



## InSpire Weekly News & Updates

November 23, 2022 / Issue 99

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Visit our website



### Sunday Morning

Join us for worship online and in person. View the Zoom [link](#) and the service order for Sunday, November 27th [here](#).

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### CCT Masking Policy Update as of 11/17

Mask wearing in the Meetinghouse is now voluntary. We also want to emphasize that participants in worship may choose to mask at any time.

As we are now at the start of cold and flu season, if you have a cough or are feeling under the weather we hope you to take advantage of our worship on Zoom or Community TV.

We encourage all individuals to stay current with COVID vaccinations and booster shots, get a flu vaccine, stay home when ill, and seek testing if you have COVID symptoms.

Sincerely, Board of Deacons



### 2022 Advent/Christmas Gatherings at the Congregational Church of Topsfield

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**  
First Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
A Christmas Concert  
at 7pm in the Meetinghouse  
(following Topsfield Holiday on the Green, 4-7pm)

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am at the Meetinghouse  
**Coffee Hour following service**

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Congregational Church of Topsfield  
Christmas Concert at 7pm at the Meetinghouse/Church

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the

Congregational Church of Topsfield

## Christmas Concert

December 10, 2022

7:00PM

Pieces for Choir and Orchestra by  
Corelli, Holst, Vaughan Williams  
and more

*Carol sing along too!*

Free Admission



### Message from the CCoT Music Director, Jackson Carruthers

This year, we continue the CCoT tradition of presenting a Christmas concert, which will be held on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. I am excited and honored to be directing this concert, and I hope that we can build on past successes while reaching out in new directions. We will seek to present a polished and engaging program of seasonal music that ranges from an 18<sup>th</sup>-century Italian setting of the Magnificat through to familiar British carols arranged by Vaughan Williams and Holst. The program will showcase the musical endeavors of the choir and bell choir alongside orchestra and vocal soloists. We may even have a bit of audience participation!

Through this concert, we hope that we can generate interest in what we do at CCoT throughout the surrounding community. Make sure to invite your



Meetinghouse

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the  
Meetinghouse  
**Annual "Pick Up" Christmas Pageant  
Luncheon Coffee Hour in Fellowship  
Hall**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
at 5pm and 10pm in the  
Meetinghouse

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Day  
Service at 9:30am in the  
Meetinghouse

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
New Year's Day  
Service at 9:30am in the  
Meetinghouse  
**and**  
**Icy Cold Ocean Dip Fundraiser for  
Haiti**  
@ Noon on Crane Beach, Ipswich



### Time to Order Poinsettias

Please consider purchasing  
a plant or two  
to enhance our festive  
Christmas Decorations,

friends, neighbors, and family. I feel strongly that concerts like this not only provide a benefit to the community as a cultural event, but also allow us to show the broader public a bit of the life of the church.

If you would like to become involved in the concert, we welcome individuals interested in singing (even if you are not a normal choir member). If you are interested, please see me or one of the choir members. We also are looking for a few people to act as ushers before and after the concert, handing out programs and providing direction to visitors.

If you would like to join in with the choir for this event, contact Jackson Carruthers at: [jackson@topsfildchurch.org](mailto:jackson@topsfildchurch.org)

I look forward to seeing you on  
December 10th!



### Here for You

**Project Safety Net – 24/7 Helpline**  
Project Safety Net is a 24/7 telephone support and resource helpline for youth, parents, guardians and caring adults.

Talk with a local counselor at any time, day or night, by calling:  
(978) 771-4619.

Learn more through the Tri-Town Council  
[website](#).

which takes 80 plants to create.

**The cost is \$10 per plant  
and ordering is easy.**

Be a part of this wonderful tradition.  
Order a poinsettia to decorate our  
Sanctuary for Christmas.

**Order deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>.**  
(Order forms will be included inside  
the Sunday bulletin.)

**To order please contact:  
Ruth Bortzfield**

· **Email your order**  
to: [ruthbortzfield@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbortzfield@gmail.com)

or

· **Mail your order to:**  
Ruth Bortzfield, 22 Great Hill Drive,  
Topsfield, MA 01983

or

· **Fill out the form included** in the  
bulletin and drop it off at the church  
office.

