THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Dear friends,

I am asking for your help. We have no one to lead the fund-raising suppers for September and October. Would any of you be willing to chair one, or both, of these?

Last year these meals were all take-out. People have been asking for sit down meals and the fellowship that goes with them. The members of the church council have decided to leave the format of the meal, and the menu, to the chair.

Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you are willing to chair one of these meals, or need to know more about what being chair entails, please call the church office.

Faithfully,

Greg

PS. I have to wonder if two dinners a month is too much work for this church at this time. The extra money raised helps our bottom line, but the number of workers keeps decreasing.

If you feel strongly, one way or another, about the future of these meals please let me know.

September Calendar

11 First Day of Sunday School

12 Council Meeting

15 Free Community Dinner

24? Supper??

25 October Newsletter Deadline

Remember to check the members-only portion of the TCC website for updated reports.

Ukraine Relief Letter

At the end of this newsletter, see the lovely letter we received from the UCC regarding our contribution to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

September 2022

Volume 45 No. 8

Pastor: Rev. Gregory Schmidt
Pastor's Line at TCC:
978-597-0157

TCC Administrative Asst.:
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Office Line: 978-597-8925

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TOWNSEND
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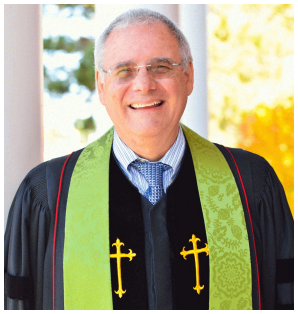
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon. & Tues.: 3:30 - 5pm
Wed.-Fri.: 9 am - 1pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:
Mon-Wed 9-1, or by appointment.

Visit our web page at www.tccucc.org and visit us on Facebook

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I trust you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer. I know some of you have traveled for the first time in two years. What a joy to be able see family members and friends in person instead of via the internet (although thank goodness for the ability to do that!).

For those of you who have not been to worship services in person, you were pretty smart to stay away. It was horribly hot in the sanctuary. But, we survived the heat and the humidity and are looking forward to some more pleasant temperatures as we move into the fall. Thank you to Renée and Kathy and Lee Duckett, as well as Sharon and Jon Schmidt, for providing us some lovely music during these services.

I know that Amanda is reaching out to families with children to see if anyone is planning on attending our education program. Until we know how many will be participating I cannot list any definite plans.

With the price of school supplies rising maybe we can offer some help to those in need. I am asking that we all donate a package of crayons, pencils and/or markers to the church. We will get them to a school in need and hopefully help take some pressure off parents who are struggling. There will be boxes in the sanctuary and office for you to put your donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

I am going to lead another book group meeting on Tuesday nights in September. We will be reading The Year of Living Biblically, by A. J. Jacobs. The book is available at libraries and Amazon has used copies for about $1.50 a copy. We will be holding this group via Zoom so no one has to go out at night. This book offers an interesting take on some of the laws we maybe didn't know and how challenging it can be to live a Biblical life in today's world. The first gathering will be on Tuesday, September 6th from 7 - 8 PM at which time we will discuss chapters 1 and 2. I hope you will join us as we challenge our faith and understanding a little bit.

With Renee taking an extended vacation in September our choir will not begin until October. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on the start of Bell Choir.

Finally, it is time for our suppers to begin. We are in a bind here. As of this writing there is no one to chair the September and October fund-raisers. We are also, presumably, desperately in need of workers. Should the chairs of these meals decided to return to sit down meals, rather than take away, we are going to need more people to make the meals successful. Please keep this in mind when we ask for your help.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you in church!

Greg

Property Thank-You!

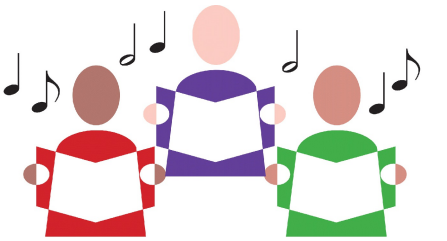
I would like to thank all those who helped this summer to make repairs in and around the church and keep the grounds looking nice. I certainly could not keep up with everything that needs to get done without your help! We do not officially have a "Property Committee", but so many women and men readily come forward to help when needed! Thank you for your dedication to and love of your church! All of you are the best!

Wanda Wilson

Minister for Property

Our first Community Dinner this fall will take place on **Thursday, September 15**. It will be a free meatloaf dinner made by our wonderful cooks! The menu will include meatloaf, baked potatoes, green beans, baby carrots and pre-wrapped desserts. There are not many Sundays to sign up in September. Please call Wanda Wilson (978-597-6803) to sign up to donate food and/or your time to this dinner!

