



Vestry News

OCTOBER 2025

Dedication to Cuba



On Sunday Sept 28, we sang songs of Cuba. Maricel sang an anthem and the three: Cindy, Glynis and Maricel, above, sung a medley. For the sermon, Maricel, who is Cuban born, gave a heartfelt account of life in Cuba and her courageous father who played a significant role in the Cuban revolution. Unfortunately, he was killed before she was born. On Saturday, Oct. 25 you can hear the exhilarating pan-Latin music of Sol y Canto at the benefit concert at UCCB. Please go to [page 4](#) and get your tickets at event brite through the link or use the QR code. You may also simply donate; everything is appreciated.

Pictured above we have the choir and Maricel with Peter and Jeff as accompaniments. The whole congregation joined in for the chorus.

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Pastor's Letter

During this fall, our scripture readings have taken us through the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. We have talked about the common theme that moves through these stories. "Saying yes to God," is the common theme. What does it take to say, "yes to God?" We have talked about three things: trust in God; stepping out of our norm; and the willingness to take a risk.



Does "saying yes to God," give you a creepy feeling? Is there something about that phrase that triggers images of God that don't match your faithful understanding? Is there something old and stogy about that sentence? Or does it just sound too religious for your taste? I think it is important to name those feelings. There is a lot of Christian history and harmful theology that comes up when we use such language. Especially, if we were raised in a tradition that talked about a demanding God or held to a claim that there is only one way to say, "yes to God."

Our modern mindset also taints these words. What do we mean by "God?" Do we really think there is an old man up in the clouds that gives us commands? Or is it a set of church leaders really giving out commands and claiming it is God? Much of the ancient imagery of God has lost its meaning outside of the ancient context. Many of us believe we need to separate ourselves from reality when we walk into church and talk about this God thing.

Can we talk about that for a minute? Our tradition holds that God cannot be described. Our bible stories sometimes show God in very human terms. It makes it difficult to trust in a God that has been portrayed to look and sound a lot like us. Let's broaden our lens. Our bible also describes God as the wind, the organization of chaos, the cloud on a mountain top, the clap of thunder, the food of life, and the joy of laughter. Theologians debate the concepts of God being the "ground of all being," the trinity forces dancing together for eternity; the center of love; and the mystery beyond our time and space.

One of the first steps in a mature faith journey is the wonderful exercise of defining your own method of describing God. What does your description say about the character of God? What does your description say about the relationship between you and God, and your relationship with others? How does this God you describe impact your life?

On my own faith journey, it all came down to that last question. Why do I want to be a member of a church community? Why do I want to be a part of a religion? I concluded that my belief system had to change my actions in this life. My faith had to make the world a better place for everyone. For me, there had to be something more than what we see in our time and space. And that mystery had to be inviting me into a better world, a better life. How did I conclude that? My conclusion didn't come from a book; a particular tradition; or particular theological statement. I simply listened to my heart. In my life, I have felt a movement around me. I have seen transformation I cannot explain. I have moved through life transitions solely on the faith that all would be well. I can only explain the God I trust in one way. Through the suffering, through the pain; and through the uncertainty, I always feel a presence of Love.

As we said, none of us can fully describe God. And so, I do not try to answer all of the questions. I leave the mystery beyond me to that, mystery. However, I experience God through Love. I experience a loving movement in my life I cannot explain. I see love moving through and among us and I know that it is not just a coincidence. I witness the power of love between us, and I am in awe of the phenomenon. And so,

Continued on next page

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for me, God is Love. There is mystery beyond the Love, but my experience of God is that loving presence that can move mountains when we let Love into our life.

As a church community, we all have the opportunity to share our experiences with God. We may share doubts, because we all have them. We may share concerns about how love seems absent in the world. We may share our fears of actually letting go and doing what we know is the path of love. And as we share, we all grow. May you see God all around our community and in your life. May your imagination let go of our limited views of God and open up to God moving through your life in infinite forms, always speaking, always transforming, always loving you where you are in each moment.

