

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

September 2023

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Sunday, August 20th was a gorgeous day for outdoor worship. The sun was out, the temp perfectly comfortable, a light breeze fluttering through the maple leaves and birds singing. God was most definitely all around us as we gathered for worship.

Pastor Ken gave a lovely message on "Seeking Divine Providence", there was beautiful music with Justin at keyboard and Kent Jones singing. Judy McCormack read scriptures and Steve Becker & Judy O'Neill ushered. Anne Conaty brought happy sunflowers for the altar table.

Someone came to me and mentioned how much they loved outdoor worship, Another person, who has not been worshipping with us, told me how "special" it was and thanked me for letting her know so she could be here.

Thank you Bob Cummings and others who spent extra time and effort to make this a reality. I know doing this several times a summer is more work for those involved, but it has so much meaning to many as well. It is a service that has been unique to the OCC for many years. Thank you for a time to revel in God's goodness, to marvel at his creations and to feel closer to him.

Sue Wetmore





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 postponed until **September 13**.

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**,

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.

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**.

Highlight Dates

September 3rd	10am In the Sanctuary
September 5th	Bible Study resumes
September 5th	AnnMarie's first day
September 7th	Bells & Choir resume
September 9th	Wrentham Day 9am-2pm
September 13th	Kitchen Elves resumes
September 16th	Wrentham Day Parade
September 20th	Lunch Bunch resumes

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 with us at the OCC, please contact Justin Kisch or Pastor Ken.

The Final days of the 350th Celebration of Wrentham are upon us. Start off your fall festivities by joining neighbors and friends in celebrating your town.

Please visit the OCC Table on:

September 9th

Wrentham Day Details

- 9am – 3pm Wrentham Town Common
- Local Vendors: Explore a variety of local businesses and their offerings
- Entertainment: Enjoy live performances and entertainment for all ages
- Petting Zoo: Delight in the company of adorable animals
- Touch-a-Truck: Get up close to Wrentham's fleet of Police, Fire and DPW vehicles
- Benjamin the Clown: Experience the magic of laughter and joy
- Lions Club Famous Banana Splits: Satisfy your sweet tooth with delectable treats
- Choo Choo Train Rides: Take a train ride around the area
- Wrentham Fire Dept Clam Chowder: Savor a warm and delicious classic
- WYBSA Cookout: Enjoy a savory grilled hamburgers or hot dogs

The Wrentham Wroad Race and Wrentham Day offer an exceptional opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate a day of healthy competition and family-friendly entertainment.

Ready to register for the race? Don't wait! Visit runsignup.com/wrenthamwroadrace to secure your spot and take advantage of the early registration fee.

For more information, please visit our website wrenthamma.myrec.com or contact us at ladams@wrentham.gov. We can't wait to see you on race day and celebrate Wrentham Day.

September 16th– 350th Grand Parade

12pm The parade will pass thru downtown Wrentham

For more specific details go to www.wrentham.gov

October 15th-Time Capsule Burial

1pm on the Town Common

Join the 350th Committee as they bury the Town's time capsule. Free Event

Thanks to Joan Shirley, The OCC has contributed to the time capsule, The Book of "Pastors and Time Line of The Original Congregational Church", which was presented at the 325th Anniversary of The OCC.

ZIMBABWE UPDATE

On Wednesday, August 16th, Sue and Gordon Wetmore, my husband Frank and I drove up to Rochester, NH and arrived at Spaulding High School. There we joined a crowd of volunteers, high school football players and many organizations donating goods to Zimbabwe.

I'll let Connie Littleton share with you, from her recent email:

What a wonderful and fast day of packing we had on August 16th! All of the documentation was completed within 12 hours and the container is now out to sea, heading toward the Bahamas.

Here are the stats:

- 23 groups participated.
- We packed 1073 pieces weighing 23,360 pounds. (Imagine!)

Our biggest categories were school supplies (238, which included all those chairs and desks), clothing (219 boxes), books (131 boxes), medical supplies (119). Athletic supplies, bedding, bicycles, household supplies, music supplies, office supplies, personal care items, sewing supplies, shoes, tools, toys, yarn, a generator and a solar panel rounded out the contents.

