

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

August 2023

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Recently I received in the mail a nice letter and a certificate to recognize and celebrate my 25th anniversary of ordained ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ. Every year at the Conference Annual Meeting, we take a moment to recognize those who have served in pastoral ministry for 25 years and 50 years. There is a lot of love in those years!

My formal training for ministry began in the fall of 1989, thirty-four years ago. I started as a student chaplain at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital along with my divinity school studies. I remember my first hospital visits vividly. I have entered untold hospital rooms with the prayer “Lord, let me remove my own self so that you may be fully present in this place.”

Considering I have been a sole full-time pastor for twenty-five years, that’s about 1,200 Sunday sermons! God has blessed me to literally have preached to thousands, with many of those being weekly regulars of course.

I remember my ordination service well. It was at my home church in which I was raised, The Burlington, MA, United Church of Christ, Congregation-al. It was on Sunday, February 22, 1998. This was Transfiguration Sunday. At the moment of the Ordination Prayer all the people came forward and placed their hands on my shoulder. It was both a very heavy and a very light weight, a feeling that is hard to describe.

While visiting churches in my conference work over the years, the wisdom I would share is this: “Good people make good pastors.” I am forever indebted to my sixth grade Sunday School teacher Deacon Ed Skelton. He was the one who first made the Bible real to me. He would say to me, “God already knows what we are to pray, but go ahead and pray—God loves to hear your voice.”

When we were little, my beloved mom June prayed our nighttime prayers in the hallway in between our bedrooms which created the ongoing conversation I have had with God ever since. She prayed an adapted familiar prayer that goes something like this: Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray the Lord my soul to keep; God’s love to watch me through the night; and wake me with the morning light. Amen.

I am grateful to everyone along the way who have been so supportive of my call to ministry. With God’s grace we continue to look forward to all the great ways the Spirit is moving in our midst and creating right here in Wrentham in these amazing and challenging times! God bless our work and service together! Thank You for all Your Support!

In Christ,
Pastor Ken

Inside this issue:

General	Pg. 2
Outreach	Pg. 3
Music	Pg. 3
Church Mouse Fair	Pg. 4
Looking Ahead	Pg. 5
Pastor’s Page	Pg. 6

IN GRATITUDE FOR PASTORAL SERVICE
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Recognizing and celebrating that

The Rev. Kenneth Landin

an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ
was ordained in 1998 has served long
and faithfully and is hereby awarded
this citation for pastoral service on his
25th Anniversary of Ordination
with the gratitude and appreciation
of the Central MA Association and the
Southern New England Conference of the
United Church of Christ

John C. Dorbauer
Rev. Dr. John C. Dorbauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

Elizabeth R. Dilley
Rev. Elizabeth R. Dilley
Ministerial Excellence, Support &
Authorization Ministry Team
Justice & Local Church Ministries

David L. ...
Executive Conference Minister



Elizabeth R. Dilley
Executive Minister for
Area Conference Ministry



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. Next date is **September 6**. The Elves will take a break for July & August..

Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings in person and by Zoom at 10:00 am. Join Pastor Ken and friends in our beautiful parlor. Bible Study will resume **September 5th**.

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. Next date is **September 20** — Lunch Bunch will take a break for July & August,

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

Highlight Dates

July & August
Summer worship at 9:30 am
in Fellowship Hall

10 am Worship will resume
September 3rd
In the Sanctuary

As September brings an awakening within the whole church, consider getting involved by joining a team or committee. If you've been thinking of becoming a formal member of the church, it might be time for you to consider your Affirmation of Faith. Committee chairs, Pastor Ken and Donna are available to answer your questions and help you get started.



Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the Chancel Choir are Thursday evenings at 7:15 pm with Justin Kisch. **Rehearsals resume September 7th**

Rehearsals for the Bell Choir are now Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm with Martha Goodman. **Rehearsals resume September 7th.**

If you'd like to share your music gifts during the summer months, please contact Justin Kisch or Pastor Ken.

Zimbabwe Boxes are Out

Finally, the boxes are set up and labeled for donations. We are focusing our donation efforts for The Daisy Dube Childrens Home and Sheltering Arms. The Childrens Home provides a safe space for orphans and abandoned children through our United Church of Christ affiliates in Zimbabwe. Upon aging out of the Childrens Home, youth are given the opportunity to train for a trade at the Sheltering Arms. Following this path can provide an opportunity to continue to thrive in an otherwise harsh environment.

Thanks to our New Hampshire friend, Connie Littlefield and her many African contacts, a shipping crate will leave Rochester, New Hampshire on August 16th and begin its journey to Mozambique Africa.

Boxes have been labeled to help organize our collection. Lists of requested items are available there near the assembled boxes.

Essentially, the categories are:

- Gently used clothing for children and infants, including new socks and underwear, shoes in good condition
- Women's and men's clothing, including new bras and men's suits and ties
- School supplies; backpacks, pens, pencils, paper, chalk and rulers
- Art supplies, reading books and preschool puzzles
- Medical supplies; pain relievers, antibiotic ointment, gauze and bandage supplies
- Eyeglasses, toothbrushes, soap and sanitary supplies
- Sewing supplies; fabric, thread, zippers, scissors, sewing needles
- Bedding supplies; sheets, blankets, towels and tote bags
- Sheltering Arms; double size sheets and towels, plates, pots and pans, cutlery and recipe books
- Tools; pliers, tape measures, tool boxes, helmets

MUSIC



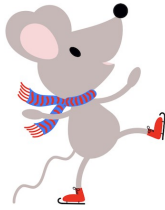
Calling all singers!

