



The Link



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

January 2023

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.*

Special Congregational Meeting
called by Church Council
Sunday, January 22, 2023
See agenda and details inside



Dear Friends,

As we welcome in the New Year, I am praying for God's love and peace to fill your hearts and homes. I know that God has good things in store for us all, and I am looking forward with great anticipation to the ways that we will serve God and the local community through our growing relationship with our friends at Christ Congregational Church.

Last summer I informed you that I planned to retire on January 1, 2023. As that date approached it seemed wise to both me and Church Council to move my retirement date to March 1. This additional time will allow me to continue to help facilitate the weaving of our ministries with those at CCC as I resume conversations with Pastor Jeff, who has just returned from family leave. Additionally, I continue as the point of contact with our legal team.

Please continue to pray for our church and for me in these final months of my ministry to our beloved church, and be assured of my prayers and deep gratitude for each of you.

With love and blessings,

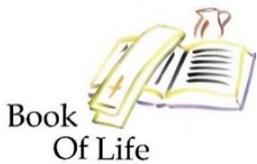
Pastor Mary

*Thank
You*

Thank You, Church Family

I would like to extend my gratitude for the gift card you gave me for Christmas. I very much appreciate your generosity and will treat myself to a mani/pedi! Thank you for thinking of me.

Love,
Pastor Mary



Deaths:

Al Dubois, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at Hurley Funeral Home in Randolph on November 30.

Catherine Isbitsky, whose funeral service was led by Pastor Mary at our church on December 9.

Jean Jackman, who died on December 30. Her complete obituary may be found at:

<https://www.currentobituary.com/obit/271999>

Brenda Sousa Catalano, daughter of former church member Rita Grant, whose memorial service was led by Pastor Mary at Evergreen Cemetery on January 11.

Lois Corbett, whose memorial service was led by Pastor Mary at Evergreen Cemetery on January 12.



Thank you to **John Baglole** for his invaluable help in organizing the Back Bay Ringers Handbell concert last month. Thanks also go out to **Kay Giroux** and **Susan Hill** for the hospitality they provided at Cathy Isbitsky's funeral service. We also thank **Laura Kittery** for the many hours she continues to give our church during this time of transition. We are also grateful to **Jeff Illsley** and the team of **Deacons** at **Christ Congregational Church** who sent Christmas cards and delivered plants to our housebound members. We are very blessed!



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



What's Happening This Month?



Sunday Worship: We will be gathering for worship at **Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant St., Brockton** on **January 15**, and **January 29**. The service begins at **9:55 AM** (music starts at 9:50 AM). Pastor Jeff Kardisco will be leading worship. Please stay for a time of fellowship after the service. All parking is in the rear of the building and is handicapped accessible. You can find information about the Sunday morning worship service, including an order of worship and links to access the service online on the Christ Congregational website (<https://brocktonucc.org/>). If you know of someone who is unable to get online to access the service, there will be an option to call in and hear the service over the phone. To do so, call the number given and enter the meeting id, followed by the # sign when asked. +1 929-205-6099 US; Meeting ID: 896 5156 4024.

Sunday, January 22: A worship service and celebration of Communion will be held at **First Congregational Church of Stoughton** at **10:00 AM** led by Pastor Mary Perry. A Special Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following worship. Details on the meeting can be found elsewhere in The Link. Both the worship service and the meeting will be live streamed over Zoom. Be sure to check Pastor Mary's weekly Constant Contact for the link to join the meeting remotely.

Thursday Morning Prayer: Thursday morning prayer will be held via conference call on **January 12, and 26** from **10-10:30 am**. **Pastor Mary** will read a passage from scripture and then we will have the opportunity to share our joys and concerns with one another. All are welcome to participate. To join, just dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID 862 2469 5175.

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/Trustees will next meet on **Monday, January 23 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom. These meetings are open to everyone. 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.



Opportunities to

- **Feb 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** (keenans21@gmail.com | 781-244-7742). Casseroles must be delivered to the church by **Sunday, February 12** and stored in the downstairs freezer. Contact Anita if you need a foil baking pan and recipe or to make arrangements to drop off your casserole.

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- **Food Pantry:** We collect non-perishable food items for the Ilse Marks Food Pantry. If you are in the church building, items can be left in the Giving Corner in the church lobby at any time. Or you can drop off items directly at the food pantry on Pleasant St. on Tuesday mornings between 8:00 – 10:00 AM. 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. If possible, please drop them off at Maurine Upton's home. If not, 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:** Our church maintains a Needy Persons fund through which we can give aid to individuals in our community who need a helping hand. 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.
- **Remember Your Pledge:** Just a friendly reminder from the Board of Trustees that church salaries and expenses still need to be covered through this period of transition for our church. If you are able, please honor your annual stewardship pledge to support our regular church operations. If you are away, you can mail your pledge to the church office, attention to the Offerings Clerk, or continue your giving online. For more information, please see the Online Giving section of our website at www.uccstoughton.org. Thank you for your continued faithful support of our church.



