



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

September 5, 2024 / Issue 191

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](#) and Sunday's bulletin [here](#).



Topsfield Fair 2024

We are already planning for our church fair booth for October 4th through October 14th, and we hope that you will sign up to for a shift or two.

Our proceeds from the fair pay for 70% of donations to our Mission



Sunday School Update

(Pre-K–12th grade)

Sunday School will be on break starting Sunday, June 16th and will resume on **Sunday, September 15th.**



Martin's Musings

Bible Study

Over the past few months I have had several requests to present an in-person Bible study series again. I think there are two elements to this emerging and growing need. First, it reflects the need for people to gather in-person again following the pandemic. Living virtually and in isolation can only be sustained for so long. We are in-person social creatures and virtual community is not a sufficient substitute. Secondly, Christianity is playing a more visible role in American society as part of the culture wars which is waged with more intensity in the approach to the election. The prominence and increased influence of Christian Nationalism is one aspect which I think illustrates this trend.

We are all probably noticing that the Bible is quoted quite frequently lately and used, abused, and misused in a variety of ways in the process. Knowledge about and being informed on the basic tenets of our sacred text is therefore growing in importance. Much more important than being able to quote verses or chapters is an understanding about the nature of the literature and the contexts in which the collection of books were authored, edited, and redacted.

I have always found the book by Dr. Marcus Borg *Reading the Bible Again*

Partners, and working a shift at the fair provides an opportunity for a fun time with some wonderful people. If you have not participated before, check out recent Spire articles for descriptions of jobs. If you have joined us in the past, thanks for your help, and we hope to see you again this year. To sign up, use link [here](#).

Any questions? Contact Joe Gibbons or Charlie Itz at:

fairbooth@topsfieldchurch.org



Sign Up at Homecoming Sunday For a Shift at the Fair Booth

Tables will be in the Fellowship Hall lobby on Homecoming Sunday to sign up for the fair booth.

Hope to have you join us!



CCT Fair Booth Shift Challenge

The Women's Ministry would like to challenge all groups within our community to try and fill as many shifts at the church fair booth as possible! Pick a day and work side by side with friends. This is a wonderful way to build community!!! Maybe consider inviting friends and neighbors who aren't members of the church. This is a great way for people to get to know us!

Calling all women of CCoT... The Women's Ministry has chosen October 10th as our day. Anyone, particularly women, who would like to join us on the 10th, please connect with Joe Gibbons to see what shifts are still available.

Calling on other groups, i.e. the men of the church, the youth of the church, the retirees of the church... pick a day that will work for you to all work together?

For the First Time, with the subtitle *Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally*, a very useful guide for acquiring a better understanding of what to make of the Bible. It is written in language and in a style that is not overly academic and I accessible. I am planning, in coordination with the Board of Deacons, to do an eight session series, starting on September 22 in the Parlor in Emerson Center. We will gather after the worship service after a short coffee break. We plan on having coffee and a bite to eat available in the Parlor as well. Jim Barnes has ordered ten copies of the book which is available on Amazon in three formats. The Kindle and paperback editions cost around \$14.00 and will be available soon at the church office on a first come first serve basis. You are naturally welcome to order your own copy. Please read the first 29 pages of this book for the first gathering. If you would like to participate but find the cost of book prohibitive, please contact me and we will provide you with a copy. I look forward to journey with you as we are guided by Borg to explore the Bible, a fascinating, rich, and relevant collection of books. I hope to see you at Homecoming on Sunday and on September 22 at the Bible study.

Shalom
Martin



Sunday, September 8th Homecoming Potluck Service All are welcome!

Coffee Fellowship will begin at 9am in the Fellowship Hall and the Church Service will be at 9:30am, with Potluck immediately following.

Share your favorite recipe or try a new one! **Mains, salads, sides, breads and**

Let's get these shifts filled!

Thank you!



Coffee Fellowship Update

Hello Everyone!
September is going to be a busy welcoming month with an emphasis on family & community. Let's have a look at what is coming up....

September 8: HOMECOMING Potluck
September 15: Baptisms & Reception of New Members (CF Hosts Needed!)
September 22: CF Hosts Needed
September 29: BCC will host (Intergenerational Family Sunday Service)

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

Thank you!



Community Garden Update

Thank you to everyone who made it a successful garden year! Thanks to all who moved earth, planted, weeded, watered, harvested and delivered. We will go to a weekly delivery on Fridays for the next few weeks. Some watering is still needed until all the produce is harvested. If you would like to help please sign up [here](#).

Thank you,
Conny Griesshammer

desserts are all welcome. Please label food and identify ingredients and allergens. Bring to the kitchen for warming oven or refrigeration.

Thank you and hope to have you join us!



Grief and Bereavement Group

First Meeting On Tuesday, September 10th at 10:00 AM
Topsfield Council on Aging,
Second Floor Conference Room

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Are you experiencing periods of sadness or distress? Have you experienced lost of interest in daily activities, seeing friends or family, or do you just feel lost?

If you are experiencing these feelings or just want to talk with people having the same challenges you are facing, please join us as we explore the feelings associated with grief and bereavement.

The Topsfield Council on Aging is sponsoring a Grief and Bereavement Group over the next several months on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM in the conference room in the Council of Aging office on the second floor of town hall. Our first meeting will be next Tuesday September 10, 2024.

All are welcome for this meeting or at all the meetings. Don't worry if you cannot come to all the meetings. Each session will be different in content. Larry Atkins, Chaplain at Care Dimensions and Beverly Hospital, will be hosting these get togethers.

communitygarden@topsfieldchurch.org



Lunch & Learn Addressing Family Stress and Depression

Thursday, October 3

12 - 1:30PM

via ZOOM



Register [HERE](#)

or register @ tritowncouncil.org/events

Does your family have the tools they need to address life's stressors? Join TTC and Families for Depression Awareness for this virtual workshop facilitated by a licensed mental health professional. By being knowledgeable about self-care and mental health, you can help your family get on the path to wellness.

Participants will:

- learn how to identify symptoms of stress in themselves and family members
- manage stress as a family
- respond when symptoms become "more than stress"
- know how to get help for themselves or a family member

Families for
Depression Awareness



7 Grove St., Topsfield 978.887.6512

tritowncouncil.org



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



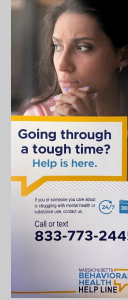
Volunteer for Emmaus House's "Cycle for Shelter"

Please join Carolyn Nenart and other CCoT volunteers on Sunday, September 15th, by passing out water and snacks to cyclists. Riders should be coming through Topsfield around 11am-2pm.

Emmaus House sponsors this ride to defeat homelessness each year. Learn more about Emmaus House [here](#).

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Carolyn Nenart at: (603) 512-3980
calsedu34@gmail.com

Thank you!



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#).

Parish Care Ministry

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



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