



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

August 28, 2025 / Issue 241

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Sunday Morning

Join us for
worship online
and in person.

View the Zoom link for the Sunday
Service [here](#)
Sunday's bulletin [here](#)

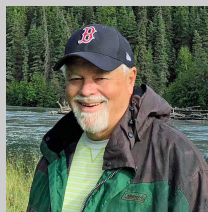


**An important message below
from Jason Ethridge, President of
Lifebridge. The Board of Mission
and Outreach supports their
approach to treating
homelessness and the
marginalized.**

Dear Friends,

Homelessness is not a personal failing. It is the visible sign of many invisible fractures: the shortage of safe, affordable housing, the collapse of mental health resources, the underfunding of addiction treatment, the widening gap between wages and the cost of living, and the erosion of the community bonds that once held us together.

When we see our family, friends, and neighbors who are experiencing homelessness treated as a problem to



Some mid-week thoughts from Dave

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Wow, are we the lucky ones today. Just follow where these thoughts take us.
Let me begin with a story about a very

special end of summer party invitation. A wealthy California businessman who decided to host a very spectacular party as only a Californian with significant means could host such a party. As part of the night's entertainment he invited people out to the backyard and to his swimming pool. His guests quickly noticed that the pool was filled with sharks, barracuda and other assorted dangerous fish. No kidding ... dangerous fish in the swimming pool. The host then announced a challenge to his guests for anyone to swim one length of the pool. The reward to the first person achieving this feat would be a choice of either a home in the mountains or a trip around the world for two. The host suggested with great arrogance that his accountant had suggested that each prize was worth \$1,000,000.

No sooner had the party's host finished explaining the contest when a splash was heard and a man was swimming the length of the pool. To everyone's amazement, the man made it to the other end unscathed. "That was a stunning performance, young man," the wealthy host told the dripping swimmer. "Which prize do you want?" The man, responding while still breathing very hard, said, "Right now I don't really care about any prize. I just want to get the name of that turkey that pushed me in!" Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Sunday School Classes Will Resume on September 21st

Please contact the Church office if you would like to learn more about our Sunday School program.
office@topsfieldchurch.org



Emerson Center Office Update

be "removed" rather than as people to be supported, we must decide what role we will play. Will we stand silently on the sidelines, assuming someone else will speak? Or will we step forward, refusing to let compassion be drowned out by fear? Let's not fall victim to confusing the symptoms of this tragedy with the actual cause.

At Lifebridge, we have chosen and will continue to choose to act. We choose to see the humanity of every person, to listen to their stories, and to fight for solutions that honor dignity and build hope. We will continue to be an organization that picks-up no matter where our government leaves off, even if it means there is more work to do on our end.

Read more [HERE](#).



An Initiative of the Women's Ministry Building Community Through Conversations that Matter

Two tacit goals of reviving the Women's Ministry have been one, to build a greater supportive community of intergenerational women in the Congregational Church of Topsfield and two, to encourage participation from inactive church members or members of the broader community.

We believe that in our current time and place, people are seeking safe places for compassion, connection and support. After much prayerful reflection and discussion on these two goals, Dolly McIlvaine and Marti Soper recently facilitated a beta group of women in a program we have entitled: "*Building Community Through Conversations that Matter.*"

Our goals in running this test group were to assess whether or not this would be a meaningful experience for the participants and if in fact, the time together strengthened a sense of community among us.

The Emerson Center office will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, September 2nd

Summer office hours are:
Monday–Thursday, 10am–1pm.

Regular office hours will be:
Monday–Friday, 10am–1pm.

Thank you!



CCoT Music Program Update

The Chancel Choir will be meeting again for rehearsals starting on September 4th at 7:30 PM in the Meetinghouse. We will begin singing for Sunday services on Homecoming Sunday, September 14th. CCoT's choir is a welcoming community of dedicated volunteers who provide important and meaningful musical contributions to worship throughout the year from Homecoming to Memorial Day. All who may be interested are welcome to join with us in our ministry of song. No prior choral singing experience is necessary (though the ability to read music is helpful), and it is not necessary to be a member of CCoT to sing in the choir.

If you are interested and have any questions, or know of someone who may be interested in the choir, please contact Jackson Carruthers at: jackson@topsfeldchurch.org.



Hello Everyone,

I'm pleased to be able to say that the Fair Booth sign ups are now live! We're using a new tool this year, Signup.com

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Women's Breakfast/ Mission Moment

The Women's Ministry would like to invite you to join us for a breakfast and Mission Moment on **Saturday, September 6th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall.** We will enjoy a light breakfast followed by presentation by Ellen Bedrosian, Manager of Stewardship and Advancement Services at Lazarus House Ministries, one of our church's mission partners.

As a way to support this program, attendees are asked to bring either new or gently used clothing of any size (with a focus on the cooler weather coming in the fall), toiletries or a canned good or two. The most sought after canned goods include: corn, ravioli, tomatoes, fruit, beans, chicken and tuna fish. If you would prefer, you can make a cash good will donation.

Please RSVP to this event by **September 1st to Dolly McIlvaine at:** mciltopsfield@comcast.net.



Lemonade on the Lawn "LOL"

September 7: Last "LOL" – Leslie Voss hosting
September 14: Homecoming and Brunch Potluck

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

Many thanks,

If you responded to our survey in the spring, now you can select your positions and dates and times.

We're hopeful that by starting the sign up process early and re-aligning the shifts it will be easier for groups and families to participate.

I've always viewed the Fair Booth as our biggest and longest fellowship event. Get ready to don gloves and aprons and a name tag and come on down for some Prize Winning Fun!

The link is here:

<https://signup.com/go/rdisfUZ>

You can also find it at the top of the homer page on the Church website.

[Home](#) | [topsfieldchurch](#)

Thanks in advance,
Charlie Itz, Sign Up Coordinator

Members of the Board of Community and Communications



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#)

Parish Care Ministry

View the Prayer Listing [page](#) and August birthday [page](#)

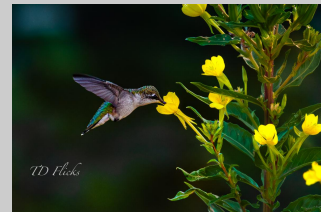


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