United Church of Christ, Congregational Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719
978-263-7387
https://www.boxboroughucc.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you BELONG here.

November 1, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *Come, Worship the King* Dick/Tunney

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *Gonna Be a Great Day* African American spiritual

Call to Worship Lay Leader

Holy God, as we gather this morning, we are distracted. Grant us focus.
Help us to be present in this moment.
We are worried. Grant us peace.
Let us feel your comfort.
We are clinging to so many things. Loosen our grasp. Help us to let go of the demands of this world's many masters.
Demands that bring no hope, only worries.
May we release the many things of this world
As we seek the true thing–*your call to love and be loved. Amen.*

Prayer of Invocation Lay Reader

Holy One, your love has filled this space for generations. We stand where others have stood, honoring those we have loved and lost. With tender hearts, we remember those who once sat in these pews and choir seats. Come among us as we gather again to give thanks and stand together in your presence. Come.

***** Hymn #376 (NCH Black hymnal) vs 1, 2, & 4 *God, We Thank You for Our People* Duck

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank, God for gentle pleasure; lessons learned and secrets told,
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.

God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.
By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

Prayer of Transformation — Lay Reader

God of covenant, you reach to us in love. You ask us to focus our actions; order our priorities; and enter into our commitments with your love on our hearts. There are many distractions in this life. Wounds of yesterday and fears of tomorrow can cause us not to trust in your covenant, to lose our hope in the light leading us to a just kin_dom. Meet us where we are and help us to trust again.

<moment of silence>

Prayer of Assurance — Pastor Fran Graveson

We are loved. We are offered a relationship filled with abundance and acceptance. Our hearts are called together for justly purpose, joy, and meaningful lives. Know that God pulls at your heart and says, "Come, walk with me in the light." Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

One: We take this time in community to share God's peace from one heart to another. The peace of God be with you.

All: And also, with you.

* Song of Celebration — *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Story for All Ages — Pastor Fran Graveson

Scripture Reading — Lay Leader

Matthew 6:19-26, 34 The Message

"Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being."

"Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a musty cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!"

"You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one God, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both."
"If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body."
"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

Anthem *I Thank My God for You* Martin

Offering
Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *Sun of My Soul* Traditional (Hursley)

*Sung Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

*Dedication of the Offering

Loving God, you do not demand sacrifice or give us extra credit for our offerings. We present these gifts as a grateful response to your grace and our commitment to living lives led by our heart. Bless them, to make the impossible possible in our eyes. Amen.

Ancestor Reflection Pastor Fran Graveson

Lighting Candles of Saints

Silent Prayers and Jesus' Prayer

Creator God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and our time sharing in community. May they sustain us in our work together, living in the light and walking the path of love's truth. Amen.

Benediction		Pastor Fran Graveson
Choral Benediction	*Peace of the Earth*	Traditional Guatemalan song
Postlude	*Arise, My Soul, Arise*	Edson

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***Denotes times in the service when the congregation will stand in body or spirit.**

Merrie Christmas Fair

Our favorite holiday tradition on Saturday, November 21st, 9 AM–1 PM!

From gorgeous handmade crafts and delicious baked goods to our massive Online Auction, open Nov. 11–21, it takes our entire community to bring the joy. **We need your help to make it epic!**

- Creative gifts and experiences needed: Reach out to MaryAnne Vogel with your donations or become a part of her shopping team! You can donate cash to shop, give brand new items, or get creative with an experience or expertise to share!
- Clear out your clutter: Check the Gathering Room for a basket soon for jewelry and start setting aside gently used or new children's stuffed animals/wrapping paper and organizing your Attic Treasures.
- Foodies and Party planners: Join the Sugar Plum team to help plan a festive café. Contact Tineke or Deb Simmons or reach out to fair chairs Mary or Laurel to find out more. Organize a baking party with a few others! Early baked goods can be labeled and stored in the church freezer if you don't have room at home.
- Join a Crafty Workshop: Help craft decorations for the Greens and Ornaments tables.
- Sign-Up Sheets: Check the Gathering Room for ways to contribute to the Silent Auction, Sugar Plum Café, or Baked Goods tables.
- Volunteer: Sign-up sheets are going up soon in the Gathering Room and online, or you can email Fair Co-Chairs Mary Pavlik, mary.j.pavlik@gmail.com, or Laurel Dickson-Bull, laureldave@verizon.net, to find your perfect spot.