

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
— Stockbridge, Massachusetts —

# Newsletter

**June 2022**

*CE Sunday - June 19*

Pastor: The Rev. Brent Damrow

Administrator: Will Garrison

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(413) 298-3137 | [www.stockbridgeucc.org](http://www.stockbridgeucc.org)

[www.facebook.com/stockbridgeucc](https://www.facebook.com/stockbridgeucc)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday: Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m. *Online*

Wednesday: Bible Study, 1:00 p.m. *Online*

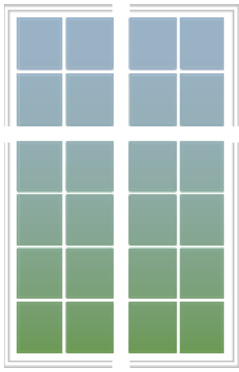
Office hours: 9:00-2:00, Monday - Friday

PO Box 825 Stockbridge MA 01262

# June 2022

The First Congregational Church, UCC, Stockbridge

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i>	1 Morning Prayer 8 am Bible Study 1:00pm All-Boards 7:00pm	2	3 Brent's Sabbath Day Service League 10:00am	4  <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
5 Worship 10:00 a.m. <i>Gathered &amp; online</i> Capital Campaign Celebration Sunday	6 Pastor Brent study week, until 6/13	7  <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i>	8 Morning Prayer 8 am Bible Study 1:00pm	9	10  Service League 10:00am	11  <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
12 Worship 10:00 a.m. <i>Gathered &amp; online</i> Berkshire Waldorf H.S. graduation 3:00pm	13	14  <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i>	15 Morning Prayer 8 am Bible Study 1:00pm Meetings of the Boards 5:00pm – 9:00pm	16	17 Brent's Sabbath Day Service League 10:00am	18 Service League Pop-Up Fair at Town Library <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
19 Worship 10:00 a.m. <i>Gathered &amp; online</i> CE Sunday	20 Newsletter deadline	21 <i>Tuesday Club Annual Meeting 11:30am – 3:00pm</i> <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i>	22 Morning Prayer 8 am Bible Study 1:00pm	23	24 Brent's Sabbath Day Service League 10:00am	25  <i>Al-Anon 5:00pm</i>
26 Worship 10:00 a.m. <i>Gathered &amp; online</i>	27	28  <i>Al-Anon 7:00pm</i>	29 Morning Prayer 8 am Bible Study 1:00pm	30	<b>Berkshire Waldorf H.S. thru 6/9: Mondays 12:45pm Tuesdays 10:25am Thursdays 11:30am</b>	<b>Livestream worship at stockbridgeucc.org</b>



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stockbridge, Massachusetts

## June 2022 Newsletter

Dear Church Family,

How often during this pandemic have we dreamed about, talked about, and planned for the new beginning that is coming when the grip on the pandemic loosens? How often have we been ready to resume our most cherished traditions only to face a new wave, a new challenge, a new variant? Are we there again? Fresh off our annual meeting with newly elected leaders, in the midst of a capital campaign with our historic buildings being made new, and as late spring is bringing new life to our surroundings, newness is bursting forth. As we face the summer with all of the great traditions of our church/community we are ready to get back to those things that bring life, beauty, and connection. Are we ready to live into it?

This pandemic has been so challenging for our church that is grounded in and fed so much by those things that have been deemed “risky.” We love to congregate, we love to eat, we love to sing, to greet, to hang out together, and to be close to one another. We have so many traditions that are predicated on most if not all those things happening at once. We have so yearned for that moment when those things burst forth again, even if we know that even our deepest traditions might or probably have to change in some way.

I wonder if there might be a gift in the ebb and flow of this pandemic. I wonder if that gift is not to wait for some magical moment where everything will suddenly be open again to take some grand action, but to see the potential for

honoring tradition and finding new starts all the time and simply step into it? I wonder if we can learn to recognize and embrace the spirit behind those traditions and find ways to bring them to life in ways that are possible and would be so deeply appreciated in these moments?

