



Vestry News

JUNE 2024

Churchwide Discussion of Survey Results

ALL ARE INVITED!

We are listening! Join us immediately after Church on 6/23 in the Sanctuary and on Zoom for a chance to hear what the Transition Team has learned from you! In this meeting we will also discuss how these results might inform our Pastoral Search.

We look forward to everyone's active involvement in this important meeting. Your voice is important!



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UCCB's 3rd Annual Porchfest



Sunday, June 2, 11 AM
on the church lawn

Please join us as members of our wider church community share their musical talents.

Please bring a lawn chair or blanket (no seating provided).

A Note from the Interim Co-Pastor

Friends,

When our church in Chapel Hill, NC voted to become Open and Affirming in 1993, people began to entrust us with stories. Stories for which we were ill prepared. At best, I managed to keep quiet and listen to accounts that revealed a world that I was only beginning to perceive. On the inside I was furiously trying to manage these stories into a framework that our buttoned-down, central NC Tarheel congregation could accept. But that's not how it worked out. It wasn't me who would be drawing the framework of what would work well for me, for the church and the surrounding community. In the words of Rev. Jaqui Lewis, Senior Minister of Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan: "I'm straight but my church queered me." This is what happens when PRIDE, when Open and Affirming opens the doors to your church and you simply listen. "Queering" extends to reworking the very foundations of human identity and relationships. It is a joyous leave-taking from old notions of identity to the head-long reorienting of all of life towards God's way of love. This spontaneous outpouring of love and life lived with integrity does not calculate measured steps to what we can accept but seeks ever fuller and richer connection with those whom God has given us to love. This is the journey that UCC Boxborough has chosen and is extending to its celebration of Pride Sunday on June 16th. In this spirit we are excited to welcome Rev. Noah Brewer-Wallin who will preach a word "From a Trans Pastor to a Church in Transition." Welcome Noah!

Grace and peace, Jill Edens



UCCB will be celebrating Pride!

At Sunday worship on June 16 at 9:30am.

We are excited to welcome Noah Brewer-Wallin, Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for SNEUCC, to our pulpit for this special day.

Please plan to join us and bring a friend!

Rev. Noah Brewer-Wallin (they/them, he/him) is the Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. Noah is passionate about the power of the church to answer God's call to love our neighbors and organize for justice. He grew up in Salem, Oregon and came to Massachusetts to attend Wellesley College. They have a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

10am TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY / SERMON SHAPING

LOOKING AHEAD to NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

Join our Interim Ministers on Tuesday mornings at 10am as we read and discuss the *recommended readings for the next Sunday*. You can listen with your preacher for what our Still-speaking God is saying this week.

On Tuesday, May 28, we will read and discuss the readings for Sunday, **June 2**.

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

On Tuesday, June 4, we will read and discuss the readings for Sunday, **June 9**.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

On Tuesday, June 11, we will read and discuss the readings for Sunday, **June 16**.

4th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13; Psalm 20 or Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

On Tuesday, June 18, we will read and discuss the readings for Sunday, **June 23**.

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

On Tuesday, June 25, we will read and discuss the readings for Sunday, **June 30**.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130 or Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

On Tuesday, July 2, we will read and discuss the readings for Sunday, **July 7**.

7th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5,, 9-10; Psalm 48 or Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13



OUR SERVICES ARE SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM

To worship via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306753408?pwd=VlIgwZUtYl05JeVU2WkIHwGtUWExGdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 0675 3408

Passcode: 7387

Please note: our worship services are streamed live via Zoom, and recorded for posting on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChIayswOH7Ta7LYVK-BcAyA>). Zoom offers closed captioning subtitles) for those who find that helpful.



UCCB Annual Visioning Meeting

The Annual Visioning Meeting, held on Sunday May 19, was a productive opportunity for all to reconnect with UCCB friends and families. Time was spent exploring where we are as a church and preparing for our search for our next Pastor.