**Please make checks payable to the  
Congregational Church of Topsfield  
and memo "Flower Fund".**

**Poinsettia order details  
that are needed**

· **Your Name** (*as you would like it to  
appear in the dedication booklet*)

· **Dedication** (in memory, celebration  
of, etc)

\*If left blank, dedication will read *"In  
celebration of the birth of Jesus."*

· **Number of Plants**

· **Payment Amount**

(Poinsettias can be picket up after  
December 25th service or leave for  
shut-ins. If you do not wish to take  
your poinsettia home, please  
indicate.)

**Thank you!**

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**Nominating Committee  
Announcement**

**We Need your Talents...**

Dear CCoT Members,  
The Nominating Committee has been  
working behind the scenes trying to fill  
spots on our Boards that help the church  
run!

We're looking for some new folks to fill in  
those spots that are open for 2023. We  
know everyone's got commitments to  
family, other organizations, sports, kids,  
etc. but we also know that serving in  
church leadership is a great way to get to  
know people. And we have fun together  
on every second Wednesday of the  
month!

We're seeking new members for all CCoT  
Boards.

There are five Boards of the church:  
Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees,  
Board of Mission & Outreach, Board of  
Children & Youth, and Board of  
Community & Communications.  
Boards consist of a minimum of 7 and  
maximum of 12 church members, who  
are elected at the Annual Meeting for 3-  
year terms.

Boards meet on the second Wednesday of  
every month except in July and August.  
For more information about each Board,  
go to the church website at  
[www.topsfieldchurch.org](http://www.topsfieldchurch.org) and select  
**"About Us" | topsfieldchurch** then select  
"Bylaws."

The Boards assure that the important  
work of our church gets done. All 5  
Boards currently have openings, and  
we're hoping that you volunteer to join  
one. The commitment is flexible with  
regard to your schedule. There are plenty  
of opportunities on each board to help  
out when you can. Many hands make  
light work!

If you are interested in serving on a





Dear Friends,

Greetings from South Carolina and our best wishes to all for a meaningful Thanksgiving in the company of family and friends.

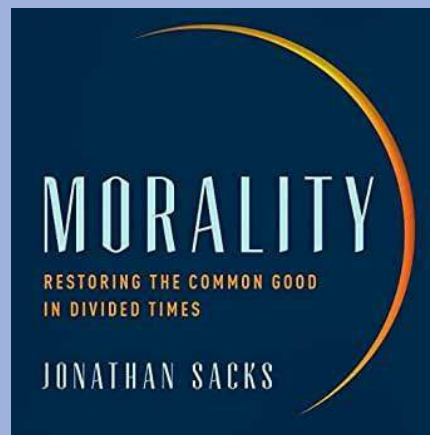
It was so good seeing so many of you at the fair booth back in September/October, where we had a fun time working alongside numerous CCT volunteers, while catching up on each others lives. We enjoyed the conversations very much, and never would have been able to reconnect with as many of you as we have in such a short amount of time, if it wouldn't have been for CCoT's Restaurant at the Topsfield Fair!

Working there has always been a pleasure for many reasons, like i.e. supporting the fundraiser for charity organizations being one of them, and the community building aspect another. When people come together in an effort to reach a goal, we find, it's not only wondrous what can be achieved, but the emerging spirit and what it does to people is also amazing.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to have been part of again this year in the enterprise, called "fair booth". Thanks to y'all ;- ) (like the Southerners would say) for the warm welcome into your midst, the interest in our lives and for sharing your stories, in short for

Board, please contact any of the following folks for more information:

Sheryl Knutsen, Chair, Nominating Committee: [shknutsen@comcast.net](mailto:shknutsen@comcast.net)  
 Barbara Barnes, member, Nominating Committee: [mombarnes@mac.com](mailto:mombarnes@mac.com)  
 Jim Barnes, Chair, Board of Deacons: [deacons@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:deacons@topsfieldchurch.org)  
 Bruce Jones, Chair, Board of Trustees: [trustees@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:trustees@topsfieldchurch.org)  
 Joe Gibbons, Chair, Board of Mission and Outreach: [missionandoutreach@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:missionandoutreach@topsfieldchurch.org)  
 Christy Redding, Chair, Board of Children and Youth: [childrenandyouth@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:childrenandyouth@topsfieldchurch.org)  
 Alison Hardy and Charlotte Melling, Co-Chairs, Board of Community and Communications: [communityandcommunications@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:communityandcommunications@topsfieldchurch.org)



### Adult Christian Education (ACE) Reading Group

The Board of Deacons would like to announce the start of the Adult Christian Education (ACE) reading group for this year. We will be reading a book by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks called, "*Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times*".