Blessings,
Pastor Fran

October Worship and Schedule

- Sunday, October 5th - World Communion Sunday
- Sunday, October 12th - Worship Service
- Saturday, October 18th - Halloween costume FreeBee Market
- Saturday, October 18th - Blessing of the Animals at FreeBee Market
- Sunday, October 19th - Habitat for Humanity presentation
- Saturday, October 25th - Fundraiser Concert for Cuba
- Sunday, October 26th - Worship Service
- Sunday, November 2nd - All Saints Day



**Blessing of the
Animals**
October 18th 10:30 am



Blessing of the Animals at the FreeBee Market- October 18th!

Bring your pets of all kinds or a photo to be blessed.

Join Us! Everyone is Welcome!

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=VlgwZUtYLU05jeVU2WklHWGtUWExGdz09>

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.

A CONCERT FOR CUBA! A celebratory evening featuring 30-year music veterans, Sol y Canto, hailed by the Boston Globe as "Boston's sublime ambassadors of Pan-Latin music!"

On Sunday, September 28th we were fortunate enough to hear Cuban-born Maricel Lucero's wonderful singing and her very personal history with the island. In the early 1990s Maricel returned to Cuba to reunite with her extended family and learn the facts around the tragic fate of her father, who was killed in the Revolution just months before she was born. Maricel would continue to visit Cuba, bringing her Vermont based woman's choir and later, salsa dancing groups. Each time Maricel visited she became increasingly aware of the lack of basic necessities for average citizens. Post Covid, the financial crises has only worsened. On top of that, their electrical infrastructure is collapsing

Cuba is currently experiencing its worst economic depression since the revolution of the 1950s. The people are struggling to survive.

On October 25th UCC Boxborough is hosting a Cuba Benefit Concert. It promises to be a joy-filled night to remember. No one will ask you to stop dancing in your seat!

[Grab your tickets now](#) (or make a donation). Enjoy an evening of world-class music by Sol y Canto! Your ticket contribution will have a direct impact and provide much needed aid to the Cuban people

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025

A Cuba Benefit Concert

UCC BOXBOROUGH

United Church of Christ of Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave. Boxborough

7:30PM (doors open at 7PM)

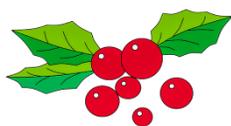
Tickets \$25 in advance; \$30 cash at the door
\$15 for students

with
sol y canto
a Pan-Latin band

Raising funds for food, medicine, and supplies to help people in Cuba through the worst economic crisis in their history

To make a donation or to purchase tickets, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-cuba-benefit-concert-with-sol-y-canto-tickets-1611092764829?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> or use the QR code in the picture.





Merrie Christmas Fair



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 for teens and adults to play
e.g., Chronology, Azul, Pictionary, etc.
- 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
- Museum of Illusions (Boston) tickets



\$100 and under

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

\$150 and under

- Stand mixer
- Snowshoes
- Museum of Fine Arts membership
- Museum of Science family membership
- Battery-powered chainsaw (for smaller jobs)
- Power Washer



Priceless!

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

Ornament Table- Merrie Christmas Fair 2025



This is a special invitation to make ornaments and Christmas decorations this Fall for the 2025 Merrie Christmas Fair.. A few crafters have already been busy making ornaments, but we are still looking to add more to the Table to sell at the Fair. If you have projects/ideas, please share them with us. We have some ideas, a few kits, and supplies such as bells, ribbon, felt, lace, etc. We look forward to seeing all of the new ornaments created for this year's Merrie Christmas Fair.

Interested and 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, Conniebcmc@comcast.net

Worship in Action a Resounding Success!

This congregation loves its Worship in Action services, as evidenced on September 21 when we packed lunches for Worcester Fellowship. In addition to providing 47 lunches for the congregants at WF, UCCB donated \$215 worth of Dunkin' Donuts gift cards and 98 pairs of socks to the ministry. Special thanks to Kellie and Peter S., who delivered the lunches to Worcester, and to Lee B., who did all the shopping and organized the event on Sunday morning. And thank you to everyone at UCCB who helped by making sandwiches, decorating and filling lunch bags, donating money, cards, and socks, and sending love to our neighbors at Worcester Fellowship.



