



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 20th, 2022 10am
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Covid-19

Please follow recommended public health advisories.

Masking and social distancing required.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and care for everyone's well-being.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **"Get Happy / Happy Days"** (1963) Lorri Cetto, soloist

**see Life of the Church*

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP *from* Martin Luther King (1929-1968)

Leader: Darkness cannot drive out darkness;

People: only light can do that.

Leader: Hate cannot drive out hate,

People: only love can do that.

Leader: Hate is too great a burden to bear.

People: I have decided to follow love.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Notices for the program, ministries and people of the church are shared.

*OPENING HYMN No. 305 ***Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door***

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Holy God, we ask that you keep knocking at our door. We are open and desire that you come in and make your home with us. Let your love rule all we say and do. Fashion us with your words that speak truth to power, justice to those who have none, and mercy to those in need of great mercy. May we honor your Spirit in our worship and our work today. Amen.

***All who are able please stand**

(1)

THE LORD'S PRAYER *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 121*

Leader: Lord, I will lift

People: my eyes to the hills.

Leader: Knowing my help

People: is coming from you.

Leader: Your peace you give me

People: in time of the storm.

Leader: You are the source of my strength,

People: You are the strength of my life.

*ACT OF PRAISE

Go! Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go! Tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-12 "Let Us Love One Another"

ANTHEM

"Roll Down Justice"

Mark Miller

Chancel Choir - Walter Spencer, soloist

The anthem segues into the hymn, Come Thou Fount. Please, join us.

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-38 "Love your Enemies, Bless those Who Curse You"

SERMON "Let Love Rule"

*HYMN No. 400

There Is a Balm in Gilead

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OUTREACH

Local Afghan Relief Effort in Worcester

Keeping up with our state's humanitarian response to the Afghan Refugee crisis, we have learned the organization WARM (Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry) of Worcester (info@warmwelcoming.org) is hard at work making a huge difference for locally relocated Afghan families. Partnering with Hope for Worcester and Living Word Church they have seized the opportunity to provide love and care through their work efforts.

On Saturday, February 5th, they prepared apartments for two Afghan families. Meeting together they cleaned, moved furniture and decorated the living spaces. On Wednesday the 9th, donations of food and clothing were collected at the Living Word Church, in hopes of meeting as many needs as possible of resettling refugees. We were able to quickly gather warm wear on short notice for Drop Off on the 9th. A big thank you for such a quick response!

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

- Salt
- Yeast
- Sugar
- All-purpose flour
- Tuna in the can
- Kidney beans
- Chick peas
- Vegetable oil
- Green/black tea
- Basmati rice



- Black pepper
- Garam masala
- Turmeric
- Cardamom
- Cumin
- Dried fruits and nuts
- Candies (candied almonds or small hard candies)



CLOTHING ITEMS NEEDED



High quality used or new:

- Winter coats
- Boots
- Shoes
- Clothes



We need items for both youth and adults, men and women!



In order to prepare for another Drive Off date in the future, we would like to begin collections now. A box or two will be placed in the Fellowship Hall designating specific items needed for the cultural preferences of Afghan families. Please consider adding to this collection over the next weeks.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, for prayers of safety during her deployment.

Muriel Beresford, for prayers of strength and health.

Cheryl Rowe, for prayers of continued recovery.

Dick Shirley, for prayers of a continued strong recuperation.

Steve Davis, for prayers of continued strength and resilience in healing.

Aida Catlow, for prayers of recuperation, healing and well-being.

Peg Mercier for prayers peace and healing.

The Maddy Harper Family, during the sudden loss of her brother in-law.

Today's Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGISTS: Heather Castelo

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: Jerry & Joyce Long, Mike Foster

There will be no Ushers in January or in February.

***Today's Prelude: "Happy Days / Get Happy"** ... with thanks to Ms. Garland and Ms. Streisand (for more fun, see the definitive, premier performance @ YouTube Judy and Barbra).

FEBRUARY 27TH IS BLANKET SUNDAY

Church World Service (CWS) envelopes have been placed in the pews in anticipation of Blanket Sunday. This is an annual opportunity to support vulnerable people throughout the world during times of crisis or disaster. Donations are used to provide light and heavy weight blankets to victims as they endure storms, fires or warfare. All donations of any size are appreciated. Checks should be made out to the church with Blanket Sunday written in the memo.



Thank you for considering this national and worldwide relief effort!

2022 Spring Yard Sale...The 2022 spring yard sale is scheduled to be held on May 21st, 2022, from 8 am to noon. Donations may be dropped off in the Vestry. Call Mike Foster if you need assistance. As usual, **do not bring any clothes, books** that aren't in pristine condition, **TVs, computers, large stereos, or large furniture.**

ONA UPDATE RE: OPEN FORUM III, TBA



At December's Open Forum II, concern was expressed about how the OCC declaring itself an *Open and Affirming* church would affect its future. In response to that concern, the ONA Team is planning Open



Forum III to be held when the current Covid spike has subsided and as many people as possible will be able to attend. With the understanding that no two churches are identical, we have invited Charlie Oliver of Second Congregational Church in Attleboro to share with us what his church experienced after it joined the ONA Coalition some years ago. Charlie was one of the leaders of their ONA Team and also has served as Moderator of his church. If time permits, after Charlie has spoken and answered questions, there will be an open discussion of ONA matters. Stay tuned (and safe) for a Save the Date!

Below is the "Covenant and Welcoming Statement" as presented by the Open and Affirming Task Team. We hope that this statement makes clear that the mission of ONA is to proclaim publicly an unqualified welcome to *all* people at the OCC. This statement expresses what is at the very heart and core of the ONA movement. Try reading it aloud to yourself – it is a very powerful statement! Any questions or comments? Please see Leesa Burke, Charlotte Capone, Jenn Chace, Jane Claffey, Ned Ligon, Joan Mello, or Walter Spencer.

Welcome to The Original Congregational Church in Wrentham! Because we believe all people are created in God's image and thus blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is the unifying and strengthening force of our Christian faith, we the members of The Original Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

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We welcome all who have no church home, seek strength, and want to follow the teachings of Jesus.
We welcome believers and non-believers, doubters and questioners, and questioning believers.
We welcome new visitors and old friends.
We welcome grandparents, mothers, fathers and children.
We welcome single and partnered people.
We welcome people of all ages, colors, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.
Here at The Original Congregational Church, Wrentham, we believe that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

Portions adapted from Bethany Church, Foxboro, MA, and United Church, Walpole, MA