

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

July/August 2022

The following was a letter received by the OCC from The United Church of Christ.

Dear ONA family:

Please join us in welcoming Original Congregational Church in Wrentham, MA, as a newly certified Open and Affirming Congregation!

As ONA church #1768, Original Congregational is now part of the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world! We're proud of OCC, and grateful to the church's leadership for the hard work that led to this milestone in their history.

The congregation will be added to the ONA map at openandaffirming.org/find. We've notified the UCC's Yearbook office to assure the map of UCC congregations at ucc.org/church-finder also reflects their ONA status.

Please join the entire Open and Affirming movement in celebrating Original Congregational Church, and in prayer that their ONA covenant will be a blessing to their LGBTQ+ neighbors and inspire new passion and energy for living the Gospel!

Blessings,

The Rev. Andy Lang
Executive Director
ed@openandaffirming.org
Pronouns: he, him, his

The Rev. Derek Terry
President
office@openandaffirming.org
Pronouns: he, him, his

Picture submitted to and taken by:
Catherine Bove Cournoyer
April 9, 2022

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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 are on summer break.**

Chancel Choir and bells are on Summer break.

Rehearsal for Chancel Choir and Bells will resume in August

All are welcome!

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

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 will resume in the fall..**

The SPIRE is available on our website!!

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

“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.



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.

Highlight Dates

- July 3rd 9:30am Worship begins
- July 24th Outdoor Worship
- August 28 Outdoor Worship
- September 4 10:00am Sanctuary

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!



A Message From the Kitchen Elves

Let's talk about the OCC Kitchen Elves! We have a wonderful group of men and women who make monthly desserts, prepare and deliver the meals to members of OCC, who need a little hug from their church family. We are taking our summer break and will return September 7.

We would like to know how we can better serve you. The weekend before our Wednesday gathering, if you know anyone who could use a meal, please let Pearl or Sue know and they will be added to the list. We know there have been favorite entrees, sides and desserts. Your input will help us develop our menus for next year. We have done meatloaf, roast beef, roast pork, and barbecued chicken. Mac and cheese or pasta salad have filled in for mashed potatoes. We now put gravy, nuts or salad dressing in separate containers. How do you feel about American chop Suey or spaghetti and meatballs? Lettuce prices went up so we moved to Waldorf salad, carrot salad and copper carrots. Occasionally we add corn bread. Our bakers are happy to make cookies, but we have also done gingerbread and bread pudding. How do you feel about cake or bars for a change? Rice or potatoes? Some items take more prep, so we try to average out the prep times. Are there favorite veggies? Broccoli and fish have been requested but they don't travel well....What about a casserole?

As an original Elf, I love the time spent with our merry band, and the joy we spread to our church family. The kitchen bond that has occurred with these ladies is a huge part of why we do this month after month. We always need kitchen help, bakers and drivers.

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please speak to Pearl Gottberg at 508-369-9231 or Sue Schwarm at 508-384-7697.

We welcome your input to our menus as we plan for our fall dates. If you want to email please use pgottberg@hotmail.com or Sue.schwarm@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all our elves who have faithfully served for years and those who will continue to serve. This was certainly a calling for Pearl and Sue as they serve God from the kitchen. But as usual we have received more than we have given. Thank you for all your support and prayers through the years.



Issue One/June

GINGERBREAD GOSSIP

The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham Presents
The Gingerbread Church Fair November 19, 2022 from 9 – 2!
 Located at 1 East St. Wrentham Massachusetts

Stay tuned for monthly newsletter with fair updates leading to the big day. Our annual church fair is an all-church community event! Here are some ways to help us get an early start.

Save items for the following tables:

Attic Treasures: We welcome house wares, toys, sporting goods, linens, and more!

Gift Table: Save non-used gift items

Jewelry Table: New, gently used, or handmade jewelry Christmas

Decorations Table: Seasonable décor, gifts Books Room: Excellent condition only! Large print, Best Sellers, Sports books needed

Plants: Start plant cuttings now!

Other gossip:

Creative ideas are needed for the Craft Table! See below to contact table head. Consider donating an item or gift certificate to the Silent Auction! Vendors are welcome! \$50.00 per table (contact chairperson below). We look forward to the return of The Children's Fair and Santa Claus! The Food Table welcomes your culinary talents at fair time.

Thanks in advance for your help! Barbara Ligon and Gordon Wetmore, Co-Chairs

A full list of table heads and drop off location are:

Attic Treasures: Amy Kopas

Gifts: Nancy/Doug Mure

Jewelry: Laurie Sammons

Children's Fair: Charlotte Capone & Madeline Harper **Food/Bake:** Christine Symmes & Jean Roche

Christmas Decorations: Mike/Emmie Foster **Plants:** Sherry Davis **Silent:** Auction Julie/Courtney & TBA

Books: Bob/Kathy Boissy **Breakfast/Lunch:** Gala McCurdy & Heather Castelo **50/50 Raffle:** Kim Kelly

Crafts & Sewing: Sue Wetmore

Drop off your items during summer hours on the bench next to the office. It is helpful to indicate which table your item is designated for.

Summer Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 3:00pm

The following image shows a banner that was approved by the Coordinating Council, as the designation for ONA, which will be added to the Dedham and East Street signs. A standing ONA committee will be formed and a more permanent designation can be decided upon by that committee.

The progress flag represented on the signs stands for the following:

- Red= Life
- Orange= Healing
- Yellow =New Ideas
- Green = Prosperity
- Blue = Serenity
- Violet = Spirit
- Black/brown = People of Color
- White/blue/pink = Trans Community "



* Please note, at this time the image is a photoshopped image and not the actual signs.



The 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.

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.**

Voted upon and approved by the OCC on June 5, 2022

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

Words in Loving Remembrance for Muriel Beresford
December 13, 1926—June 18, 2022
As offered by Rev. Kenneth C. Landin

The Apostle Paul encourages the next generation in the church, “I urge that prayers be made for all people, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our savior.” 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

Our dear Muriel truly led a godly life. She was dignified in every way. And she carried herself with a peaceful spirit and could be very quiet. One time on a five-hour road trip with her family, Muriel was content to not add a single word to break into the conversation or times of silence. Her family had to keep asking if she were still there!

Born into a multi-generational Wrentham family the Winters, Muriel and her four siblings George, Charles, Marion, and Grace all graced the hallways of the Original Congregational Church and spent countless hours in Sunday School, in Worship, in Service, and in Fellowship with all that was going on at their beloved church. Muriel never missed worship on Sunday. It could truly be said of her, that she was much more well attended than the pastor who would take Sundays off for family vacations.

Muriel was very active in church life over the years. She participated in all the Women’s Fellowship groups, she served as a Deaconess preparing the communion in the proper way, she was a decorated Treasurer well trusted and well appreciated by her church community. Whether serving as an usher, or helping out at the fair, pitching in for a special project, we may praise her memory to the Lord while saying, “Muriel was always there for us.”

For many years the townspeople would greet Muriel as the bank teller at the Wrentham Co-Operative Bank. Muriel was seen by all in her daily walks all about town. Everyone knew Muriel and her family. She and the Winter family were great contributors to life in Wrentham and the family still gets together in August for family reunions. In fact this very pulpit has a memorial plaque on it to her family member Murray Winter. They are very much still with us.

For well over 90 years, she would always be at church on a Sunday morning. Muriel may have sat through something like 4,680 sermons. She listened patiently to Melville Shafer, Lionel Whiston, William Perry, Clifford Tobin, Craig Anderson, Carol Brink and me (Pastor Ken).

It was my great honor to be her pastor here in her last seasons of her long and blessed life of faith and service. We shared many conversations of the old days, and how much her church friends met to her. And we always prayed to God together for good health, for love for her family, and gratitude for a wonderful life.

(Continued next page)

THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

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

When I first came to town, Muriel would always be found sitting in the middle pew with her good friends Joan Geishecker and Esther Cook. Between them they lived like 270 human years, all devoted to love and care for loved ones and church friends. Muriel had many good friends here that were life-long companions. I remember a story about Claire Harrison who played basketball with Muriel at the old High School across the street. It was fun to think of them playing basketball together!

Muriel and her husband Gerard are fondly remembered by her church friends. Gerard was the strong, stern type, and Muriel was the perfect blend of gentleness, quietness, and a light touch. Gerard was very well gifted in making things work and one time put together an antique wool spinner that had fallen apart, and it is still in great shape.

Muriel attending all the Bible Studies over her many years and was very knowledgeable. In class we experienced her to be very quiet, yet she was mentally agile, had a quick wit, and though almost never said a word or projected herself into the conversation, she listened intently and if you ever called on her she could cite chapter and verse of a Bible passage.

If we discussed the current times, she might smile and say, “Well—that’s not exactly how we did it in those days!”

Another great church friend who also happened to be Muriel’s hairdresser fondly remembers how Muriel looked forward to her appointments and she delighted in time for friendly chats. We recall and give thanks to God for all the gifts she has given us in the heart: her quiet, steady faith, her gentle humor and kind smile, her beautiful blue eyes twinkling with life. Our dear Muriel will be deeply missed and will be in the heart and soul of the saints of the OCC forever and ever, in God’s House of Love and Light. Well done good and faithful servant Muriel. *May the Lord bless and keep all her precious gifts in our hearts. Amen.*



Live
Sunday Mornings
at 10:00am

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

