



# Vestry News

AUGUST 2025

## Summer Worship with Harvard 2025

We are excited to be sharing worship locations with the Congregational Church of Harvard on the following dates this summer:

*Please note the worship times.*

August 3 - Harvard @ UCCB, 9:30AM Communion Sunday

August 17- UCCB @ Harvard, 10:00AM at 5 Still River Rd, Harvard, MA

Pastor Fran, the Deacons, and the Music Ministry Team will lead worship on the Sundays we are visiting the Congregational Church of Harvard. This will include our greeters, ushers, and lay readers. We will also enjoy fellowship hosted by Harvard. We especially look forward to Harvard leading a Communion service at UCCB on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will in turn bring their ministry team to assist with worship.



OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## Sunday, July 13 at Congregational Church of Harvard

We enjoyed combining our worship services with Harvard. Fran is pictured telling the honorable story of the Good Samaritan in Harvard's Fellowship Room.



## One Body With Different Parts

“Sorry for the last-minute notice, Fran. We are not going to be able to go to the beach tomorrow after all.” I read the text and felt a little bit of relief. For the last couple of days, my friends and I had been planning to go to the beach on my day off. My friends had not been to the beach in a long time and they had never been to my favorite beach. I wanted it to be a very special day. But here is the thing, when we want days to be very special, we put a lot of pressure on ourselves. I was worried that the drive to the beach would be too long for the kids. I was worried that the parking lot would be full and we would be turned away. What if we had to find another beach? Did I have a Plan B? Would they like the sandwiches I made? Was I bringing enough food? Would the kids get bored? Would they be safe in the water?

Whew...they can't come. I was sad that our fun day was cancelled AND I had forgotten how much stress was involved in planning a day with a group of people. As an empty-nester, I go to the beach alone all of the time. I know what I like to eat. I can pivot on a dime when plans have to change. I only have to meet my expectations. Doing things alone is easy.

There are many things we can enjoy alone. There are some things that are meant to be done in community. Paul often told the early church that worshipping God and serving like Jesus served needed to be done in community.

***Church is walking together in the Spirit, one body with different parts:***

By means of Christ's one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which God has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of Christ resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—one Spirit—where we all come to drink... I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together...What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own...The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. *1 Corinthians (The Message Translation)*

As we begin our new church program year, we will be exploring together different ways of being in community. There are challenges when we do things together as community. And there are great rewards in walking together with grace in our hearts, focused on love, justice, and peace.

I enjoyed my quiet day at the beach alone. AND each life moment can be expanded and made more deeply experienced when we share it with others. Our scriptures contain many stories of the presence of God in community life. There is something very special about sharing this life with others and experiencing something larger than each of us individually. Our society puts so much focus on the individual. We live in a competitive environment. We hear the messages: “Survival of the fittest;” “Strive to be the best;” and “Reach for the golden ring.” How is that working out for us? Let's talk about it.

Blessings!  
Pastor Fran





## UCCB Mission Movers — Caring for our Neighbors

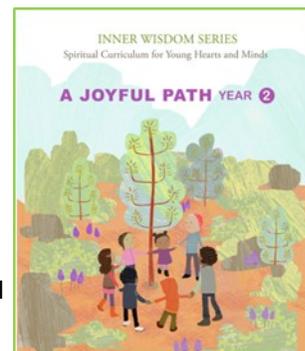
Founded in the 1970s at the South Acton Congregational Church (SACC), Mission Movers has been helping neighbors in crisis move into new housing at a moment's notice. UCCB learned from individuals at SACC and formed a small team to help in this effort in our community through connections with Boxborough's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

We would love to strengthen and broaden this team! Items to be moved can be light but some require some strength, agility, and engineering sense to disassemble and reassemble.

Would you like to join the network of folks to respond when needed? Please contact Kellie Senghas at [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!

