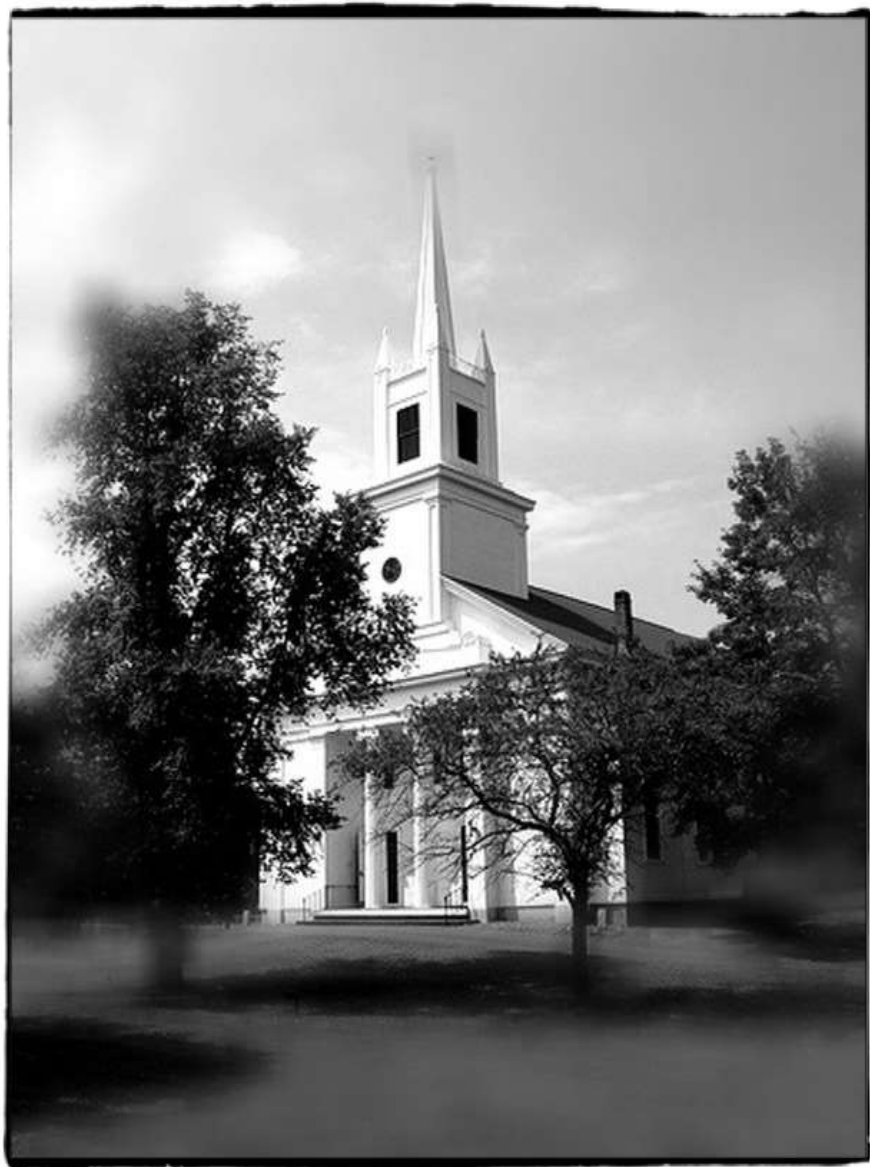


The Congregational Church
of
Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of
the United Church of Christ*



ORDER OF WORSHIP
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 7, 2022
9:30 am

*Masking during worship will be optional through the end of August, except during the singing of the Doxology and hymns.
We ask when you are singing to wear a face mask and please respect social distancing.
Please do not leave your seating area, during Passing of the Peace.*

PRELUDE "Holy Manna" Attributed to William Moore

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Lay Reader, Sheryl Knutsen

Leader: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with your entire mind. And, your neighbor you shall love as yourself.

People: Grounded in gratitude, revealed through prayer, we are ready to live by faith. "Show us, gracious God, how to love you, love ourselves, and love all of our neighbors faithfully."

Leader: In doing this, we will experience eternal life.

All: May it be so!

