

# The Spire

*A publication of the Original Congregational Church*

October 2023

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## Look Who Turned 350!

On Saturday September 16, hearty members of the Original Congregational Church joined a cavalcade of organizations, bands, businesses and a flotilla of floats to march in the Wrentham 350<sup>th</sup> Grand Parade. Being one of the oldest institutions in town, it was wonderful to take our part in the celebration! Hurricane winds and rain gave way to a comfortable afternoon for the event. Thousands of residents lined the streets of downtown to cheer us on. Behind our banner: The Original Congregational Church: Here for you since 1692, we received a lot of smiles and applause. Thank goodness Pastor Ken thought to bring 12 pounds of wrapped candy to toss to the eager little citizens! A great time was had by all. See you again in 2,073 for our 400<sup>th</sup> Grand Parade!

**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 **October 4**.



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

**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 **October 18th.**

### Highlight Dates

October	Christmas Mitten Tree
October 04	Kitchen Elves
October 18	Lunch Bunch
October 26	HFH Fund Raiser
October 27	Pledges are due
October 28	Southern Rail Bluegrass
November 05	Ingathering Bags go out

**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.

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 for the Bell Choir are now Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm with Martha Goodman.

If you'd like to share your music gifts with us at the OCC, please contact Justin Kisch or Pastor Ken.

## **A Night of Music in Tribute to Ken Graves**

Many years ago Ken Graves turned his love of music, and a dream to run a coffeehouse concert series for all to enjoy, became a reality here at the OCC. The variety and talent of the musical acts was amazing. The pandemic years impacted all gatherings and the series came to an end. When it was time to think about hosting another concert, sadly, Ken's health declined and he passed after a brief illness. One of our favorite groups, Southern Rail Bluegrass, contacted Pastor Ken and offered to create an affordable event in tribute to Ken's joy of music and getting people together. On October 28, the last Saturday of the month, we welcome Southern Rail to the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20 and only available in person in the office. If you would like to help out, we are looking for volunteers to offer home baked goods for the intermission, and we could use a few greeters/hosts for the evening. Please contact the office or Pastor Ken if you can lend a hand.

Thank you!

## **Pastoral Thanks from Pastor Ken**

This summer my family experienced a terrible tragedy with an accident which resulted in the loss of my brother-in-law and my sister's hospitalization. Healing is on the way and with God to guide us, our family is doing well. I would like to thank everyone at the OCC who have been so kind to inquire about my family and your thoughts and prayers which mean so much. May God grant healing love to all who suffer loss and grief, and for all working towards health and renewed life!

Love, Pastor Ken

### OCTOBER MITTEN TREE



Beginning in October, Outreach will place an unadorned Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. Hopefully, during the month, you and your family will begin to hang donated winterwear for children and adults. Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves can be added to the branches of our tree. As the month ends, all these donations will be given to the families assisted by New Hope and families attending the Food and Friends meal sites.

As the temperatures begin to drop, pick up an item as you are shopping, to add to the tree. The more donations, the more colorful the tree!

### INGATHERING 2023...

#### Grit and Grace Women's Sober Living House

This year, our annual Ingathering recipient will be The Grit and Grace Sober Living House for Women. Those who attended the community booths on the Common several weeks ago may have met Kristin Silva at her booth. She is the director of an Attleboro sober living home, and is very enthusiastic about sharing information with others. She was able to give Outreach a tour of the facility recently. It houses 13 women, with a waiting list, as they are released from a treatment center to continue with recovery from alcohol or drug addiction. Once there, the women are welcomed, given assigned house chores and expected to attend AA meetings regularly. They are expected, and assisted with, securing a job in the community.

We are looking forward to supporting this program and feel they are the perfect recipient for Ingathering. When a new housemate arrives, often she brings nothing with her, has no financial security, food or personal items. Our donations could help stock the common pantry and provide basic personal care items. As there are currently only two cars available for attending AA meetings, Uber gift cards would be a great help.

Look for our brown shopping bags to be handed out on

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** after service. As always, an "Items Needed" list will be attached to each bag!



GRIT & GRACE  
Sober Living For Women



**The Prison Book Program** runs out of the United First Parish Church in Quincy and is alive and well. I know this, because I spent an enjoyable and educational evening with them a few weeks ago on a Thursday night. It had been several years since I went to the Lucy Parson Bookstore. When I entered the church basement, I saw a hive of activity with volunteers seated at multiple tables. They were getting books ready for a mailing to go to inmates throughout our country. In another room, volunteers were reading letters and doing their best to find the books that matched the interest of the inmate. Rooms had been renovated to accommodate the growing needs of the prison population who desired fiction, nonfiction and educational reading materials. Many changes have been made to the Lucy Parson Bookstore program, all positive. I had a wonderful evening working along side other volunteers of all ages and interests. Please look up their website at **[prisonbookprogram.org](http://prisonbookprogram.org)** for more information on how you can become involved with this vital organization. You can even volunteer from your home! Anyone over the age of 16 welcome. You will be given a tour, instructions, a snack and even a visit to John and Abigail Adams!

Pam Jennette  
Outreach

## Habitat for Humanity Fund Raiser Thursday, October 26

**6-9pm**

Lake Pearl Wrentham

299 Creek Street, Wrentham, MA 02903

Event Details:

6-9pm | Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, Silent Auction, Fund-A-Need and Wine Cork Pull

6:30pm | Welcoming Remarks and Family Testimonial

7-9pm | Wine Tasting Offerings

**\$75 PER PERSON**

\* Please provide guest names when purchasing tickets as no physical tickets are being provided.

