



Vestry News

OCTOBER 2024



SAVE THE DATE!

UCCB Merrie Christmas Fair

Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 - 1:00

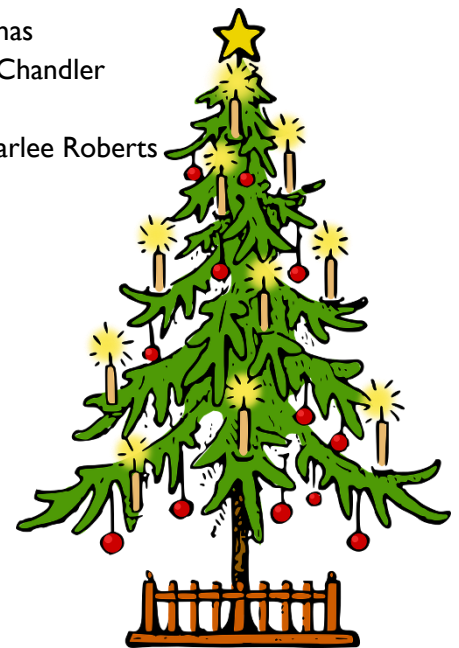
Planning is already underway for our big fundraiser, which will take place in our church, the Community Center and the Boxborough Town Hall on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All are invited to attend, invite friends and to participate in this event that people in the area look forward to every year.

Mary Pavlik and Laurel Dickson-Bull are co-chairing the fair this year and are supported by a team of outstanding leaders who organize the various tables and activities that make the fair so wonderful, year after year.

Please watch for communications that will be in our Vestry News, Flashes and posted in the Gathering Room for ways to get involved. Participating in the fair is a very special experience!

In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the various activities, reach out to these people:

- Silent Auction: Mary Anne Vogel
- Attic Treasures (garage sale extravaganza): Kellie Senghas
- Greens (centerpieces and other arrangements): Anne Chandler
- Jewelry (selling donated jewelry): Mary Rohwer
- Knits and Gifts: (homemade knitted and sewn gifts): Marlee Roberts
- Woodworks: Guy Marchmont, Ron Vogel
- Ornaments: Gloria Roe, Connie Brown, Linda Morse
- Bake Table: Suzanne Boyden
- Kids Table: Heidi Kidd, Marcia Nelson
- Snack Bar (food and live music): Deb Simmons
- Christmas Tree sales: Rob Warwick
- Tables (setup): Ralph DeMent
- Finance: Chris Loughlin
- Decorations for event: Laurel Dickson-Bull
- Photography: Ginny Harris



See you at the fair!

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastors' Letter	2
Sermon Shaping Bible Study	3
Bake Sale, Merrie Christmas Fair	4-6
Worship In Action photos	7, 9
Generosity	8



Pastor's Letter



Friends,

We have had an exciting opening to the fall program year. The Freebee Market with a harvest theme kicked off a busy weekend with band music, a petting zoo, hot dog lunch, bouncy house and of course bags of groceries given away. A big thank you to everyone who made this welcoming event possible! Next came "Welcome Sunday" with the return of the choir and organist and the launch of our new programming for children during the worship hour. On a somber note, we also celebrated the life of Alice, Tineke's sister on that Saturday afternoon.

This month also saw the approval of the Church Profile and the election of the Pastoral Search Committee. The Profile is live, and the Search Committee is already hearing from potential candidates. Additionally, the Deacons will be meeting with folks who are interested in joining UCCB on October 13. What a promising beginning to the program year! The faithful and focused work of church leaders is bearing fruit.

There is also much to look forward to in October.

October 06 - World Communion Sunday Rev. Richard Edens will preach.

October 13 - * Guest preacher: Rev. Noelle Datillo. Also, new members will be received.

October 20 - * Guest preacher: Rev. Nena Radtke. After-worship: BAKE SALE to support our Fellowship Ministry

October 27 - Rev. Dr. Jill Edens will preach, the Generosity Team will introduce this year's pledge / support campaign, and there will be a reception after worship to celebrate Jenn LaCross's service as UCCB's Office Manager.

* We will be taking our study leave in mid-October by going to a UCC retired ministers retreat, "Lessons from Jonah," at the UCC's Blowing Rock Conference Center in the mountains of North Carolina. Then we will go further west to Montreat Conference Center for the Wee Kirk Conference for leaders of small membership churches. (Yes, the use of the Scottish "wee" is a tipoff that Montreat is a Presbyterian retreat center.) This year the conference is on "Ministry in a Secular Age." And, of course, as we are in North Carolina we will stop in Chapel Hill to see our grandchildren.