Wanda Wilson



Agapé Handbell Choir

Calling all musicians, eighth grade and older, who would like to make beautiful music through our handbell choir! The Agape handbell choir will begin rehearsals in early October for the fall and Advent seasons. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the sanctuary from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The Handbell choir offers music on Sundays in person, or if necessary because of health or scheduling issues, through pre-recordings. If you are interested in joining this fun and dedicated group, please contact Wanda Wilson at 978-597-6803. You will be glad you did! This year, make a "joyful noise" for our church while enjoying the friendships of the wonderful people in the group!

AND/OR

Things To Do This Fall:

(not necessarily in this order)

1. Pick apples
2. Enjoy the cool, crisp weather

✔3. Join the choir

Our choir is looking for new voices to add to our existing ensemble. If you love to sing, please consider joining us! An ability to read music is not required.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm and on Sunday mornings right before our service. Our first rehearsal will be on September 28 this year.

Call Renée Fossey (978-597-8321) with any questions.

The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!

2-Christopher Guba; 3-Phil Andexler; 4-Antonella Basso and Sarah Pacheco; 7-Louella Stoner; 8-Melissa Genoter; 9-Emily Bruns; 10-Cynthia Curley; 12-Christopher Bennett and Asa Nixon; 14 Jonathan Vincent; 15-Eric Gruber; 16-Skip Bataitis; 20-Amanda Caprigno and Gini King; 23-Vera Bennett and Carla Carney; 24-Myahliya Carney; 25-Pamela Kelsea and Meghan Woodward; 26-Grace Palange; 28-Sharlene Rourke and Julie Zielenkievicz; 29-Rebecca Hersey and Michele Merenda.

HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022

Our annual fair will be coming soon and we always like to make this a welcoming and attractive community event. This can ONLY happen if we all work together as a church community, first. Please reach out to June Cloutier if you can help in any of these areas.

- ✯ **Coordinator needed for Apple Pie making** - This person oversees the supplies and organizes the apple pie making event; it's a productive and wonderful time for people of all ages!
- ✯ **Bistro** - This is a very important part of our fair and requires a leader who is knowledgeable about food handling and good with organizing. June Cloutier is prepared to work with anyone who steps up to do this task.
- ✯ **Santa's Helper** - *Santa is very excited about seeing everyone again in November!* We really need a helper for Santa; this person will typically take pictures with peoples' phones. It is totally okay if more than one person wants to do this for shorter periods - Santa is usually here between 10am and 2pm.
- ✯ **Children's Crafts/Play area** - This is a free (or by donation) area for parents to drop off their kids while they head to the tables to shop. We need someone who is willing to oversee the supplying of craft activities and the volunteers who help throughout the day.

- ✯ **Raffle Baskets**- Chris Clish has agreed to take charge of this table, once again. This is a very popular table every year and we hope you will support it by contributing a fun gift basket. A list of theme suggestions will be included at the end of the online newsletter edition. Let Cathy know if you would like a printed copy of this list.
- ✯ **Book Table** - There will no longer be a book table at our fair. This year, we will set out the books we have with a sign for people to just make a donation at any one of our other church tables.
- ✯ **Regifting Table** - Save gently used things or items which no longer fit your lifestyle for our Regifting Table. If you are cleaning and need these treasures out of your house right away, please notify us and we'll try to find storage before November.
- ✯ **Greens Tables** - This area is stunning and aromatic. We will know by next month what Wanda has planned for making the Greens arrangements.
- ✯ **TCC Craft Table** - This is made up of all the various wonderful craft offerings from you and all the other crafty people in our church! We hope you will consider making contributions to this table again this year.

Holiday Fair posters will be available soon in the church office – Please plan on picking some up to post at your favorite shopping locations.

If you have any questions or suggestions, e-mail junecloutier@verizon.net or Cathy Hill chill01469@gmail.com.

Thank you to all,
The 2022 Holiday Fair Committee

THE GREENS TABLE FOR THE FAIR IS SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS!
When cleaning things up this fall, consider donating baskets and Christmas basket decorations (picks, ribbon, bows, etc.) to this year's Greens table for the fair! Drop them off at the church or with Wanda Wilson; if you have any questions, call her at 978-597-6803.

OUR BLESSINGS:

Chris Clish is thanking everyone for their prayers for her sister-in-law, Karen, who is recovering well after her cancer surgery. Cathy Hill is joyful because she got to hold her newest granddaughter for the first time on 7/17; she is thankful that both mother and daughter are doing well. Cathy is also thankful for being able to attend this year's music camp on the Cape; she had a great time, learned some wonderful new music, and started some new friendships.

