



# The Spire

*A publication of the Original Congregational Church*

October 2024

*The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham presents . . .*

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE CHURCH FAIR

**Saturday  
Nov. 16, 2024  
9 am - 2 pm**



**Attic Treasures \* Baked Goods  
50/50 Raffle \* Crafts \* Vendors  
Christmas Decor \* Gifts \* Plants  
Brunch \* Books \* Jewelry and  
Silent Auction in Sanctuary!**

**Children's Fair  
and Santa Claus!**

**Decorated  
Christmas  
Trees  
for sale!**



**1 East St. Wrentham MA  
www.occhurch.net 508-384-3110**

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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](mailto: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 fun with friends!

**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](mailto: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.

## SAVE THE DATE:

- October 5th**                      Craft Day 9:30-11:00  
(Come make crafts for the Church Fair Craft Table).
- October 9<sup>th</sup>**                      College 101 6:00-8:00 Parents and Teens welcome.
- October 11<sup>th</sup>**                      Food/ Fun/Friends Pumpkin Night! 5-7:00  
(Small Pumpkins, paint, and stickers will be provided, as well as foam pumpkin. Bring your own from home to decorate!)
- October 27<sup>th</sup>**                      Harvest Day and Trunk O' Treat!  
(Decorate your trunk and have treats ready for our little monsters!!! Refreshments and crafts will be provided in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour).

### **Veterans Breakfast November 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 11:00 A.M.**

We will be hosting a Veterans breakfast for veterans and first responders and their families. Please email Monica with any names of men and women who you may know that should be invited to attend.

**Upcoming Events**

<b>SEPT 28</b> 1-4 PM <i>Drive-Up Donation Day</i>	<b>OCT 9</b> 6-8 PM <i>College 101 Information Night</i>	<b>OCT 11</b> 5-7 PM <i>F/F&amp;F Pumpkin Night</i>
<b>OCT 19</b> 12 PM <i>Wrentham Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunity</i>	<b>OCT 23</b> 4 PM <i>Franklin Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunity</i>	<b>OCT 25</b> 6-8 PM <i>Trivia Night</i>
<b>OCT 27</b> 11 AM <i>Trunk O; Treat Harvest Morning</i>	<b>NOV 9</b> 11 AM <i>Veterans Brunch</i>	<b>NOV 16</b> 9-2:00 PM <i>Christmas Fair</i>

Bible Study Tuesdays 10 AM  
Book Club Every 4th Wednesday @ 1:30 PM

## 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



### Annual Thanksgiving InGathering

On Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, InGathering Bags will be available to any family or individual interested in joining in on this annual Fall event. This year, our bags will be made of canvas, rather than the usual paper grocery bag. Some will have been decorated by our Community Kids during their Sunday class time. Unadorned bags will also be available and decorating is encouraged.

Outreach is in hopes that this year's recipients will be the immigrant families attempting to provide temporary structure in their lives as they await more permanent residence. As we get closer to the hand out date, there will be a needs list stapled to each bag to assist participants as they collect during November. The filled bags should be returned to the sanctuary on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

If there any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to an Outreach Team member.

We were so happy to meet and welcome Vranter and Trevor Mahlupeko to our church in August and learn more about the Daisy Dube Children's Home and the work of PKZ in Zimbabwe. Having a face to put together with the names of these special people brought the project even closer to our mission with them. Trevor especially enjoyed the carnival games that the Kids Club provided! Thank you to Connie Littlefield who brought them to us from New Hampshire and her contribution to the children of Daisy Dube. We learned that through the financial contributions from OCC and other area churches that these children now are able to have protein in their diets and more stable meals. Thank you to all who so warmly welcomed them!

Pam Jennette Outreach



## OCC Office Administrator Update

It is that time of year when **Donna Charbatji** becomes a snowbird again and returns to sunny Florida. We are grateful that Donna was able to return to OCC this summer and ably fill in the role as office administrator, giving us time to search for a replacement. Donna's last day will be September 26, and we wish her well.

We are pleased to announce that **Kristi Brytowski** will be joining the OCC team as our new office administrator, starting on September 17. Kristi lives in Hopedale, MA, and has served as office administrator for the past seven years at the Hopedale Union Evangelical (UCC) Church in essentially the same role. She is also active in the community, as Girl Scout Troup Leader and an elected Hopedale School Committee member.

Please feel free to stop in the office to meet Kristi and welcome her to OCC!



## Music “Notes” Justin Kisch

We are already well underway with our fall music program, after only two and a half weeks (as I write this).

Rehearsals for **Wrentham wRingers** are with Martha Goodman on **Thursdays at 6:00.**

**Choir** rehearsals are on **Thursdays at 7:30.**

**New: Less experienced singers** are invited to arrive at **7:15** for some special instruction, before the main choir rehearsal. All are welcome!

Please also let me know if you would like to join the **choir** for some of our **special programs** such as the **Mass No. 4 by Stefan Stocker** on November 3, the **Christmas Concert** on December 8, or for **Christmas Eve** at 10 p.m.

### **Upcoming Events:**

*(Except as noted, all events will occur during 10:00 worship.)*

September 29: **Handbells** play for worship.

October 27: **Handbells** play for worship.

November 3: **Mass No. 4** by Austrian Classical composer **L. B. Est**  
(pen name of Stefan Stocker), sung by the choir.

November 24: **Handbells and Choir**

December 8: **Handbells**

**Sunday December 8, 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Concert and Potluck**

**December 24, 5:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant**

All children *and* all who are young at heart are encouraged to participate!

