



Vestry News

OCTOBER 2026

Welcome Sunday!

On Sunday, September 13th, 55 of us gathered for worship. We are saying goodbye to summer and welcoming fall. The weather didn't cooperate with our initial plans to worship outdoors, but we still had great music, and good food and lots of fellowship time. During the children's message, Pastor Fran introduced froggie who has actually been named Turtle by some creative children. We will see Turtle in future services. Below are photos from Sunday. You can see more photos on page 6.



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We got to see long time member Barbara S. in person.



Pastor's Message

"I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." Genesis 12:2b

God made a covenant with Abram: follow my instructions, and I will make you a blessing to the whole world. Abram gathered everything he owned and followed God into the unknown. Three generations later, Joseph carried on that covenant by being a blessing to others wherever life's struggles brought him. Centuries later, the Israelites upheld the covenant by trusting God and crossing a parted sea to freedom.

How do we see these stories of covenant today? Does the ancient language of covenant mean anything to us in our modern lives? Can we place our trust in a God we cannot see? Can we trust God enough to walk into unknown places, offer our assets and even ourselves to others, or face imminent danger in order to taste freedom?

One can certainly live a safe life without trusting and taking risks with God. AND there is a richness in life when we trust that there is something bigger than us that is calling us into love, into relationship. When we are able to see the world through a calling larger than our own safety, we can experience love through our neighbors and through our growing heart. When we trust that we are loved, we are able to expand our ability to forgive and to be forgiven; to serve and to be served; to search for peace both externally and internally.

Church is not about the dogma created in ancient councils and refined in universities. Church is the everyday experience of living in covenant. Holding a covenant with each other and God tenderly in our hearts. Church is standing together and choosing a worldview that is relational not transactional. Church is focusing on promises that grow from the fertile ground of loving each other without fear. In covenant, we promise one another and the world that, though imperfect, we will strive to act with love, intention, and peace, guided by our hearts.

There are public covenants like marriage; ordination; and church membership. And there are private covenants whispered into the ear of an infant; promised in quiet conversations during difficult times; and revealed solidarity of the heart that doesn't even need words. There are covenants we make with people around us. And there are covenants we make with ourselves that only God, love, will witness.

What are the covenants in your life? Who do you trust enough to walk into unknown places, offer your assets and even yourselves to others, or face imminent danger in order to taste freedom? May peace fill your heart as you choose your covenants with intention and remain open to possibilities beyond our understanding.

Blessings,
Pastor Fran



Blessing of the Animals

October 24th 10:30 am



Fins, Fur, Feathers

Four Paws, two legs, wings, shells, hooves,

Slithering, flapping, crawling, running, hopping, flying, swimming.

All pets are welcome!! For they are all blessed!

You are invited to bring your pet, your stuffed animal, or a photo of your pet to FreeBee Market on October 24th.

We will be offering blessings and pet photo ops.

Come, let us celebrate the love our pets provide!!

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=VlgwZUtYL05JeVU2WklHWGtUWEExGdz09>

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.



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT TABLE Needs Your Help!

The Christmas Ornament/Decorations Table crafters continue to make ornaments and decorations for the Fair. We continue to need your help with making additional items for the Table. Let us know what projects you are working on. If you need ornament making materials, please let us know. Watch for updates regarding any ornament workshops in the Vestry News Flash. 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/conniebcmc@comcast.net



The UCCB Online Auction Needs *Your* Donations!

Get into the Christmas spirit early by giving a gift or a service to the UCCB Online Auction, which will be online at <https://auctria.events/UCCBOnlineAuction2026> 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 voglfmly@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.boxboroughuucc.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 UCCB Online Auction needs everyone's help to be successful! Thank you very much!





returning!
SOL Y CANTO
a Pan-Latin band

A Cuba Benefit Concert
Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026

United Church of Christ of Boxborough
723 Massachusetts Ave. Boxborough
4pm-7pm (doors open at 3:30)
Tickets \$30 in advance; \$35 cash at the door
\$10 for students

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

(scan the QR code to make a donation or purchase tickets now)



UCCB to Sponsor Community Supper

Volunteers Needed Wednesday, October 28

The Faith in Action team is committed to sponsoring Mt. Calvary Community Supper on a bi-annual basis, and our next sponsorship will take place on Wednesday, October 28. In addition to underwriting the cost of the supper for one evening (\$375), UCCB will send a team of 8 volunteers to help out. Duties include serving the guests their dinners and clearing away when they're done (other groups prepare the dinner and take care of setup and cleanup). This is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity; we guarantee you'll leave the supper feeling better than when you arrived! The volunteer shift runs from 4:00 - 5:45pm. If you would like to help out, contact glynis.hamel@gmail.com. Thank you!



