

The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

June 2024

Happy
Father's
Day!

Inside this issue:

Announcements	3
Christmas Fair	4-5
Justin Kisch Music "Notes"	6
Eagle Scout	7
Shoreline Ringers	8
Pastor's Page	9

The Spire
is available on our website
www.occhurch.net

Wishing all the
Dads,
Granddads,
Great-Granddads
a very special day!

**The Ladies Breakfast Club
2nd & 4th Thursday of the
month**

We meet at 9:30 am at the Village Griddle in Plainville. Contact Emmie Foster or Sue Schwarm if you plan to attend.

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays, 7:15 pm**

(September-June)
Rehearsals for choir are Thursday evenings at 7:15pm with Justin Kisch.

**Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays, 6:00 pm**

(September-June)
Rehearsals for the bell choir are on Thursday evenings at 6:00pm with Martha Goodman.

**The Kitchen Elves
First Wednesday of each month
(September-June)**

The Elves prepare and deliver meals to members in need. Meal prep begins at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall kitchen and meal deliveries at 12:00 pm. Volunteers to help prep and deliver meals are always welcome!

**Lunch Bunch
3rd Wednesday of the month, 12
pm**

(September-June)
Join us in Fellowship Hall on 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!

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10 am

Join Pastor Ken and friends for Bible Study in person and by Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10am in our beautiful parlor.



Bulletin and Spire Submissions

Please email your Bulletin or Spire submissions to office@occhurch.net or contact the church office at 508-384-3110.



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 AnnMarie 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

“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 AnnMarie in the office.

Please welcome our own Monica Yohn as the new O.C.C. Communications Coordinator!!!

Do you have ideas for community events? Belong to a group/ organization that my want a new home to meet? Feel free to contact Monica at Mltlove3@gmail.com

Beginning on July 1, the OCC Attic Treasures will gladly accept donations for The Original Congregational Church Fair to be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024. Help keep useable items out of our landfills by donating them to Attic Treasures! Donations are welcome from both church members and the community. Items may be dropped off in the Vestry or on the bench outside the office starting July 1. Summer Office hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 9-3. We do not accept clothing, TVs, computers, large stereos, large furniture, baby furniture, car seats or strollers. Located at 1 East St. Wrentham, MA. Phone: 508-384-3110 Website: www.occhurch.net

Mark those calendars for the annual OCC Church Fair to be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 9 am - 2 pm! This year the fair will have a tree/forest theme to be announced. Many things will be needed closer to fair time but over the summer folks can start to collect items needed for our many tables and areas including: Gifts (non-used items), Jewelry, Attic Treasures, Christmas Decor, Plants (start cuttings), and Books in excellent condition. Thanks in advance for helping us plan ahead for our largest fundraising event!



HELP ORGANIZE RATE JEWELS...

Or at least help with matching separated costume earrings.

And decide whether a bracelet is really silver and belongs in Pile A or merely silvery plastic for Pile B



On Wednesday, June 19th, right after the Lunch Bunch in Fellowship Hall, you are invited to join Pam Donlan, Barbara Ligon, and Wayne Wise in Fellowship Hall to sort through and organize our accumulated array of jewelry in preparation for the November 16th Christmas Tree Church Fair. Tea and cookies will be served. Amid the chatter and organizing, we will raise our teacups to Wayne, our new Fair Jewelry Table Head. Three cheers to Wayne and to a stunning, well-sorted array of bangles, baubles and beads.

FAIR CALL, FAIR CALL

Although our annual holiday fair is 5 months away, it's not too early to be thinking about what you can contribute to our many tables. So as you plan your summer activities, please keep us in mind.

Cleaning out closets?

That unused pocketbook would be a great addition to the Gift Table.

Driving hours to a vacation destination?

Making a needlework project for the Craft Table as you travel helps boring highway miles fly by. (Well, not if you are actually behind the wheel, of course!)

Anticipating a bumper crop of zucchini?

Stock your freezer with zucchini bread for our popular Baked Goods Table.

Another rainy weekend with beach plans cancelled?

Refinish that special wooden tray or construct a child-size step stool for the Silent Auction.

Can't keep away from gift shops on the Cape?

Gather theme related sale goodies for a special gift basket for the Silent Auction.

Finally tackling the storage closet containing the Christmas decorations you were sure you would use *some day*

Face reality. Donate that Elvis Santa to the Christmas Decorations Table.

Realized that you'll never reread your collection of Dennis Lehane thrillers?

Bag them up for the Book Table where hungry readers will gobble them up.

Discovered that the hens and chicks in your succulent garden have multiplied?

Pot them in some leftover pottery designated for the Plant Table.

Our fair presents lots of opportunities to reuse and recycle. Help our planet and help our church. Thanks.



Music "Notes"

Justin Kisch

The **Chancel Choir** and the **Wrentham wRingers** are finishing up a great 2023-2024 season. Here are some highlights: In November, the choir sang **Schubert's *German Mass*** with a woodwind quartet. In December, we had a great **Christmas Concert** with the choir, the Wrentham wRingers, Monica Yohn, and Ben and "Blake" Blakesley. The choir also sang for the Service of **Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve**.

Moving ahead to March, the choir sang selections from **Requiems by Mozart, Brahms, and Verdi**, with strings and woodwinds. The Wrentham wRingers also presented a special program for **Lent** during the month of March. The choir was joined by trumpeter Dean Cardner for **Easter**. The **Spring Concert** was held in late April, with most of the same performers as the Christmas Concert, featuring pieces appropriate for the season, including two different versions of "For the Beauty of the Earth."

