



## The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

November 16, 2023 / Issue 150

Join Our Mailing List

Visit our website



**Sunday Morning**  
Join us for worship  
online and in person.  
View the Zoom [link](#)  
and Sunday's service  
order [here](#).



**Parent Connections:**  
**Parenting through Anxiety**  
**Thursday, November 16th**  
**7:00pm–8:30PM**

Small group in-person session,  
Tri-Town Council  
7 Grove St., Topsfield



Citizens Inn

Program Description:

## Thanksgiving Food Drive 2023

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is the holiday to express our gratitude for our blessings and share generously with those in need. CCoT will be collecting food again this year for our mission partner, *Citizens Inn/Haven from Hunger*. Rachel Leibowitz, Senior Development Officer at Citizens Inn, will update our congregation on their efforts during worship service on Sunday, November 19th.

**From now through November 19th, you can bring shopping bags with food and place them at the entrance to the office at the Emerson Center.** (Members of BOMO will make sure they are stored inside.) A truck from Citizens Inn will pick up our donations on Monday, November 20th. Please fill your shopping bags with nutritious items for those experiencing food insecurity. **MAKE SURE TO CHECK EXPIRATION DATES...EXPIRED GOODS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Please visit [here](#) to view suggested items to donate.

Additional information about Citizens Inn and Haven from Hunger can be found at this link: <https://www.citizensinn.org/> Please join the Board of Mission and Outreach in filling the pantry to overflowing for the upcoming holiday season!

*–The Board of Mission and Outreach*

*Thank you!*



### Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving offering will go to "Refugee Immigration Ministries North Shore" to assist with the cost of moving a new RIM family into their apartment in Beverly.

Do you or your child struggle with anxiety? Navigating anxiety is challenging, and caring for an anxious child can exacerbate our own anxiety as parents. When you're feeling anxious it can be much harder to help your anxious child.

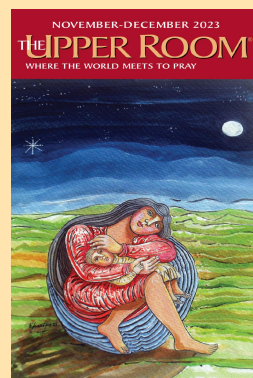
Join local Parenting Coach Mel Peirce for a small group discussion on how to parent through it.

Together, we will learn:

- what causes anxiety in your brain
- how to effectively work through it
- how to more effectively manage your own anxiety
- how to support your kids through it

Parenting is hard, and you don't have to go it alone! Join us and share your experiences & insights with other parents & caregivers, learn new tools, access resources and find support!

[Register Here](#)



### The Upper Room November/December Magazine Is Now Available!

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is devoted to connecting people around the world through encouraging stories of God's love and faithfulness.

Each issue of this devotional contains daily meditations written by readers—people who experience the challenges and triumphs of daily life.

Starting on Sunday, November 19th, we will have several copies available in the narthex/lobby of the Meetinghouse.



Contributions may be made by check to Congregational Church of Topsfield with a note "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo line. Special envelopes are available (but not required) in the Meetinghouse and in the church office.

Thank you!

---



### **Gifts of Love December 10th**

Our church will donate "Gifts of Love" to the Department of Children and Families on the North Shore who will distribute them to needy families with young children.

If you would like to help, please visit the "Custom Gift List" under "Joe Gibbons" through the Amazon link [here](#).

Simply click on the picture of the gift to purchase it. You may click the "edit" button to see the name, gender, and age of the child. Upon payment, the item will be delivered to the Emerson Center office.

If you prefer, you may send a check made out to Congregational Church of Topsfield with "Gifts of Love" in the memo line. The Board of Missions and Outreach will purchase items for the children that are unavailable through Amazon.

**Please note that we will wrap all items in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 10, and deliver them to DCF in Amesbury shortly afterwards.**

Thanks for your generosity.  
*Board of Mission and Outreach*

---

## **Boys and Girls Fall and Winter Clothing Collections for Community Giving Tree**

**Children's fall and winter clothing from newborn to size 7 is now needed at Community Giving Tree. Also, large size diapers size 4 and up including pull-ups are needed.**

Giving centers are located in Boxford and Lawrence. They accept children's sizes, which are 0-3 months through teen sizes.

These clothes are bundled by size and given to low income families in Northeastern Massachusetts. They also accept baby equipment like car seats and baby cribs.

**Please deliver your donations to the Boxford Giving Center or leave them on the Emerson Center side porch.**

Call Mary Jelinek at: 978-376-6829 if you have questions.

Thank you!