Merrie Christmas Fair 2026: Meet Me at the Fair

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21st
9 AM - 1 PM



It's November and fair preparations are in full gear! If you are new to UCC Boxborough, you are in for a wonderful experience! The fair is in its 93rd year, full of gorgeous handmade gifts, amazing Online Auction items, delicious treats, including Oscar's Burritos, bustling Attic Treasures and more! Put it all together and as a church we create one of the most festive, creative, and joy-filled traditions of the community. To share in that joy, we've listed opportunities for everyone to become a part of the fun.

If you haven't yet had a chance to join the fun, here are some ways to help:

Before the fair:

Share the news! Take flyers to shops and friends! Share the info via email with family and friends, including the link to the UCCB Online Auction. It's a great way for your network of people to support what you believe in, and easy holiday gift giving.

UCCB Online Auction: We're looking for items, creative ideas, and a few runners to help gather donations. You can browse these items and submit your bids between **8 AM on November 11**, and **6 PM on November 21** at <https://auctria.events/UCCBOnlineAuction2026>. Contact Mary Anne Vogel for details.

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Welcome Sunday Cont.



Continued from page 6—Meet me at the Fair



Greens Table: Join one of the evening or weekend workshops — share that greens or crafting experience! Contact Anne Chandler.

Ornaments: Drop in for a workshop or check with Gloria Roe if you'd like to create ornaments from home.

Children's Table: Have any new or very gently used stuffed animals? Or wrapping paper or gift bags? Heidi Kidd is collecting donations.

Attic Treasures: Start setting aside your treasures now! We'll be ready to accept donations once the pod is set up in mid-November.

Baked Goods: Time to bake (and freeze)! Please label items with ingredients. A freezer is available at the church for early drop-offs.

Jewelry: Donations can be placed in the basket in the Gathering Room.

Sign-Up Sheets: Check the Gathering Room for ways to contribute to the Silent Auction, Sugar Plum Café, or Baked Goods tables.

Volunteer on Fair Day or the setup day before. Contact a table chair, sign up in the Gathering Room or email Mary Pavlik (mary.j.pavlik@gmail.com) or Laurel Dickson-Bull (laureldave@verizon.net) and we'll get your name on the list. For table contact info, contact Mary or Laurel or call the church office at 978-263-7387

This year promises to be another epic celebration of creativity, community, and Christmas spirit!

2026 Fair Chairs & Table Leads

- UCCB Online Auction 2026: Mary Anne Vogel
- Attic Treasures: Kellie Senghas
- Greens: Anne Chandler
- Jewelry: Mary Rohwer
- Gifts & Knits: Marlee Roberts
- Men's Table: Guy Marchmont, Ron Vogel
- Ornaments: Gloria Roe, Connie Brown, Linda Morse
- Baked Goods: Suzanne Boyden
- Children's Table: Heidi Kidd
- Gift Wrapping Station: Marcia Nelson
- Sugar Plum Café: Tineke Vandergrift

Watch for fair updates in special Merrie Christmas Fair flashes, starting soon.

— Mary Pavlik & Laurel Dickson-Bull

Fair Co-Chairs



Generosity



A sneak peak at our Generosity campaign for 2026-27

We are looking forward to exploring together where our hearts will be and the covenant we make together to follow our hearts into the future. Our campaign will begin October 25th.

Joint Immigration Rights Event at Congregation Beth Elohim on October 18th @ 7pm

Many of us are asking, "How can I help my neighbors during this unprecedented attack on immigrant families?" We have been meeting with Congregation Beth Elohim, our partners in refugee support, to find answers to that question. One way to help is to ensure that families and individuals are getting the legal representation they need and deserve, along with basic support when one of their family members are detained.

We invite you to join us on October 18th @ 7pm for a panel discussion and fundraiser at Congregation Beth Elohim. All proceeds from the event will go to Metrowest Worker Center (MWC) in Framingham. They are an immigrant worker-led organization that provides accompaniment and support toward legal services and basic needs. They are walking with families through these terrible times. We hope to help them in their important work. Come join our friends at Congregation Beth Elohim for an important community effort. See flyer on back page.

October 2026

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

**Together we can make a difference!
Organize, Educate, Act!**

Congregation Beth Elohim and UCC Boxborough come together for:

Fundraiser for Metrowest Worker Center

**Legal Aid
Family Support
Basic Needs**

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
OUR PARENTS ARE NOT
CRIMINALS



An evening of support:
• Panel Discussion
• Food and Music

**Free Admission
Register or Donate Here**



OCTOBER 18, 2026

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Congregation Beth Elohim, 133 Prospect St, Acton

**Donations Support Legal Aid and Basic Needs
For Local Immigrant Families**