As I write this, we are finishing rehearsals for our **Music Sunday, which will be June 9**. This worship service marks the end of the season for the choir and for the wRingers. But of course there will still be music in the summer. Monica and I will provide music all through the summer, with help from volunteers from the choir and the congregation.

Choir and handbell rehearsals will resume on Thursday nights in September. Both

HANDBELL REFURBISHING

How many Congregationalists does it take to refurbish handbells?

How many parts are in a handbell?

Let the Spire readers guess. The person with the correct answers will make a guest appearance in the next handbell performance. Haha!





Troop 80, Norfolk, MA - Mayflower Council

Eagle Scout Rank awarded May 25, 2023

12 years in scouting (including Cub Scouts)

22 Badges Earned

Order of Arrow member on March 16, 2017

Leadership Positions - Troop Guide and Troop
Quartermaster

185 Community Service Hours

Alden's Eagle Scout Project showcased leadership and initiative, greatly enriching the Mansfield Animal Shelter community. Alden orchestrated the design and assembly of seven (7) feral cat shelters, each measuring 18" x 20". Furthermore, Alden curated an informative brochure focusing on feral cat care, distributed alongside each shelter. The cat shelters have since been strategically placed across the New England area, contributing to the management of the feral cat population through the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program. This program prioritizes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and ear tipping, ensuring the well-being of these cats in a humane manner. Alden's project idea began with the story his family told of the feral cats on the farm. Driven by curiosity, Alden took on the mission to improve their lives. His leadership journey began with a pencil in hand, sketching out his vision of the shelters. The sketches evolved into precise designs on a computer-aided drawing program from which he printed a set of drawings. Once Alden stepped into the role of project manager, he supervised the material being cut and he collected all the materials, Alden then called on seven of his fellow Troop 80 scouts to bring the shelter to life. Together they worked in the Wrentham Council on Aging's lower level, constructing and painting the shelters that will provide safety and warmth for the feral cats. Through Alden's efforts, many have commented that they feel empowered knowing how to humanely take care of feral cats and that there are well-designed cat shelters free for the community.

Alden's project was not about building shelters; it was a lesson in leadership, teamwork, and the power of community service. By addressing the well-being of the feral cats, he also brought his troop together for a cause that extended beyond themselves, leaving a lasting impact on both the cats and the community involved.



The Shoreline Ringers, an elite community handbell ensemble from coastal Connecticut, presented a fabulous concert on May 5.

Stretched across the entire width of the Sanctuary, the group used more than five octaves of bells, and six octaves of hand chimes big and small (some so large they stood in special floor racks, to be struck with big fluffy mallets), to offer an eclectic collection of classical and popular pieces. One piece even included a drum kit, played expertly by one of the ringers. The audience was amazed and delighted by what these talented ringers could do, and offered a standing ovation at the conclusion of the program.

Director Andy Wallace was pleased by the turnout, commenting to Martha Goodman that he believed Wrentham was the farthest north the group had ever performed. The Sanctuary acoustics were outstanding and the space was ample for the ringers' needs, once a single pew and the privacy rail were temporarily removed from the side by the entry door.

We hope to present more concerts by Shoreline and other top-notch handbell ensembles in the future. Stay tuned!

Pastor's Page June 2024
From Sabbath to Sabbath

Blessed Friends,

With the close of the school year upon us, we begin the season of summer. We look forward to enjoying the longest days of the year and being out in the garden and taking delight in the days. The restorative recreation of summer days is essential for the wellness of the soul.

In the Holy Scripture, Sabbath rest is built into the days of creation. The Sabbath is intended to be holy time. We rest, not just from physical labors, but we put the world at rest from all its ways that lead away from life.

The prophet Isaiah says in 58:13, "If you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, then you shall take delight in the Lord and you will ride on the heights of the earth." There is a sacred question in the ways we observe the Sabbath. Is the day for us or is the day for God? Jesus tells us that the Sabbath was made for us and not we for the Sabbath. It is a gift from God.

Imagine, asks the prophet, if you share your bread with the hungry, bring the homeless into your house, cover the vulnerable, letting the oppressed go free, undoing the bonds of wickedness, then your light shall break forth as the dawn and your healing shall spring up speedily.

How then does Jesus keep the Sabbath? He plucks grain with his disciples to eat. He heals the sick. He proclaims the year of the Lord's favor. He is giving rest not to God's work, but reaching out to extend God's favor to all in need.

We do well to keep that image before us during our summer weeks. Can we go "Sabbath to Sabbath" as Isaiah proclaims, taking delight in the Lord, and doing God's work? This way we give rest to the ways of the world that weary the human soul. We pray for the world that the wars may end and that rebuilding may begin. This too is a Sabbath keeping—to restore the gift of restoration to the world. This is the way we honor God on the Sabbath day, by making the time Holy in our actions. May God grant you rest for your body, mind and soul, and may God grant you to return compassion to your corner of the world.

In peace,
Pastor Ken

AnnMarie

To all,

It is with great sadness that due to unforeseen family matters that I have accepted a fulltime position with my last day with the church being June 14th. I want to take this time to thank all of you for always making me feel not only welcome, but making me feel a part of The Original Congregational Church Family.

Many thanks,

AnnMarie Lascuola-Helmar