The group will meet at scheduled times to be determined by what is best for those that want to read the book. Please let me know if you are interested by contacting the church office or sending me an email: [swhelan37@verizon.net](mailto:swhelan37@verizon.net).

Once we have our group, I will contact those interested to determine the best schedule. It is a very relevant book for today's world and even if you want to read it and do not have time to join the

making us feel at home during our time in Topsfield at the Meetinghouse and the fair booth.

Have the happiest of Thanksgivings and a wonderful Advent Season!

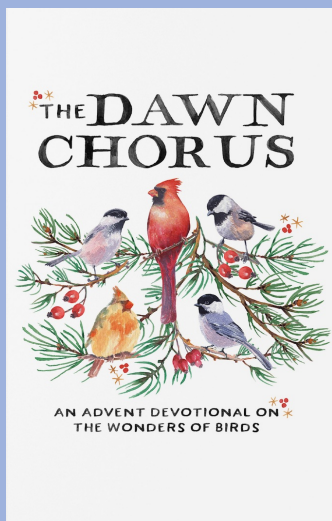
Warmly,

Fellow church members,  
Irina and José

discussion, let me know and I will send you the discussion material we will use.

However, I hope you will find the time to join us. All points of view are welcome and everyone's perspective adds to the discussion!

Thanks,  
Steve Whelan



### HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Think of this devotional as a kind of bird feeder: pick and choose the activities that work best for you and your family or friends. Each week includes a simple candlelight service (light a candle, read a passage from scripture and a short reflection, and sing a dawn chorus song or two); a few bird-related fun facts to share (try taking turns reading them around the table!); some provocative conversation starters; a handful of ideas for service during the week; and a lovely, simple bird ornament to cut out, decorate, and hang on your tree or around your home.

Sprinkle these activities throughout the week, or choose a weekly night for gathering around the table for some reading, learning, and art. And of course, throughout the season, keep your eyes and ears open for our fine feathered friends! As the prophet Isaiah put it long ago, those who "wait on God" will find renewed strength for the journey, rising "with wings like eagles" as we go (Isaiah 40:31).

Visit this [link](#) to view a copy of this Advent Devotional. If you are unable to print at home, there are printed copies in the Meetinghouse narthex.



### Try out this leftover Thanksgiving dish! Turkey and Stuffing Quiche

Recipe from: [foodnetwork.com](http://foodnetwork.com)



#### Ingredients:

##### **Crust:**

- One 9-inch frozen pie shell

##### **Filling:**

- 1 cup crumbled leftover stuffing
- 1 cup chopped leftover turkey
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar
- 1/4 cup parsley leaves, roughly chopped
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

##### **Custard:**

- 1 1/4 cups half-and-half
- 3 large eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Directions:

1. Par-bake the crust according to package directions. Let cool slightly before adding the filling.

##### **Filling:**

1. Sprinkle the stuffing and turkey in the par-baked shell. Top with the Cheddar and parsley. Season with a little salt and pepper.

##### **Custard:**



## Free Thanksgiving Dinners on Thursday, November 24, 2022 at Local Organizations

Salem, Peabody, Lynn, and  
Gloucester (and surrounding towns)  
All meals are free of charge  
& ALL ARE WELCOME!  
See [link](#) for more details.



### Coffee Hour

Mark your calendars for our  
upcoming Coffee Hour that  
will take place after Sunday worship  
service in the Emerson Center  
Fellowship Hall:

11/27- No Coffee Hour

12/4- Alison Hardy

**Thank you to our Coffee Hour  
Host volunteers!!**

1. Whisk together the half and half, eggs, nutmeg, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a medium bowl.
2. Pour the custard over the filling. Adjust the oven temperature to 350 degrees F and bake until set, 35 to 45 minutes. Let cool at least 30 minutes before serving warm or at room temperature.

Enjoy!

### Parish Care Ministry

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



### CCT Church Office [Contact us.](#)

Link to Signboard request  
form [here](#) for events on the  
church calendar.



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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

**UCC**  
Newsletter [page](#)



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

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