



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

November 6, 2025 / Issue 251

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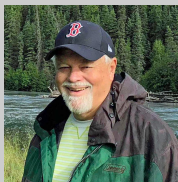
Visit our website



Sunday Morning

Join us for worship
online
and in person.
View the
Zoom link for the

Sunday Service [here](#)
Sunday's bulletin [here](#)



Some mid-week thoughts from Dave

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the
Congregational Church of Topsfield:

This story is my last for the Topsfield
congregation, but when I read through
it, I had to save it for one of my

Refugee Immigration Ministry



39th Anniversary International Dinner & Silent Auction.

The Refugee Immigration Ministry invites you to their 39th Anniversary International Dinner.
Your continued support welcomes Asylum Seekers to live among us safely.

November 16, 2025

6:00pm-8:00pm (Doors open 5:30 pm)

First Parish of Arlington
630 Massachusetts Ave Arlington, MA, 02476



Sharing the Gifts of Our Diverse Cultures

Adults: \$40.00

Students: \$20.00

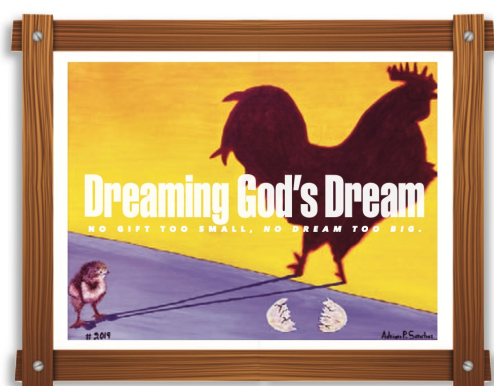
For more information contact: Refugee Immigration Ministry, 6 Pleasant St., Suite 227, Malden, MA 02148.
Phone: 781-322-1011. Website: www.r-i-m.net

**Refugee Immigration Ministry
39th Anniversary International Dinner
and Silent Auction
Arlington, MA November 16th,
6-8pm**

weekly emails. It is longer, but this is my final Thursday Message to CCoT. Enjoy!

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well. Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWII, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs and drug activity.

Click [here](#) to read more.



Feeding the 5000

CAN ONE SMALL GIFT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AT ALL?

All the Gospels tell the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people (John 6:1-14) with only five loaves and two fish. But the Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy. Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. As Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade observes, "Like the folk story of Stone Soup where travelers ask for a large kettle and a stone as a starter for the community stew, we might imagine Jesus calling for a basket to pass around the food. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the

If you would like to purchase tickets, please email Cathy Imboden at: cbimboden@gmail.com

Women's Breakfast and Pumpkin Flower Arrangement Saturday, November 22nd, 10:00am



The Women's Ministry will be hosting a time for fun and fellowship as we gather to make pumpkin centerpieces just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday! All are welcome to join us on Saturday, November 22nd at 10:00am, however space is limited to 25. (\$15.00 donation for each pumpkin.)

Checks can be made out to:
"Congregational Church of Topsfield"
and dropped off at the church office.

Please note "pumpkin arrangement" in the memo line.
If you are registering for guests, please list each person separately...

Please RSVP to Dolly McIlvaine by November 15th.
mciltopsfield@comcast.net



Citizens Inn/ Haven from Hunger Thanksgiving Food Drive 2025

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*.

From November 2nd through November 23rd, 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 24th. 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.

basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!"

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kin-dom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation. But like the Feeding of the 5000, God's amazing work begins with our small gifts.

What might God do with what you have to offer?

**CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT
OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.**

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our
congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Dreaming God's Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

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

Thank you!

~The Board of Mission and Outreach



2025 Thanksgiving Offering

Our Thanksgiving offering will go to Citizens Inn – Haven from Hunger. Contributions may be made by check to:
Congregational Church of Topsfield
with a note "Thanksgiving" in the memo line. Special envelopes are available (but not required) in the Meetinghouse and in the church office.

Thank you!



Sunday School Sunday, November 9th

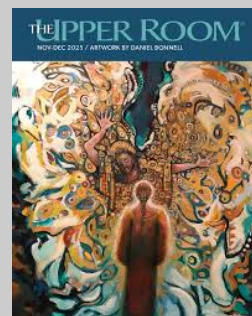
Children in grades K–6th grade attend the Sunday service at 9:30am with their families and an announcement will be made to meet in the narthex (lobby).

All visitors are welcome to attend!



Pastor's Bible Study for the Fall Season ... The Message of the Beatitudes Last class, Sunday, Nov. 9th

Dr. VanArsdale will be leading the last class from 11:00am–12:00pm in the Emerson Center Parlor on The Message of the Beatitudes. The Class will include reflections on the most meaningful teachings of Jesus. We will



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.

Several copies are now available in the narthex/lobby of the Meetinghouse.

seek to connect the messages of the Beatitudes with our everyday lives. What did Jesus try to say using the beautiful phrases that all begin with "Blessed ...?" What might those teachings say to us in our lives and in our age. Come join in some great fellowship as we explore the deeper meanings of the scriptures.



Coffee Hour

Nov. 9: Cathy and John Szymanski

Nov. 16: Intergenerational Family Service, Parents of Youth Hosting

Nov. 23: Need Hosts

Nov. 30: Need Hosts (First Sunday of Advent)

Please email Nancy Nelson to sign up:
nbnelson21@gmail.com

Many thanks,
Members of the Board of Community and Communications



CCoT Intergenerational Family Worship Service

November 16th at 9:30am
Emerson Center Fellowship Hall

Come join us for some lively band music, an interactive sermon and fellowship.
Coffee hour begins at 9am. Food will be provided by the CCoT youth families.

Also, we will have some raffles and a Prayer Shawl Ministry Fundraiser that will take place throughout the service- cash and check only.



CCoT Intergenerational Family Service
November 16th at 9:30am
Emerson Center Fellowship Hall

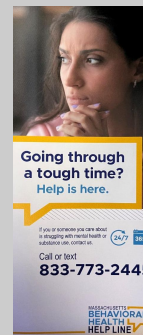
Sacred Spaces/Sacred Stories

Please join us for a
Women's Ministry Workshop
Saturday, January 24, 2026 9:00am-1:00pm
Fellowship Hall – Emerson Center
(Light morning refreshments will be served as well as a light lunch of soup and bread.)



What happens when an ordinary wooded ravine speaks volumes about the presence of the Divine Spirit among us?

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to sign up.



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#)

Parish Care Ministry
View the Prayer Listing [page](#) and November birthday [page](#)



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



UCC
Newsletter
[page](#)



Prayer Shawl Ministry Fundraiser November 16th

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to participate in our first fundraiser on **November 16th**. We will display a variety of hand-made items **before and after** the Intergenerational Family Service on November 16th. (See pictures above of some of our items for sale.)

Donations accepted!
(Cash and checks only.)

Look forward to seeing you on the 16th!

~The Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

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