

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

June 2022

Inside this issue:

Groups / Calendar	2
Sunday School & Fair	3
Outreach Music and Worship	4
Open & Affirming	5
Pastors Page	6

SPECIAL MEETING, JUNE 5, 2022

There will be a Special Meeting of the Original Congregational Church on **Sunday, June 5, 2022, immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary.**

A vote will be taken at this meeting on a motion that the Original Congregational Church accept the ONA Covenant/Welcoming Statement, and that the Original Congregational Church join the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.

All are welcome to attend, but only members of the Original Congregational Church may vote. If you have any questions, please call the office.





The Ladies Breakfast Club, is meeting on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, and 5th when there is. We meet at 9:30am at the Village Griddle in Plainville. Contact Emmie Foster or Sue Schwarm if you plan to attend.

The Kitchen Elves, meet the first Wednesday of each month to prepare and deliver meals to members in need. Preparers and drivers are always welcome. **Elves have resumed.**

Chancel Choir is rehearsing .
Bells are rehearsing.
Rehearsal for Chancel Choir is Thursday at 7:30pm.

Join Pastor Ken and friends for Bible Study in person and by Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 10am in our beautiful parlor.

Lunch Bunch meets at noon in Fellowship hall the 3rd Wednesday of each month for a light lunch of soup, sandwich, desserts and beverages. There's always an element of fun with friends. **Lunch Bunch has resumed.**

Rehearsal for Bells is Monday at 7:15 pm.

All are welcome!

The SPIRE is available on our website!!

Go to the OCC page at www.occhurch.net.

Highlight Dates

June 5th ONA Vote
June 17th Fathers Day Outdoor Service

“Todays flower’s are dedicated”

Any given Sunday you can dedicate the altar flowers to anyone in your life. Notify the office of your chosen day and you can make a donation to the Flower Fund, or bring in an arrangement yourself. For further information contact Donna in the office.

NEWCOMERS WELCOME

If you would like to become a member of our church, which affirms your regular participation in our worship life and support of our work and service to the wider community, please be sure to contact Pastor Ken or Donna in the office at anytime. We have a few families and individuals who are interested in being a part of our next service of Reception of New Members. See details at the worship hour and in the worship bulletin. We look forward to growing along with you in your spirit journey!



If you need to contact the office to submit anything for the bulletin or Spire, please e-mail the office at office@occhurch.net or call

the office at 508-384-3110. Every effort is made to accommodate your needs.

Facebook is used for information purposes. Messages are checked randomly and it is not a recommended way to connect for anything important.

Thank you for your cooperation.

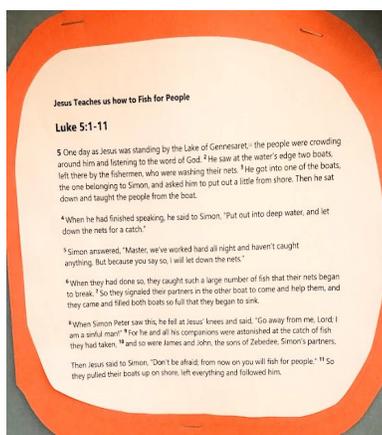




The Original Congregational Church Sunday School is wrapping up for the season!

We are grateful for our fearless leaders Charlotte Capone and Maddy Harper (Ms. Charlotte and Ms. Maddy) and teen helpers Jasper and Beau for their dedication and commitment to the children of our church.

On display in the Fellowship Hall is the Church School Spring Project, a collaborative effort that features the colorful artwork of the children and highlights the stories and lessons from the Bible that were shared.



GINGERBREAD FAIR

Save the date for **The Gingerbread Fair**, to be held on **Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 9 - 2**. As the summer approaches there are a couple of early calls for help: we are seeking craft ideas for the Craft Table and items are needed for the Christmas Table. Stay tuned for emails with "**Gingerbread Gossip**" featuring important fair updates, table head/contact information and more. We look forward with anticipation to this traditional community event at our church!

To reach us by e-mail: office@occhurch.net Pastor Ken Landin: revkenlandin@gmail.com
508-384-3110

Recently I received this letter and photo from Connie Littlefield, our contact at the Daisy Dube Children's Home at Mt. Selinda, Zimbabwe. For several years your financial pledges have helped support the running of this orphanage, particularly with food but once in a while a little something extra. I wanted to share this story and photo of Johan with all at the OCC. What we may consider "little things" mean so much more to others! Thank you.