I am so excited about the life in this place right now and all of the people who have been and are stepping up to enliven our ministries. Our All Boards meeting on June First will be a concrete reminder both of the newness of some of the Board members as well as the many beloved things those Boards have been responsible for over time. I hope that you will join with my both in praying for those Boards and in stepping forward to offer our support both emotionally and physically. Our staff likewise is about to welcome two new faces to familiar roles – Minister of Music and Financial Secretary. May we likewise pray for them and make them feel supported in their new roles.

It is easy to feel discouraged right now. It is easy to find ourselves disappointed that our world is incredibly complicated right now. Our faith, though, reminds us that God is still speaking. Hymns remind us that God is making all things new. Easter reminds us that new life can come from seeming dead ends. Let us with gratitude and hope step into the wonder and possibility of these times...together!

I look forward to walking with you.

***Pastor Brent***

## HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Lynda Morse
June 2	Rebecca Hall
June 6	Evelyn Battaglia Beth Rodgers
June 7	Mary Hoeltzel Barbara Moore
June 12	Michael Deegan
June 12	Joe Catino
June 13	Anne Hutchinson
June 16	Thomas Frelinghuysen
June 19	Fiona Brown Jean Stackhouse Ruth Wheat
June 24	Anne Fix
June 26	Pat LaBagh
June 28	Becky Smith

## Service League

We've been keeping our heads down this month due to some Covid exposures close to home but we are still resolutely planning to go ahead with our Pop-up Fair in front of the Stockbridge Library on June 18th. We hope to see you there and we welcome your donations of baked goods and plants.

Meanwhile, STAY SAFE AND STAY WELL!

~ Margaret Hornick for the Service League



## Receiving the church's email messages?

Each week the church office sends out at least one email blast, with all the latest news. If you aren't receiving these messages, please contact the church office and we'll figure it out!



## The Wednesday Virtual Bible Study

Every Wednesday afternoon several of us meet by ZOOM at 1:00 PM to study the Scripture text that the preacher for the following Sunday has chosen. We would love to have you join us.

What happens during this hour? First, we greet each other and check in on how our week is going. This may take fifteen or twenty minutes. Then, somebody volunteers to read the Scripture passage. We take a quiet minute to think about it. What struck you? What did you find interesting or curious? What questions do you have about the text? Then, someone else reads it, often from a different English translation.

Then we talk about it. That's pretty much it. We enjoy each other and our conversations are lively and fun. We often learn new insights into the Bible. It is great preparation for Sunday worship. Often toward the end we guess where the preacher will go with the text or texts. We're often wrong.

You may be an expert on the Bible or maybe you never opened it before, but you will be welcomed and valued in this group. There is no cost, and no sign up. Just go the Events section on the [church website](#) and hit the ZOOM link you see there. We'd love to have you join us.

Blessings, Pastor Rick Floyd

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Pedro of Pete's Paving Service  
sweeping the parking lot.



open—to existing members who haven't been able to pledge yet, and to those who join in the next year or two. But as the campaign winds down, and formally comes to an end, the other part winds up. The ramp! The steeple! The roofs! The organ! Your pledge payments!

## Capital Campaign

### Winding Down, Winding Up

This Sunday, June 5th, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. It is sometimes called the birthday of the church. On the same day, Family Visits, the last phase of the Capital Campaign, will end. I hope you can make it to church, in person or in spirit, to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit during worship, and afterwards, during coffee hour, to participate in Celebration Sunday, to rejoice in how far we've come together.

Celebration Sunday marks the formal end of the Capital Campaign. The twenty-plus members Campaign Executive Committee will disband soon, and a smaller group will form to oversee the follow-up issues attendant on a three-year pledge payment period. One such issue is keeping the opportunity to make a pledge

Probably not in that order! The Trustees will begin the construction projects the campaign is paying for as pledge monies are received. (If you want more specifics on the project timeline, best talk to a Trustee. There is also material on the church website.)

Being the Publicity co-chair has been more work, and more rewarding, than I ever would've imagined. The CEC has been an amazingly dedicated group to work with. I am both glad I did it, and glad it is winding down. At the same time, all I have to do is take my head out of my particular areas of involvement -- listen to what other church members are involved with, or attend a service with an interactive postlude -- to realize that the entire church body is a pretty amazingly dedicated group of people to work -- and pray -- and play with.