Wedding Anniversaries:
Bill and Debra Reeves,
39 years on September 10

OUR CONCERNS:

We continue to pray for all those still struggling with aspects of the COVID-19 virus, and for all those working so hard to care for them. Prayers for Brett Carney who was in the emergency room at MGH in mid-July; he is still facing health problems from his surgery last March. Cathy Parsons is grateful that her sister-in-law, Sue, was able to finally return home after surgery; please pray for her continued recovery. Consolation prayers are requested for all the family and friends of Sylvia Beldan who passed away on July 19. Karen Baer has asked for continued prayers for her sister-in-law, Barbara, who is in the hospital with complications from treatment. Karen is also asking for prayers for her friend, Debbie, who is seeking treatment for constant pain. Prayers are requested for the family of Ken and Terri Mattson on the death of Ken's mother on August 2. We keep Carol Swenor's sister-in-law, Gail, in our prayers as she has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Continued prayers for Carol Swenor's other sister-in-law, Elaine, as she's going through the last stages of her illness; praying for her to stay comfortable and have extended time with family. Cathy Hill would like prayers for her daughter and her family as they prepare to move to Arkansas, and prayers for her as she prepares for not having them just a drive away, anymore.

OUR CANCER FIGHTERS:

We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them. Linda Ireland. Lorraine M, cutaneous T cell lymphoma; Cathy Hill's sister, Morag Graham, and Barbara Goodwin's step son, Tyler who both have Non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

LECTIONARY, SEPTEMBER 2022

September 4, 2022 -
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1
Second reading: Philemon 1:1-21
Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

September 11, 2022 -
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10
Second reading: Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

September 18, 2022 -
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113
Second reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

September 25, 2022 -
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146
Second reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

COMMUNITY NEWS

Townsend Ecumenical Outreach

Phone: 978-597-2209

Email: TEO2@comcast.net

Our mission is to provide emergency and temporary assistance to Townsend residents that are in need of a helping hand. Please donate food and items like paper towels and toilet paper.

In these changing times, we may not always be up to date regarding how TEO is managing their resources; if you would like to contribute, please contact them by phone or email.

William James College INTERFACE Referral Service

INTERFACE is a mental health referral service that is available for all residents in Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby. Just call 888-244-6843 during normal business hours (M-F, 9-5) and you will be able to speak with a licensed mental health professional, or an advanced level graduate student, who will discuss the situation with you, and then call you back with a referral which meets your therapeutic needs, insurance, schedule availability and immediate openings. This service is funded by the North Middlesex Regional School District. Check out the web site for the WJC INTERFACE Referral Service at interface.williamjames.edu.

Submitted by Pam Snaith

Truck-A-Palooza at the Townsend Public Library!

Saturday, September 24: Truck-A-Palooza, Craft Fair, and Toy Sale from 10 am to 2 pm.

Fun for everyone. Go to the events calendar at www.townsendlibrary.org for more details.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Churches let go of buildings and find ways to keep on worshiping, witnessing, working

by Hans Holznagel
published on Aug 16, 2022

When a church becomes too small for its building, there are options.

Several United Church of Christ congregations are working on one of those options right now. In various ways, they're shedding ownership of their sanctuaries. They're continuing to worship and do mission work. And they're figuring out what's next — in many cases, with mostly older members.

In Webster Groves, Mo., Peace UCC is selling its building. It will soon worship down the street, in the chapel of Eden Theological Seminary, while keeping up its public, justice-oriented mission.

In Cleveland, Archwood UCC just gave its church and parsonage to a Latinx cultural arts center. The new owners are happy to have the congregation keep worshiping and feeding people there.

In Granby, Conn., the First and South Congregational churches are uniting as a totally new church. They've agreed to let decisions about their buildings follow their emerging mission.

Each has been years in the making.

Their stories can be found in the online UCC article https://www.ucc.org/churches-let-go-of-buildings-and-find-ways-to-keep-on-worshiping-witnessing-working/?inf_contact_key=18cd1cd22af9ce0be821694b26af2f1fb7af0999dac2af6212784c39e05d2aef

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If you do not have internet access and would like to read this article, just reach out to Cathy Hill (978-337-0638) and she will print the article for you.

RAFFLE BASKETS FOR THE TCC-UCC HOLIDAY CRAFT & GREENS FAIR

Once again, the fair will be having the popular raffle baskets. This has been a very successful part of the fair, thanks to all the wonderful baskets donated by the congregation. I am asking you to participate by picking a theme and filling a basket with items related to that theme. These baskets will be raffled off in a traditional "Chinese Auction" way. Tickets will be purchased and placed in a container that goes with the basket you want to win and a winner will be picked at random.

If you would like to participate, look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall after church and add your name or you may email me at christineclish@yahoo.com.

To help you get started, here is a list of suggested themes.

SUGGESTED THEMES FOR THE RAFFLE BASKETS

Feel free to come up with your own creative theme!!!