Peter started the meeting with a review of our Church's financial and membership situation. The Revs. Edens then described their learnings about UCCB since joining us in April. Finally, we entered into small group discussions. Learnings from this conversation will help us as we prepare our Local Church Profile for our search for a settled Pastor.



Transition team—from the left: Todd W., Catherine M., Laurel D-B., Glynis H., Larry W., Ellen H., and Peter S.

Afghan Family Update

In the summer of 2021, UCC Boxborough agreed to partner with Congregation Beth Eloheim in Acton to sponsor a refugee family from Afghanistan under the auspices of Jewish Family Services. The congregations were amazingly generous, raising more than \$50,000. (Ultimately, about \$20,000 was given to support a second family.)

The Mohammads, a family of six with four children from ages 7 to 16, arrived in Marlborough in November of 2021, to an apartment underwritten by our funds and administered by Jewish Family Services. Members from the two congregations gathered furnishings for their new home, brought a wonderful welcome meal, and celebrated our new relationship.

Initially, the many medical challenges and coordination of rides to specialists and dentists was almost a full-time job. The children enrolled in the Marlborough schools, supported by several team members. The parents began taking English as a Second Language. Team members jostled paper work to get SNAP, heating oil, and general income support. The family needed work permits and an application for immigration status. Jewish Family Service provided resources, case workers, immigration lawyers, and translators among other supports. The team met weekly to share information and assign tasks. The father had major surgery in March of 2022.

The next challenge was to help the family get drivers licenses. There was studying for the learner's permit when English was not the first language. The summer of 2022, the dad and ultimately the eldest son got their learner's permits. Dad got his license in the fall of 2022, and the group assisted him in buying a car that would carry the whole family. UCC Boxborough provided a no interest loan for some of the cost of the car and paid about half the initial cost of car insurance. About that time, the father got a job at Target, and the mother did some seamstress work.

The son took driver's education, got his license early in 2023 and a car later that spring. He worked at Shaws and for Door Dash. He applied to and was accepted to Quinsigamond College that fall, getting a significant grant to pay many of his expenses.

The team and the family developed a delightful relationship, sharing tea and goodies on almost every visit. There was gifting of local produce from FreeBee Market, and trips to local attractions. We learned of their lives in Afghanistan and their perspective on their faith. We laughed together and cheered a variety of accomplishments. The children excelled at their school work. The team read the writing of one child, enjoyed the art work of a second, and watched the soccer games of another.

In the fall of 2023, the father received a grant from the National UCC and a second grant from Jewish Family Services to pay tuition for a course to drive big rig trucks. There were some hurdles related to language and cultural expectations which required the team to appeal for another round of testing, and ultimately, the dad received his Class A driver's license, offering a path for this family to become self-sufficient.

In May of 2024, we learned they had finally received Asylum and were on the way to an even more favorable status. We all celebrated. The following week, the family told the team of their plan to move to California, into a compound of family members. The hope is to start a branch of a trucking company. Although we are sad to see the family leave, it does feel like we are launching them to a new life with the tools that they need. We invite the congregation to offer a prayer and blessing for their good health and safety.

We are sending the family to California with a financial gift to help with their transition. There are funds remaining that were raised along with the ongoing repayment of the car loan. The proposal is, as of July 1, that the remaining funds would return to the supervision of Faith in Action to be used for other refugee projects. If people have concerns about that plan, they are urged to reach out to the church moderator.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Waters and Anne McNeece





Fred Small Benefit Concert

On April 27th, UCCB sponsored a fundraising concert by Fred Small to benefit the Indigenous Environmental Network and the Friends of the Boxborough Library. Approximately 80 people attended the joyful, reflective, meaningful concert. Thank you to all who supported and contributed to this church-sponsored event, especially Todd Waddington and Peter Senghas for lighting and sound, Laurel Dickson-Bull and Jenn LaCross for promotion, Susan Appleton for refreshments, Chris Loughlin for providing credit card payment capability, and Jacob Senghas and Julia Thibodeau for welcoming Fred and our guests.