~ Ted Randolph



## News from Mission and Action

With the world's challenges seemingly mounting by the day, it's reasonable to feel overwhelmed, helpless even. But glimmers of hope remain, and they act as a beacon that orients us back to the truth of Jesus. Recently, during a Mission and Action meeting, we witnessed one of these glimmers. It came in the way of a grass roots effort of Abdul Qader Amini, an Afghani man living in Washington State who decided to stand up to try and make a difference in the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Meeting over Zoom, we learned about his efforts and how big of an impact our modest financial support can make. With our donation of \$250, we learned that we could feed a moderately sized family for two months. Our committee is hoping this relationship with Abdul continues to build, so please stay tuned for more stories about how this congregation is helping people in Afghanistan.

Our Afghan family, the Hussainis, are settling into their new home in Pittsfield and learning about Berkshire County. They have been here almost six months and are grateful for all the support our congregation has provided in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Meeting in Housatonic.

Husaini and Fatema are taking driving lessons and continue with their English lessons. Fatema's English has already improved noticeably. They report that we have many more road signs than in Afghanistan – and that their road conditions are much worse than our current



potholed filled ones! Hussaini is in the process of applying for IT jobs. Zahra and Ali attend Morningside School and were able to attend the Pleasant Valley Mass Audubon camp during school vacation. The entire family visited Hancock Shaker Village to see the Baby Animals.

Locally, Mission and Action continues efforts to help people that may have difficulty affording food. This month, another \$500 from our congregation went directly to the People's Pantry in Great Barrington. And, the Pop up Pantry at the rear of the church is providing shelf stable essential food items – no questions asked! Thank you to everyone who contributes to these programs!



On May 8, Melodious Accord, one of several choruses comprising Berkshire Lyric, sang for the worship service.

Members: Julia Ostellino, Julianna Salinovici, Anna Potochevska, Zoey Cahill, Vivian Berard, Kasia Miller, Ema Mickle, Ellen Klepetar, and Lucy Garrison.

## OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

2022 - 2023

CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL/MODERATOR	Cathy Clark
CLERK	Jeremy Ridenour
TREASURER	Patty Strauch
HISTORIAN	Joshua Hall
LIBRARIAN	Terry Wise

### DEACONS

Sarah Conly  
Anna Duhon  
Don Eaton  
Michael Deegan  
Ted Randolph  
Ken Ward  
Miles Wheat

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Vicky Cooper  
Paul Rix  
Kim Ruffing  
Terry Wise  
Elizabeth Young

### MISSION & ACTION

Carl Bradford  
Cindy Brown  
Ronnie Cunningham  
Martha Floyd  
Nick Pohl  
Cary Quigley  
Marion Pomeroy  
Bruce Wilkens  
Tracy Wilson

### GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Holland Eaton  
Brian Farrell  
Brian Hyatt  
Ken LaBresh  
Charlotte Rodgers  
Becky Smith

### TRUSTEES

Bronly Boyd  
Alice Collins  
Ron Hanft  
Joe Nicolosi  
Christine Rasmussen  
Cris Raymond  
Don Rodgers

### MUSIC

David Anderegg  
Robert Doerr  
Linda Hoddy  
Mary Hoeltzel  
Deb McMenemy  
Tom Ruffing

### PASTORAL RELATIONS

Margaret Hornick  
Miles Wheat  
Anne Roy  
Paul Rix

### CONNECTIONS

David Anderegg

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The By-laws call for representatives appointed by boards: Trustees (Don Rodgers), Music (tba), CE (tba), and Deacons (tba). Two at-large members: Jeremy Ridenour and Carl Bradford.

### COMMITTEE OF DELEGATES

SNE CONFERENCE and  
BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION  
David Anderegg  
Margaret Hornick



After working for three-and-a-half years in a start-up company, Sophie decided to go back to school for an MBA with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. Before matriculating at Rice she founded Crescendo Management LLC, and, while working on her MBA, began her own start-up, Green Room App. She has gratefully received support from the church throughout her undergraduate and graduate years thanks to our generous scholarship program.



Cindy and Jack's daughter Fiona Brown just graduated from Westfield State University with her Master of Social Work degree. Congratulations, Fiona!

Below: A young fan listens to the Kids Choir accompanied by David Anderegg, May 22.

