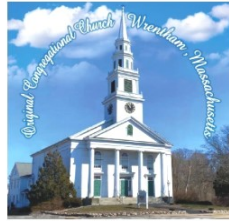


The Spire

A publication of the Original Congregational Church

September 2024

The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham *A Positive Possibilities Place*



SEPT/OCT EVENTS

August 25 /Sept. 8.

Community Kids Club (Sunday School)
Registration Carnival after worship

September 7

Visit us at our booth on Wrentham Day!

September 13

Food, Fun, and Friends 6 - 8 pm
Scary Bingo!

September 28

Attic Treasures Drive Up Donation Day
1 - 4 pm

October 9

College 101 Seminar 6 - 8 pm

October 27

Harvest Day 11 - 1 pm

For more info:

www.occhurch.net

508-384-3110

Located at:

1 East St.

Wrentham Ma

SAVE THE DATE!



Annual Church Fair
Saturday November 16
9 - 2 pm

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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, 7:30 pm (September-June)
 Rehearsals for choir are Thursday evenings at 7:30pm 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.

Bulletin and Spire Submissions

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

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

Bible Study
Tuesdays, 10 am
 Join Pastor Lori, while Pastor Ken is on leave, and friends for Bible Study in person and by Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10am in our beautiful parlor.



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 508-384-3110 or office@occhurch.net. anytime. See details at the worship hour and in the worship bulletin. We look forward to growing along with you in your spirit journey!

“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.

Community Connections

The O.C.C. has been busy **HARVESTING** an assortment of programs and events for all ages!

What an exciting time of year for all to **FALL** into the arms of God!

September 4 WELCOME BACK DINNER-VOLUNTEER NIGHT 6-8:00 P.M.
Come enjoy a Pizza dinner, and join a group or committee.

September 7 WRENTHAM DAY
Come celebrate our town, and promote the wonderful O.C.C.!

September 8 REGISTRATION CARNIVAL FOR C.K.C 10-12:00 P.M.
Sign up the children and play some fun carnival games!

September 13 FOOD,FUN & FRIENDS! SCARY BINGO 6-8:00 P.M.
Prize for the best costume!!!!
\$1.00 a Bingo board.

October 9 COLLEGE 101 6-8 P.M.
Tracy will talk about all generalized issues in planning for college.

Click or go to the link below for more details.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bdriRQj_BCtGtboKJA6dN465hComjXay_k07ND62LNo/edit?usp=sharing

Book Club!!!

Fourth Wednesday of the month. 1:30-3:30 P.M. in the Parlor.
Septembers book is "The Yada Yada Prayer Group."
Refreshments will be served.

Knit Once/Pray Twice Fiber Club!!
First & Third Wednesday of the month. 1:30-3:30 P.M. in the Parlor.
Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, felting, etc.
Refreshments will be served.

Are you skilled in a trade? Can you help teach a craft? Help with estate planning?
We are always looking for facilitators for new groups and classes!
Email Monica at monica@occhurch.net with any ideas or to volunteer!

Stewardship Plan for Fall 2024

OCC has earned a reputation as the music church in our area. We have a long tradition of bringing sacred, inspirational music and culturally diverse music experiences to our community. This season's stewardship theme will celebrate that, as together we make **a sound investment**.

I will kick off the pledge drive for 2025 on September 15, outlining our schedule of events and my inspiration for the theme. But I can reveal already that we will have a Martha Sunday, a Monica Sunday, and a Justin Sunday this Autumn, and you can expect a story from each.

There is so much going on in our community these days and so many opportunities to enjoy fellowship. What we experience together over the next few months will certainly inspire us to make a sound investment in the OCC with our pledges for 2025.

Blessings to all from your Stewardship Team,
Bob Boissy
Ralph Lambalot



OUTREACH

A Mission Trip to Ecuador

By the time you read this, Mary Grace Kopas will most likely be on her way to Ecuador with the Physical Therapy class of Northeastern College. They are about to begin a mission trip there, working at an orphanage from August 24th until September 1st. Using the Outreach Mission Fund account, we were able to cover Mary Grace's trip expense and contribute to the trip's wish list items.

We are keeping Mary Grace and her fellow travelers in our prayers, and would hope you could include them in your daily thoughts...and prayers. We are looking forward to their safe return in September and anticipate hearing from her about her experiences there.

Community Kids Club Activities

Scan our QR code to learn more!



Aug 25th & Sept 8th

Registration Carnival!

September begin collecting for Food drive

October 19th

Tour Wrentham food pantry

October 23rd

Volunteer at Food pantry

November begin collecting Coats for Kids

November 9th

Veteran's Brunch

November 16th

OCC Fair & Children's Fair

December begin collecting Toys for Tots

December 24th

Christmas Eve pageant!

regular weekly meetings 9:45am - 11am Sunday mornings

Original
Congregational
Church Wrentham

1 East St, Wrentham
MA 02093

visit ochurch.net/sunday-school/ for more information

Music “Notes”

Justin Kisch

The summer is a relatively quiet time in the music program at the OCC. No choir and no handbells, so Monica and I have been providing most of the music (with occasional assistance from choir members).

