



# Vestry News

JULY 2024



## Strawberry Shortcake at Fifer's Day



Saturday, June 15 was a wonderful Fifer's Day celebration. Not only was the weather perfect, but the UCCB Strawberry Shortcake Tent had record sales greater than \$1614. The \$608 profit after expenses will go to the Community Support Fund.

So many hands played a key role in achieving this success—from shopping for the ingredients to chopping the 240 pounds of strawberries! There were volunteers to set up the tent, bring out tables, help dish out generous helpings of strawberry shortcake, collect the money and then help tear it all down at the end of a beautiful day.

*Pictured from left to right: Teresa H. Heidi M., Mary Anne V. and Gloria R., Kellie S. and Mary R. and last Jill and Richard Eden getting ready for their first Fifer's Strawberry Shortcake.*



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Friends,

We are writing this from the Student Center at UMass Amherst where we are attending the Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference UCC. The place is full of energy with delegates and visitors excited to see each other in person after a virtual meeting last year. Seeing Conference staff who have worked with us over the past seven years, pastors from churches where we served as interims and many UCC friends, we feel blessed to be here in person. We are looking forward to hearing speakers present on church growth and vitality and to gathering up resources to enrich the life of this church.

We hope this brief time away will also allow us to step back, take a breath and reflect on the little more than eight weeks that we have been together. What progress you have made in this short time! We have had three gatherings to discuss the time of transition. We have completed an all church survey that will inform the writing of the ministerial profile. The Transition Team helped organize a visioning retreat, prepared an overview of survey results and a smaller group has begun to write the profile. Soon a Search Committee will be nominated for the congregation's approval later this summer. We are so appreciative of this sustained effort!

A solid foundation is being laid for the next chapter in UCCB's ministry thanks to your thoughtful and committed lay leaders, your participation in these gatherings and in the all-church survey. We invite your continued prayers for those among you who are serving on the Transition Team, writing the Profile and those who will soon be serving on the Search Committee. Thank you all for your commitment to this process!

With you in service,  
Jill and Richard Edens



**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=VlgwZUcYLU05JeVU2WklHWGtUWExGdz09>

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.



## Transition Update



We are in an exciting time, as we continue to prepare for our next settled pastor! Many thanks to those who have been providing input to the Transition Team while attending our Transition Meetings in April and May, by completing the Congregational Survey in June, and with your individual conversations and emails with members of the Transition Team. Your perspectives are invaluable as we continue to work on the Local Church Profile, the document we will use to attract candidates to our church, and as we prepare to call our next settled pastor.

We are blessed to have with us Rev. Richard Edens and Rev. Dr. Jill Edens as we navigate this process!

Tineke V. is leading the team of writers of the Local Church Profile. Working with Tineke are Laurel, Glynis, Peter, Todd, Larry, and Chris. The Profile is structured to address three primary questions: **Who are we? Who is our neighbor? And Who is God calling us to become?** Our responses to these questions will help candidates assess if our church is a good match for their calling to church ministry. This document includes (but isn't limited to) details about our church's history, vision, and mission, an introduction to living in the Acton/Boxborough area, a description of the position that we are trying to fill, specifics about what we are seeking in our next settled pastor, 11 years of financial and membership data, and demographic information about our current membership and the surrounding area. It is quite a heavy read! We hope to have this process completed during the summer weeks.

In parallel with the drafting of the Local Church Profile by Tineke's team, Larry W. is pulling together and orienting our Pastoral Search Team. This team is responsible for working closely with the Southern New England Conference of the UCC (SNEUCC) to advertise and attract candidates to apply for our position, interview qualified applicants, and recommend to the Church Council and ultimately the Congregation a final candidate for our opening of Settled Pastor.

The Congregation will need to vote to accept the Local Church Profile before it is provided to the Pastoral Search Team and the SNEUCC for circulation. According to our church bylaws, makeup of the Pastoral Search Team will need to be accepted by a majority vote of the Congregation before the committee can commence its work. Look for future information later this summer about these important votes!

Please reach out to any member of the Transition Team should you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

### The UCCB Transition Team:

Laurel, Glynis, Ellen, Catherine, Mary, Peter, Todd, and Larry

## Bible Study Hiatus

Bible study will be taking a summer break and will resume Tuesday, August 20th!



