



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

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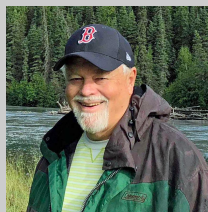
### Sunday Morning

Join us for worship online and in person.

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



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



### Some mid-week thoughts from Dave

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the  
Congregational Church:

I found a story that got my attention  
about a well-known woman  
presenting a lecture to a forgiving

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

audience. I wish I was a fly on the wall in the lecture room during a Texas seminar where I presented a couple of years ago. After I finished speaking, I walked out of the room, and without realizing it, forgot to mute my mic! I had more important things on my mind: heading directly into the ladies room! (can you see where this is going?)

Soon after the next speaker began his presentation, he and the audience became distracted by some strange noises heard over the sound system. It started with some rustling ... followed by the flush of a toilet, running water, a faucet and then silence. Once everyone realized just what was happening, they let out a roar of laughter that could be heard everywhere within ear shot.

My husband (who was in the lecture room) flung open the door, came to my rescue and pulled my mic off, explaining that I managed to invite the entire audience into the ladies' room with me! Fortunately, my bathroom visit was ... uneventful. I was marched back into the lecture room (wearing a VERY red face) where I was met with roars of laughter and a standing ovation! The audience thanked me for the diversion from "standard" lectures. And of course, everyone said they were happy to know that I washed my hands.

Well, she made a big mistake, but she did wash her hands.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

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## 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](mailto:office@topsfieldchurch.org)

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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.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

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## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> to Dolly McIlvaine at:** [mciltopsfield@comcast.net](mailto:mciltopsfield@comcast.net).

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## Lemonade on the Lawn "LOL"



## Emerson Center Office Update

The Emerson Center office will be closed on Fridays for the summer, beginning Friday, June 20th through Friday, August 29th.

The summer office hours will be: Monday–Thursday, 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](mailto: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](https://signup.com). If you responded to our survey in the

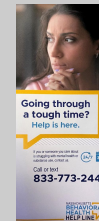
August 24: Susan and Joe Gibbons  
September 7: Last "LOL" – Hosts needed

September 14: Homecoming and Brunch Potluck

Please email Nancy Nelson to sign up: [nbnelson21@gmail.com](mailto: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 August birthday [page](#)



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



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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 home page on the Church website.

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

Thanks in advance,  
Charlie Itz, Sign Up Coordinator

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

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