



Vestry News

SEPTEMBER 2026



IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	2
Bible Study; Sunday School Help; Zoom Worship	3
Crafters Wanted for Ornament Table ; On Line Auction	4
More On Line Auction; Sounds of Peace message	5
Our Community Song; Aging To- gether; Sunday Volunteer Oppor- tunities.	6
Generosity; Poem-Who's the Sidewalk For?; Pictures from Ginny Harris	7



SEPTEMBER 13TH
9:30AM

WELCOME
Sunday

Fun Outdoor Worship Service
Community Activities - Get Involved!
Community Lunch

I Need Your Help And Talents!!!!!!

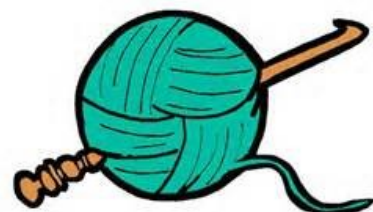
I am calling upon all quilters, knitters, artists, crocheters, pottery gurus, macromeres, photographers, card makers, basket weavers, rug hookers, embroiders, decoupagers and any other craft or skill in which you might indulge. I need homemade items for the Knits and Gifts table at the Merrie Christmas Fair in November. I need things for all age groups. The items could be clothing, toys, home decor, correspondence tools, table and kitchen ware.....

You never know what will sell from year to year. What didn't sell one year sells out the next. I truly appreciate all of you that have contributed in the past and hope you will do so this year. If you haven't contributed in the past, give it a try.

Pricing is always difficult. I don't want to insult anyone if I price too low. Because I'm not familiar with all of the different crafts please let me know the cost involved for materials. The time we put into an item's creation is a gift. I truly feel people come to church fairs looking for unique gifts at affordable prices. I hate pricing people out of the door.

One more thing.....I could use help the day of the fair if anyone is available. Call or email if you have questions.

Again, THANK YOU!
Marlee Roberts



What is the purpose of church?

LOVE is the purpose of church. Holding more love in our own hearts, love held through giving thanks and love held in knowing that no matter what, there is a grace that loves us. Love surrounds us in church. AND we are called to practice that love in community. Church is a group activity. It is a sharing of love.

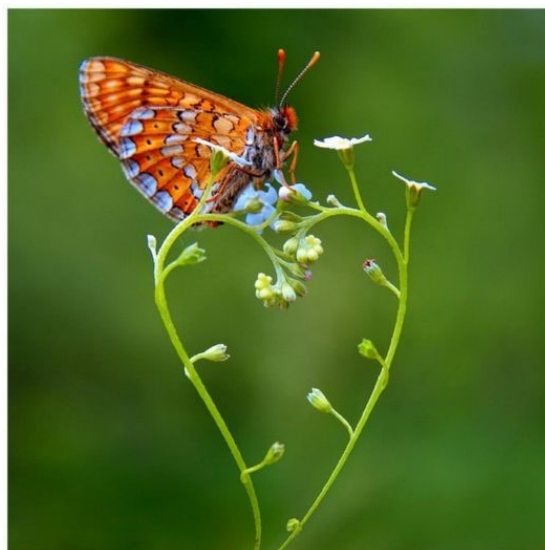
In our tradition, we hold dearly the words of Jesus, "Love God, Love Your Neighbor." It is that simple. And it is so very difficult to practice this commandment of love.

Church is a community that not only comes together once a week to center love and feel comforted. Our calling is to focus the gifts of our church on spreading love into the world. Our time, talents, and treasure are brought together in thanks for the gift of this life with the purpose of filling this world with love, grace, and peace. Our purpose is to center love in our lives and in the world.

Throughout the history of humanity, we have struggled to put love first in our lives. Humans hold survival as our first priority. As we built civilizations, survival turned from hunting and defending oneself to working together. We first worked together in an agricultural market system and then evolved into an industrial global system. Interesting side-thought, industry has always been global. Love was in our lives. But even in our modern comfortable lives, survival is our first instinct. Church helps us to re-center love in our lives. We hope that it is a safe place where our fears and concerns can be held in peace and love. And we strive to expand that safety to the world around us.

