



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

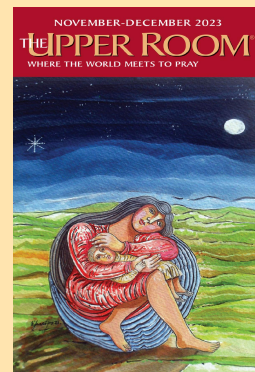
November 30, 2023 / Issue 152

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](#).



The Upper Room
November/December Magazine
Is Now Available!

2023 Advent/Christmas Gatherings at the Congregational Church of Topsfield

Sunday, December 3rd
First Sunday of Advent
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 10th
Second Sunday of Advent/
Christmas Pageant
Service at 9:30am at the Fellowship Hall
(BCC Cookie Swap, "Gifts for Love" and
Christmas card signing
following service)

Sunday, December 17th
Third Sunday of Advent
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 17th
Congregational Church of Topsfield
Christmas Concert at 7pm in the
Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 24th
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at
5:30pm in the Meetinghouse
(No morning service)

Sunday, December 31st
First Sunday after Christmas
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse

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.



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



Christmas Card Signing

Join us on Sunday morning after service in the Fellowship Hall on **December 3rd and December 10th** to sign Christmas cards for our homebound members and members who have moved away from our area. Help us keep in touch with those members who have contributed so much to our church community.

Parish Care



Gifts of Love December 10th

Meet Toni and Yesenia from the Department of Children and Families who partner with social workers to receive gift requests from children in DCF. They develop lists which go out to volunteer organizations such as our church for purchase by the organization, in our case, our membership. Our list of gifts contains 80 items and we have purchased only about one-third of those so far. Please take a look at the available items and choose one or more, knowing that that a child will appreciate it.

If you would like to help, please visit the "Custom Gift List" under "Joe Gibbons" through the Amazon link [here](#). Please join us on Sunday, December 10th to help wrap the toys. We thank you for your continued

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.

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!**

support of this and many other missions.

Board of Mission and Outreach



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
Chair, Music Committee
Jackson Carruthers
Music Director and Organist



Christmas Eve Update

This year we will have **one** Christmas Eve worship.
It will be at 5:30 PM on December 24th.

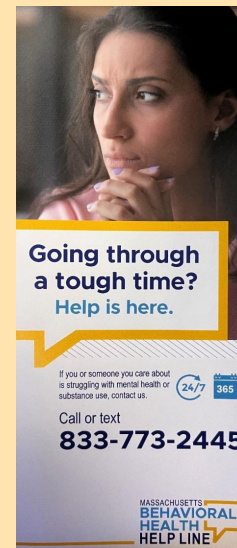
We are happy to announce that CCoT is now on Instagram! Please visit this [link](#) to follow our page and be kept up-to date on our church activities.

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 or via text at: 917-972-5322.

Please check out our Instagram and follow us: @CongregationalTopsfield

Thank you!



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).

(There will be no morning service)

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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.



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

Please visit this link below to read more.

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



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 10th.
(Order forms will be included inside the Sunday bulletins.)

**To order please contact:
Sandy Whelan**

· Email your order to: 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



Sunday Service Telecast and Registration:

Please visit our homepage at 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](#)

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 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.

12/3– Alison Miller
12/10– Sallie Bowling and BCC
12/17–**Volunteer host needed**

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

Thank you!

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

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