy an ice cream social.
- **Aug 7** (10:00 am): **Communion Sunday.** Pastor Mary leading worship. Members of Christ Congregational Church have been invited to join us.

Wednesday Prayer Service: Pastor Mary leads a brief 30-minute prayer service by way of a conference call each Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. Dial 1-253-215-8782 and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID 862 2469 5175. There will be a scripture reading and time for the sharing of our prayer concerns. This weekly gathering is open to all, so if you have a friend who might find this opportunity to connect helpful. Please share the information.

UCC Stoughton Prayer is a private Facebook group where you can safely share your prayer requests, pray for others in our community, or just vent. No one sees the posts except group members. If you have a Facebook account and would like to join the group let **Pastor Mary** know.

Church Council meets on the **2nd Monday of each month** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. These meetings are open to everyone, not just Council members. Contact **Pastor Mary** if you would like to attend via Zoom and she will send you the link to the meeting. If you prefer to attend by telephone, call 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID 837 8927 2962.

Remember to check our [Facebook page](#) and church website (<http://www.uccstoughton.org/>).



Opportunities to Serve

- **Jun 15 (Wed) Mainspring House:** This is this next date we are scheduled to provide dinner for Brockton's homeless shelter. If you can make a casserole or give a monetary donation to defray the cost of salad and dessert, please contact **Anita Keenan** or leave a message at the church office (781-344-2371). Casseroles must be delivered to the church by **Sunday, June 12** and stored in the downstairs freezer. Contact Anita if you need a foil baking pan and recipe or to arrange to drop off your casserole.
- **Jul 30 (Sat) Outdoor Church of Cambridge:** We have been asked to serve at the Outdoor Church on Saturday afternoon, July 30, and would love your help to either make sandwiches that morning or travel into Cambridge to distribute them. Please let Pastor Mary know if you can help with this important outreach on July 30.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** We encourage you all to continue to knit prayer shawls for those who need to feel God's loving care wrapped around them.



Opportunities to

- **Food Pantry:** We collect non-perishable food items once a month on Communion Sunday for the Ilse Marks Food Pantry. Items can also be left in the Giving Corner in the church lobby at any time. Please be sure to check the expiration date!

5

The Link

- **Bottles and Cans:** Please donate your clean, redeemable bottles and cans from your holiday events and parties. They can be left in the drop-off container at the bottom of the stairs just before the church office. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted, and the money collected is used for various church ministries and operational needs. Contact **Maurine Upton** for more information.
- **Needy Persons Fund:** Many in our community are in need during this pandemic. Our church maintains a Needy Persons fund through which we can offer assistance to such individuals. If you are able, please mail your donation to the church office at 76 Pierce Street, Stoughton noting Needy Persons Fund on your check. Through your generosity, we can help many people. *Thank you!* If you are experiencing difficult financial circumstances and could use some help through our Needy Persons' Fund, please speak to **Pastor Mary** in confidence.
- **Strengthen the Church Offering (Sunday, June 5)** - The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.** As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive the STC offerings throughout the month of June. You may also mail your offering to the church office and put Strengthen the Church on the memo line. Contributions can be made at any time [here](#).



Tuesday June 14



Sunday June 19



Tuesday June 21



Monday July 4



AT HOME, IN NURSING HOMES, AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES
For those who wish to send greetings, the following list is included:

Charles Bittner

Life Care Center, Room 121
 546 South Street East
 Raynham, MA 02767

Amanda Cushing

Willimansett Center East
 Room 308A
 11 St. Anthony Street
 Chicopee, MA 01013

Dorothy Dawe

The Arbors
 2121 Central Street Apt 112
 Stoughton, MA 02072

Judy Giannangelo

Care One at Randolph
 49 Thomas Patten Dr
 Randolph, MA 02368

Maizie John

996 Canton Ave.
 Milton MA 02186

Betty Lambert

West Acres Rehab and Nursing Center
 Room 311B
 804 Pleasant Street
 Brockton, MA
 02301

Ruth Scrivens

Copley At Stoughton
 380 Sumner St
 Stoughton, MA 02072



NOTICE

**Annual Program Meeting
Sunday, June 12, 2022**

ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING

(A quorum of 14 is needed to vote on agenda items)

In keeping with the requirements in the Church By-laws, a congregation-wide meeting will be held on Sunday June 12, 2022, at 11:00 AM after worship.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. To vote to suspend for one additional year the church by-laws regarding any term limits currently in place with regard to maximum or consecutive years of service on any Board or Committee.
3. To vote to empower the Church Council, or those it designates, to enter into formal negotiations with Christ Congregational Church in Brockton regarding a potential merger, including the ability to spend up to \$20,000 for expenses relating to research, real estate and other legal matters.
4. Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

This meeting will be held in the church sanctuary and all current Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed.