

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

September 2022

CONTINUING EDUCATION for UCC Clergy

In the Spring, our Ministerial Authorizing Committee for our Central Association of the UCC has asked all Clergy in their care to seek out and complete two sessions regarding clergy wellness and racial justice training. Pastor Ken completed a course in Boundary Awareness Training in July to complete this requirement. It was a wonderful experience to learn many ways that pastors and parishioners can share in keeping our life together as healthy and supportive as possible.

In September, Pastor Ken will be attending the SNEUCC Justice Summit in Glastonbury Connecticut. There will be exciting speakers and workshops designed to assist local congregations in understanding racial justice issues as part of our witness to Christ in the world.

The UCC has many great learning opportunities and other continuing education classes will focus on Sunday School formation and new ways to do church together in this time of reconnecting and rebuilding following the global pandemics impact on life.

On AUGUST 14th we celebrated our concluding Sunday worship with our dear friend and Music Director Teddy Cetto. Teddy announced his return home to California to serve in his new role as Grandfather to baby Xuji.

With Teddy's departure we have tasks to attend to in this time of transition. We have three steps before us: hiring temporary musical guests for Sunday worship; searching for a musician/choir director who may be able to serve for several weeks or longer; and to prepare our posting and job description for our next Music and Choir Director.

A second conversation is regarding gathering our Chancel Choir to navigate a time of transition with possible guests. The Worship Team consults with the Council about the position, and in past years, we established a Music Director/Choir Director search team. With the Spirit at work, we may already have musicians who hear about our opening and seek to find out more about us. Anyone who would like to share in our musical work is welcome to participate. The first task is to communicate where we are with each other.

Please see Pastor Ken and Worship Team members during coffee hour in the next couple of weeks so that we can quickly compare notes and share in the tasks ahead! Thank you for your kind support!

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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.

Rehearsal for will resume **September 12th.**

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.

The SPIRE is available on our website!!
Go to the OCC page at www.occhurch.net.

Highlight Dates

- September 04 10:00am Sanctuary
- September 06 Kitchen Elves @ 9am
- September 07 Bible Study@ 10am
- September 10 Wrentham Day
- September 12 Bells Rehearsal
- September 21 Lunch Bunch @ 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.



STEWARDSHIP



Have you made a delicious home-cooked meal that you shared with friends or family? Or maybe you were a guest at a gathering and were served a tasty dish you really enjoyed. Perhaps you spent a little extra for special ingredients to prepare a holiday dinner, or you prepared a meal for someone in need. Whether we have been on the giving end or receiving end of a dinner, lunch, brunch or breakfast, we have savored the joy and love that was put into the meal and sharing it with others.

Our Stewardship 2023 theme this year, *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*, summons the generosity that is symbolized in our sacred table of Communion. At the OCC, we have shared many meals together for different occasions – potlucks, Lunch Bunch, pancake breakfasts, collations. And the first Sunday of each month in worship we share in our communal remembrance of Jesus, partaking of the bread and the cup, serving one another. It is an invitation not only to receive, but also to give.

Jen Chace, Ralph Lambalot, Lesley Whittemore
Stewardship Committee

WRENTHAM DAY

The Spire

Member of the OCC will represent the church on Wrentham Day, September 10 from 9:00am-2:00pm in Wrentham Common. Come check out the fun as the town celebrates it's 350 years, and see Pastor Ken display colonial garb and a miniature OCC church with a working bell.

For more info on the festivities look on the town web site at:
Wrenthamma.myrec.com

For more information about the road race, and to sign up, go to:
wrentham_wroad_wrace2022.pub.pdf



MANY TABLES ARE IN NEED OF ITEMS FOR THE GINGERBREAD FAIR!

November 19, 2022 9 - 2 Drop off your items during office hours on the bench next to the office. It is helpful to indicate which table your item is designated for. Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 3:00pm

ATTIC TREASURES: We welcome house wares, toys, sporting goods, linens, and more!

GIFT TABLE: Donate new gift items, maybe a gift you tucked away and never used?

JEWELRY TABLE: New, gently used, or handmade jewelry.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TABLE: Seasonable décor, gifts.

BOOKS ROOM: Excellent condition only! Large print, History, Local Lore, Wimpy Kid Books, Large Picture Books for Kids.

PLANTS: Start plant cuttings now!

CRAFT TABLE: Creative ideas are needed, and we welcome donations of your already made craftwork!

SILENT AUCTION: Consider donating an item or gift certificate.



5 Trees, 4 Levels, 3 Generations = 2022 Gingerbread Fair

Yes, the Gingerbread Fair is on the calendar for 19 November this year, but not quite the same-old, same-old. While bigger is not always better, we think our expansion plans will result in more people being involved which will result in more fun for everyone. Follow the numbers to learn what's on the drawing board.

5 TREES = we need 5 families or grandparents and grandkids or siblings or uncles and nephews to each make 2 dozen gingerbread cookies and use them to decorate a small tree. These cookies could be a favorite family recipe, a traditional ethnic variation, or a Betty Crocker slice and bake product. Five artificial trees await your talents with decorating to take place anytime during set-up week, 13-18 November. Once decorated, each tree will brighten a fair corner.



4 LEVELS = expanded tables and new vendors utilizing more of our historic building. Yes, that is FOUR levels. Count'm: (1) the sanctuary for the Silent Auction; (2) the vestry for Attic Treasures; (3) the chapel, parlor, connector, and Fellowship Hall for all sorts of goodies; and (4) the basement under Fellowship Hall for not just the Children's Fair but also Jewelry and more vendors. (Those of you who are perfectionists may point out that this is actually **FIVE** levels since there *are* two steps between the office hall and the long hall parallel to the parlor...and you would be right!) We want the elevator to get a workout.

3 GENERATIONS = Grandparents? Check. Parents? Check. Kids? Not so much. We want more kids to get involved, especially energetic young teens. We need brunch hosts/table clearers. We need book replenishers in the Chapel Bookstore. We need Children's Fair helpers. We need young muscles on Saturday after 2 p.m. to help take down the fair. And most teens need community service hours for graduation. This is a perfect opportunity to log some service time. Your teen or grand teen (minimum age = 13 years) can bring a friend and they can work together for a two hour shift or from 9-2. So ask the kids in your life to do something different on a Saturday.

If you can help with cookie/small tree decorating and/or volunteering a young helper, please speak to or contact the office at office@occhurch.net. You'll be on Santa's "nice" list.

Dear OCC Joyful Noisemakers,

You thanked me, and so generously, but it is I who should thank you. For a musician, a congregation is everything. A workshop to worship; a place for settling into God's Love with friends; a crusading locus for the good that might be. And music, with its ephemerality, embodies that subtle strength. And such an easy gift, music, because it's reciprocal: the gifter and the giftee connected: from God to us and back again. The more we give the more we get. At the OCC, it was that simple:

I asked you to sing like you meant it, and you responded.

That's life's intention-fruit riddle embodied: the how answered by the doing.

My part, the ask, was easy, but the reply, the shake up is not so. Embracing something new takes pluck. Worship is the last place one wants to be challenged, yet weekly, in-n-out, I'd challenge you, and you replied: Bring it on! Led by Pastor Ken's openness, our company was nearly effortless. And this comes down to trust. And there is nothing more important in relationships. Because PK trusted me; you trusted me. Your trust emboldened my trust in you.

Quoting the olde dickens Dickens, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Like the moonshot or JFK's death, I'll always remember where I was, when we huddled together fearful for the world, trepid for one another, yet still gathering, knowing nothing is more powerful than worshipping together.

My credo remains the same: Louder = more emotion.

More emotion = more love.

More love, reminiscent of Ken's favorite equation, the BIG circle of $1 + 1 = 1$. "We're captive on a carousel of time. We can't return, we can only look around from where we came, and go 'round 'n' 'round 'n' 'round in the circle game."

Until we meet again, hold me in your palm,
and I will hold yours. Thanks for four fun years,

Teddy

A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA....

Attention all ringers--past, present, and future!

We begin our handbell season with rehearsal on Monday, September 12 at 7 PM. Our first worship appearance will be on October 2. Please do be in touch if you would like to explore the possibility of ringing this year. If you can count to four, keep a steady beat, and tell your right hand from your left, you can be a successful ringer! We have a LOT of fun--join us!

THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

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Live
Sunday Mornings
at 10:00am

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

Like us on
Facebook



Signposts on the Way to God

Blessed Friends,

With September comes the return of students to class, and fall work and community involvements. Here at the OCC, we are working towards and hoping for our church life to continue to grow and thrive in this second year after the global pandemic. Soon you will see signs about activities and opportunities to serve together as Christ's church in this wonderful space set aside for both solemn sacred experiences and fun social times. Come on back to church! The faith and the food is fine!!!



As we make our way around town, we see with so many construction sites, we need road signs to indicate how to navigate our way to the supermarket! So too with faith. What signs help us see where God is in our midst. Can our church life together bring us closer to God and each other? How do we know God's love? How do we connect with the One who calls each child "My beloved?"

Faith begins with parents and grandparents, neighbors and friends, strangers and newcomers, teachers, mentors, and pastors. Each person we encounter and engage with in our day helps us to see just a little bit more how life works when we all work together for the good.

And we are gentle with each other. We don't expect more than what a loved one, or a leader in our life can offer from their heart and strength. When we put our ultimate expectations on the God of Creation, and the Lord of Renewal, then our loved ones, friends and family, teachers and those who serve us do not become sources of disappointment, but occasions of learning about the joy of life and the challenges of community.

Be good to each other. The signpost up ahead? Not so much to "The Twilight Zone" as the old television series opened with, but our signpost for us at the start of this new school year is more like "Watch Out—Construction Zone Ahead." Let us be built together with the one whose very image is continually being shaped by old and new relationships seeking God's grace!

May God bless you in all our new beginnings this fall!

Pastor Ken