

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.

June 21, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Listen

We spend too much time being "driven" rather than "drawn in." We focus on what we "should" do rather than what we feel excited and compelled to do in our lives, in this world. During this series, we will connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this foundational aspect of being human, giving us renewed energy for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving to make this world a better place for all.

Prelude *Simple Gifts* Russell Schulz-Widmar

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

* Hymn #476 (NCH Black hymnal) vs. 1, 2, and 4 *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* Lowry

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living,
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and Earth. How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's. How can I keep from singing?

Call to Worship Lay Leader

One: Holy One, let your presence be known. Let us be open to the ever-creating nature of love. You set the boundaries of what is possible. Those boundaries are not fixed, but ever-new possibilities of growth.

All: Open our hearts, help us to listen for the Good News moving around us.

One: Creation groans as it moves and grows and changes every moment. Help us to let go our assumptions, show us what is bubbling to the surface of our lives.
All: Open our hearts, help us to listen for the Good News moving around us.
One: "Creativity is a combination of making something happen and letting something happen." Ever-creating one, help us to let something unfold, open us up to trusting creativity.
All: Open our hearts, help us to listen for the Good News moving around us. Let us live in your dream!

Prayer of Transformation Pastor Fran Graveson
Holy One, remind us that "Listening" as part of creativity is about perceiving, opening our senses to see what is emerging. Help us to listen to how the Spirit is guiding our next steps and unfolding possibilities we were previously unaware of. We confess that sometimes we are not listening, not open as we hold on to what we thought the path was going to be, as we hold on to having all of the answers. Let us open up to you, the Co-Creator God, inviting us to see new ways of moving forward in our lives.

* 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.
One: This morning as we turn to each other, let us say, "Stay Open, my friend!"

* Song of Celebration *Let Us Be Drawn In*

In the world of the driven
Let us be drawn in
Let your love be a given
Let us be drawn in
To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem
For the sake of the livin'
Let us be drawn in

Pride Invitation

Scripture Reading Lay Leader
Acts 16: 6-15 CEB
"They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by

Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleasing with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us."

Sermon Pastor Fran Graveson

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer, 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.

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *This is My Father's World* Sheppard

*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

Holy One, this is our creative spirit in the world, this is our offering. May our offering change us as much as it changes the world. May we see the things we do, no matter how small or mundane, as the way that we contribute goodness to the world, creating more life, more joy, more love. Amen.

* Hymn #575 (NCH Black hymnal) *O For A World* Winter

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where good are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives us our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Benediction

Postlude *Rain Down* Cortez/Carter

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

The flowers on the altar this morning are presented in loving memory of our beloved brother David from your loving siblings Jim, Carol, Sharon, and Nancy.

Summer Worship Schedule:
In August we will be co-worshipping with the Congregational Church of Harvard. Please note the dates, times, and locations:

August 2nd – Boxborough hosting at 9:30 am
August 9th – Boxborough hosting at 9:30 am
August 16th – Harvard hosting, 5 Still River Road, 10 am
August 23rd – Harvard hosting, 5 Still River Road, 10 am