It was the fastest packing ever with so many adult volunteers and 33 student volunteers from Spaulding High School, primarily from the football and girls' soccer teams.

God bless all of you and your teams for the wonderful participation in such a loving endeavor! Using Connie's directions, on Monday August 28th, I logged on to marinetraffic.com and entered the ship's name:

MSC ANSISHA R

and received these statistics.

Position Received: **2023-08-28 14:23 LT (UTC -4)**

5 minutes ago

Vessel's Local Time:

2023-08-28 14:23 LT (UTC -4)

Area: **CARIBS - Caribbean Sea**

Current Port: **[FREEPORT](#)**

Navigational Status: **Moored**

Speed/Course: **0 kn / 296 °**

AIS Source: **Terrestrial AIS**

For those interested in the ship's journey, you can do the same at any time. We were able to collect 16 boxes of donations and 20 child chairs; thanks to your generosity. Outreach will continue to keep you updated as the cargo ship. As Connie concluded in her email...

The shipping company anticipates it will reach Beira the first week of October and Mutare in mid October. We shall see!



MUSIC



Calling all singers!

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

It's Ringing Time Again!

The Wrentham wRingers kick off their season with our first rehearsal on Thursday, **September 7, at 6 PM** in the Sanctuary. Our first two rehearsals are open to anyone who'd like to try out this unique and addictive art! We have four slots open at the table and would love to fill out our numbers to be able to program a wider variety of music. Don't be shy; you won't find a friendlier or more forgiving (of the learning process) group of people, and if you decide that ringing isn't for you, there's no obligation to continue. For more information, including our rehearsal and performance schedule, call Martha Goodman at the office 508-384-3110 or write to her at mgtrekbell@gmail.com.



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!



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!

MANY TABLES ARE IN NEED OF ITEMS FOR THE CHURCH MOUSE FAIR!
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.

Fall Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm.

ATTIC TREASURES: We welcome housewares, 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: Seasonal décor, gifts

BOOKS ROOM: Excellent condition only! Large print, History, Local Lore, Large Picture books for Kids, Children's and Teen Book Series.

PLANTS: Start plant cuttings now!

CRAFT TABLE: Creative ideas are needed, and we welcome donations of your craft work!

SILENT AUCTION: Consider donating an item, gift certificate or personal services.

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!**

As we start preparations, the Church Mouse Fair comes to life. First, co-chairs and table heads (full list to be posted in September) will meet after church on Sunday, September 10. The hustle and bustle begin with donations collected; decorations made; charts of table arrangements revisited; social media, flyers, and signs posted; health and safety policies reviewed; crafts and food menus prepared; volunteers coordinated; and so much more. **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

WATCH FOR CRAFTGATHERING DAY

to help make table "turkeys" for the craft fair. We will schedule a date as soon as I can procure all pieces to do the project. If anyone has fairly simple to do craft ideas, I am all ears. Reach me by e-mail or by phone at 508-384-3110. Please leave a message if I am not in. See you soon!
Sue Wetmore

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Welcome back to school! We begin our fall schedule of Tuesday morning Bible Study Class on September 5, 2023. Each Tuesday, all are welcome to attend our Bible Study at 10:00am in the Parlor. And, we will broadcast on Zoom for those who would like to tune in remotely. Please contact the office if you are not currently on our Bible Study Zoom list. We have a time for gathering conversation, we read the passage for the day, and discuss the context and meaning of the text for our spiritual life. Come on down and join us!

"Today's flowers 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.

The Stewardship Theme this year is "Your Pew", and we will be emphasizing our community of belonging with tales from the past, a review of the current, and hopes for the future. We are seeking to share ideas about being rooted, and the Church's role in that.

See Bob Boissy and
Ralph Lambalot

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.

