



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, July 30th, 2023, 9:30am
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

***Welcome to the OCC
A Positive Possibilities Place***

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **"Piano Sonata No. 8"** (Sonata Pathétique):II. Adagio cantabile
Ludwig van Beethoven

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us give praise to the Lord, the God of all creation.

People: Our soul sings to the source of health and salvation.

Leader: Let us draw near to the Lord in the Spirit.

People: We rejoice to worship the Lord in work and service!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Notices for the program, ministries and people of the church are shared.

*OPENING HYMN No. 26 ***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Holy God, you are the source of great faithfulness. We confess that in times of hardship and distress our own faith is shaken. We separate ourselves from your love for us. Forgive us our unbelief. Help us in our weakness. Intercede for us with all the good gifts of your Holy Spirit, that our spirits may rise, and our souls be full of the joy of faith. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

Let us take a moment to be in silence before God in worship.

*** All who are able, please stand**

(1)

ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive now these words of assurance.

Here is the great good news of faith. We know that all things work together for the good for those who love God. Our sins are forgiven. The Lord never forgets the covenant with us. Wonderful are all of God's works. And we are convinced that no power in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: Praise be to the Lord of Love and New Life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING *selections from Psalm 105*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord!

People: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Leader: Sing praises to God.

People: Tell of all God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name.

People: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Leader: Seek the Lord and God's strength.

People: Seek God's presence continually.

Leader: God is mindful of the covenant forever.

People: God's word is for a thousand generations.

Leader: God gave to Israel an everlasting covenant.

People: Praise the Lord!

*ACT OF PRAISE No. 36

Words: 3rd Century; Music: 1851

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:26-39 "Nothing Will Separate Us from God's Love"

MUSIC

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Johann Crüger

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 "The Parable of the Mustard Seed"

SERMON "The Smallest of Things" Rev. G.W. Blake Blakesley

*HYMN No. 610

Sweet Hour of Prayer

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

(2)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Leader: Let us praise the Lord with the giving of our gifts.

People: We rejoice to present our offerings to God.

Leader: Let us strengthen our work and service in faith.

People: Glory be to the Lord of great faithfulness.

OFFERTORY “The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy”

Words: Bryn Rees Music: C. Hubert H. Parry

*DOXOLOGY No. 44 Words: 1674; Music: 1551

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Holy God we dedicate our gifts to you.

People: May you bless all who receive them with love.

Leader: To your glory we offer ourselves in service.

People: To your glory we offer our hearts in praise! Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

We rejoice in the mission to share our faith and grow the church of Christ!

Leader: Great is your faithfulness, O God our Creator.

People: Morning by morning new mercies we see.

Leader: Send us out into your world to serve with joy.

People: Grant us strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

Leader: Enliven our efforts in mission and outreach.

People: Set us on the course of creating caring community.

Leader: May your blessing reach ten thousand beside!

People: May your blessing increase our faithfulness!

*CLOSING HYMN No. 596 *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Great is Your Faithfulness"



Thank you for being in worship with us this morning.
We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.
Please enjoy refreshments and conversation here in the hall
immediately following the service, and say hello to Pastor Blake.

May God direct your steps to find rest, rejuvenation, and renewal
this summer season!

THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Office: 508-384-3110 Website: www.occhurch.net Facebook

Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin

Music Director/Organist: Justin Kisch

Bells Director: Martha Goodman

Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, in our prayers of safety in Qatar.

Peg Mercier, for prayers of peace and health.

Mary Williams, for healing and recovery.

Betty Miller, grandmother of Hodge (Monica) Yohn, for healing and peace after a recent serious fall. Please keep Hodge, Sherry, and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: Alice Gero

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: Ralph Lambalot and Joan Mello

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: Ralph Lambalot and Joan Mello

TODAY PLEASE WELCOME SPECIAL GUEST PASTOR .

Rev. G.W. Blake Blakesley. Pastor Blake is the father of our very own Ben Blakesley and is recently relocated to the Providence area. Please see page 5 of this bulletin for a very interesting bio about Rev. Blake, and please be sure to say hello!

MIKE FOSTER is looking for someone to help him approach local businesses about donations to the auction, which will be part of the Church Mouse Fair. Most of those businesses are pleased to donate every year, so the process is easy. Please contact Mike if you are interested in helping.

ZIMBABWE BOXES ARE OUT

**If you are able to assist in filling the boxes for Zimbabwe, please check below for items needed.
Thank you so much for your support.**

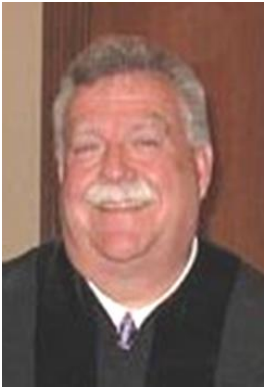
Boxes have been labeled to help organize our collection. Lists of requested items are available there near the assembled boxes.

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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS through AUGUST 27th. are Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm.

Rev. G.W. Blake Blakesley



Rev. G.W. "Blake" Blakesley has been a pastor for more than 40 years serving churches in Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, SW Colorado, Wisconsin and Upstate New York. He and his wife, Lynn have led mission trips with up to 150 youth and adults all over North America including Alaska, Mexico and Nova Scotia. He has traveled to the Middle East on missions of peace on two separate occasions with Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders. Formerly, he was Senior Pastor of the 1,000 member Presbyterian Church in Newtown, PA and he initiated an active Prison Ministry in the North Philadelphia area of Bucks

County and in Durango, CO. He has served as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and as Presbytery Cluster Leader in the Presbytery of Western Colorado. Blake is an avid banjo and guitar player as well as a song leader. He holds a BA from Grinnell and Simpson College and an MDiv from Christian Theological Seminary. Most recently, Blake and Lynn moved to Providence, R.I. Lynn and Blake have raised 3 adult children (including Ben Blakesley from this church) and are blessed with five grandchildren.





THE CHURCH MOUSE FAIR... November 18, 2023 9 am – 2 pm .Save the date on your calendars for The Church Mouse Fair, to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9 - 2. Stay tuned for SPIRE articles, weekly church bulletins, and our new fair bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for important fair updates! Here are some early calls for help: Save items for the Gift (non-used), Books (excellent condition), Jewelry, and Christmas tables. Start thinking about creative ideas for the Craft Table and saving your gently used items for the Attic Treasures area. Volunteers will be needed on fair day. We look forward with anticipation to this traditional community event at our church .



We are an Open and Affirming Church
of the United Church of Christ.

In 1 John 3:7 we hear, "Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God. God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, there is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out all fear." The OCC is a creative, caring community that welcomes everyone as a beloved child of God.

We are so glad to welcome you to the OCC!