



The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

May 2022



The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham is holding its annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday May 21, 2022 from 8 am. - noon. Our Vestry is filled with many exciting treasures including household items, tools, toys, books, sporting goods, artwork and much, much more!
Located at 1 East St. Wrentham MA.

Website www.occhurch.net Phone: 508-384-3110.
Please wear a mask.

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Lunch Bunch Fun (or not-so-fun) with Teddy. Have you ever wondered how things work? Teddy talks on music, music history, and the hymnal. And, of course, sings some sing-alongs. Hope you can make it!

Wednesday, May 18th at noon in Fellowship Hall.



The Outreach Team has chosen the IRC (International Rescue Committee) to receive our "Ukraine Relief" donations. An initial donation of \$2000 was sent to them in March. The IRC has been helping displaced people for the past 90 years. Their work began in Germany as German citizens began to flee the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Since then, they have responded by helping people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover and rebuild their lives. The IRC has stood with people in some of the toughest places on Earth, including

Yemen, Syria and Somalia.

We will continue to accept donations from the congregation as long as the need is there. Checks can be made out to the Original Congregational Church, with Ukraine in the memo.



We would like to announce there will not be Sunday school class on May 8th because it's Mother's Day and our last class for the school year will be on May 22nd. Thanks!





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

- May 08 Mother's Day**
- May 20 ONA Survey Deadline**
- May 21 Spring Yard Sale 8am-noon**

"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 2022 SPRING YARD SALE *** MAY 21st from 8 am to noon in the Vestry

MANY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. 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.**

WELCOME TO THE CARD TABLE AT COFFEE HOUR!

We were thrilled to see many of you stopped by the Card Table March 27 to jot a quick note to some of our members who are at home for various reasons.

We will do this again on **Sunday, May 22nd**. If you have any "thinking of you " cards or get well cards that you would like to bring, please do. We do have a card ministry that Becky Cuoco has been doing for some time. She sends cards every month. If you have any extra cards that Be my could use, please put in an envelope, mark for Becky Cuoco and put them in the Pastoral Care basket in the Church Library. This is one of the many Pastoral Care Ministries here at OCC. We also have the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Elves, the Lunch Bunch, the Prayer Chain, to name a few. Please speak to Pearl Gottberg or Sue Schwarm if you are interested in joining.

MUSIC

Music in May

May 1 - Southern Rail returns for worship, weather permitting, al fresco (outside). Eclectic, inclusive worship: Hoe down fun on sunny Sunday Morning only at the OCC.

May 8 - Mothers' Day Sunday - Lorri Cetto visits singing Schubert's Ave Maria - Chancel Choir sings - Hymns of Love: The Gift of Love, Savior like a Shepherd Lead Us, Rise Up! O Saints of God, He Leadeth Me - Just for fun: The Glory of Love

May 15 - Choir and Bells Rejoice! Wrentham wRingers in the House. Hymn of Nature: All Creatures of Our God and King, For the Beauty of the Earth, All Things Bright and Beautiful - Just for fun: The Andy Griffith Theme

May 22 - Chancel Choir sings favs: "I Still have Joy" and "My Song of Praise" - the Bell Quartet reprises its Ukrainian Offering, "While on the Sea" - Hymns of the Day: Shall We Gather by the River? Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, How Great Thou Art - Just for fun: The Bare Necessities

May 29 - Chancel Choir sings favorites; Lorri Cetto conducts; Emma Newton accompanies. Hymns of Ascension

PANCAKES FOR PEACE - PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The "Pancakes for Peace" breakfast held here at the OCC on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 was a wonderful time of gathering and fellowship for our church after time off due to the pandemic. After a final tally, over \$1200.00 in donations was raised to support the relief efforts of the International Rescue Committee for Ukraine. Thanks to the coordinators and crew for their hard work and efforts to make this successful event possible!



Special Thanks to Becky Cuoco for the pictorial memories and to her daughter Alicia, for the awesome video you can watch on our Web Page and Facebook.



ONA UPDATE RE: OPEN FORUM III



If you have already replied to Monday's one question ONA Survey, many thanks! If you have not, please do so at your earliest convenience. The deadline for responses is **Tuesday, May 3**.
Thank you for participating, The ONA Task Team



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.

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

Open The Gates to Righteousness

Dear Friends in Faith,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Lord. We welcome May with open arms. The days are long, we can spend more time outdoors. Our summer bird friends return. And we celebrate the beginnings of a new season in the garden. Good things are to come.



Being in the garden reminds me of the many times I would drive over to my Grandmother's house to take care of her yard and garden. There was an ordinary gate to enter the backyard. Oh, to enter through that gate again, if only in my mind! Spring brings life-nurturing, soul-soothing moments.

In John 10:7, Jesus instructs his disciples, "I am the gate." By Jesus, the Good Shepherd tends to the flock to protect and to nurture their well-being. A gate is the application that makes all living things work. In our bodies our semi-permeable membranes allow each cell to receive nutrients and expel waste.

Take a clam for example. If the bivalve can't open or close its shell, how can it eat and protect itself from being eaten? Jesus warns his followers, there are bandits that will deceive you and come and steal the sheep. They won't enter in through the gate. The gate would protect you from them.

The gate Jesus refers to is not made of wood or wire. Jesus is referring to God's Word. When God's Word is alive in your heart and mind, you have protection from danger and food to nourish your souls. God's Word feeds us wisdom and strength, inspiration and resilience, hope and healing.

Now a wood or wire fence that has a faulty gate is something of great concern. A gate that is frozen shut is not a gate but a wall. A gate that cannot be locked and is left open is not a gate but a hole in the wall. What purpose is it to close the barn door after the sheep have been scattered?

In the Gospel of John, we are invited to know that Jesus lovingly cares for the flock, he calls each by name, he leads them out, and he leads them back in. Psalm 118:19 has us proclaim at worship, "Open to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord."

And this is the gate of the Lord: steadfast love that endures forever. When we love each other with Godly words that build up and support, welcome in and receive, we are joining in the work of Jesus to tend to the flock by watching over the gate with right discernment and right actions.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Open to us the gateway to peace and security for all the flock. Building a world on the cornerstone of righteousness begins by giving thanks for all the beautiful people, all the beautiful places that God has let us enter into relationship with. Amen.



