



# Vestry News

JUNE 2025



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## UCCB's 4th Annual Porchfest

Sunday, June 1, 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).



## Strawberry Shortcake at Fifer's Day

You are invited to enjoy delicious Strawberry Shortcake at the Church Tent on Fifer's Day, **Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 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, or you can contact Mary Anne Vogel directly (978-852-9637 or [voglfmly@gmail.com](mailto:voglfmly@gmail.com)) to volunteer to help us share some sweet hospitality on Fifer's Day!



Dear Friends,

We are looking forward to an active June at UCCB. Free Bee Market will continue in June and ramp up for July and August's abundant harvests. Our senior choir will offer special music and will be celebrated on their last day of the season June 8th. On June 15th, we will have a Worship in Action abbreviated service, so that we can assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service. And on June 22nd, we will enjoy musicians and singers from "Connected the Musical" filling our sanctuary with love and music. Their director, Kathryn Denney, will have a message about her work with trans teens. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate Pride. We hope you can join us for these community activities throughout the month. Doing church together.



Over the last few weeks and continuing into June, we have been reading scripture from the Book of Acts. Our lectionary includes readings from the Book of Acts occasionally, not weekly. Although these writings are considered to be tightly connected to the Gospel of Luke, they are not considered Gospel readings. I enjoy this time of year when we hear these stories about the early church. Although, we don't always relate directly to the specific issues of the early church, we can relate to the difficulties of living, worshipping, and serving in community. We can relate to the struggles of living within our society and yet trying to live according to God's love and justice. And we can relate to the uncertainties of the future. Paul often abandoned the idea that this world and the church could live together for very long, so he assumed Jesus would return in his lifetime. And here we are today, still navigating the tension between the pressures of our society and the call of God.

With that in mind, I made a difficult decision this week. I chose to sign the Prayers for Liberty letter to our state legislators. I joined many of my colleagues in calling for due process in immigration enforcement and the protection of the sanctity of our religious houses. You can read the letter here: [https://secure.everyaction.com/\\_Z4Oaf24HkqKws97z-za1w2](https://secure.everyaction.com/_Z4Oaf24HkqKws97z-za1w2). Although some of the language of this letter is not how I approach the current state of our immigration system, it is my opportunity to join the Mass Council of Churches, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, and my local colleagues in calling out the dehumanization of immigrants and refugees. I have written about my concerns regarding dehumanization in other newsletter articles. The first step to removing empathy and love from our society is to target a population with language that dehumanizes their lives and makes them a threat to us. I must raise my voice when I see empathy and love being removed from the discourse of our communities. The current situation in our nation is not a partisan issue in my mind. We have been here before with different political parties in control. Our current situation reflects fear and frustration in the hearts of many people in our nation and our communities. I recognize and honor that pain. And I call all of us to follow Jesus' teachings as we work through that fear and frustration. This is not a time to dismiss, judge, or criminalize some peoples, that will not improve our own situation. It will not bring safety and security. It will harm many people, and it will damage our own hearts. May we move forward with the commandments from Jesus: Love God, Love Your Neighbor. Amen.

Pastor Fran



# Sunday Services in June



June 1<sup>st</sup> – Communion Sunday/Porchfest

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Final Sunday with Choir/Ice Cream Social

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Worship in Action (assembly CWS hygiene bags) and One Great Hour of Sharing offering

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – *Connected The Musical* comes to UCCB

**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=VlgwZUtlYl05JeVU2WklHWGtUWExGdz09>

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/UCIayswOH7Ta7LYVK-BcAyA>).

Zoom offers closed captioning subtitles for those who find that helpful.



# Visioning Meeting Note

Thank you to everyone who attended our Visioning meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and brainstorming. We will be holding another version of the meeting on Zoom during June. Stay tune for more information.

In our first session many wonderful ideas were shared. Some of the most popular ideas were: Working with Habitat for Humanity, Community BBQ, Dementia-friendly services, multi-generational game nights, small group book studies/discussions, and re-establishing Welcoming teams. Our ministry teams will be reviewing the results and coordinating action plans to make things happen. Thank you to all who placed their names next to ideas as coordinators and volunteers. We have a wonderful start to an exciting new year.