---



### **CCT Masking Policy**

#### **Preserving the Health of the Congregation During Worship**

It appears that the respiratory illness season has already gotten underway in the New England area. Consequently, the Board of Deacons would like to remind everyone that the following measures may help to prevent the spread of infections of any type amongst the attendees at Sunday worship:

1) The wearing of good quality masks is effective in preventing the spread of illness from one to another, perhaps in preventing the acquisition of disease. The wearing of masks at worship will continue to be voluntary and participants are welcome to wear masks at any time.





## Christmas Eve Update

It's not too early to make plans for Christmas. This year we will have **one** Christmas Eve worship. **It will be at 5:30 PM on December 24th.** We will have readings and carols, participation by the chancel choir and bell choir, and conclude with candle lighting. We will do our best to celebrate and respect different worship preferences while creating room for participation for all ages. The service will also be broadcasted on Zoom. Let the faithful come and gather in joyful celebration.

---



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas Concert will take place on **December 17th at 7:00 P.M.** and feature music by Handel and Mozart presented by the CCoT choir and professional orchestra and vocal soloists. Make sure to mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to this splendid event that will also include singing of traditional carols by all.

We are looking to build and expand upon the success of last year's concert and create a lasting tradition of excellence. To that end, we are raising funds in the amount of \$3,500 to support the cost of the concert and we have some contributions already – please use the white envelopes in the pew, or mail to office or use electronic system on our web site.

**Any and all donations towards this goal are gratefully accepted. Please earmark any donation as**  
**"Christmas Concert 2023."**

James Barnes  
Chair, Board of Deacons  
John Szymanski

2) Close contact with another can result in spread of disease so shaking hands or other direct contact should be avoided. As always careful handwashing or use of hand sanitizers is effective in preventing the spread of and acquisition of disease.

3) One should not attend in person worship if one feels ill in any way. Please utilize the Zoom app or watch worship on Community TV which is broadcast live. (Comcast Channel 8 or Verizon Channel 45 (<http://www.boxfordcabletv.com>). The Zoom link goes out to members in a separate email every Saturday with a "Link To..." subject.

4) Vaccination, with the latest version of COVID-19 vaccines, influenza vaccines, and possibly even the RSV vaccine, remains the best way to prevent serious consequences of any of those diseases. We encourage everyone to keep current with these vaccinations.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Deacons

---



## Our Church is Instagram Official!

We are happy to announce that CCoT is now on Instagram! Please visit this [link](#) to follow our page and be kept up-to-date on our church activities.

Our BCC board member, Annie Badavas Wyatt, who grew up in our church but now lives in NC, is administrating our Instagram community page.

Please send her any pictures of church events with a short blurb about them. Photos can be sent directly to Annie at: [abadavas@gmail.com](mailto:abadavas@gmail.com) or via text at: 917-972-5322.

Please check out our Instagram and follow us: @CongregationalTopsfield

Thank you!

---



### Time to Order Poinsettias

Please consider purchasing  
a plant or two  
to enhance our festive  
Christmas Decorations,  
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 10<sup>th</sup>.**  
(Order forms will be included inside the  
Sunday bulletins.)

To order please contact:  
**Sandy Whelan**

· Email your order  
to: [sandyw7@verizon.net](mailto:sandyw7@verizon.net)  
or

· Mail your order to:  
Sandy Whelan, 37 Kinsman Lane,  
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



### About the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) is here to connect you directly to clinical help, when and where you need it. Even if you're not sure what kind of help or treatment you may need, we can help guide you.

- It's free, confidential, and no health insurance is required.
- Real-time interpretation in 200+ languages
- Deaf or hard of hearing?  
Contact [MassRelay at 711](#)

*The Behavioral Health Help Line is a service of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, operated by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP).*

Click [here](#) to learn more.

---



### Update..... Our Church Website Now Has a Blog!

Please visit this link below to read more.

<https://www.topsfieldchurch.org/blog>

---

read "In celebration of the birth of Jesus."

- Number of Plants
- Payment Amount

(Poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas Eve service or left for shut-ins. If you do not wish to take your poinsettia home, please indicate.)

Thank you!



### Coffee Hour Update

Please join us for the following Coffee Hours in the Fellowship Hall following service.

11/19- Charlotte Melling and Cathy Szymanski  
12/3- Alison Miller  
12/10- Sallie Bowling and BCC...  
Cookie Swap! Details coming soon!  
12/17-Volunteer host needed

If you would like to volunteer, please email Nancy Nelson at:  
[nbnelson21@gmail.com](mailto:nbnelson21@gmail.com)  
or sign-up during Coffee Hour.

Thank you!



### Sunday Service Telecast and Registration:

Please visit our homepage at [topsfieldchurch.org](http://topsfieldchurch.org) to learn more about our telecasted Sunday services and registration for more access to CCoT's community.

### 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

[Unsubscribe office@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:unsubscribe@topsfieldchurch.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:office@topsfieldchurch.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!