See below for sponsorship and other giving opportunities

### Sponsorship & Giving Opportunities

<b>Presenting Sponsor</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>Signature Sponsor</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Champagne Sponsor</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Pinot Noir Sponsor</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Chardonnay Sponsor</b>	<b>250</b>

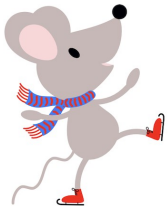
I would like to sponsor the event

I want to make a General Event Donation

Purchase Raffle Tickets for the Newport Getaway\*

\*Purchase \$50 raffle ticket(s) for Newport 2-night getaway. Certificate is available for 2-night stay (Friday/ Saturday or Saturday/ Sunday) November 2023 through March 2024 (excluding holidays and special events.) Reservations must be made in advance and are subject to availability. Winner will be announced at October 26th event and will be notified if not present. Please send your payment no later than October 18. We will include as many tickets as you purchase.

Want to make an in-kind donations?



**The Church Mouse Fair October Spire Edition  
Saturday, November 18, 2023 9 am – 2 pm  
The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham  
1 East St. Wrentham Ma 02093**



**The Church Mouse Fair will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9 – 2!**

The OCC annual church fair is an all-church community event  
and our largest fundraiser of the year.

We look forward with great anticipation to this tradition!

### **The Fair has come to life!**

The co-chairs and table heads met in September and the hustle and bustle has begun! Check Sunday church bulletins for exciting weekly updates. Visit the church fair bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for ongoing fair information, including donations needed for tables, a list of table heads, Silent Auction gift basket ideas, and a volunteer sign-up.

### **Table donations are still appreciated!**

We continue to collect donations for Attic Treasures, Gifts, Jewelry, Christmas Decorations, Books, Plants, Crafts, and the Silent Auction. Drop off during office hours on the bench near the office. Please indicate which table your item is designated for. Fall Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

### **Volunteers are needed leading up to and on fair day!**

Craft sessions have begun. The Food Table welcomes your culinary talents at fair time! Strong workers will be needed to help carry heavy Attic Treasure items to cars. Youth workers are welcome! Consider being a floater (before or after shopping!) to help give table workers a break. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact one of the fair co-chairs to help. We greatly appreciate your efforts and time!

### **Shoppers and fair attendees are the heart of the fair!**

**The Children's Fair** promises to be loads of fun with crafts and games, a scavenger hunt (it was a huge hit last year!), and the yearly return of **Santa Claus**! Visit the **Food Table** for an array of amazing baked goods, and the delicious **Brunch** is always a favorite for hungry shoppers. For unique items check out the many **Vendor** tables! Look for the **50/50 Raffle** ticket sellers in and around the fair. **The Crafts, Jewelry, Gifts, Christmas Decorations, and Plants Tables** will be full of exciting goods! Don't forget to visit the much-anticipated **Silent Auction** in the Sanctuary, **Books Room** in the Chapel, and **Attic Treasures** in the Vestry. And while you are shopping...take in how we have "decked the halls" with the wonderful decorations celebrating the fair theme!

**Thanks in advance and we are looking forward to the fun!**

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](mailto: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!



Our choir season is well underway. Please make sure to join us for worship on November 5th when the choir is singing Schubert's German Mass (in English!), with guest instrumentalists.

And mark your calendars: the Christmas Concert and Potluck will be on Sunday December 10th at 3:00 p.m. It will feature the choir, the wRrentham wRingers, and guest instrumentalists. Maybe you (dear reader) want to play or sing something?!?



### It's Ringing Time Again!

The Wrentham wRingers kicked off their season Thursday, September 7. 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](mailto:mgtrekbell@gmail.com).



PK the elf is ready for the Fair, are you?  
See Gordon or Barbara if you want to help.



**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 NOW in the Church office, or at the door

Concert info: [office@occhurch.net](mailto: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



## *You Were Strangers*

Blessed Friends in Faith,

When we find ourselves in a room with others in which we are the strangers, we experience in a deep way, the goal of faith. Faith turns strangers into friends. Faith has the capacity to cross all distances. Faith calls us to move everyone up to higher ground.

All of human history has been marked by people on the move. Our current times are no different. What are people running from? Danger, disease, and death. What are people running to? A new life in a new land. A new start in a new place. Life begins again.

The Holy Bible has us remember that our faith ancestors knew well the experience of the human condition and the desire to live differently. In Exodus 22:20 God reminds the people on the move, "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress them, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." God even goes on to say, "If you do mistreat them, I will hear their cries, and I will be furious." I remember well moments in my growing up that my loving, caring mom was "furious" with me. If we don't learn from our mistakes in our treatment of others, how will we mature? How will the community thrive? How can we all do well?

Faith life is not so much about the destination, but how we are with each other along the way. Faith is a journey from where we were suffering, to where we address and confront and respond to the suffering of others, who we can relate to, because we were there too. This requires thinking big. What is our long past? What is our long legacy? How far have we come? What blessings and strengths can we lend so that others too no longer are strangers in our midst, but friends, neighbors, compatriots in the human community.

The amazing faithfulness of those ancient Israelites strengthens our souls so that we are not embittered by our time in harsh conditions. In fact we celebrate the release of all people from all times of misery. Who is powerless? Who has no voice? Who has no food, clothing and shelter? Who has been uprooted from their beloved houses of faith? Don't be strange to that!

Faith folds us into a fellowship of God's children, no longer strangers, but friends who celebrate many cultures, many gifts, many skills, many strengths, and so many beautiful days to come!

*May God use our faithfulness for great turnarounds in human life!*

*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)

