



The Congregational Church of Topsfield

United Church of Christ | Founded 1663 | An Open and Affirming Congregation

9 E Common Street, Topsfield, MA 01983
(978) 887-2101 | office@topsfield-ucc.org
Topsfieldchurch.org

August 9, 2026

THIS WEEK

Sunday – 8/9

9:30am Worship
11am Uke Rehearsal (Parlor)

Monday – 8/10

10:30-11:30am Staff Meeting
(Zoom)
5-7pm Parlor Rental

Tuesday – 8/11

5-7pm Parlor Rental

Wednesday – 8/12

1-2pm Knitting (Parlor)
4-7pm Parlor Rental

Thursday – 8/13

9am-12pm Joyful Noises (Chapel)
9:30-11am Emily JN (Parlor)
4:30-7:30pm Parlor Rental
5:30-7pm Caleb Group (FH)

Friday – 8/14

Office Closed

Saturday – 8/15

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Sunday – 8/16

9:30am Worship
11am-12:30pm Church Chat –
Immigration (Parlor)

WELCOME

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Topsfield. Each week we gather for worship as a spiritual practice. We sing, pray, listen, learn, and encourage one another as we seek to follow the way of Jesus. We re-ground ourselves in the story of God's love, gaining strength from community so that we can share that love with the world when we leave.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TODAY

Welcome! Children are a valued part of our worshipping community. Whether your family is here every week or visiting for the first time, we hope you'll feel at home. Worship is for all ages, and we're grateful you're here. During the summer, children remain in worship with their families.

We do not currently provide nursery care, but infants and toddlers are always welcome in worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult" Alexander/Jude

Welcome & Greeting Rev. Kate Dalton

Passing of the Peace

Musical Response*

Gathered here in the mystery of this hour

Gathered here in one strong body

Gathered here in the struggle and the power

Spirit draw near

Call to Worship

Rev. Kate Dalton

One: When the winds of life rise around us, where do we turn?

All: We turn to the One who says, "Take heart. Do not be afraid."

One: When fear tempts us to stay where it is safe,

All: Christ calls us to step forward in faith.

One: God is with us in calm waters and stormy seas.

All: We come to worship the One who never lets us go.

Opening Hymn*

Hymn Sing

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Lay Reader, Dolly McIlvaine

Gracious God, we gather to give You thanks for Your faithful love, made known to us through Jesus. Open our eyes and hearts to Your presence among us. Give us courage to trust You and to follow where You lead. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
printed on page 4

Lay Reader, Dolly McIlvaine

Scripture Reading

Matthew 14:22-33
printed on page 5

Lay Reader, Dolly McIlvaine

Sermon

Rev. Kate Dalton

Hymn of Response*

"Seek Ye First"
Hymn #405

SEEK YE

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The pastor leads the congregation in prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer (debts) in unison:

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 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.

The Offertory

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

Smith/Gladden

Doxology*

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.

Prayer of Dedication*

Closing Hymn*

Hymn Sing

Benediction*

Rev. Kate Dalton

Postlude

“Standing on the Promises”

Russell Kelso Carter

*Please stand if it's comfortable for you

*Join us for Lemonade on the Lawn immediately following the service
on the front lawn of the Meeting House.*

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 - New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

37 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. 2 These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe.[a] 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." 14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, 15 and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" 16 "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." 17 The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

21 But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." 22 Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe[a] that he wore, 24 and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. 28 When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Matthew 14:22-33 - New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,[a] for the wind was against them.

25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind,[b] he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

Emerson Homes Update Meeting | Thursday, August 13, 5:30-7pm | Fellowship Hall

Neighbors and community members are invited to learn more about the Emerson Homes project as construction prepares to begin. Representatives from the project will provide an update, explain the next steps, and answer questions. All are welcome.

Church Chat: Immigration & Faith | Sunday, August 16, 11am | Emerson Center Parlor

Join us for conversation about immigration, faith, and the experiences of our neighbors. Together we'll listen, ask honest questions, and reflect on how our faith calls us to respond. All are welcome.

Homecoming Sunday | Sunday, September 13, 9:30am

Save the date as we begin a new program year together. We'll reconnect after the summer, welcome one another back, and begin another season of growing in faith together.

Mission Trip Sunday | Sunday, September 20, 9:30am

Join us as members of our Guatemala mission team share stories of partnership, faith, and what they learned while serving alongside our partners at ODIM.

Intergenerational Worship | Sunday, September 27, 9:30am

Save the date for the first intergenerational worship service of the year.

STAY CONNECTED

Continue the conversation throughout the week. Visit topsfieldchurch.org, subscribe to our weekly email, and follow us on Facebook for reflections from Rev. Kate, ministry updates, upcoming events, and ways to stay connected with the life of our congregation.

Need more info or assistance? Be in touch.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Kate Dalton | kate@topsfieldchurch.org

Director of Children & Youth: Kim Love | kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

Music Director Jackson Carruthers | jackson@topsfieldchurch.org

Communications & Office Manager: Kim Love

Office phone number: 978-887-2101 **Office email:** office@topsfieldchurch.org

Our offices are located at 9 E. Common Street.

Regular summer office hours, Monday-Thursday 10am-1pm. Also available by appointment.

Prayer Listing Contact:

Kim Itz at: prayerlisting@topsfeldchurch.org

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 servants trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let all be filled with patience and joy in your presence as they wait for your healing touch.

Please Pray For:

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT
Diana Titus - Member of CCOT
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT
Phyllis Heslet - Member of CCOT
Marilyn Knowles - Member of CCOT
Fred Hoover - Member of CCOT
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz
Katy Fleming - Mother of Kim Itz
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber
Roger Talbot - Husband of Joyce Talbot
Chloe - Great-great-niece of Diana Titus
Kevin Goldenbogen - Former Youth Leader at CCOT
Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway
Rick Anderson - Friend of CCOT
Kay - Family friend of Ellie Losee

Pete - Friend of Charlotte & Duane Melling
Nancy Woolford - Friend of CCOT
Margie & Vince Castellonet - Neighbors of Jane & Bruce Jones
Nancy - Friend of Julie Quinlivan
Leah Helms - Sister-in-law of Kim Love
Scott Wilson - Friend of Gary & Judi Gosbee
Laurie Rowen - Friend of Cathy Imboden, Mary Jelinek & Sue Panella
Eddie Callahan - Friend of Mary & Ed Jelinek
Peig Fairbrook - Aunt of Nora O'Farrell
Alejandro Chong - Uncle of Kim Love
Raul Chong - Uncle of Kim Love
Luke Maynard - Friend of the Barnes Family
Jeannette Floto and Family - Friends of Charise Rohm Nulsen
Aiden K – Friend of the Voss Family