## Youth Faith Formation

Our Sunday morning Faith Formation program will start again on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Youth will participate in the beginning of worship; share in the Word for All Ages; and then leave the sanctuary with two adult teachers for fun with stories, crafts, games, and music. I am excited to be working with our dedicated teachers and coordinators throughout the year to build a new program of lessons. We have recently purchased the Joyful Path spiritual formation curriculum. During the first few months we will be focusing on community: the church community, Jesus stories about community; and the broader community around us. Our lessons will include Bible stories, historical figures, and stories from other faith traditions. We can't wait to be together again with multiple generations spending time together on Sunday mornings! If you have any questions about the program or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Pastor Fran, [uccbpastor@gmail.com](mailto:uccbpastor@gmail.com) or Peter Senghas, [psenghas@yahoo.com](mailto:psenghas@yahoo.com).



### 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=VlgwZUtlYk05jeVU2WklHWGtUWExGdz09>

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.



## Adult Mission Trip 2025 – Faith in Action!

For a week in July, ten members of the broader UCCB community traveled to Cherryfield, Maine, to partner with Maine Seacoast Mission and participate in MSCM’s Housing Rehabilitation Program. By day we replaced a door and built a small back deck, finished trimming newly installed windows, and put a coat of paint on a trailer home in Steuben, Maine. By night, we enjoyed communal dinners, reflections on the day and great conversations about life in general. And, throughout, we walked with humor and grace for our varied strengths and weaknesses and made a difference in the lives of others.

Maine Seacoast Mission was started in 1905 by two brothers, both pastors, who realized that the spiritual needs of the island residents of Downeast Maine were not being met. Today Maine Seacoast Mission’s focus includes rural education, food security, and healthcare issues. While they provide a wide array of support services, they utilize mission trip volunteers in their Housing Rehabilitation Program. This region of Maine has older housing stock and the need for repairs and weatherization on these homes is constant. With the support of volunteers, Maine Seacoast Mission is able to help their most vulnerable neighbors.

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



Relaxing after a hard day’s work



Scott carefully selects wood for the deck



Rich and Kellie carefully measure (twice!).



Gloria and Rich are pros with the rollers



Watch out!





