



The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

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Sunday Morning

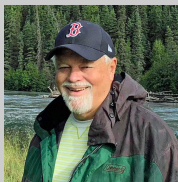
Join us for worship
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View the
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Sunday Service [here](#)
Sunday's bulletin [here](#)



Pastor's Bible Study for the Fall Season ... The Message of the Beatitudes This Sunday, October 26th

Dr. Van Arsdale will be leading a class on **three Sunday Mornings from 11:00—12:00 noon (beginning on October 26th in the Emerson Center Parlor)** on The Message of the Beatitudes. The Class will include the reading of the text in Matthew 5, along with additional readings as we reflect on these most meaningful teachings of Jesus. We will seek to connect the messages of the Beatitudes with our every day 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



Some mid-week thoughts from Dave

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Faith:

I was reading a story recently that got my attention. A young man, George, got his first job as a landscape contractor and it called for him to

remove a stump from a farmer's field. The method of choice called for him to use dynamite for the first time. With the farmer watching, George tried to hide his nervousness by carefully calculating the size of the stump, the proper amount of dynamite, and where to place it. Finally, he and the farmer moved to the detonator behind his pickup truck. With a silent prayer, George plunged the detonator. The stump gracefully rose through the air and then crashed on the cab of the pickup truck. George gazed in despair at the ruined cab, but the farmer was all admiration. Click [here](#) to read more.



The Church Office will be **closed** on **Monday, October 27th** and **Tuesday, October 28th**. Should you have an urgent matter on those days, please contact Rev. Dave VanArsdale at: **(623) 258-7592**

Thank you!



Church Moderator Update

During our recent business meeting, there was a request to review the "call process" and how we interview/call a new minister. At our most recent Council meeting, we discussed the process with the search committee chair and board chairs. Our conclusion was that we will amend the process slightly to introduce the candidate(s) prior to the Sunday of the call sermon. In a reception like event, membership will have the opportunity to meet the prospective minister(s) and have a conversation with them. Church leaders, however, were reluctant to have the candidate(s) attend the

our age. Come join in some great fellowship as we explore the deeper meanings of the scriptures.



Lost and Found

These prescription glasses were found in the Fellowship Hall recently. We are also missing a child's pair of glasses that look identical to these. If they belong to you, please contact the church office at: office@topsfieldchurch.org



Refugee Immigration Ministries

Our church hosted a potluck dinner for Refugee Immigration Ministries (RIM) last Saturday to celebrate the retirement of RIM Cluster Director, Ruth Bersin, and installation of the new Director, Charles Katende, shown here with Cathy Imboden of our Board of Mission and Outreach.



Building and Grounds Update and Volunteer Needed!

~The Emerson Center wheelchair entrance and Meetinghouse ramp were pressure washed. Repairs were also made to the EC ramp.

~Weed/vine overgrowth was cleaned

business meeting that takes place after the "call service."

The reason for this was that they did not want to affect the covenant that is established between church members and the search committee. In other words, the church members should have the trust in the members of the search committee that they will do their due diligence in vetting candidates and present the best candidate for the church. One member of the Council stated: "There is no need to second guess people once you ask them to do a job." For that reason, we will not change our present method of the "call process." Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Steve Whelan
Moderator



Sunday School Sunday, October 26th

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!

up around the parking lot stone walls.

~Need to consider applying a sealcoat to the new cement apron pad outside FH doors.

John Arathuzik, CCoT Church Caretaker, would need a volunteer for 4 hours on a Saturday morning. Please call the church office if you can help.

Thank you!



Coffee Hour

Oct 26: Charlotte and Duane Melling hosting

Nov. 2: Need Hosts

Nov. 9: Need Hosts

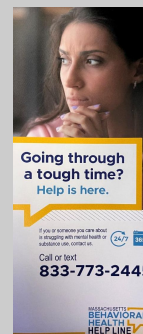
Nov. 16: Intergenerational Family Service, Parents of Youth Hosting

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



The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#)

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

SILENT AUCTION FOR HAITI

Oct. 24, 7–10 PM • 149 Asbury St. S. Hamilton



Let's Do the Packathon Pivot!

It's not a dance, but it is a strategic shift.

For the past six years, neighbors across the North Shore have gathered at Christ Church to pack nutritious lunches for the Light and Peace schoolchildren of St. Louis d'Ayiti, Haiti. This year we are pivoting to direct funding, and must raise \$40,000 for local provisioning of lunches five days a week, all year.

But there *will* be dancing!

Come to our Silent Auction at **Christ Church, 149 Asbury St, South Hamilton, 7–10 pm**. Along with music and dancing, there will be hearty appetizers, art to bid on, and many other wonderful auction items, from vacation spots to show tickets!

To join us on the 24th, scan the QR code—tickets must be purchased by Oct. 20.



Future Forward for Haiti

Here's why we must pivot from packing to funding:

Because of continuing violence around Port-Au-Prince, during the past year we have had to use the northern port of Cap-Haïtien as our entry. The bad news is that this is 200 miles north of "our" school. There is no safe way to transport the food to the children.

The good news? Needy Haitians near the port city *have* received the food, and we have been sending secure funds to our partners so they can provision school lunches from local markets. Together, we will celebrate our ongoing commitment to feed starving children in Haiti.



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