Additionally, many thanks to Boxborough resident Tim Owen for donating a beautiful framed photo to raffle at the event to raise additional funds. We raised just over \$1,100 to benefit these two organizations with approximately \$320 to support the operations of UCCB.

All on top of building community, awareness, and care for this world. Beautiful!

From Fred's song *Peace Is*, here's a chorus to remember this fabulous event and to celebrate the enduring spirit of the Nez Perce.

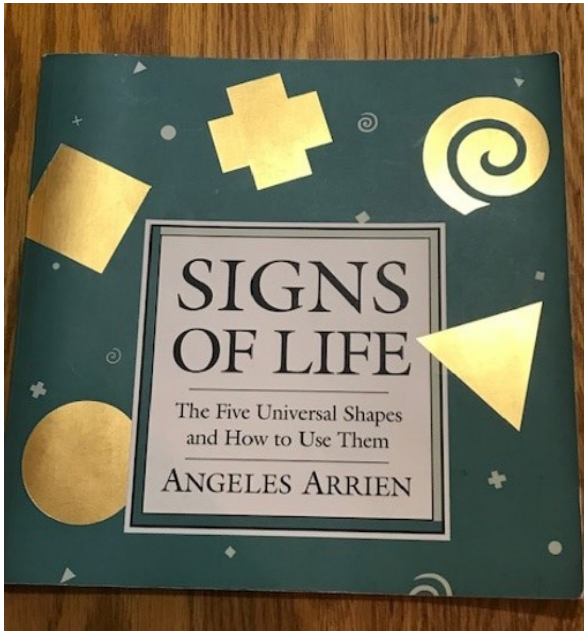
*"Peace is the bread we break
Love is the river rolling
Life is a chance we take
When we make this earth our home
Gonna make this earth our home"*



Christmas in Summer 2024

The Ornament/Decorations Table co-chairs have begun plans for the 2024 UCCB Merrie Christmas Fair. We are looking for help in making ornaments and holiday decorations over the summer months into the Fall. If you already have ideas and are working on ornament projects at home. Fantastic! Please let us know if you would like to help. Contact Gloria Roe 978-502-9625/email gloria.roe@comcast.net, Linda Morse at kcmorse@verizonnet / 978-314-3272, or Connie Brown at conniebcmc@comcast.net/978-263-3852.





Creativity and Spirituality Explorations: Five Universal Shapes and You

Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:30-3pm in the Community Center

In this gathering, participants will creatively engage with anthropologist Angeles Arrien's simple and well researched ideas on the five universal shapes. We will use Arrien's accessible work in order to consider what "new things" God is revealing presently in our lives (Is 48:6-7). Attention will be given to cultivating a welcoming space for individuals to explore, deepen in, and share where God may be calling them at this particular time. There is no cost for this workshop, however it is very helpful to register ahead in order to plan for materials. To register, or ask questions, please email Sarah at sarahmaker@gmail.com.

A word about the leader: Sarah Maker is a long time member of UCCB, and a clergy member within the United Church of Christ since 1994. Once a reluctant creator herself, one of Sarah's passions has become introducing folks to creative endeavors that bring healing, play, connection and a sense of competency. She has a small private practice in counseling and spiritual direction in Boxborough, MA where she lives with her husband, two daughters, and three cats. You can learn more about Sarah's ministries at www.sarahmakercounseling.com.

Strawberry Shortcake at Fifer's Day

Saturday, June 15th

You are invited to enjoy delicious Strawberry Shortcake at the Church Tent on Fifer's Day, Saturday, June 15th at Flerra Field on Stow Road in Boxborough. For just \$5, you get a heaping bowl of pound cake, strawberries, and whipped cream.



Join us in sharing this wonderful dessert with the community by volunteering to be a server or cashier for a one-hour shift between 11:30 AM and 4:00 PM. We also need help with set-up Friday night, starting at 5 PM at the Church, and with clean-up on Saturday afternoon, starting at 4 PM at the Tent at Flerra Field.

