



## The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

October 31, 2024 / Issue 199

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](#).

---



**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 3rd

(Pre-K-6th Grade)

Meet with Ms. Julie in the Emerson Center Orange Room.

All visitors are welcome to attend!



## Church Chat this Sunday (11/3) on 2025 Budget and Stewardship Program

**Where?** : Emerson Center Parlor – bring your coffee.

The focus of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign is on each of us as the driving force that enables our Church to make change in our own lives, in the life of our community, and in the wider world.

To that end, the Stewardship Committee believes that people will be more encouraged to support Stewardship if they understand how their support will be used in the planned activities of the Church for 2025. The Church Chat will present a Draft 2025 Budget as well as an overview of the finances of the Church, and explain how the Committee will use those to set our Stewardship goal for 2025.

In each of the following four weeks, one of the Boards will discuss its activities this year and plans for next year in a brief presentation at services and in an insert in both InSpire and the website, all leading up to Stewardship Sunday on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The success of the Stewardship campaign will determine the Church's final 2025 budget.

-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](mailto:jszymanski8@verizon.net)  
978-335-8047 (cell)

Sallie

Bowling [salliebowling@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto: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



We look forward to seeing you all on Sunday!  
~The Stewardship Committee  
Mike Miller and Bruce Jones

---



## 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.

In order to give you more time, the questions will be posted during the week in our InSpire as well on Sunday at Coffee Fellowship.

### This week's questions are:

- What are your ideas for engaging more with the community?
- What should be an important project or focus in our near future?

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

~Your Pastor Search Committee

---



## 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

**Program** will benefit this **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 1<sup>st</sup>, so that they can be distributed to social workers on December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you for your support!

---



## Bible Study Group Update

**Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 3rd, after the service in the Parlor of the Emerson Center.**

**We will do Chapter 6: Reading the Prophets 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.

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.  
Steve Whelan, Church Moderator



### Coffee Fellowship

- November 3:** Sallie Bowling
- November 10:** Intergenerational Family Service team hosting
- November 17:** The Mellings hosting
- November 24:** CF Host Needed

If you would like to volunteer for upcoming Coffee Hours, please email Nancy Nelson at:

**Teens, please join us!**

**TEEN STRESS SURVIVAL GUIDE**

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

The Congregational Church of Topsfield UCC  
THE MEETINGHOUSE ON THE COMMON  
Gathered 1663



### 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



Thank you!

---



### Intergenerational Family Service Sunday, November 10th

We will be having our next Intergenerational Family Service on Sunday, November 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee Hour will begin at 9am, 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.

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

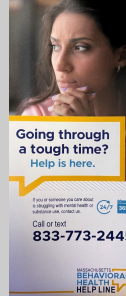
---



### 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,*



### The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#).

---

### Parish Care Ministry View the Prayer Listing [page](#) and October birthday [page](#).

---



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

---



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

UCC  
Newsletter  
[page](#)

---



*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 for me.’”* *Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)*

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 worshiping 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 Congregational Church of Topsfield | 9 East Common Street | Topsfield, MA 01983 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!

---