# Worship in Action is Back!

**Sunday, June 15**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 15, when we will celebrate God's love with our hearts *and* our hands. After a brief worship service, we will put our worship into practice by assembling [hygiene kits for Church World Service](#). You can't be too young or too old to participate; there will be something for everyone to do. Each kit will contain the following items:

1-gallon resealable plastic bag  
 Washcloth  
 Toothbrush (in original packing)  
 Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)  
 Bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)  
 Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)  
 Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)  
 Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less, NEW only)  
 Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of 1 year)  
**Sturdy wide-tooth comb** (6" minimum teeth, packaging removed)

A box has been placed in the Vestry to collect donated items for the kits. It would be helpful if you could fill out [this simple sign-up sheet](#) as you donate items. Questions? Contact [glynis.hamel@gmail.com](mailto:glynis.hamel@gmail.com), or speak to Pastor Fran or any member of the Faith in Action team: Susan Appleton, Lee Biegel, Joe Camara, Janet Glidden, Glynis Hamel, Kellie Senghas, Linda Spear. Thank you!

## **Connected, The Musical is coming to UCC Buxborough on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Join us for a special Sunday service with musicians and singers from this exciting musical. The cast is preparing for their performances in October and November at Nashoba Players in Westford. There will be auditions July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> if you would like to join in. More information is here: <https://www.connectedthemusical.com/>. We are very excited to fill our sanctuary with love and lively music for this special Sunday. Kathryn Denney, Composer, Lyricist, Playwright, will also have a special message about her work with trans teens. It is a Sunday you don't want to miss.



## UCCB Joins the Mother's Day Walk for Peace

On a sunny Sunday in May, the UCCB community proudly participated in the **Mother's Day Walk for Peace** in Dorchester—a beloved Boston tradition that brings people together to honor lives lost to violence and to promote healing, hope, and peace.

Our walking team was 12 members strong in body and even larger in spirit. Carrying our UCCB banner high, we joined thousands of others to walk in solidarity and remembrance. The event featured powerful messages from a diverse group of speakers, including Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Representative Ayanna Pressley, and mothers who have lost children to gun violence. Clementina Chéry, the founder of the walk and president of the **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**, gave a moving address. Chéry created the walk 20 years ago after the tragic shooting death of her 15-year-old son, Louis. She reminded us:

*"We can't stop the bad things from happening. There's enough attention that gets to the bad things. We focus on how to cultivate and continue to promote peace from the grassroots level."*



UCCB walked in loving memory of **Dr. John Rowe**, joined by his sister and brother, Betsy Waters and David Rowe. The walk was both a remembrance and a celebration—of lives lost, lives changed, and progress made. Families cheered from their porches, music echoed through the streets, and snacks were joyfully shared along the route.

Mary Pavlik reflected on the day:

*"I was so surprised at the absolute joy and generosity of spirit all morning. People were hugging, smiling, cheering each other on from porches, playing music along the way. I felt hopeful that a grassroots effort like this, started by families in the midst of the deepest grief, has made such a difference in the community. It really gives me hope for the times we are in now. There is such power when we are together!"*

Our participation was also a fundraising success. UCCB has already exceeded its goal by over **\$1,200**, and we're not done yet. Fundraising remains open until **Father's Day, June 15**.

To contribute to this mission of cultivating cycles of peace, you can donate here:

📧 [mothersdaywalk4peace.org/UCCBoxborough](https://mothersdaywalk4peace.org/UCCBoxborough)



Thank you to all who walked, donated, and supported this meaningful event. What a powerful way to celebrate Mother's Day—with love, community, and a shared commitment to peace.

Go to the next page for more photos.





Betsy and her brother, David walk in memory of their brother. Holding the UCCB banner is Suzanne A. and Griet D.

## Dementia Friendly Service

Thursday, June 19th at 10:00am

Would you like to attend a short and familiar worship service during the week? Our Called to Care team will be hosting a dementia-friendly worship service on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The service will be 30 minutes long, with familiar hymns, and familiar scriptures and prayers. All are welcome to this service and fellowship after the service. It is also a time to connect with others who are interested in dementia-friendly events and fellowship.



