



The Link



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

May 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,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and I pray that the joy we experienced the day of Christ's resurrection will fill our hearts and enliven our relationships in the days to come.

Although Easter Sunday gets all the attention, the period of fifty days that follows it, known as Eastertide, is a gift to the Church. Eastertide, which extends until Pentecost Sunday (which this year falls on June 5) invites us to think about what it means to be a community shaped by the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. It provides us the opportunity to reflect on the good news of Christ's extravagant love and to envision our grateful response.

Expressing gratitude is a powerful spiritual practice. The more we do it the better we get at recognizing that God blesses our lives every day and in ordinary ways - through the beauty of spring, time spent with friends, and of course, in the relationships we have with our wonderful church family.

The Easter season that lies ahead is a fitting time to be grateful for all that God has given us. Times are challenging, to be sure, but we can be encouraged that Christ is risen and has conquered sin and death. Let's rejoice in his incredible love and respond gratefully during the Easter season and beyond.

Resurrection blessings to you and those you love,

Pastor Mary



Thank you to all who provided casseroles for MainSpring House last month and to **Anita Keenan** for coordinating this important outreach. We also thank **Russ Clough** for his help in streaming our Sunday worship services and **Janet Clough** and **Kay Giroux** for organizing our Easter flower dedications. We also thank **Susan Hill, Janet Clough, and Emil Kudryk** for their help on Good Friday. Thanks also go out to the **Worship and Music Ministry Team** for all they did to make our Easter Sunday worship service special. We are very blessed!



Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Mary will be on vacation from **April 28-May 4**. Please contact **Kay Giroux** if you have any pastoral care needs during this time.



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



On May 5, Maizie John will be turning 100 years old. She grew up in Beijing, China and remembers when a rickshaw driver would bring her to school every day. Because she lived near the Forbidden City, she often would ride her bike through parts of it to get to her job at the Treasury Department. When the Japanese occupied China, she went to a GI dance where she met her future husband, Arthur. He was an American soldier stationed there to interpret for the army. When the Communists took over, they were able to escape and move to New York City.

Life in the US was initially hard for them. Maizie worked at a garment factory and Arthur worked at a laundry. Things got better for them after Arthur received his college degree and a job at IBM. By the time they moved to Long Island, they had two young daughters and Maizie started her own dressmaking business.

After living in New Jersey for 20 years, they moved to Stoughton 23 years ago. Maizie was so happy to find her new church home and the friendly people in the community. She especially loved her knitting group and getting ready for the Christmas Fair. Currently, she is living with her daughter in Milton and is proud to have 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She enjoys doing crafts, going to Maine, and attending church service via Zoom.

If you would like to send a birthday card, her address is below:

Maizie John
996 Canton Ave
Milton, MA 02186



What's Happening This Month?

Faith & Fellowship Opportunities

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.

May 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.

- **May 1:** Pastor Mary on vacation. You are welcome to worship at any of our local UCC churches.
- **May 8 (10:00 am):** Pastor Mary leading worship. **Fourth Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday.**
- **May 15 (10:00 am):** Pastor Mary leading worship. **Fifth Sunday of Easter.**
- **May 22:** Pastor Mary scheduled Sunday off. You are welcome to worship at any of our local UCC churches.
- **May 29 (10:00 am):** Pastor Mary leading worship. **Seventh Sunday of Easter.**

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, Jun 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.
- **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!
- **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.



ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING – SUNDAY JUNE 12

The Annual Program meeting usually held the third week in May has been rescheduled to **Sunday, June 12** immediately following worship. The New Directions team will provide an update on recent activities. The full agenda will be posted in the June Link. All members are encouraged to attend.



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
 18 Daly Dr.
 Stoughton, MA 02072



May 30, 2022