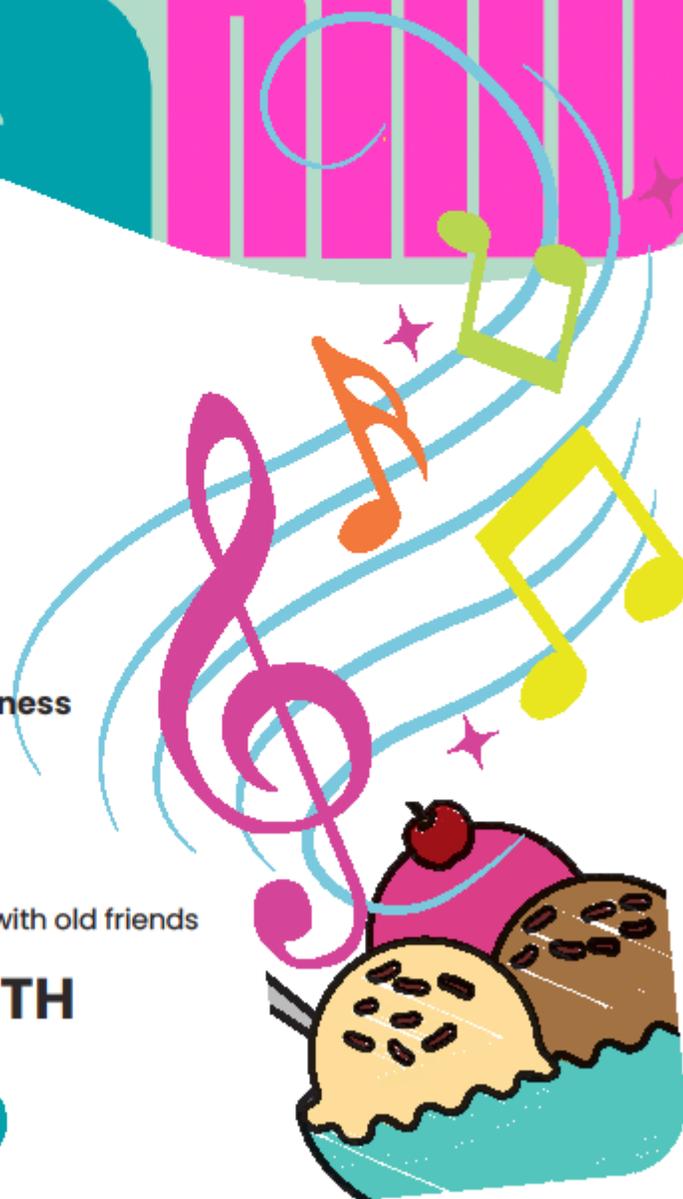
# RALLY DAY

**Welcome Back!**  
**Celebration of Joy and Kindness**

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Youth Programs are Back!
- Choir Returns!
- Ice Cream Sundaes
- Bring A Friend and catch up with old friends

**SUNDAY, SEPT 7TH**

**JOIN US!**



## A Legacy of Love and Generosity



Each year at our annual meeting, we recognize and honor those who have established endowed funds to sustain the ministries of UCC Boxborough for generations to come. These gifts—rooted in faith, love, and commitment—ensure that your generosity can continue to support our mission, just like those who came before us.

We want to lift up the stories of church members who made a planned gift—gifts that are still bearing fruit today. Here are two stories to celebrate.

### **The Merrill R. and Ethel M. (Cobleigh) Wetherbee Fund**

Longtime members of UCCB, Merrill and Ethel Wetherbee established this fund in 1984 with a heartfelt desire to support the church's ongoing work. Their thoughtful planning provided financial support for general operating expenses. They included in their letter to the church a request that flowers be placed on the altar on or near April 8th annually in loving memory of Charles T. and Mercie Weatherbee. Their enduring generosity reflects a love for both church and family that continues to bloom year after year.

### **The Alfred William and Effie M. Cobleigh and Alfred Whitney Cobleigh Fund**

Also created by Merrill and Ethel Wetherbee, this fund honors Ethel's parents, Alfie William and Effie M. Cobleigh and Ethel's brother, Alfred Whitney Cobleigh. It, too, supports the church's general operations while carrying forward a legacy of family devotion and faithful service. The flowers on the altar around February 23 honor "mother and dad", and flowers around April 2 honor brother Alfred.

These funds are more than financial contributions—they are living memorials to the people who helped shape our community. Their foresight and faith continue to bless UCCB today.

### **LOOKING AHEAD: YOUR LEGACY MATTERS**

In 2015, UCCB established a church-wide Endowment Fund. Active members of our community have been contributing to this fund since its founding, with gifts large and small. This permanent fund gives the church flexibility to use income from invested assets wherever it's most needed—today and into the future.

[If you would like to learn more about financial stewardship at UCCB, please review the Giving page on our website \(https://boxboroughucc.org/giving/\)](https://boxboroughucc.org/giving/) or ask a member of the Generosity Ministry Team.

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





Last Sunday of June, Fran dons her new stole.

## Summer Church Office Hours

The church office summer hours will begin July 1st.

**Tues., Weds., and Thurs., the office is open from 9-12pm.**

On Mondays and Fridays, the office will be closed but the staff is available should you need to contact them.

Please feel free to call: 978-263-7387 or email the church office at [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net) or you can email Pastor Fran at [uccbpastor@gmail.com](mailto:uccbpastor@gmail.com).



## Crafters Invited to Make Ornaments



The Merrie Christmas Fair may be a few months away but the Ornament/Decoration Table co-chairs are already looking for crafters to make 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! We have a few needlework project kits available to work on over the summer. Please let us know if you would like to help. Interested? Contact Gloria Roe 978-502-9625/ email [gloria.roe@comcast.net](mailto:gloria.roe@comcast.net), Linda Morse at [kcmorse@verizon.net](mailto:kcmorse@verizon.net) / 978-314-3272, or Connie Brown at [conniebcmc@comcast.net](mailto:conniebcmc@comcast.net) or 978-263-3852

# August 2025

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**Vestry News articles are due starting the 24th of each month. Please submit your article or pictures to [hmatthew25@verizon.net](mailto:hmatthew25@verizon.net) and [boxborochurch@verizon.net](mailto:boxborochurch@verizon.net)**



*Photo by Ginny Harris*