But, as much as I enjoy the summer weather (as long as it's not too humid), September is upon us!

Upcoming announcements:

Wrentham wRingers begin rehearsals **September 5th** at **6:00 p.m.** with Martha Goodman. The handbells rehearse on **Thursday nights** and play for worship about once a month.

Choir rehearsals also begin on **September 5th**, at **7:30** with yours truly. The choir rehearses on **Thursdays** and sings for worship most weeks (but sometimes I give them a break when the handbells are playing!).

New members are always welcome in both groups. I especially need **tenors**, but **all voice parts are welcome**. Martha mostly wants **people who are willing to learn**.

Double your fun and join both groups!

Looking ahead to Christmastime:

The **Christmas Concert and Potluck** will be Sunday December 8th at 4:00 p.m.

There will be a **Pageant on Christmas Eve** at 5:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!

See Charlotte or Monica for more information.



The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham 1 East St. Wrentham Ma



WE WELCOME:
household items
home decor/art
sporting goods
children's items
and more!

NOT ACCEPTED:
electronics
clothing
baby strollers
car seats
large furniture

DRIVE - UP DONATION DAY SAT SEPT 28TH 1 - 4 PM

HELP FILL UP THE
"ATTIC TREASURES"
AREA FOR OUR
ANNUAL CHURCH FAIR!



How It Works:

Drive into church parking lot.

We unload items from your vehicle!

Donations also accepted during regular office hours, see website: www.occhurch.net.
We have an on-site shed for clothing donations in tied bags. Church Phone: 508-384-3110

Help us fill the Attic Treasures area for our upcoming church fair!

There are two ways to donate:

1. Hop into your vehicle with your items and come to our **Drive-Up Donation Day on Saturday, September 28th from 1 PM to 4 PM**. Drive into the parking lot, and someone will help unload from your vehicle! So easy!

2. Items can also be dropped off during regular office hours. Summer Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 9 - 3. Regular hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 - 3.

Please, no electronics, large furniture, car seats, strollers, or clothing. Clothing is accepted in tied bags at our on-site clothing shed.

The Kitchen Elves need your help.

The Kitchen Elves started years ago when a few members of the Pastoral Care Team thought members of our church family needed a hug. Once a month we gather to prepare 40-50 meals and deliver them to our church family. We have a group who prepare the meals, a group who bakes cookies or other desserts and a dedicated group to deliver the meals. Pearl does all of the shopping, Sue S. does all the paper work and calls, Emmie keeps us updated on families who might need a meal each month and Sharon, Sue W. and Kristin keep us on task.



If you would like to help with prep and love to peel veggies, show up at 9 am. If you like to bake cookies every couple of months, or perhaps can deliver 3-4 meals once a month...please notify our Elf Team by contacting Pearl at pgottberg@hotmail.com or Sue Schwarm at Sue.schwarm@gmail.com. Bakers make 60 cookies a month and deliver them to Fellowship Hall the night before Elves or by 9:30 that morning. Drivers arrive at noon on Elf day and are done in about an hour.

You can also call us on our cell phones. Even if you can help once in a while, we would love to have you join us. Thank you!.

Wrentham Day

9.7.2024

We need YOU!!!!

Volunteers are needed to man the TWO canopy areas this year!!!

We will be promoting the Church Fair, The NEW C.K.C.,
and Community Connections!!!!

Email Monica if you can help!

monica@occhurch.net



Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9 am – 2 pm
The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham
1 East St. Wrentham Ma 02093

The 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 a fair bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for information and updates! We look forward with great anticipation to this festive tradition!

FAIR TABLES ARE IN NEED OF ITEMS, AND THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO

DONATE:

Drive-Up Donation Day on September 28 from 1 – 4 pm (in church parking lot): Fill your car, drive up and a volunteer will unload the items from your vehicle! How easy is that?

Or...Drop off your items during office hours on the bench next to the office.

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

ATTIC TREASURES (Vestry): We welcome housewares, toys, sporting goods, linens, and more!

GIFT TABLE: Donate new gift items, maybe a gift you tucked away and never used?

VENDORS: A variety of vendors will be selling their goods!

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TABLE: Seasonal décor, gifts

BOOKS ROOM: Excellent condition only!

PLANTS: Start plant cuttings now!

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

JEWELRY TABLE (Sanctuary): New, gently used, or handmade jewelry

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

As you make your way around the fair this year, you will see on display beautifully decorated **Christmas Trees for sale**, both large and small! In addition to the tables above, the **Children's Fair** promises plenty of crafts and games for the children plus the yearly return of **Santa Claus!** The **Food Table** is always popular and welcomes your culinary talents at fair time, and the delicious **Brunch** is a yearly favorite for hungry shoppers. Please note that the **Jewelry** table plus the **Silent Auction** will be in the Sanctuary.

Many volunteers will be needed on fair day!

Stop by the OCC table at Wrentham Day on Saturday, September 7 on The Wrentham Common, where we will be promoting the fair and other great happenings at the OCC! As we begin preparations, the annual fair will come to life, and to begin the hustle and bustle, co-chairs and table heads will meet after church on Sunday, September 8. Let the fair fun begin!