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

Christ Congregational January Happenings

Music Divina with Anton Faynberg: On the **first and third Friday** of every month at **6:00 PM** Anton Faynberg will fill our sanctuary with sacred sound and music to help bring God's word to life. Deriving the name from the practice *Lectio Divina* (or divine reading) - where practitioners read, or listen to, scripture in different voices and different tempos - Anton has created an experience that is an hour of continuous sound and music accompanied by scripture readings, meant to bring God's word to life. This event is held in the sanctuary at Christ Congregational Church. Come for a meditative musical service that further reflects upon our readings and themes from the previous Sunday. For more information, please contact the church office at 508-586-3022 or office@brocktonucc.org.

Handbell Groups: Have you always wanted to try playing the handbells but did not want to come out at night? Then this group is for you! The **Afternoon Handbell Group** meets every Wednesday afternoon from **3:15 PM to 4:00 PM**. If you prefer the evening, the **Adult Handbell** group meets every Wednesday from **6:00 PM to 6:45 PM**.

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Prayer Shawl Ministry – our beloved prayer shawl ministry has now taken root at Christ Congregational Church. The group meets each Wednesday morning from **10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** in the library.

Wednesday Bible Study is held at **10:00 AM** each Wednesday on Zoom. For more details, or to get the Zoom link, contact Alice Farnsworth – grammy58@comcast.net.

Want to find out more about all that is happening at Christ Congregational Church in the upcoming months? Contact the church office at 508-586-3022 or office@brocktonucc.org to sign up for the church newsletters, **The Courier** and **Nearly Weekly**. Get on the church email list by signing up on the church [website](#).



Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023

11:00 AM

ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING

(A quorum of 13 active members is needed to vote on agenda items)

In keeping with the requirements in the First Congregational Church of Stoughton bylaws (as amended May 2018), Basic Guidelines (5), notice is given of a Special Congregational Meeting called by the Church Council to be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2023**, at **11:00 AM**. This meeting will be held in the First Congregational Church of Stoughton sanctuary immediately following the service of worship. In the event of cancellation due to inclement weather, the snow date will be Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer.
2. To consider and vote on the dissolution of the Church corporation and disposition of assets, and to authorize the Board of Trustees to execute any and all documents in connection with the dissolution process.
3. To waive the approval of the annual budget, and instead approve church funding through the dissolution process.
4. To consider and vote on the sale of the Church building, as provided in the Purchase and Sale Agreement, and to authorize the Board of Trustees to execute the agreement, deed, and all other documents associated with the sale of the property.
5. To take any other actions and votes necessary to effect the results of prior votes taken at the meeting.
6. Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

Q. Who can attend?

A. Anyone connected to First Congregational Church of Stoughton (*e.g.*, you've come to online worship or in person worship before) is welcome to attend. In order to vote, though, you must be an active member of First Congregational Church of Stoughton.

Q: Who is an active member?

A: According to our bylaws (Basic Guidelines, Membership, Sections 1(e) and 1 (f)), an Active Member is one who, during a 12-month calendar year (1) attends worship, (2) financially supports the church in a discernable way, **and** (3) participates in the life of the church. Should an illness or other circumstance prevent an Active Member from attending worship, participating in the life of the church, or financially supporting the church, an exception to retain the individual as an Active Member may be made by vote of the Church Council. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact John Baglolle, Church Clerk at office@uccstoughton.org or by phone at 781-344-9547.

Q. How will the meeting be held?

A. The meeting will be held in person as well as live streamed via Zoom. All active members attending in person or via Zoom will be able to vote. All current Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed and wearing masks is encouraged. To join the Zoom meeting, use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81148261177>. If you would like to call in, just dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID 811 4826 1177.

Q. Can I vote in advance? Or have someone else submit my vote for me?

A. No. Proxy voting is not permitted. In order to vote, members must attend the meeting in person or via Zoom. Our standard practice requires an individual's physical or online presence at the meeting in order to vote. The rationale for this standard practice is that full participation in the meeting is necessary to vote, since we are to discern the will of God together, not merely represent our interests.

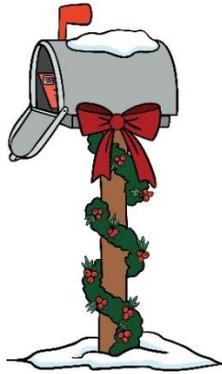
Q: Will there be any handouts available about the agenda items?

A: Several days before the meeting, active members will be emailed any additional relevant information. Active members who do not have email will receive the information by post or hand delivery. Materials will also be available at the church on the day of the meeting.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

- Author Unknown



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

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