Pam Jennette

"Pam, this is Johan, a man living with disabilities at Daisy Dube. He is a gentle guy and has been a resident there since birth. He must be close to 40 now. He wanted a radio. In fact, he rarely speaks but mentioned several times he would like a radio. Well, with the money your church sent from the special Christmas offering we plunked down \$25 for the radio. It can play with a USB with recorded music-- which everyone does here -- AND it has a microphone for karaoke or a sing along. OMG, ALL the kids are excited! Please share with your Original Congregational Church family and let them know how EXCITED Johan and the rest of the gang are!!!"



MUSIC and WORSHIP

June 5th - Chancel Choir

June 12th - Wrentham wRingers

June 19th - Father's Day Fun with Monica

June 26th - Al Fresco (Outdoor) Worship

Looking forward to a July full of Hymn Sings.

As we prepare for the upcoming summer months, the last Sunday with the choir present is going to be June 5th. The last Sunday bell choir performance will be June 12th. We thank everyone in these ensembles who made Sunday worship special.

We discussed having the 4th Sunday in June, July and August be outside services, since people seem to like those. That would be June 26, July 24, & August 28. Coffee and cookies would still be kept indoors.



ONA

Here are the final results of the ONA Survey regarding the ONA Covenant and Welcoming Statement (printed below):

Yes 93, No 0, Abstentions 3.

Many thanks to all who took part in the Survey, and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting on June 5th.



The ONA Covenant

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.

The ONA Welcoming Statement

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

Pastor Page Spire June 2022

The Flames of Passion

Friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you! Soon the Day of Pentecost will be upon us. This year we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church on Sunday June 5, 2022, which just happens to also be this pastor's 56th birthday. My mom and I always had a laugh at the fact that my arrival was just before the church hour on a Sunday morning. All the church bells of New England heralded my coming into the world!

In the Book of Acts, we hear the story of that first Pentecost. All the early followers of Christ were in the same place. Suddenly there came a sound of a roaring wind and then the Spirit, like wildfire caught everyone's attention. Though the cultures and languages of the people were many, they all could understand each other. That is because the language of love is highly translatable.

It has been wedding season here at the OCC this week. I am honored to be a part of the special day for couples choosing to live a life in covenant with each other. We talk about love at a ceremony as truly a gift from above for us here on earth. By love, the two people commit themselves to a life of care, mutual respect, support and responsibility. Their love for each other makes them accountable for all they say and do, and it brings out the best in each other.

One of the wonders of a wedding celebration is all the planning that goes into the day. An average wedding ceremony without any extra elements may take no more than twenty minutes. And yet, the couple has spent thousands of hours over a year to putting everything in place for guests to share with them on their special day.

Believe it or not, this is what going to church on a Sunday morning is all about. Though worship leaders rehearse for Sunday worship, Sunday worship is our rehearsal for preparing to receive and share God's love. At Sunday worship we remember God in our life, and we plan to practice that God life wherever we go until next week.

On June 5th, I will have had the opportunity to be in Sunday worship 2,912 times in my life. As I usually arrive around nine, even as a child for Sunday School, and leave around noon, of course enjoying coffee hour, that's three hours a week which adds up to 8,760 hours. That is exactly how many hours make up one year.

What can't be described in numbers is how those three hours a week have shaped my life, my outlook, my attitude, my bearings, my relationships, my hopes, my dreams, my impact on other's lives by faith. My mom did not celebrate my early birthdays knowing that my calling was to become a pastor. But what my parents did celebrate in me created that God space to happen in my heart and in my soul and for me and all I have served in a lifetime of ministry, made all the difference. On this birthday I look up to the heavens and pray, "Thanks mom, for all the love."

The flames of passion bring a wedding celebration to life. The flames of passion of a mother's love for her child inspire them to reach ever higher and broaden their horizons in life. And, on that birthday of the church, the flames of passion of the Holy Spirit breathes new life into the living—with God's help we love the world.

May you be blessed birthdays and on every day!
Pastor Ken

THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

1 East Street
P.O. Box 657
Wrentham, MA
02093

We're on the web
[www.
occhurch.net](http://www.occhurch.net)

Like us on
Facebook