Thanks in advance for your help!

Barbara Ligon and Gordon Wetmore

The Christmas Tree Church Fair Co-Chairpersons

THE ORIGINAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

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



Happy Harvest

Blessed Friends in Faith,

If you enjoy fresh homegrown vegetables from the garden and local farmer's markets, we have entered the best time of the year. There is so much to do! When the tomatoes come in, there are too many all at once. Now is the time to gather the harvest and prepare tomato sauce. We can't leave the fruit on the vine for long.

Church work is much like harvest time. All the needs happen at the same time. How will we get to it all? This is where the work of the Spirit comes in. When Jesus was showing the first followers how to engage in God's work, he taught them that those who labor are precious.

In Matthew 9:37 he said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." The response of the faith person is not to be overwhelmed with how much needs be done, but to appeal to God in the Spirit for the right way to approach the work. This begins in prayer.

Jesus says, "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest." The harvest of souls includes all who are needy and afflicted, hungry and in need of healing. Not one of us can do all the work, but when we contribute from what God has given us, somehow the harvest is taken in.

Soon I will be on medical leave for the month of September and October. While I am healing and working on my own return to my work in the harvest, I will pray that God sends to the OCC all the labor force that you need to accomplish amazing things with God.

We are so glad to announce that Pastor Lori Bruni will be guiding us spiritually in worship and pastorally in the office while I am away. Please take a moment to greet Pastor Lori when she arrives. God is sending us a talented laborer to help lead us in gathering in the harvest.

And there is so much coming in at this time! Monica Yohn has been working all summer to create new events for church life from food and fellowship to learning and loving community. Take a moment to select a way to support the OCC as we let the Spirit guide us to new things.

Our Sunday School is restarting thanks to the vision of Charlotte Capone, her family, and all our volunteer friends. Pray that the Lord send us the laborers to join us in gathering the harvest. Happy children learning and growing together. It is a beautiful and delightful vision.

And now, as we prepare to be apart for a little while, remember that it is peace that the Lord gives, and by love, we come to each other in new ways. I will be praying for each and every one of you and for all the new gathering work we are doing at the OCC this year.

And Jeanne and I thank you for the many ways you are supporting us in my health journey. With God's help, we shall collect the harvest, and take delight in all God sends our way, together in the Spirit!

May God bless us in our work, and may God's work be a delight to all who join with us along the way!

In peace,
Pastor Ken

Dear Members and Friends of The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham,

My name is Pastor Lori Bruni, and I am grateful and blessed to worship with you during the months of September and October while your beloved Senior Pastor Ken is convalescing and recovering from his medical procedure. I am excited to see the ways the Holy Spirit will unite us to bring glory to God, help us to faithfully work to spread God's love, peace and justice to the world and inspire each of us to embrace spiritual health and wholeness.

When facing a transition or challenge I like to turn to the wisdom of the Psalms for guidance. The Psalmist writes, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1 NRSVue). For many of us the month of September signals the beginning of school, scheduled commitments and the end of lazy, restful days of summer. Although exciting, it can be a stressful time so remembering to keep God at the center of our lives as a "stronghold" is an important consideration. Giving our worries to God not only brings peace to our souls it helps us to be grounded in sound, spirit-filled decision making. As we head into the busyness of the fall may we all find ways to connect with our Creator, each other and our neighbor.

I really look forward to gathering with you to sing, pray and worship our God together!

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Lori

A quick Bio for Pastor Lori:

I graduated in April from Chicago Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and anticipate scheduling an Ecclesiastical Council in early fall to continue the ordination process with the United Church of Christ.

In June, I completed a 10-month ministry as the Pastor of the Wollaston Congregational Church which was an incredibly uplifting and deeply enlightening experience.

This summer I am traveling to local churches to offer Pulpit Supply to congregations that need pastoral support.

I live in Weymouth with Anthony, my husband and our cat, Lucy. We have three adult children and are expecting our first grandchild in October!

THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2024 CKC Registration Form

Parents/Legal Guardians: For your child's safety, forms must be filled out by a parent/legal guardian and updated every year.

Child's Preferred Name: _____ DOB: _____

Parent/ Legal Guardian Name & Phone: _____

2ND Parent/ Legal Guardian Name & Phone: _____

Emergency Contact/Relationship to child : _____

Phone: _____ Is this person able to receive text messages at this number? Y/N

2nd Emergency Contact/ Relationship to child) _____

Phone: _____ Is this person able to receive text messages at this number? Y/N

Current Gender Identity: Male: _____ Female: _____

Additional Category: (please specify) _____

Decline to Answer: _____

Allergies: _____

Special Needs*: _____

(*Please explain in greater detail if needed on back of this form)

Siblings & Ages: _____

Best Email address to communicate with you _____

I give permission for the C.K.C. to use my child's photograph and other media such as video, on Original Congregational Church website, promotional material and publications, for which it may be suitable. Please circle one.

Yes

No

We are always looking for volunteers! Would you like to help? Please circle one.

Yes

No