There are many systems in our world that promise safety. We are told every day that if we compete for resources, we will be safe. Our nations go to war over the natural resources of the land and seas. We are told that the procurement of resources and the defense of resources will make us safe. We are told that spending our lives building our safety net, our wealth, will bring us safety. These systems feed on our priority of survival.

How does one break the cycle of scarcity, survival, competition for resources? Well, that has been the struggle of the church for 2000 years. Preaching and teaching love and shaking up the system of survival is what caused Jesus to be killed. Our tradition of loving God, a force of love that is greater than fear and scarcity, is a practice that can center love in our life and our world. It is not the only practice spreading love in the world. It is the practice I have lived in my whole life and therefore the practice I have chosen to move most deeply, to dedicate my heart to loving God and loving my neighbor. It is challenging and so meaningful.



What practices help you to center love in your life? What practices help you to see above the systems of competition; scarcity; and fear? Helping all of us to grow in those practices is the purpose of church. Let's do it together.

If centering love sounds like a great idea, we need lots of friends and partners to truly shift the focus of the world to love. It starts with simply asking a friend to join us. I encourage you to invite a friend to our Welcome Sunday on September 13th. We will have a short outdoor worship followed by some sharing of music, food, and fun. We will also have information about ways we can all get involved in the community and spread love.

Blessings!
Pastor Fran

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Begins!!

All are welcome to our Morning Bible Study starting on Tuesday, September 15th at 10am!



It is a wonderful hour of learning and reflection about the scripture we will read during the Sunday service. Our stories can reveal so much about our tradition; our relationship with God; and the experiences of so many people yesterday and today.

We meet on zoom and the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81402428901>

Meeting ID: **814 0142 8901**

Passcode: **7387**

A Call for Sunday School Leaders

Greetings, everyone!

As Sunday School gets underway this year, we are looking for volunteers to help lead our Sunday School lessons. Our hope is to form a team of four to six pairs of leaders who can take turns leading a lesson each Sunday.

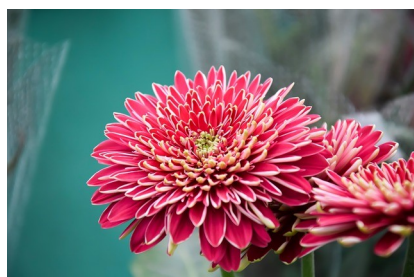
Leading Sunday School is a fun and meaningful way to get to know our young people, and you don't have to do it alone! We have a set curriculum with weekly lesson plans. The Co-teaching team can follow ideas in the curriculum; ask for help from Pastor Fran and Peter; or come up with their own creative activities/crafts to match the week's theme.

We'd love to have you join us!



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/UChIayswOH7Ta7LYVK-BcAyA/>).

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

Ornament Table Gears up to make Ornaments for Merrie Christmas Fair

Christmas Ornament/Decorations Table crafters have been busy over the summer making ornaments and decorations. However, we continue to need your help with making items for the Table. We are thinking about offering a few workshops this Fall to make a variety of ornaments and holiday decorations. Our first planning meeting will be on Sunday, September 20 after church in the Pipe Room. It'll be a time to share ornament and decoration ideas as well as potential workshop dates. If you have some ornament materials available, please let us know. For more information, contact Gloria Roe 978-502-9625/

gloria.a.roe@gmail.com. Linda Morse at 978-266-2836/ kcmorse@verizon.com or Connie Brown at [978-263-3852/](tel:978-263-3852)
conniebcmc@comcast.net



UCCB 2026 Online Auction

You are enthusiastically invited ...