Christmas in October! CPO Holiday Gift Bag Project

It's not too early to get into the Christmas spirit - the Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) Holiday Gift Bag Project is already in full swing. The project provides a gift bag of personal care items, writing supplies, and a greeting card to 3600 people incarcerated in prisons across Massachusetts. For some of the incarcerated people, this is the only gift they will receive during the holiday season. UCCB has supported this program for many years and in the past we have collected donations for the Holiday Gift Bag Project in December. This year, the collection will take place during October to help CPO meet its needs before the end of their fiscal year. If you would like to donate, please make a check out to UCCB and put "CPO" in the memo line. Alternatively, visit [UCCB's Giving page](#). Click the "Give Now" button, and in the Special Collections section indicate the amount and put "CPO" in the memo.

And if you would like to give of your time, CPO is looking for volunteers to assemble the gift bags during the months of October and November. Members of the Faith in Action team have already signed up for the assembly event on October 18. If you would like to join us that day or sign up for a different time, please register [here](#). Thank you!

See note on page 7





CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH PRESENTS
Holiday Gift Bag Project 2025



Since 1968, CPO has shared care and compassion with incarcerated individuals across Massachusetts through simple, meaningful gift bags.

Help us deliver 3,600 gift bags across five state prison sites, now including an additional 1,000 for this year.

*I'm 22 years old
 I've been incarcerated since
 I was 18 and I don't have
 a lot so this means the world
 to me thank you all and have
 a Merry Christmas and Happy
 New year. ♡*

- Gift bag recipient, Concord, MA



Scan the QR Code or Visit
concordprisonoutreach.org/donate
 100 Main Street, Suite 130
 Concord, MA 01742

Let's bring light and love to someone in need during this dark and lonely season.

This project reaches individuals at MCI-Shirley, Souza-Baranowski, Northeastern Correctional Center, North Central Correctional Institution, and MCI-Framingham.



Generosity

As fall approaches, we reflect on all of the ways in which our community has generously brought our ideas, hearts, hands, and financial resources to the UCCB community and the broader world this year. Through you and with you, we can **imagine together** how we can live out our mission to **Welcome All, Care for the World, and Grow in the Spirit.**

Your financial support has made possible:

- Supporting the operations of the FreeBee Market with use of our space and resources,
- Providing the children (and adults!) with bibles,
- Maintaining our fabulous staff who keep the lights on, doors open and programs running!

Should you wish to fulfill your financial pledge for the year or give for the first time, here are some ways in which you can provide financial support. We are 60% of the way to our funding goal for the year – thank you!

- 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.boxboroughucc.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,

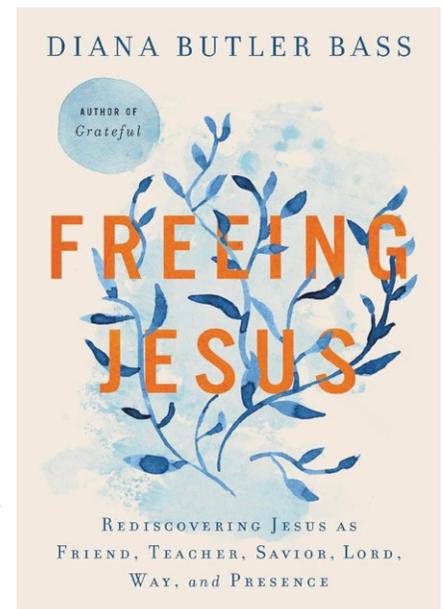
Generosity Ministry Team: Kellie Senghas, Pastor Fran Graveson

Book Study

“I would not have spent nearly as much time in jail, nor enjoyed half the friendships I known, if I hadn’t decided to follow the brown-skinned Palestinian Jew from Nazareth.” These are the words of Bishop William Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign in his endorsement of the book “Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.”

For some of us, the word Jesus is more of a question than a statement. There is a lot of history behind the definition of who Jesus Christ was/is within our tradition and in the broader world. And CHURCH should always be about questions. Questions about how we want to live our life. And I love to dive into the difficult questions. Questions like, am I really Christian? How much of this stuff do I NEED to believe to come to church. Is this crazy minister going to all talk about Jesus?