**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!

WELCOME ANNMARIE LASCOULA-HELMAR

As you are all aware, Donna Charbatji will be leaving us in the fall for the sunny climates of FL, after serving ably as our Office Administrator for the past nine years. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement as a “snow bird”.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired AnnMarie Lascoula-Helmar as our new Office Administrator. She comes to us after a 10-year stint as Senior Administrative Assistant for the Archdiocese of Boston, which involved various administrative duties that fit well with our profile. AnnMarie will be starting on September 5th, and will work with Donna for a month or so, to allow for a smooth transition. Please welcome AnnMarie if you happen to come to the office.

We were blessed with a number of qualified candidates to choose from, and AnnMarie was the unanimous choice of the search team. Many thanks to the search team, consisting of Chris Cuoco, Pastor Ken, Justin Kisch, Doug Mure & Lesley Whittemore, along with Donna’s valuable insights, for their efforts.

**CELEBRATING DONNA DAY**

Sunday, September 24, at Coffee Hour following 10:00am Worship.

Come join us in thanking Donna for her many years of dedicated service to the OCC as our Office Administrator. Donna and her husband Raymond look forward to wintering in Florida beginning this year. May God bless Donna and Raymond with citrus and sunshine.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 28th 7:00pm-9:00pm



On **Saturday October 28 (7 pm)** Wrentham's popular **The OCC Coffeehouse returns for one time only**, in honor of our beloved Ken Graves, founder and organizer of the OCC Coffeehouse.

The concert features acclaimed bluegrass group, **Southern Rail** in a special evening of **Bluegrass and Blueberry Buckle!** *The home baked blueberry buckle is not to be missed!*

Southern Rail's bluegrass is high octane exuberant fun with stunning harmonies, irrepressible good humor and sparkling banjo, guitar and mandolin. The group has 11 recordings to their credit, and two of the band's members, guitarist Jim Muller and bassist Sharon Horovitch, were recently inducted into the RIBA Bluegrass Hall of Fame.

Tickets available at the door, or in the Church office:

Concert info: office@occhurch.net

Ample parking at the church, and in the town lot across the street

General admission: Donation of \$20 cash or check only

Doors open at 6:30pm



New Beginnings

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you.

The Fall is upon us. Students are heading off to new classrooms. Graduates are beginning new jobs. The work of the harvest is near. Hopefully, cool crisp dry weather is on the way.

The Gospel of John starts this way, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God." All things come to life through the Lord. And at the beginning of creating is a Word.

God creates new communities through calling people together. Here at the OCC we invite you to come out and rejoice in all our faith, fellowship, and service activities. We are looking forward to a bright new year.

The Word of God may be remembered as "Love" or "Life" or "Grace" or "Faith." We may not know all things ahead of time, but we know this: God is Love and Love never ends.

To start the year, we join with our wider community in celebrating Wrentham's 350th Anniversary, as we participate in Wrentham Day and the Grand 350th Parade. Please sign up to join our OCC team for those events.

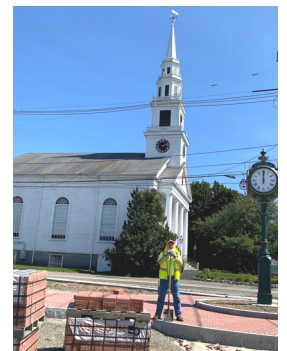
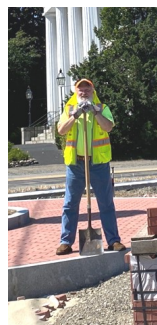
We look forward to seeing you in worship on Sundays in September, and we will share with you information regarding the gathering of the Sunday School for 2023-2024.

With God to give a spark to our spirits, we look with hope upon all the opportunities that we may create together as the Church of Christ in this place. The Lord invites us anew, "Come, follow me."

Like following along the footprints left on our summer shoreline beach walks, surely we will find our footing at the start of a whole new year of worship, service, outreach, fellowship, and faithfulness as the OCC! Come on down and let us rejoice together in all the new beginnings God is calling us to share!

May God bless you and your loved ones in this new season!

Pastor Ken



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

Live on YouTube
Sunday' Mornings
at 10:00am

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