BABY
BIRTHDAY
BEACH
BEANIE BABIES
BREAD
BASKET OF BASKETS
BIRDS
BLUEBERRY DELIGHT

CAMPING
CRAFTING
CHILDREN'S
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
CHOCOLATE
CANDLE
CAR WASHING
CHRISTMAS
COOKING
COFFEE
CHINESE FOOD
COOKIE
COOKIE JAR
COMFORT AFGHAN

DAY OF BEAUTY

EUROPEAN VACATION (Plane Ticket Not Included)
EMBROIDERY
EVERYTHING BUT ICE CREAM

FOOD
FINGERNAILS
FEED THE BIRDS

FABRIC
FLOWERS
FAMILY FUN NIGHT

GINGERBREAD
GIFT WRAPPING
GAMES
GARDENING

HANDYMAN
HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

ITALIAN

JEWELRY

KNITTING
KITCHEN
KIDS
KIDS COOKING

LAVENDER SCENTS
LOTTERY
LOBSTER
LEGOS

MOVIE
MASSAGE
MUSIC
M & Ms
MARY KAY

NUTCRACKER

OVER THE HILL

PICNIC
PARTY
PAMPERING
POKER
PET
POPCORN
PIE
PHOTO
PHONE
PUZZLES

QUILTING

ROMANTIC EVENING

SPORTS
SCRAPBOOKING
STATIONERY
SEWING
STAMPING
SOCKS
SNOWMAN
STUFFED ANIMALS
SILK FLOWERS

TEA
TRAVEL
THANKSGIVING
TOOLS
TASTE OF ITALY

UGLY
VERA – BABY

WREATHS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1300 East 9th St., Suite 1100
Cleveland, OH 44114
216.736.2105 ucc.org

July 12, 2022

Townsend Congregational Church
3 Brookline St PO Box 487
Townsend, MA 01469-0487

Dear Friends at Townsend Congregational Church:

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in Ukraine. Your gift of $3,000.00 was received on 6/15/2022. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Hand in hand with our Partners in Service and other volunteers, congregations, and conferences, UCC Disaster Ministries seeks to serve families and communities by identifying and meeting unmet needs and providing spiritual and emotional support.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our global partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at giving@ucc.org or 1-800-846-6822.

In faith,

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister and President

No goods or services were provided in return for this donation.
Please keep a copy of this letter as a receipt for your taxes.

Officers of the Church

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Minister
Wider Church Ministries and Operations
Co-Executive of Global Ministries

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon
Associate General Minister
Justice and Local Church Ministries

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship/Sunday School at 10 am

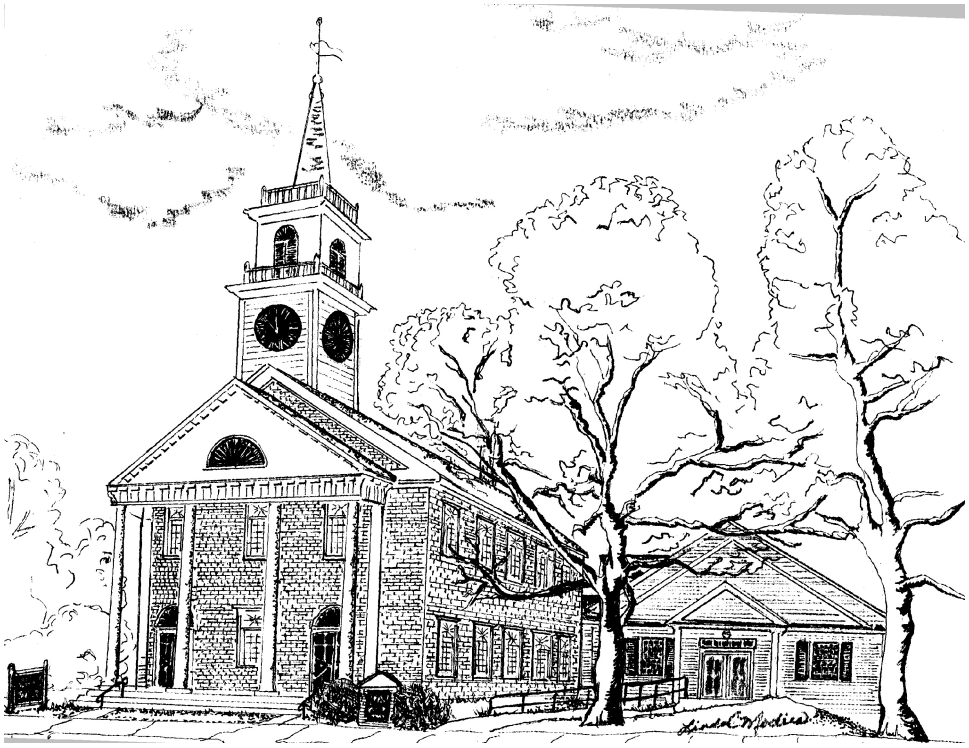
SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings

We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.

OUR COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT

Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

- *To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)*
- *To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)*
- *To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)*