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON):

God of Love, our hearts have been lifted with thanksgiving and praise. Before your majestic creation, we are amazed. We know that you are faithful to the covenant between us even when we question our commitment to you. You have made it clear that you love all of your people. You show us that in order to live together we must share the abundant love that you provide. When we depart from your will return us to harmony with all that is right and good and ethical. Remind us that as you dwell within our souls it is up to us to reveal your love by all we say or do. Shake us out of complacency, and surprise us with the wealth of goodness that we can share. As we honor our faith in Christ help us to live with the faith of Christ for it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Northfield" Jeremiah Installs

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him* all creatures here below; praise Him* above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen**

*You may substitute God/Her **You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
PREPARATION OF THE ELEMENTS
THE INVITATION**

Zoom and TV attendees: Participants will prepare and supply their own bread and cup. It is your choice if you want to physically break your own bread during communion or prepare it beforehand and eat and drink what you have prepared when asked to do so. We eat the bread while focusing on our individual and unique relationship with God and drink the cup together, expressing that we are one in the Spirit of Christ.

WORDS OF INVITATION:

Rev. Jack Soper

In the name of the One who said, 'I am the bread of life',
We invite you to come and eat.
In the name of the One who said, 'I am the true vine',
We invite you to come and drink.
In the name of the One who said, "Love one another, as I have loved you",
We invite you to the table of Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON):

Gracious God, Living, Eternal Spirit, we thank you that you seek us in tender loving care, and feed us at your table. Help us, in the same way to reach out toward those who may feel alienated or excluded from human community. Send us forth into the world, awake to your wonders and open to the signs of hope around us. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN
Hymn #411 (Chalice Hymnal)

"For the Bread, Which You Have Broken"
View page 5 (verses 1 and 3)

AGAPE

SERMON TITLE

"Living the Faith of Christ"

Rev. Jack Soper

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 2:15-21, 3:23-29 (NJB)
View page 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts)

Our Father*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*You may substitute Creator/Mother/Maker, etc as you choose in saying the prayer.

CLOSING HYMN
Hymn #549 (Methodist Hymnal)

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"
View page 6

ST. PETER

Scripture Reading

Galatians 2:15-21, 3:23-29 (NJB)

Galatians 2:15-21 ‘Though we were born Jews and not pagan sinners, 16 we acknowledge that what makes a man righteous is not obedience to the Law, but faith in Jesus Christ. We had to become believers in Christ Jesus no less than you had, and now we hold that faith in Christ rather than fidelity to the Law is what justifies us, and that no one can be justified[*c] by keeping the Law. 17 Now if we were to admit that the result of looking to Christ to justify us is to make us sinners like the rest, it would follow that Christ had induced us to sin, which would be absurd. 18 If I were to return to a position I had already abandoned, I should be admitting I had done something wrong. 19 In other words, through the Law I am dead to the Law, so that now I can live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, 20 and I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live in faith: faith in the Son of God who loved me and who sacrificed himself for my sake. 21 I cannot bring myself to give up God’s gift: if the Law can justify us, there is no point in the death of Christ.’

3:23-29 Before faith came, we were allowed no freedom by the Law; we were being looked after till faith was revealed. 24 The Law was to be our guardian until the Christ came and we could be justified by faith. 25 Now that that time has come we are no longer under that guardian, 26 and you are, all of you, sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, 28 and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 Merely by belonging to Christ you are the posterity of Abraham, the heirs he was promised.

For the Bread, Which You Have Broken 411

1. For the bread, which you have broken, for the
 2. By these pledges that you love us, by your
 3. In your service, Lord, defend us; help us

wine, which you have poured, for the words, which you have
 gift of peace restored, by your call to heaven a -
 to obey your word; in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, con - se - crate our lives, O Lord.
 send us let your will be done, O Lord.

WORDS: Louis F. Benson, 1924, alt.
 MUSIC: Charles J. Dickinson, 1861

AGAPE
 87.87

Alt. tune: KINGDOM

549 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there
 2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true
 3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as
 4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let
 5. Let us re - call that in our midst dwells
 6. Love can ex - clude no race or creed if

God is ev - er found; brought here to - geth - er
 char - i - ty we learn; let us with heart and
 we our faults con - fess; and let us love each
 all con - ten - tion cease; be Christ the glo - ry
 God's be - got - ten Son; as mem - bers of his
 hon - ored be God's name; our com - mon life em -

by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
 mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.
 oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek, be ours his ho - ly peace.
 bod - y joined, we are in him made one.
 brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

Congregational Church of Topsfield

Parish Care Ministry

Prayer List Contact:

Kim Itz at prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org or 978 887-6567.