Well, let’s dive into those questions! During Advent we will be reading “Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence” by Diana Butler Bass. We hope to offer two opportunities for discussion. First the Tuesday morning Bible study at 10am on Zoom will pivot to this book starting November 4th. Come and join the conversation. Second, we would like to offer an evening discussion group of the book. Please reach out to Pastor Fran, uccbpastor@gmail.com, if you would like to attend these evening events in person or on Zoom. We will find a good day and time to meet together. We are looking forward to fun conversations that may take a bit of burden off of the shoulders of Christmas and perhaps some healing from past experiences and expectations around the tradition of Jesus Christ.



Connected, the Musical!

We are so excited that our friends at Connected: The Musical will soon be performing at Nashoba Players theater in Westford! We enjoyed their talents in our worship service in June. We have been happy to provide them with rehearsal space all summer. And now, we get to support them on stage!!

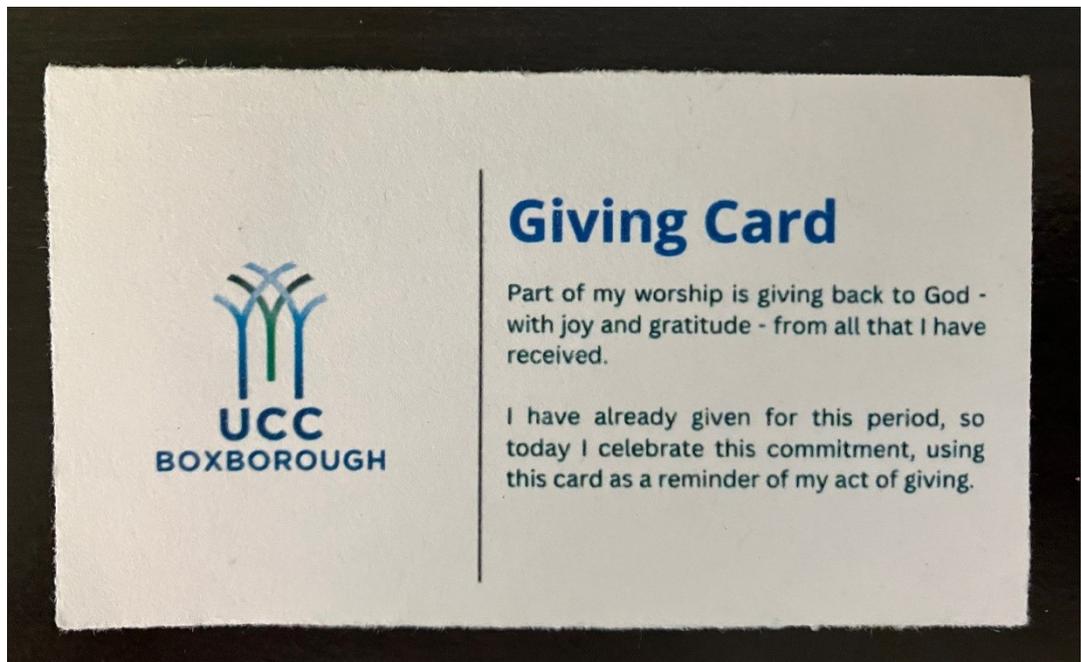


Below is the the ticket offering of the show. Pastor Fran will be attending Friday, November 1st! Would you like to join her?

Let's have a fun night at the show! <https://nashobaplayers.org/shows/current/intro/>

During Collection

Just in case you didn't know: if you are someone who gives on line, and the plate is being passed, you may add this card if you wish. They are kept in the sanctuary on the same table of the joys and concerns book.



Tuesday morning Bible Study

Meet every Tuesday at 10 am for bible study. Zoom opens at 9:45 am for chatting and connecting.

The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81402428901>

Meeting ID: 814 0142 8901 Passcode: 7387

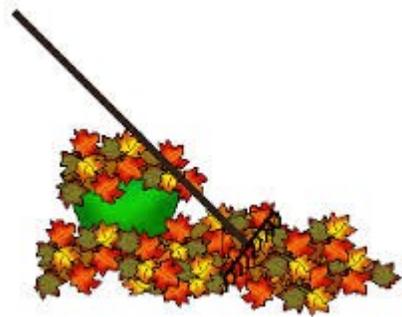
October 2025

www.boxboroughucc.org

978-263-7387

boxborochurch@verizon.net

Vestry News articles are due starting the 24th of each month. Please submit your article or pictures to hmatthew25@verizon.net and boxborochurch@verizon.net



Happy Fall!