... to join the team working on the UCCB 2026 Online Auction, which will run online from November 11th through November 21st. Preparations for this year's Auction are already underway, and we need your help. Both first-timers and experienced Auction volunteers are welcome. There are many jobs that need to be done, and several that can be done at home in your spare time. We need people to write descriptions of the items for sale, make phone calls to donors, ask local merchants to donate goods or gift certificates, type gift certificates for services contributed, distribute Auction items to winning bidders, and write thank-you notes -- to name just a few of the jobs that need to be done. Spreading the work among many volunteers gives lots of people a chance to contribute doing tasks they enjoy. Please contact Mary Anne Vogel at 978-852-9637 (cell) or voglfmly@gmail.com to let her know you'll help. Working together, we can have fun, make some new friends, and carry on one of our church's treasured holiday traditions!

More about the Online Auction

Get into the Christmas spirit early by giving a gift or a service to the **UCCB 2026 Online Auction**, which will run from **November 11 through November 21**. We welcome donations of all kinds: gifts you purchase, gifts that are handmade,



original art and photography, delicious homemade food, Christmas-themed items, tickets to sports events or concerts or plays, etc. Some of the most popular items for bid are the services that we provide for one another, such as homemade dinners, specialty food, guided hikes, pet sitting, and rides to the airport.



Add your gift to the list on the Online Auction poster in the Gathering Room during coffee hour or contact Mary Anne Vogel (text or call 978-852-9637, or email voglfnly@gmail.com).

Can't decide what to donate? We gladly accept money to buy articles for the Auction. You can either mail or bring a check to the church made out to "UCCB" with "Online Auction" in the memo line. You can also donate money online through the church website (www.borboroughucc.org). Click on the blue DONATE button at the top of the homepage, then click on the blue Give Now button on the next page to bring up the Donations form. Near the bottom of the form, next to "Special Collections" enter the amount you would like to give and type "Online Auction" in the box next to the amount. Click Continue at the bottom of the page to finish the donation by entering your name and credit card information.

Please make your donation by November 1. The Online Auction needs everyone's help to be successful! Thank you very much!

Sounds of Peace Invitation

The Sounds of Peace is a cappella group whose members bring the solace of music to people who are facing life's challenges whether it be in their home and/or care facility. We focus on bringing comfort and peace through song. The group offers the gift of music to the wider community as well, not just church members. Our membership in Sounds of Peace is open to anyone, church member or not, who would like to participate in this ministry. We seek to expand our membership and ministry in the coming year. In addition to singing for individuals, the group also likes to share our voices in song occasionally for specific themed services such as the Longest Night, Lent, Maundy Thursday, as well as Sunday morning worship services. We meet monthly to review and rehearse a variety of songs. Interested in singing or if you would like us to sing in your home or know someone who would like a visit, please let us know.



For more information, please contact Gloria Roe: gloria.a.roe@gmail.com or 978-502-9625.

What is our Community SONG!!

During Pastor Fran's August 2nd sermon, she asked the question: What is our Community SONG?

Let's have some fun and think of songs that can tell the world who we are!! What is a song that would be great for us to sing while we walk this beautiful and wonderful journey together?!

Put your song in the table below and we can chat about choices. The least that can happen is that we have some fun conversations and learn about each other's favorite songs!! Blessings!



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18o5HYCPVrb-Cb8rJUXKLnF-Z8K48ngNmQpbRI9mxuUY/edit?usp=sharing>

Aging Together Luncheon Thursday, Sept 24th @ Noon!



At your request, we are pleased to welcome Jeremy from **Always There Homecare** of Acton to our next Aging Together Luncheon. Jeremy will join us for a casual conversation about available services and answer your questions.

Many service options are available, and UCC Boxborough is not endorsing any one company, but we appreciate Jeremy taking the time to speak with us.

All are welcome—bring a brown bag lunch, come with your questions, and enjoy the fellowship.

Volunteer Opportunities!

The fall is coming and we need your help! Sunday worship services are better with helping hands—whether it's greeting, ushering, lay reading, or young folks lighting candles. If you feel called to serve or just want to be part of something meaningful, we'd love to have you! No experience needed! For information on the tasks, please contact the deacon chair, Larry Wellington or Heidi Matthew. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. We use sign up genius to help organize the Sundays. See link below.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA9AF2AA1FDC61-sunday2#/>

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. We have been **planting seeds of hope – together** all year as we have worshipped, sang, and worked in faithful fellowship.