(1) On Sunday, November 3, UCCB will observe All Saints Day. We have two requests to prepare: During worship we will remember those from our lives who have died in the past year. Please contact the ministers or the church office with names of people to be remembered by Thursday, October 31, so they may be included.

(2) After worship on November 3, the Generosity Team is sponsoring a Quiche Reception. When we gather at tables, there will be cards on each table with the name and a story about a UCCB saint. We need you to send us (the ministers or the church office) the stories. It could be someone you met when you first joined 40 years ago or taught Sunday School with or a partner on a mission trip. The idea is that each table will have conversation starters that hopefully will spark more memories and stories of gratitude for those who preceded us.

Please keep your leaders, your Search Committee, and your church in prayer that God may bless these efforts with a hopeful future for UCCB!

Grace and peace,
Jill and Richard Edens



SERMON SHAPING or TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On Tuesdays at 10am, you are invited to a lively and far-ranging conversation with the Pastors on the scripture for the coming Sunday.

On Tuesday, Oct 01, we will discuss the lessons for Sunday, October 6
20th Sunday after Pentecost: **Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16**

On Tuesday, Oct 08, we will discuss the lessons for Sunday, October 13
21st Sunday after Pentecost: **Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:12-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31**

On Tuesdays, Oct 15 and Oct 22, we will **NOT** meet.

On Tuesday, Oct 29, we will discuss the lessons for Sunday, November 3
24th Sunday after Pentecost: **Ruth 1:18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34**

On Tuesday, Nov 5, we will discuss the lessons for Sunday, November 10
25th Sunday after Pentecost: **Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44**

On Tuesday, Nov 12, we will discuss the lessons for Sunday, November 17
26th Sunday after Pentecost: **1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8**

On Tuesday, Nov 19, we will discuss the lessons for Sunday, November 24
Reign of Christ Sunday: **2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37**

On Tuesday, Nov 26, we will **NOT** meet.

The meeting opens at 9:45 for visiting. **Please join us.** The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81402428901>

Passcode: 7387



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=VlgwZUtYL05jeVU2WkiHwGtUWExGdz09>

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.



Bake Sale

Sunday, October 20th

The Fellowship Ministry Team will host a Bake Sale on Sunday, October 20th. The event will be held in the Gathering Room during Fellowship Hour and will feature a variety of home-made baked goods donated by members of the church community. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the Fellowship Ministry Team's activities.



If you're interested in baking, please see the sign-up sheet at the Fellowship Table, contact Deb Simmons at 508-439-2891 or dlrmcgrath@comcast.net, or bring it in the day of the sale. Cookies, bars, breads, pies, cakes, and other baked goods are welcome! Items should be wrapped and labeled with the name of the item and allergen information (for example, "gluten-free", "contains nuts").



Merrie Christmas Fair 2024



Crafters Invitation for Ornament Table

There is still time to make a variety ornaments/decorations to sell at the Fair. If you have projects/ideas, please share it with us. We have some ideas as well as a few kits and supplies if you need items like bells, ribbon, etc. We look forward to seeing the beautiful ornaments that are being created for this year's Merrie Christmas Fair. We will be working on ornaments on the first Wednesday, Oct. 2, starting at 10:00 into the afternoon in Gathering Room at the church.



For more information, contact co-chairs:

Gloria Roe, gloria.a.roe@gmail.com or 978-502-9625, Linda Morse 978-266-2836 Kcmorse@verizon.net or Connie Brown at 978-391-4854 or Conniebcmc@comcast.net



Need your help filling the BAKE TABLE

To all bakers! Once again we welcome homemade cookies, bars, pies, cakes, tea breads, fudge, cake pops, etc. Please kindly label your items and note if they contain nuts, are soy or gluten free, etc. If possible, please drop off the night before the Fair, November 22nd at the church or the morning of by 8:45 am. Contact Suzanne Boyden at: sueboyden54@gmail.com

Silent Auction Gift Registry

Thank you so much to all of you who have already donated to the Silent Auction. For others who are still thinking about what to donate, any item would be most welcome. Choose something you like, and others will like it, too. Gift cards are always popular. If you're stuck for ideas, you've heard of a wedding registry, right? Well, here's a Silent Auction Gift Registry with some ideas for gifts you can donate – or we could shop for you! Select an item to donate and let Mary Anne Vogel (voglfmly@gmail.com or 978-852-9637) know what it is by November 1. Your gift will be so much appreciated! Thank you!