# UCCB Mission Movers – Caring for our Neighbors

Founded in the 1970s at the South Acton Congregational Church (SACC), Mission Movers has been helping neighbors in crisis move into new housing at a moment's notice. UCCB has partnered with SACC for a number of years and has formed a small team to help in this effort in our community through connections with Boxborough's Community Services Coordinator, Wendy Trinks, as well as with Sharon at Household Goods.

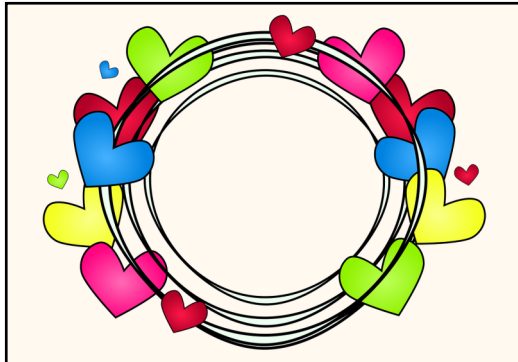
In June, a small team from UCCB joined with SACC to move an individual from one apartment in Acton, that had been home for over ten years, into new and more accessible lodging within Acton. She was so well organized for the move and very appreciative of our help.

Also in June, a small UCCB team helped a Boxborough resident complete the second phase of furniture movement within her home after water damage in her basement earlier this year. (First move was in February.) From the resident, "Thank you for everything. I overdid with my arthritis Saturday when I got anxious about mold proliferation, but would be in so much greater pain without your help. You are all amazing and inspiring."



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We would love to strengthen and broaden this team! Would you like to join the network of folks to respond when needed? Please contact Kellie Senghas [ktsenghas@gmail.com](mailto:ktsenghas@gmail.com) to join the team for future calls of support. Thank you for your generosity of time and spirit! Many hands make light work!



## An Open Invitation

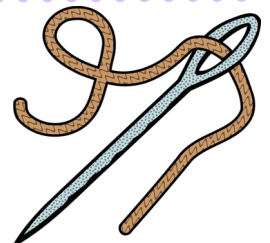
You are invited to "draw our circle wider" as the song says and consider: Taking notes in worship, sending a card, or consulting with Duncan and the pastors about how you can best minister to the joys and concerns mentioned in worship.

If you love to bring meals or visit members or friends, that's another way to widen our circle of care. Maybe you have others! Hope you can join us!

Questions: Duncan Brown [dmbrown@comcast.net](mailto:dmbrown@comcast.net) (Chair of Called to Care Ministry)

## Sit and Sew at UCCB

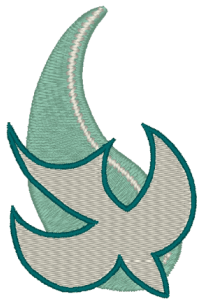
**Cancelled for the month of July.** I hope everyone enjoys the warm summer weather and we'll catch up in August. –Nancy



# Celebrating Pride



On June 16, we had Noah Brewer-Wallin, Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for SNEUCC, give a riveting sermon on inclusion. Also, Rev. Nancy Stillman shared her experiences with acceptance as a minister in the church. On the left, Noah with the Eden's and Nancy in background. The altar on the right was vibrantly decorated by Nancy, Todd, and Tinkeke



# Baptism



Baptism of Robert and Sawyer Edmonds on June 9th

# Generosity



**Thank you** to all who contribute financially to keep the lights on and programs strong here at UCCB. Your generosity directly fuels our ability to live out our vision and mission.

Your generous contributions create and nurture everything we experience at UCCB throughout the year: our worship, music, spiritual nurture, pastoral care, community outreach, mission trips, and all the ministries that serve those in need, both near and far.

Thank you to all of you who have pledged and/or contributed financial support to UCCB this year. [Your generosity directly fuels our ability to live out our vision and mission.](#)

Thank you for maintaining your financial gifts through the summer months. If you have questions about the status of your financial pledge, please reach out to Jenn in the church office or a member of the Generosity Team (Kellie Senghas, [ktsenghas@gmail.com](mailto:ktsenghas@gmail.com) or Jeff Glidden, [Jeffrey.glidden50@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffrey.glidden50@gmail.com)).

