



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

August 7, 2025 / Issue 238

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Sunday Morning

Join us for worship online and in person.

View the Zoom link for the Sunday Service [here](#)
Sunday's bulletin [here](#)



An Initiative of the Women's Ministry Building Community Through Conversations that Matter



Some mid-week thoughts from Dave

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Another midweek thought with some humor for the Congregational Church of Topsfield.

Two tacit goals of reviving the Women's Ministry have been one, to build a greater supportive community of intergenerational women in the Congregational Church of Topsfield and two, to encourage participation from inactive church members or members of the broader community.

We believe that in our current time and place, people are seeking safe places for compassion, connection and support. After much prayerful reflection and discussion on these two goals, Dolly McIlvaine and Marti Soper recently facilitated a beta group of women in a program we have

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said, "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me..." The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

Now that you have stopped laughing! Sometimes, life has a way of surprising us. Things happen that may seem very normal, but then we learn the "rest of the story." Are there things in your life that have startled you or maybe even brought a genuine sense of fear? Maybe you are prompted to live again through a very difficult experience from years ago? You hear certain words and you are prompted to go back over a story in your life that was very sad and even frightening. For the dear taxi driver, he was thinking the person riding with him should not have been tapping him on the shoulder.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Sunday School Classes Will Resume in September

Please contact the Church office if you would like to learn more about our Sunday School program.

office@topsfeldchurch.org



entitled: "Building Community Through Conversations that Matter."

Our goals in running this test group were to assess whether or not this would be a meaningful experience for the participants and if in fact, the time together strengthened a sense of community among us.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Women's Breakfast/ Mission Moment

The Women's Ministry would like to invite you to join us for a breakfast and Mission Moment on **Saturday, September 6th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall.** We will enjoy a light breakfast followed by presentation by Ellen Bedrosian, Manager of Stewardship and Advancement Services at Lazarus House Ministries, one of our church's mission partners.

As a way to support this program, attendees are asked to bring either new or gently used clothing of any size (with a focus on the cooler weather coming in the fall), toiletries or a canned good or two. The most sought after canned goods include: corn, ravioli, tomatoes, fruit, beans, chicken and tuna fish. If you would prefer, you can make a cash good will donation.

Please RSVP to this event by **September 1st to Dolly McIlvaine at:** mciltopsfield@comcast.net.



Lemonade on the Lawn "LOL"

Emerson Center Office Update

The Emerson Center office will be closed on Fridays for the summer, beginning Friday, June 20th through Friday, August 29th.

The summer office hours will be: Monday–Thursday, 10am–1pm.

Thank you!



Next Step for Emerson Fields

Our Emerson Fields Project and our partnership with the Caleb Foundation took a next step forward recently when the Commonwealth announced the funding of several projects throughout the State, ours being one of them. The long awaited funding was announced through a press release on July 31st, 2025 and the Emerson Homes is closer to being a reality. A link to the announcement follows.

<https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-announces-182-million-for-1245-new-rental-homes>



Hello Everyone,

I'm pleased to be able to say that the Fair Booth sign ups are now live! We're using a new tool this year, Signup.com. If you responded to our survey in the spring, now you can select your positions and dates and times.

We're hopeful that by starting the sign up process early and re-aligning the shifts it will be easier for groups and families to participate. I've always viewed the Fair Booth as our biggest and longest fellowship

August 10: Hosts needed

August 17: Jane and Bruce Jones

August 24: Susan and Joe Gibbons

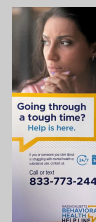
September 7: Last "LOL" – Hosts needed

September 14: Homecoming and Brunch Potluck

Please email Nancy Nelson to sign up: nbnelson21@gmail.com

Many thanks,

Members of the Board of Community and Communications



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#)

Parish Care Ministry

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



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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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event. Get ready to don gloves and aprons and a name tag and come on down for some Prize Winning Fun!

The link is here:

<https://signup.com/go/rdisfUZ>

You can also find it at the top of the home page on the Church website.

[Home](#) | [topsfieldchurch](#)

Thanks in advance,
Charlie Itz, Sign Up Coordinator

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

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