



# The Congregational Church of Topsfield InSpire Weekly News & Updates

November 28, 2024 / Issue 203

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**Sunday Morning**  
Join us for worship  
online  
and in person.

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



## Advent and Christmas Decorating Volunteers Needed

Anyone interested in helping to decorate the Meetinghouse for Advent and Christmas is encouraged to contact John Szymanski at: [jszymanski8@gmail.com](mailto:jszymanski8@gmail.com).

The plan is to meet at the Meetinghouse at 9AM on Saturday, November 30th.

The process takes approximately 2 hours depending on the number of persons involved. Note that the Poinsettia Tree will not be assembled on that date.



## Board of Children and Youth Stewardship Presentation Sunday, December 1st

Amanda Rogers and Kim Love will be speaking on behalf of the Board of Children and Youth on Sunday, December 1st.



## Thanksgiving Offering Update

We have designated Citizens Inn, as the recipient of our Thanksgiving offering; thus if you are unable to drop off food items, please contribute by mailing a check to the church office with the notation, "Thanksgiving Offering," or dropping it in the collection plate if you are worshipping in person.

Additional information about Citizens Inn and Haven from Hunger can be found at this link: <https://www.citizensinn.org/>

Thank you!



**Sunday, December 1st**  
First Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse  
Christmas card signing following service

**Saturday, December 7th**  
"Holiday on the Green", Topsfield  
The CCoT Meetinghouse will be opened for cider and cookies

**Sunday, December 8th**  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse  
Christmas card signing following service

**Sunday, December 15th**  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse  
Congregational Church of  
Topsfield Christmas Concert at 4pm in the Meetinghouse

**Sunday, December 22nd**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse  
Congregational Church of  
Topsfield Christmas Pageant at 4pm in



## 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 \$12 per plant and ordering is easy.**

Order deadline is December 13<sup>th</sup>.  
(Order forms will be included inside the Sunday bulletins.)

To order please contact:

Sandy Whelan

· Email your order

to: [sandyw7@verizon.net](mailto: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 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.)



the Meetinghouse

Thank you!

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at  
5:00pm in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>  
First Sunday after Christmas  
Service at 9:30am in the Meetinghouse



### Christmas Eve Update

This year, we will have **one** Christmas Eve Service. It will be at 5:00PM on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. (There will be no morning service.)

We will have readings and carols, participation by the children and youth, chancel choir, 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.



### Sunday School Schedule Sunday, December 1st

The will be **NO** Sunday School on Sunday, December 1st. Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, December 8th



### Christmas Card Signing

Join us on Sunday morning after service in the Fellowship Hall on **December 1st and December 8th** 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



**Community Giving Tree**  
**Annual Holiday Gift Collection**  
Keeping local children safe and warm this holiday season



**Items Needed Most**

- New Pajamas (ages 2T-10 years)
- New Pajama Bottoms (ages 12-Teen)
- New Coats, Fleece Jackets
- Sweaters and Sweatshirts
- New Children and Teen Clothing
- Small Toys
- Gift Cards (no greater than \$25)  
Old Navy, Walmart & Amazon,  
Marshalls/TJMaxx and Target  
(great teen gifts)

Scan and shop our Amazon Wish List & items will ship direct to CGT

**DONATE BY:**  
  
[outreach@communitygivingtree.org](mailto:outreach@communitygivingtree.org)

[Giving Center Locations](#)  
572B Main Street, Boxford 599 Canal Street, Lawrence



### Christmas Gifts of Love

This year, our **Christmas Gifts of Love Program** will benefit the **Community Giving Tree**. This non-profit organization is operated out of Boxford and Lawrence. They collect

## Your Input Counts

Over the next few weeks, we would like to get your thoughts and opinions about different topics concerning our congregation.

For that reason, we will setup a board in the Fellowship Hall and have Sticky Notes and pens to allow you to post answers to our questions. If you won't be able to attend, you can also send your reply to:

[searchcommittee@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:searchcommittee@topsfieldchurch.org)

This week's questions are:

- What personal attribute do you most want in a new minister?
- What organizations would you say are our most important mission partners?

Thank you for helping us to create a meaningful profile of the Congregational Church of Topsfield.

~Your Pastor Search Committee

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**Joyful Noises Preschool joins CCOT in giving food donations to Citizens Inn**

Thanks to all who donated food for Citizens Inn! We filled up their truck with food on Monday, thanks to our members' generosity along with contributions from Joyful Noises Preschool.

gently used children's clothing, baby equipment and baby necessities to distribute to social workers for families in need in the North Shore and Merrimack Valley area.

In addition to scanning the barcode, you can also access the shopping list [here](#).

You may bring your gifts and leave them in the designated boxes in the Emerson Center church office. You can also order from Amazon and the gifts will be mailed directly to Community Giving Tree.

Gifts need to be received at church or from Amazon by December 1<sup>st</sup>, so that they can be distributed to social workers on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support!

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## CCT Masking Policy

### Preserving the Health of the Congregation During Worship

Masking at worship remains voluntary. Worshippers are always welcome to wear a mask.

Careful hand washing or use of hand sanitizers is effective in preventing the spread of and acquisition of disease.

Please do not come to in-person worship if you are feeling ill. Instead, watch the service on Zoom or Boxford Community TV.

Keep your vaccinations against respiratory pathogens current.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Deacons

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## Bible Study Group Update

There will be no Bible Study on December 1st. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, December 8th, after the service in the Parlor of the Emerson Center.

We will be covering Chapter 9: "Reading Paul Again", for this conversation. You can still join the group at any time during the study and there are still a couple of books available from Kim Love in the Church Office.

Looking forward to learning with you.  
Martin

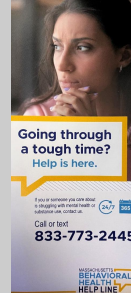


## Coffee Fellowship

**December 1:** Ellie Losee and co-host needed  
**December 8:** Cathy Imboden and Meg Moran  
**December 15:** Jane and Bruce Jones  
**December 22:** CF Host Needed  
**December 29:** CF Host Needed

If you would like to volunteer for upcoming Coffee Hours, please email Nancy Nelson at:  
[nbnelson21@gmail.com](mailto:nbnelson21@gmail.com)

Thank you!



## The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line

Learn more [here](#).

## Parish Care Ministry

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



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