**December 24, 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 p.m.**



# Upcoming Community Kids Club! Events!

October 6th

World Communion Sunday. Dress up as your heritage. We are serving the communion bread and singing the offeratory song during the service.

October 11th

Food, Friends, Fun! Pumpkin painting night 5pm - 7pm

October 19th

12pm volunteer opportunity at Wrentham Food Pantry (approximately 30 min)

October 23rd

4pm volunteer at Franklin Food Pantry approximately 45min

October 27th

Trunk or Treat following service

November 9th

Volunteer at OCC fellowship hall for Veteran's Brunch, we will be helping serve veterans and passing out our craft thanking them for their service!

Original Congregational Church  
1 East St, Wrentham MA 02093



## *What an amazing September we have had at The O.C.C.!!!!*

We started the month with a Welcome Back Pot Luck that was amazing!!!!



We then represented at Wrentham Day, sharing information about C.K.C., Connections, and the Church Fair.



We then held a fun Bingo Night, with costumes and chocolate prizes!

We had our first Knit/Craft afternoon, and on September 25th, we will have our first Book Club!!!

We are planning many new events and programs for the O.C.C. To come, including Trivia night, a wreath decorating class, a paint night, another pot luck, CPR/First Aid certification class, Estate Planning, and more!!!!

Keep checking your email, church bulletin, website and Spire for all the latest information!

If you have any suggestions for events or programs, please email Monica at [monica@occhurch.net](mailto:monica@occhurch.net)

## 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](mailto:pgottberg@hotmail.com) or Sue Schwarm at [Sue.schwarm@gmail.com](mailto: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!



## THE CHRISTMAS TREE CHURCH FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024, 9 AM – 2 PM  
THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WRENTHAM  
1 EAST ST. WRENTHAM MA 02093

We look forward with great anticipation to this annual tradition!

### THE FAIR IS COMING TO LIFE...

Check Sunday church bulletins for exciting weekly updates.  
Visit the Fair Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall for ongoing information!

#### GIFT BASKETS AND TABLE DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

Consider donating a Gift Basket to the Silent Auction; see a list of ideas on the Fair Board.

Donations are still welcome 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.

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

#### VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE FAIR!

Craft sessions have begun, and the Food Table welcomes your culinary talents!  
Strong workers will be needed to help carry heavy Attic Treasure items to cars,  
as well as purchased Christmas Trees! Youth workers are welcome.

After shopping, consider giving a table member a brunch break.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact one of the fair co-chairs to help.

Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

#### DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE THROUGHOUT THE FAIR!

As you browse...take in how we have “decked the halls” with the  
wonderfully decorated **Christmas Trees...all for Sale!**

#### SHOPPERS AND FAIR ATTENDEES ARE THE HEART OF THE FAIR!

For the kids: **Children’s Fair** with face painting, a scavenger hunt, crafts, games, and **Santa Claus!**

Hungry? Buy some baked goods at the **Food Table** and a meal at the all-day **Brunch!**

Check out the many **Vendor** tables and find the **50/50 Raffle** ticket sellers around the fair.

Browse the **Crafts, Gifts, Christmas Decorations, and Plants Tables.**

Visit the **Silent Auction** and **Jewelry Table** in the Sanctuary, **Books Room** in the Chapel,  
and **Attic Treasures** in the Vestry. See you at the fair!

**Barbara Ligon and Gordon Wetmore**  
**The Christmas Tree Church Fair Co-Chairpersons**  
**[bvligon@gmail.com](mailto:bvligon@gmail.com), [gwetmore168@gmail.com](mailto:gwetmore168@gmail.com)**

THE ORIGINAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

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Phone:  
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Live on  
YouTube  
Sunday  
Mornings at  
10:00am

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

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*“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”*  
**2 Corinthians 9:8 NRSVue**

Dear Blessed Congregation of OCC,

We are now in the season of Fall and October brings with it harvest celebrations of abundance. In my short time at your wonderful church in Wrentham, I have witnessed the abundance of the Lord. Your vibrant church each day demonstrates what Paul speaks of when he says that through God's abundant blessings, “you may share abundantly in every good work.” I see all around me the “good work” of this church being carried out by church leaders, staff, congregants, and families. Praise be to God!

I am grateful and blessed to be a part of magnificent ministries of OCC. The enlightening Bible Study conversations, productive and informative meetings with staff and church leaders, fun fellowship with the Lunch Bunch and Kitchen Elves, the amazing work being done with the youth in Community Kids Club and creative community events which bring us all together to share God's love. Worship has also been an abundant blessing with so many talented people offering their delightful musical abilities, gifts of leadership as liturgists and ushers and inspiring messages of stewardship. There is also much to look forward to with the upcoming College Seminar, Harvest Day, and Annual Church Fair. The Holy Spirit is at work here at OCC bringing together faithful souls to share the abundant blessings of God.

With the coming of October, we must say goodbye to our beloved Office Administrator, Donna Charbatji. Donna will be retiring ( again! ) and seasonally relocating to Florida with her husband. We are sad to see her go but very appreciative to her for coming back to help OCC this summer. Traveling mercies, dear Donna and please enjoy your well-deserved time of rest and relaxation.

Donna has been working diligently with the newly hired, Kristi Brytowski, who will be taking over the position of Office Administrator when Donna retires. We welcome Kristi to the staff of OCC, and we are excited to see the ways God will reveal her many gifts and talents to our church in the coming months.

Thank you all for your extravagant welcome to me and please continue to pray for Pastor Ken's health and healing as we look forward to his return to ministry in November.

With gratitude for God's abundant blessings,  
Pastor Lori