Healing Scripture:

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" Matthew 14:14

Healing Prayer:

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servant trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let him be filled with patience and joy in your presence as he waits for your healing touch.

Please Pray For:

Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra
Karen Burnett - Member of CCOT
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway
Stoney Stonestreet - Member of CCOT
Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT
Edward and Memory Matavhunye and their community – President of the UCC in Zimbabwe
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber
Stephen & Judith Carnahan - Friends of Stephen Moore
Paul Rogers - Father of Tony Rogers
Helen Talberth - Member of CCOT
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT
Ralph & Diana Titus - Members of CCOT
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones
Rich Hopkins - Member of CCOT
Chuck Schwab - Friend of Charles Mathison
John Stein - Brother in Law of Susan Warner

David Pike - Brother of Susan Warner
Brett Hoover - Grandson of Fred & Carole Hoover
Steve Wilson and Family - Friends and former neighbors of Kim & Charlie Itz
Richard Duncan - Neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones
Stephen Moore - Member of CCOT
Mark Gosbee - Son of Judi & Gary Gosbee
Roberto Chong - Uncle of Kim Love
John & Laurie Rowen - Friends of Cathy Imboden, Mary Jelinek & Sue Panella
Sally Garnett - Sister of Cathy Imboden
Fred Hoover - Member of CCOT
Kay Hagar - Member of CCOT
Ken Flewelling - Member of CCOT
Paul Worth - Husband of Claudia Worth
Earl Pickel - Friend of Ruth Bortzfield
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT

The Congregational Church of Topsfield August Birthdays



Happy Birthday to:

Jane Moyer: 08/02
Daniel Rando: 08/03
Deborah Baker: 08/06
Dennis Heslet: 08/07
Janet Ierardi: 08/07
Ed Jelinek: 08/08
Lucy Grajal: 08/12
Jim Barnes: 08/13
Lisa Spaulding: 08/14
Susan Panella: 08/17
Robert Knutsen: 08/19
Kim Itz: 08/20
Charles Itz: 08/24
Jerry Seaman: 08/26
Kenny Ierardi: 08/28
Craig Stoops: 08/29
Tom Cass: 08/30
Jeff Daniels: 08/30
Ralph Titus: 08/30
Irina Gunzel Guerra: 08/31



Please welcome our guest minister, Reverend Jack Soper!

Rev. Jack Soper, a retired Elder in the North Texas Conference, was the Senior Pastor of Arapaho United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas where he served for twenty-four years. He is the organizing pastor of Holy Covenant UMC in Carrollton, Texas where he served for eighteen years. Jack holds degrees in psychology, philosophy, and a Masters of Theology in Biblical Research from Boston University School of Theology. He has been involved in issues of social justice for his entire ministry with emphasis on refugee immigration, the death penalty, racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights and interfaith dialogue. For eight years Jack served as the chairperson of the Commission of Church and Society for the Texas Conference of Churches, the State's ecumenical organization. Jack is an instructor in the Course of Study Program for the North Texas Conference where for 18 years he has taught courses in Christian Ethics, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and Theology for the Contemporary Church. He is married to Rev. Marti Soper, also an ordained United Methodist minister and former Director for the North Texas Conference Center for Leadership Development. They have four adult children and eight amazing grandchildren. Jack and Marti have lived in Topsfield for just one year.

SERVING THIS MORNING

Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato
Sheryl Knutsen
Ruth Bortzfield
Joan Larson

Altar Guild
Lay Reader
Head Usher
Usher

Senior Minister

Martin Riekert, 978-887-2101
martin@topsfieldchurch.org

Associate Minister

For Children & Youth Ministry
Amy A. Bruch, 978-887-2101
amy@topsfieldchurch.org

Music Director and Organist

Jackson Carruthers, 978-887-2101
jackson@topsfieldchurch.org

Communications & Office Manager

Kim Love, 978-887-2101
kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

Joyful Noises Preschool

Yvonne Beirne, 978-848-2018
joyfulnoisestopsfield@gmail.com

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