



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

November 7, 2024 / Issue 200

Join Our Mailing List

Visit our website



Sunday Morning
Join us for
worship online
and in person.
View the

Zoom link for the Sunday Service [here](#).

We will be having our
Intergenerational Family Service on
this **Sunday, November 10th** at
**9:30am in the Emerson Center
Fellowship Hall**. All material will be
displayed on the screen. Coffee Hour
will take place at 9:00am.

Hope to have you join us in person
this Sunday!



Lifebridge Needs You!

Now that the fair is over, it's time to
start thinking about cooking and
serving dinner at Lifebridge, a
homeless shelter our Board of
Missions supports in Salem. We need
2-4 people to help out on the fourth
Friday of every month. This fall, those
dates are:

-November 22 (not Thanksgiving
week!)



Sunday School Schedule Sunday, November 10th

There will be no Sunday School on the 10th, as we will be having our Intergenerational Family Service that morning.



Intergenerational Family Service This Sunday, November 10th

We will be having our next Intergenerational Family Service this Sunday, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee Hour will begin at 9:00am, followed by the service at 9:30am.

We will be having several special things planned for this day, including a slideshow from our recent Youth Group Mission Trip and a moment on gratitude from the children.

All are welcome and please feel free to bring a guest (or several) to join us.

Hope to see you there!

~Kim Love
Director of Children and Youth
Ministries

-December 27

We would leave the Emerson Center parking lot at 2:30 with all the food and directions. Dinner is served at 5:30, and we are free to leave around 6:15. We would be back in Topsfield around 7:00.

Sallie or Cathy usually go, so no special expertise is necessary and you don't even need to do the dishes! Newcomers are especially welcome and you're free to sign up with family or non church friends, too.

If you're able to help out on any of the above dates, please just let Cathy or Sallie know.

Thank you so much for supporting this important Board of Missions ministry!

Cathy
Szymanski jszymanski8@verizon.net
978-335-8047 (cell)
Sallie
Bowling salliebowling@verizon.net
508-932-4079(cell)



Community Giving Tree
Annual Holiday Gift Collection
Keeping local children safe and warm this holiday season

Items Needed Most

- New Pajamas (ages 2T-10 years)
- New Pajama Bottoms (ages 12-Teen)
- New Coats, Fleece Jackets
- Sweaters and Sweatshirts
- New Children and Teen Clothing
- Small Toys
- Gift Cards (no greater than \$25)
Old Navy, Walmart & Amazon,
Marshalls/TJMaxx and Target
(great teen gifts)

Scan and shop our Amazon Wish List & items will ship direct to CGT

DONATE BY:

outreach@communitygivingtree.org

[Giving Center Locations](#)
572B Main Street, Boxford 599 Canal Street, Lawrence

Christmas Gifts of Love

This year, our Christmas Gifts of Love



Throughout the gospels, Jesus tells us to give to the needy, to invite the poor to our banquets, and to love others. Our church does this by supporting organizations that are engaged in feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, and providing services to help end poverty.

On **Sunday, November 10**, our Board of Missions and Outreach will offer you with a snapshot of how we support those organizations with your pledge dollars and why we believe that is worthwhile to do so.



Your Input Counts

Over the next few weeks, we would like to get your thoughts and opinions about different topics concerning our congregation.

For that reason, we will setup a board in the Fellowship Hall and have Sticky Notes and pens to allow you to post answers to our questions. If you won't be able to attend, you can also send your reply to:

searchcommittee@topsfieldchurch.org

This week's questions are:

- What would our community/Topsfield miss if we closed our church doors?
- What is your favorite part of our church and how would you describe that to someone who doesn't come to church?

Thank you for helping us to create a meaningful profile of the Congregational Church of Topsfield.

Your Pastor Search Committee

Program will benefit the **Community Giving Tree**. This non-profit organization is operated out of Boxford and Lawrence. They collect gently used children's clothing, baby equipment and baby necessities to distribute to social workers for families in need in the North Shore and Merrimack Valley area.

In addition to scanning the barcode, you can also access the shopping list [here](#).

You may bring your gifts and leave them in the designated boxes in the church narthex or Fellowship Hall. You can also order from Amazon and the gifts will be mailed directly to Community Giving Tree.

Gifts need to be received at church or from Amazon by December 1st, so that they can be distributed to social workers on December 5th.

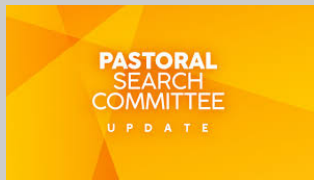
Thank you for your support!



Advent and Christmas Decorating Volunteers Needed

Anyone interested in helping to decorate the Meeting House for Advent and Christmas is encouraged to contact John Szymanski at: jszymanski8@gmail.com.

The plan is to meet at the Meeting House at 9 AM on Saturday, November 30th.