There is a sign-up poster available during the Coffee Hour (and at the PorchFest on June 2), or you can contact Mary Anne Vogel directly (978-852-9637 or voglfmly@gmail.com) to volunteer to help us share some sweet hospitality at Fifer's Day!



Generosity



Thank you to all who contribute financially to keep the lights on and programs strong here at UCCB. Contributions arrive in many forms and all are welcome! Your financial support has made possible:

- The sponsorship of a fundraising concert by Fred Small to benefit the Friends of the Boxborough Library and the Indigenous Environmental Network
- A series of transition meetings with our new Interim Co-ministers, Rev. Dr. Jill Edens and Rev. Richard Edens
- The hosting of a movie (and popcorn!) evening to watch the climate movie '2040' followed by a discussion led by Marjorie Kemp
- Continuing to provide our space to other community purposes such as the girls and boys scouts and Alcoholics Anonymous

Whether participants are church members or not, we open our doors, provide our resources, and welcome all. We know that these actions help us build community and grow God's love in the world. Thank you for making all this possible.

Have you not contributed financially to help us keep our lights on in this corner of the world and would like to? Check out the Giving section on the church's website to provide a one-time gift or to establish a recurring contribution. Or, simply reach to a member of the Generosity Team, Kellie Senghas (ktsenghas@gmail.com) or Jeff Glidden (Jeffrey.glidden50@gmail.com) to learn more.

Thank you for your generosity – *on so many levels.* **Because of YOU our church changes lives.**

Items for the Vestry News are due on the 24th of each month. Please send items to hmatthew25@verizon.net and boxborochurch@verizon.net.



June Birthday Blessings

Jillian Mayo, 6/1	Glynis Hamel, 6/13	Heidi Matthew, 6/23
Dan Smyers, 6/1	Nina Michnovetz, 6/13	Mary Rohwer, 6/23
Duncan Brown, 6/2	Marisol Whitcomb, 6/13	Jim Sidwell, 6/24
Tim Pavlik, 6/3	Natalie Davis, 6/14	Scott Spalding, 6/24
Cassie Sierra, 6/5	Janet Carr, 6/17	Joe Bourdeau, 6/26
Jacquelyn Turner, 6/5	Romie Boyd, 6/18	Nicholas Boyd, 6/26
Nora Michnovetz, 6/6	Gary Schwarting, 6/18	Hannah Deyst, 6/27
James Brookes, 6/8	Michael Murphy, 6/19	Darcy Sidwell, 6/27
Evan Morse, 6/8	Mary Ellen Sweeney, 6/19	Cassandra Nelson, 6/28
Allie Allaire, 6/10	Stefanie Turner, 6/19	Anne Chandler, 6/29
Jeffrey Glidden, 6/11	Deborah Gray, 6/20	Jan Rejto, 6/30
Ginger Burke, 6/13	Christopher Litterio, 6/21	



"If your birthday doesn't appear in the appropriate edition of the Vestry News, please inform the church office of your birth month and day. We'd love to celebrate you!"

Sit and Sew at UCCB

First Wednesday of the Month

9:00 – 3:00

Just a reminder that we are planning to meet through the summer months to work on our projects whether sewing, crafting or whatever makes you happy. For those working on ornaments or other items for the church fair, it's a great time to spend time with friends and fellow makers in the **Gathering Room at UCCB**. We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 9:00 to 3:00. You are welcome to come for an hour or two or come for the day. Just bring your project and a smile. Hope to see you there.



United Church of Christ, Congregational
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Boxborough, Massachusetts 01719

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2024

www.boxboroughucc.org

978-263-7387

boxborochurch@verizon.net

Vestry News articles, ideas and submissions are welcome and due the 24th of each month. The Vestry News is published prior to the first Sunday of each month.

Please submit to:

hmatthew25@verizon.net

