



InSpire Weekly News & Updates

November 23, 2022 / Issue 99

Join Our Mailing List

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](#).

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 27th
First Sunday of Advent
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse

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

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

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

Sunday, December 11th
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 10th 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 18th-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 18th
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Service at 9:30am in the
Meetinghouse
**Annual "Pick Up" Christmas Pageant
Luncheon Coffee Hour in Fellowship
Hall**

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
at 5pm and 10pm in the
Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
Service at 9:30am in the
Meetinghouse

Sunday, January 1st
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

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 11th.
(Order forms will be included inside
the Sunday bulletin.)

To order please contact:
Ruth Bortzfield

· Email your order
to: 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!



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 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.

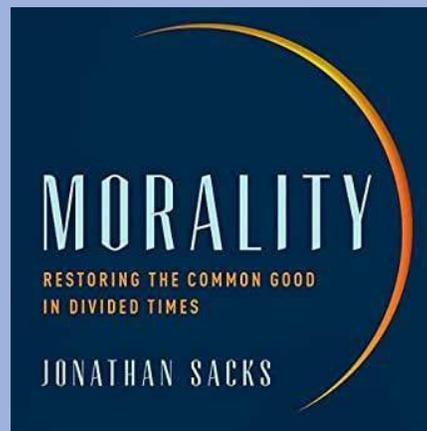
It was so good seeing so many of you at the fair booth back in September/October, where we had a fun time working alongside numerous CCT volunteers, while catching up on each others lives. We enjoyed the conversations very much, and never would have been able to reconnect with as many of you as we have 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
Barbara Barnes, member, Nominating Committee: mombarnes@mac.com
Jim Barnes, Chair, Board of Deacons: deacons@topsfieldchurch.org
Bruce Jones, Chair, Board of Trustees: trustees@topsfieldchurch.org
Joe Gibbons, Chair, Board of Mission and Outreach: missionandoutreach@topsfieldchurch.org
Christy Redding, Chair, Board of Children and Youth: childrenandyouth@topsfieldchurch.org
Alison Hardy and Charlotte Melling, Co-Chairs, Board of Community and Communications: 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.

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!

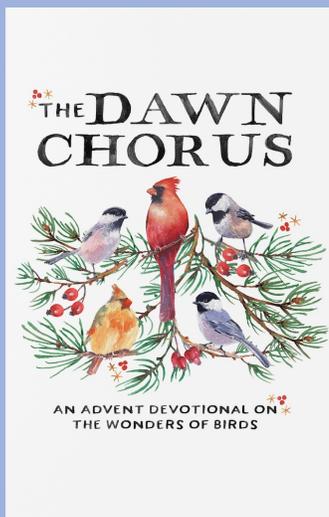
Warmly,

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



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.

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!



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!!

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.



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



UCC
Newsletter [page](#)



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

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