## FREEBEE OPENING and invitation to join!

FreeBee Market had its season opener on May 17, a misty Saturday with potential thunderstorms overhead. Volunteers gathered before market start for a pep talk from Heather, and introduction to Pastor Fran. Volunteers asked about what to do if ICE showed up, and Pastor Fran spoke with reassurance of her presence, in collar, to speak to authorities if needed (and it was not needed, fortunately). The crowds were smaller than usual but eagerly shared a whole trailer full of fresh broccoli and salads. Pastor Fran was at the UCCB table, where children played with Legos and eagerly browsed through the free children's books. Kellie and Peter were on duty at the Bouncy house (that's Kellie rolling it up at the end!). Food Rescue Saturdays in May/June will be last minute popups like the one May 24, a last minute milk and fruit contribution that went out on the picnic tables and was gone in fifteen minutes!

Next Community FreeBee will be June 28, look for details about how UCCB will continue to show it's generosity and mission each community market. Contact Mary Pavlik if you would like to be a part of this joyful ministry.



## Scholarships

**We still haven't received any applications!!!**

Every year UCCB offers two scholarships in memory of former parishioners. Anyone within the broader church family, including extended family and friends of the church, are invited to apply. The scholarships are for health and education related fields. Eligible applicants can apply for one or both awards.

This year we ask that you **go the link below, provide the pertinent information in an email, and send it to [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net) by May 18, 2025** More details are listed in this application.

<https://boxboroughucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/scholarship-application-UCCB-2025.pdf>



## Generosity 2025

**Thank you** for all of the ways in which you generously bring your ideas, hearts, hands, and financial resources to the UCCB community and the broader world. Through you and with you, we can live out our mission to Welcome All, Care for the World, and Grow in the Spirit.

For those who have been considering a pledge, it is never too late to join this practice. Don't hesitate to reach to a member of the generosity team with any questions. You are welcome to submit your pledge at any time by following this [link](#) for access to a confidential pledge form.

Your financial support has made possible:

- Supporting the operations of the FreeBee Market with use of our space and resources,
- Participating in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace
- Continuing Tuesday morning bible studies

If you would rather not pledge, but would like to contribute to the Here are some options for you to consider:

- ♦ [Venmo @uccboxborough](#)
- ♦ Text your donation amount to 978-776-3110 (supported by Vanco)
- ♦ Send a check to "UCC Boxborough", 723 Massachusetts Ave, Boxborough, MA 01719
- ♦ Select Donate on our church's website: <https://www.boxboroughuucc.org> and use the UCCB Ministries option

Your commitment to this congregation and community helps fuel all we can imagine and accomplish together. **Thank you!**

*Yours in faith,*

*Generosity Ministry Team: Kellie Senghas, Pastor Fran Graveson*

## Donations and Discussions with the Faith in Action Team

We have recently made several donations on behalf of our congregation:

The Dolly Atamian Campership Program provides scholarships for summer camp programs – both day camps and summer enrichment activities so all children can have a joyful summer. FiA team sent along \$300.

Habitat For Humanity is embarking on several local projects. The FiA team sent along \$500 and would love to hear from someone who would be interested in organizing a UCCB work party!

The Acton Food Pantry continues to provide groceries for those who are food insecure; they are also starting a building project to better serve our community. The FiA team has sent along \$1000 - \$500 for food and \$500 for the new building.

The Faith in Action team is always happy to hear suggestions for worthy causes in our community and beyond. Thank you for trusting us with your pledges.





Once again, our choir combined with the Berlin Parish choir which equaled wonderful music! Picture above is from May 4.

## Mother's Day

Our junior choir did a wonderful job singing "Count On Me" by Bruno Mars during our Mother's Day worship service. We are grateful for all of their hard work learning the song and the dedication of their parents to the practices. Cindy Blanchard, our choir director, and Peter Senghas worked with the children on Sundays and in practices the week before. Thank you all!



Brother and sister are having fun ringing the bell.

## June 2025

[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)**



*Photo by Ginny Harris*