The Search Process

During the summer months, The Pastoral Search Committee Team (PSCT) has been working hard on step one of the search process, creating an up-to-date church profile for posting with the UCC. They have been doing this while the rest of us have perhaps enjoyed the summer weather that has extended into the Fall. Unfortunately, while the PSCT was doing this, the UCC was in the process of changing the profile format and recently let the our committee know. Consequently the PSCT found themselves once again at step one.

I share this with church members for a couple of reasons. First, to give you a sense of how time consuming and--at times-- even frustrating this whole process can be. We need to be supportive to those who are going through the search process for our Church and respect the time they are giving to find the best candidates from which to choose our next minister.

Second, the committee members may ask for feedback and information from individual members and it is most helpful to respond in a timely manner to those requests. In addition, while the PSCT meetings are open to all, there are times when the PSCT might discuss information that may be of a personal and confidential nature or opinions and information not appropriate in a public forum.

Therefore, as Moderator, I ask that all of us respect this process and, if you wish to sit-in on a search committee meeting, please let Werner Griesshammer, Chairperson, know ahead of time as he might need to adjust the agenda. Werner will continue to give updates to the Congregation during Sunday service time as he has been doing since this process has begun.

Thank you.

The process takes approximately 2 hours depending on the number of persons involved. Note that the Poinsettia Tree will not be assembled on that date.



Bible Study Group Update

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 10th, after the service in the Parlor of the Emerson Center.

We will be covering Chapter 7: "Reading Israel's Wisdom Again", for this conversation. You can still join the group at any time during the study and there are still a couple of books available from Kim Love in the Church Office.

Looking forward to learning with you.
Martin.



Coffee Fellowship

- November 10: Intergenerational Family Service team hosting
- November 17: The Mellings hosting
- November 24: CF Host Needed
- December 1: CF Host Needed
- December 8: CF Host Needed
- December 15: CF Host Needed
- December 22: TBD
- December 29: CF Host Needed

If you would like to volunteer for upcoming Coffee Hours, please email Nancy Nelson at: nbnelson21@gmail.com

Thank you!



Citizens Inn Thanksgiving Food Drive 2024

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did

Teens, please join us!

TEEN STRESS SURVIVAL GUIDE

Create your plan for managing stress and promoting your overall health.

HOW ARE YOU?
I'M SURVIVING...

Families for Depression Awareness

Teens in grades 8 and up!
Pressures from school, family, friends, work all contribute to stress. Because untreated stress can lead to mental health conditions like depression, it's important to develop practical strategies to manage day-to-day stress.

With the guidance of practitioners from Families for Depression Awareness, during this workshop, a trained facilitator shares their experience of surviving stress and depression during their teen and young adult life.

You will learn the signs of stress and depression, identify strategies to manage day-to-day stress, and begin to create a survival guide of your own!

Friday, November 15th
6-8PM
Emerson Center
9 E. Common St., Topsfield
Pizza and snacks will be served!

Registration required
Scan or click to register



CCT Masking Policy

Preserving the Health of the Congregation During Worship

Masking at worship remains voluntary. Worshippers are always welcome to wear a mask.

Careful hand washing or use of hand sanitizers is effective in preventing the spread of and acquisition of disease.

Please do not come to in-person worship if you are feeling ill. Instead, watch the service on Zoom or Boxford Community TV.

Keep your vaccinations against respiratory pathogens current.

Sincerely,
The Board of Deacons

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is the holiday to express our gratitude for our blessings and share generously with those in need. CCoT will be collecting food again this year for our mission partner, *Citizens Inn/Haven from Hunger*. Drea Roades, Senior Development Officer at Citizens Inn, will update our congregation on their efforts during worship service on Sunday, November 24th.

From November 3rd through November 24th, you can bring shopping bags with food and place them at the entrance to the office at the Emerson Center. (Members of BOMO will make sure they are stored inside.) A truck from Citizens Inn will pick up our donations on Monday, November 25th. Please fill your shopping bags with nutritious items for those experiencing food insecurity.

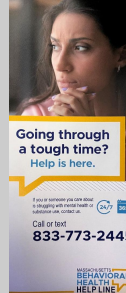
MAKE SURE TO CHECK EXPIRATION DATES...EXPIRED GOODS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please visit [here](#) to view suggested items to donate.

We have also designated Citizens Inn/Haven from Hunger, as the recipient of our Thanksgiving offering; thus if you are unable to drop off food items, please contribute by mailing a check to the church office with the notation, "**Thanksgiving Offering,**" or dropping it in the collection plate if you are worshipping in person.

Additional information about Citizens Inn and Haven from Hunger can be found at this link: <https://www.citizensinn.org/> Please join the Board of Mission and Outreach in filling the pantry to overflowing for the upcoming holiday season!

Thank you!
-The Board of Mission and Outreach



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#).

Parish Care Ministry

View the Prayer Listing [page](#) and November birthday [page](#).



SNEUCC-
Southern New England
Conference-UCC [page](#)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

UCC
Newsletter
[page](#)





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