Thank you to all who have pledged your financial support to keep the ministries of UCCB vibrant and growing in 2026. Your generous gifts – of time, talent, and treasure – make **all** things possible in our faith community. Through you and with you, we live out our mission to Welcome All, Care for the World, and Grow in the Spirit.

You can learn more about pledging and giving options, by visiting UCCB's website (www.boxboroughuucc.org/giving/). If you would like to pledge via a secure online form, follow this [link](#).

If you would rather not pledge, but would like to contribute to support UCCB's programming and mission, 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

Thank you for being part of this journey and our faith community.

Your Generosity Ministry Team: Griet Dehandschutter, Rev. Fran Graveson, and Kellie Senghas



Who's the Sidewalk For?

Is it mine 'cause I live here?
Can't be the city's - they don't keep it clear.

Is it yours 'cause you're coming through?
Is it for visitors, just like you?

***Who is welcome on my street?
Who's the sidewalk for?***

Grandma needing air before her nerves take hold?
The uncle, afraid to drive 'cause he's too old?

Her wheelchair can't hop the granite curb.
Did anyone think to talk to her first?

Is it the city lineman who needs to climb a pole?
The mailman with business at every door?

The recycling bin that someone forgot?
And the Amazon boxes that block my walk?

The soggy litter? The layer of worms?
The mountain of leaves from a windy storm?

The runner who's safer off the street?
The dog running free and acting mean?
Or scooters and e-bikes that terrify me?

People walking four abreast?
Apparently we're just their guests.

Is the sidewalk a place to find someone new,
The couple strolling, cheek to cheek?

Who wears the same team swag as you?

Is it where the kids once learned to ride,
And now it's where bikes are denied?

The kid with chalk and a dreamy heart,
Who's made the sidewalk a work of art?

The high school kid not welcome at home?
The one who begs to be left alone?

***Who is welcome on my street?
Who's the sidewalk for?***

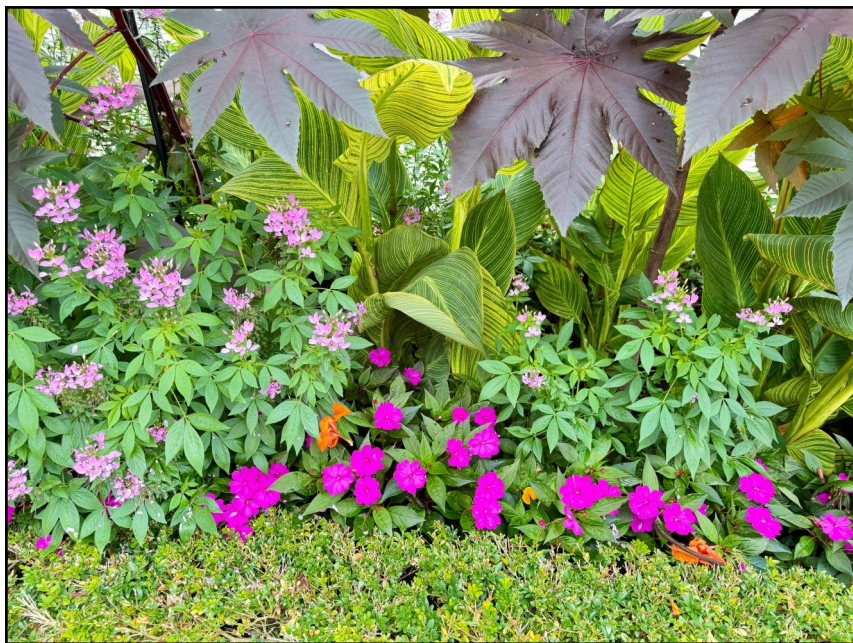
Is it mine?
Is it yours?
Is it his?
Is it hers?
Is it the dog's?
Is it the bike's?
Is it the city's?
Is it the night's?



Kellie and Peter Senghas

The Beauty of Niagara Falls

Photos from Ginny Harris



September 2026

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