\$25 and Under

Jigsaw puzzles (for kids or adults)
 Snow shovel
 Snow broom and ice scraper combo
 Work gloves (size L or XL)
 Books (NY Times Best Sellers, children's books)
 Games to play
 e.g., Minute of Fun Game, Hedbanz,
 Zingo, Sleeping Queens, UNO,
 Chronology (teens and adults)
 Gift card to a restaurant you love
 Christmas ornaments & decorations
 Sports equipment (balls of all types)

\$50 and Under

Nuts/chocolate gift box
 LEGO Set
 Barbeque tools
 Sled or snow tube
 Gardening or yard work tools
 Apple Air Tag
 Roku
 Advent calendar
 Movie theatre gift card

\$100 and under

Kitchen small appliance
 e.g., blender, coffee pot, toaster, etc.
 Portable mini projector
 4K Drone for kids or adults
 Pickleball set
 Amazon Echo (4th Gen) or Echo Spot

\$150 and under

Snowshoes
 MFA membership for 2
 Museum of Science family membership
 Tower Hill membership
 Battery-powered chainsaw (for smaller jobs)
 Battery-powered leaf blower

Priceless!

Handmade items
 Food you prepare (cookies, casseroles, soup)
 Weeding or planting you do for others
 Adventure you share with others
 (hiking, biking, canoeing)



Jewelry Donations accepted!



There will be a basket left in the gathering room for donations the beginning of November. However, we would happily accept donations before that time. Please call Mary Rohwer (978-621-9705) or Dianne Jaworski (978-263-0762) for pickup or with any questions.

Greens Table

If you have any of these items below, the Greens table could use:

- Old wooden sleds and toboggans
- Old wooden window shutters
- Old skates - any size or color (no plastic parts please)
- Wooden skis and bamboo ski poles
- Old buckets
- Old wooden or metal boxes - any size
- Baskets - any size
- Fresh cedar or juniper cuttings

Please contact Anne Chandler (annechandler@masslogic.com or text/call 978-808-4316) if you have anything you would like to donate, thank you!



Attic Treasures

Yes, Santa, there will be Attic Treasures at the Merrie Christmas Fair in 2024! If you were thinking about a fall yard sale, how about donating your items to the church and the local community?

We'll be accepting goods that are in clean, working condition and free of mold or mildew. Household goods, kitchenware, small appliances, electronics, toys, games, sporting goods, linens, office supplies & equipment, tools, and luggage are all welcome. Some of the things we *cannot* take include clothing, shoes, curtain hardware, used pet items, and medical equipment.



Ideally, hold onto your items until Thursday, November 21st for drop-off from 5-8 at the Town Hall or Friday from noon-5:00. If need be, we can receive items on Wednesday, November 20th by pre-arranging for storage at the church by contacting Kellie Senghas at ktsenghas@gmail.com. Any gasoline powered equipment or other items that give off fumes must be left outside, near the back door of the Community Center.

More details in the Merrie Christmas Fair Flashes!

Rise

AGAINST HUNGER



This is only about half of the group that made meals on Sunday. If you go to page 9 you can read the account.

Generosity



Thank you to all who contribute financially and otherwise 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:

- Providing resources that are guiding our lay leaders through this period of transition
- Utilizing our indoor and outdoor spaces to support the FreeBee Market
- Being a “5 for 5” church meaning that UCCB is a leader, providing support to Our Church’s Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund
- Welcoming new and existing members and worship attendees, in-person and via Zoom

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.

As we look ahead to the new year, with transitioning leadership, we will be reflecting on our collective goals and mission and our financial resource needs. We look forward to this planning and growth. Together.



Rise Against Hunger - Thank you!

On Sunday September 29, 2024, through the generosity and energy of **so many**, we celebrated anniversaries, birthdays, and the power of community as we packaged over 10,000 meals for distribution. That's right - 47 boxes, each containing 36 meal packets, each meal packet serving 6 for a total of 10,152 meals!

One powerful way to put our hands and hearts into action, Worship in Action! Thank you all – 50 adults and youth combined – for the joy and commitment to set-up, assemble, and clean-up!

Will our boxes be delivered to the Philippines? Honduras? India? South Africa? We don't know. But we do know that wherever they land, they will be a source of vital nutrition, sustenance, and care for our neighbors.

Would you like to donate funds to support the Rise Against Hunger organization? Follow this link to contribute online [Rise Against Hunger donation \(UCCB\)](#) or write a check to UCCB with Rise Against Hunger on the memo line, and we will provide.

Thank you!



To Be Continued....



The Merrie Christmas Fair Sugar Plum Snack Bar

As in previous years, the Snack Bar will be serving breakfast pastries, lunch items, hot and cold drinks, and sweet treats. Volunteers are needed for 8 AM– 10 AM, 10 AM – 12 PM, and 12 PM– 2 PM timeslots to help with set up, food service, and clean up. There is also an opportunity to donate food items to support the Snack Bar. Sign-up sheets are posted in the church or you can contact Deb Simmons at drlrmcgrath@comcast.net or 508-439-2891.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

October 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