



The Link



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

September 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 an enjoyable summer, whether it involved traveling or simply enjoying the comforts of your home. One of the greatest blessings I experienced this summer happened when Robert and I were able to travel to San Diego to meet our newest grandchild, Max Daniel Perry, who was born in June and is well-loved by his parents and big sister Anna.

I am looking forward to seeing you in church this month. We will be worshipping in our sanctuary on September 4, 11, and 18, and in Brockton at Christ Congregational Church on September 25. We all know that change is rarely easy, but we can be comforted by the fact that God honors our ongoing prayerful discernment and cares deeply about us during this time of transition.

I invite you to respond to God's faithfulness by spending a few moments in prayer each day. Read a passage from the Bible - the Psalms can be especially comforting in challenging times. Call in to our Wednesday morning prayer time on September 7 and 21 or join us on the church lawn for a brown-bag lunch on Wednesdays at noon. Schedule a time to meet with me if there's anything in particular that you would like to talk about. Each of us has an important role to play in the future that God desires for us, so let's make it happen.

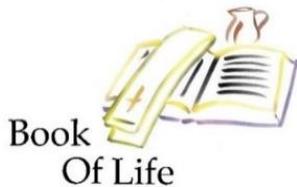
You are always in my prayers.

Love and peace,

Pastor Mary



This month we thank **Janet Clough** for her work in organizing the church's historical files. We also thank all the people who helped make Baseball Sunday a success: **Caroline Cesario, Susan Hill,** and **Sally Monahan**, who handled the cooking and serving; all who helped clean up; **Ed Porter** and **Marcia Olson**, who worked behind the scenes; **Drew Cesario**, who handed out the Cracker Jacks at the start of worship; **Elizabeth Silvia, Christopher Nickelson-Mann, Adam Isbitsky, and John Baglole** who did an amazing job with the music. We are very blessed!



New members: Preston Keenan and Drew Cesario were received as members of the church on June 5 during the Rite of Confirmation.

Baptism:

Leo Dey Janne Ciaramitaro, son of Karlyn Goodman and Christopher Ciaramitaro, was baptized by Pastor Mary on July 24.

Deaths:

Marie Kahler, whose memorial service was led by Pastor Mary at Farley Funeral Home on July 12.

Kuang-Mei (Katherine) Liu, whose memorial service was led by Pastor Mary at Knollwood Memorial Park on July 20.

Richard Williams, whose memorial service was led by Pastor Mary at Knollwood Memorial Park on July 22.

Barbara Swallow, who passed away on August 5.



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



What's Happening This Month?

Faith & Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday Worship: We gather for worship each Sunday morning. Services on the 4th, 11th, and 18th will be held in our church sanctuary at 10:00 AM and will also be live streamed on Zoom. Please follow all current Covid safety protocols while in the building. The service on September 25 will be held at Christ Congregational Church in Brockton at 9:55 AM.

- **September 4** (10:00 AM): Communion Sunday. Pastor Mary leading worship.
- **September 11** (10:00 AM): Pastor Mary leading worship. Congregational meeting after the service.
- **September 18** (10:00 AM): Pastor Mary is away. Worship will be led by clergy from Christ Congregational Church.
- **September 25** (9:55 AM): We will worship at Christ Congregational Church. Area Conference Minister Rev. Patty Kogut will be preaching.

Wednesday Morning Prayer: Wednesday morning prayer will be held via conference call on **September 7 and 21** 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 **Tuesday, September 6 at 7:00 PM**. 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

- **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!

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- **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 offer assistance 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.



Friendly Service

Help is needed in organizing the quilting supplies in the downstairs storage room space. Please contact **Janet Clough** if you are able to help.



We will be having our wind-up meeting on **Monday, September 12 at 4:00 PM** in the Fireplace Room. It will be a time to remember and celebrate our rich and interesting history and to close the books on our group. If you have been a member of Women's Fellowship at any time, please join us to remember fondly "the good old days". Light refreshments will be served. For further information, please call **Maurine Upton**.



Prayer Shawl Knitters

Thanks to your dedication we have a very ample supply of shawls in stock right now. Some of them need a few finishing touches and be properly packaged to donate. The supply closet needs to be organized and a listing of supplies made. Please contact **Janet Clough** if you can give us a morning of your time to help with this task.



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

Special Congregational Meeting *called by Church Council*

Sunday, September 11, 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, notice is given of a congregation-wide meeting to be held on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 11:00 AM after worship.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. To vote to approve the transfer of funds from the investment account to pay for anticipated church operating costs, and to cover any additional fees relating to real estate and other legal matters that may arise during the negotiations with Christ Congregational Church regarding a potential merger above the \$20,000 that was approved at the June 12, 2022 congregational meeting.
3. Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

This meeting will be held in the church sanctuary and all current Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed. If you have joined the church service via Zoom, please stay connected for the meeting.



From UCC News Digest

Repurposing Resources

Churches let go of buildings and find ways to keep on worshiping, witnessing, working.

by [Hans Holznagel](#) | published on Aug 16, 2022

When a church becomes too small for its building, there are options.

Several United Church of Christ congregations are working on one of those options right now. In various ways, they're shedding ownership of their sanctuaries. They're continuing to worship and do mission work. And they're figuring out what's next — in many cases, with mostly older members.

- In **Webster Groves, Mo.**, [Peace UCC](#) is selling its building. It will soon worship down the street, in the chapel of [Eden Theological Seminary](#), while keeping up its public, justice-oriented mission.
- In **Cleveland**, [Archwood UCC](#) just gave its church and parsonage to a Latinx cultural arts center. The new owners are happy to have the congregation keep worshiping and feeding people there.
- In **Granby, Conn.**, the [First](#) and [South](#) Congregational churches are uniting as a totally new church. They've agreed to let decisions about their buildings follow their emerging mission.

Check out their stories [online](#) on the UCC website. Each has been years in the making.

Monday September 5, 2022



Labor Day

Sunday September 11, 2022



Patriot Day