Choir rehearsals resumes Thursday, September 7th at 7:15pm.

Bells rehearsals resumes September 7th at 6:00pm

CHURCH MOUSE FAIR

The Spire



Saturday, November 18, 2023, 9 am – 2 pm
The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham
1 East St. Wrentham Ma 02093
Mark your calendars and save the date!



The Church Mouse Fair will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9 - 2. Our annual church fair is an all-church community event and our largest fundraiser of the year. Stay tuned for monthly SPIRE articles, weekly church bulletins, and our new fair bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for updates! We look forward with great anticipation to this tradition!

Here are some ways to help us get an early start:

Save items for the following tables:

Attic Treasures (starting in September): Drop off housewares, toys, sporting goods, linens, etc. **Gift Table:** Save non-used gift items.

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

Christmas Decorations Table: Seasonal decorations, gifts.

Books Room: Excellent condition only! Large print, Best Sellers, Sports books needed.

Plants: Start plant cuttings now!

Craft Table: Creative ideas are needed!

Silent Auction: Consider donating an item or gift certificate.

Vendors: \$50.00 per table (contact chairperson below).

Drop off your items (please indicate which table your item is for) on the bench next to the office. Summer Hours are Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 – 3:00, through August 27th and Fall Hours are Tuesday – Friday 9:00 – 3:00. Please wait until September for Attic Treasure donations.

We look forward to the **Children's Fair** with crafts and games for the children and the yearly return of **Santa Claus!** The **Food Table** welcomes your culinary talents at fair time, and the delicious Brunch is always a favorite for hungry shoppers. Many volunteers will be needed on fair day!

At the start of September, the Church Mouse Fair will come to life as the chairpersons meet with the table heads (full list posted in September) on Sunday, September 10. Then the hustle and bustle begins as donations are collected, decorations made, charts of table arrangements revisited, social media, flyers, and signs are posted, policies for health and safety are reviewed, crafts and food menus are prepared, volunteers coordinated, and much, much, more. Also, stop by the OCC table at Wrentham Day on Saturday, September 9 on The Wrentham Common, where we will be promoting the fair!

Thanks in advance for your help!

Barbara Ligon and Gordon Wetmore The Church Mouse Fair Co-Chairpersons

bvligon@gmail.com, gwetmore168@gmail.com

Bulletin and Spire

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.

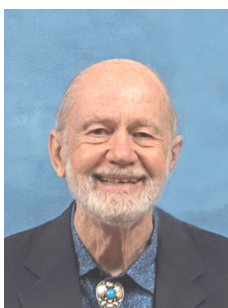
Summer Worship

Summer worship services for July and August are

**Sunday's at 9:30 am
in Fellowship Hall.**

**We will resume in the
Sanctuary
on
September 3rd**

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 28th at 7:00pm



As a tribute to our much beloved Ken Graves, the originator of the OCC Coffee House Concert Series, we are pleased to announce a night of Bluegrass and Blueberry Buckle! One show only! The premier New England bluegrass group *Southern Rail* will perform a show from 7:00pm-9:00pm, with intermission for goodies, here at the OCC. This will be a night for fun, fellowship, and toe-tapping music!

"Today's 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



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!

Miles and Milestones

Beloved in Christ,

As the town celebrates 350 years with a host of events, we also recognize and honor that amazing milestone for our wider community and pray for all the blessings of good things to be upon our life together in Wrentham.

In my travels through our New England towns, I have always enjoyed seeing old colonial stone mile markers and town directions. I imagine a colonial stone cutter using forged tools to engrave numbers and place names to point the way to weary travelers at the crossroads.

When such signposts stand the test of time, they are literally time travelers. People passed by them on horseback and automobiles. How many found their way to their destination? Just painting a picture of an old mile marker is a Robert Frost poem waiting to be read!

The summer is a time we celebrate with our children a passage from one grade to the next. Maybe this fall will bring a new school, a new classroom, a new teacher, and a new friend. We remain wistful for “the good old days” if we were blessed to have good friends and good times.

Maybe this fall means graduation and finding a first job or a new employment. Maybe this fall we recognize a loved one’s birthday, anniversary, and other emotional moments and transitions. Our loved ones are the mile markers in our hearts to our life with God in the Spirit.

Jesus was always very generous with God’s gifts. He taught in the Sermon on the Mount, “if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.” What does Jesus mean by this? Jesus believes in the believer’s heart given over to God.

If a believer is traveling on the way and comes upon a stranger or a person in need who asks for a lift, or even companionship, that second mile might be when everything turns around, and what seemed lost, has now been found and a new sense of direction awaits just up ahead!

Our prayer for this summer is that God blesses us with all we need on the way: a signpost, a travel companion, the presence of God, and a sense of opportunity and possibility in where the road will take us from here. God has so many new people for us to meet! Let’s welcome each new milestone in our life with generosity, compassion, and faithfulness!

May God bless you in your Spirit Journey with Traveling Mercies!

Pastor Ken

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Wrentham, MA
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Live on YouTube
Sunday Mornings
at 10:00am

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

