



The Link



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

November 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,

One of my favorite scripture passages is found in the seventh chapter of Matthew's Gospel:

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Mt 7:7-8)

These verses from the Sermon on the Mount remind us that God will provide for our needs and that God is a loving and wise parent who cares about everything that is happening in our lives. We worship a God who wants to bless us, not always with exactly what we ask for, but as Matthew puts it, with "good things."

The reminder to rely on God and to trust in God's faithfulness and generosity is always pertinent but seems especially so as we and our friends at Christ Congregational Church continue to weave our ministries together. Change is not easy, even under the best of circumstances, so let's remember to lean into God's strength and presence in this season of transition, confident that God wants what is best for all of us. Let's be open to the holy work that the Spirit is already doing in our midst, as we ask, seek, and knock, knowing that God will always open the door and bless us abundantly.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mary



Thanks go out this month to **Janet Clough** for her ongoing work on the church inventory and the Board of Trustees for their help in updating Pastor Mary's contract. We also thank **Katrina Clinton** and **Jo-Ellen Fisher** of Christ Congregational Church for creating the structure of the fabric altar hanging that we then wove together during worship last month. We are very blessed!



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

[Uniting for Judah](#)



Judah Lee Kardisco was born on September 30th. There were some concerns at birth and after seeing several specialists it was found that Judah is in kidney failure. He started dialysis at 2 weeks old and will eventually need a transplant. A Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/579106504013334>) has been created as a communal space for the Kardisco's tribe to unite for Judah, Ivyn, Dani, and Pastor Jeff: for updates, encouragement, praises + prayers, supportive initiatives, connections, etc. "In this family nobody fights alone" Judah will be living at Boston Children's hospital for at least 3 months as he receives treatment. If you would like to make a donation to help support the Kardisco family through this season, please go to https://www.gofundme.com/f/uniting-for-judah?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer. Any donations given will be used for gas, parking, hotels, food, medical bills, childcare for Ivyn, or other things that come up regarding care for Judah.

NOVEMBER 8 is ELECTION DAY

**A Prayer for Our Veterans**

God, we give you thanks today for our nation's veterans. We honor them for their faithful service to our country, and for what they have done to defend and preserve our freedom. Generation after generation, young men and women have answered our country's call. And as a result, their lives have been changed forever.

We are grateful to all who have served, whether in peacetime or in periods of conflict. But today we especially remember those who have been tempered by fire, those who continue to bear wounds of the body or the spirit as a result of what they endured. They lie in our veterans' hospitals or struggle for recovery in rehabilitation centers; they suffer from post-traumatic stress and survivor' guilt; they yearn for peace in their souls.

Dear God, we ask you to heal their wounds, to banish whatever inner demons may haunt them, and to give them peace within so they may return fully to their families and to society.

We thank you, God, for all of our country's veterans—those of past generations, and those who continue to earn this title today. May we never forget what our country has asked of them and what they have given in return. Help us to care enough to give them the respect and honor they are due. And strengthen our resolve to build a world modeled on your realm, where war will be pursued no more.

This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Rev. John Gundlach is the UCC's minister for government chaplaincies and a retired Navy Chaplain of 27 years.



What's Happening This Month?



Sunday Worship: We will be gathering for worship each Sunday morning in November at **Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant St., Brockton** at **9:55 AM** (music starts at 9:50 AM). Bridge Pastor **Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick** will be leading worship. Our friends at Christ Congregational have already given us such a warm welcome but it will be easier if we all wear our name tags. Don't see one on the board in the lobby, one will be given to you upon arrival. 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 below and enter the meeting id, followed by the # sign when asked.

+1 929-205-6099 US

Meeting ID: 896 5156 4024

Wednesday Morning Prayer: Wednesday morning prayer will be held via conference call on **November 9, 16, and 30** 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 meet this month on **Monday, November 14 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

- UCC Hurricane Support:** The wider United Church of Christ is seeking support for those impacted by this year's hurricane events. Please indicate on your check that the donation is for 2022 Hurricane relief, or use the link below to make an online donation for those suffering following these disastrous storms: https://support.ucc.org/donate---hurricanes-2022?inf_contact_key=a3dfc97a4c7f28b814bb4d9697c37db3b7af0999dac2af6212784c39e05d2aef
- Dec 21 (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, December 18** 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.
- 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 summer 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 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 October Happenings

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.

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. 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.

Nov 5 (Sat): Fall Fair 2022 from **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Various “stores” at the fair include Take Out Food & Treats, General Store, Jewelry Boutique, Craft Corner, Clothes Galore, Electronics, Raffle Table and more!

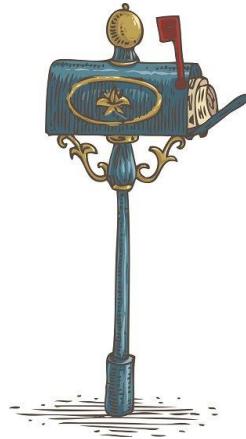
Want to find out more about all that is happening at Christ Congregational Church in the upcoming months? Contact the church office at 508-586-3022 or office@brocktonucc.org to sign up for the church newsletters, **The Courier** and **Nearly Weekly**. Get on the church email list by signing up on the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



Back Bay Ringers – December 3

Mark your calendars! We will be hosting the Back Bay Ringers holiday handbell concert at our church on **Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 pm**. The Back Bay Ringers are a non-profit advanced handbell ensemble that has performed at Faneuil Hall, Symphony Hall, and other locations in the Boston area. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students) and will be available at the door.





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