Have you never contributed financial support but would like to? Some people like to give spontaneously when reflecting on the value brought by the vision and mission of UCCB in their lives. One option is to simply text a donation to 978-776-3110 and follow the instructions (with a bank card handy.) Once you have registered, you may give when the spirit moves you!

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](mailto:hmatthew25@verizon.net) and [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net).



# July Birthday Blessings

|          |          |       |          |                  |       |
|----------|----------|-------|----------|------------------|-------|
| Paula    | Grieco   | 07/03 | Mark     | Whitcomb         | 07/21 |
| Virginia | Haskins  | 07/03 | Eric     | Davis            | 07/21 |
| Teresa   | Howie    | 07/04 | Cheryl   | DiPaolo          | 07/23 |
| Richard  | Lane     | 07/05 | Todd     | Brown            | 07/24 |
| Linda    | Morse    | 07/05 | Marcia   | Nelson           | 07/24 |
| Chris    | Loughlin | 07/06 | Victoria | Nelson           | 07/24 |
| Debra    | Simmons  | 07/12 | Megan    | Foley            | 07/27 |
| Tracey   | Sierra   | 07/14 | Dena     | Caradimitropoulo | 07/28 |
| Jacob    | Whitcomb | 07/14 | Brendan  | Abetz            | 07/29 |
| Vanessa  | Davis    | 07/17 | Nancy    | Stillman         | 07/29 |
| Susie    | Allen    | 07/18 | Lara     | Caradimitropoulo | 07/31 |
| Jake     | Dwight   | 07/19 |          |                  |       |

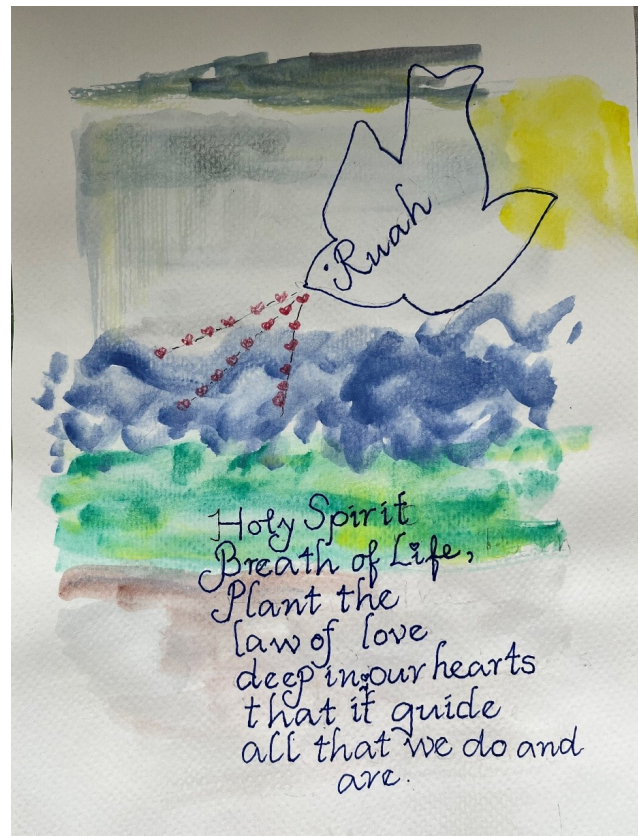


**“If your birthday doesn't appear in the appropriate edition of the Vestry News, please inform the church office of your birth month and day. We'd love to celebrate you!”**

## Artistic reflection

By Nicolette Wellington

I was sorting through artwork in my office recently - many watercolors, started and left unfinished... I found this old water color painted on the back of the cover of the watercolor pad. Who knows how long ago, and was moved to trace a dove and write the words you see, a couple of weeks ago during the season of Pentecost.



United Church of Christ, Congregational  
723 Massachusetts Avenue  
Boxborough, Massachusetts 01719

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2024

[www.boxboroughucc.org](http://www.boxboroughucc.org)

978-263-7387

[boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:hmatthew25@verizon.net)

