

# THE BROOKFIELD BRANCH



Brookfield Congregational Church  
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## *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2025*



Once again, we are collecting donations for **school supplies for Brookfield Elementary School**. The needs of the children are high. This is a great way to help our local community. There are many families struggling, this is a little way we can offer to help those families. Here is a list of items needed. Just for information on Amazon they have kits for back to school with all supplies for \$11.99 and they contain all one child would need, so if you would like to donate \$15.00 for this cause, we would buy a kit and also put some towards a backpack, we would be happy to order them for you-to donate. Please specify on your envelope.

Boxes of Tissues  
Back Packs  
Spiral Notebooks  
3 Ring Notebooks

Pencils/ Pens  
Rulers  
Scissors  
Colored Pencils

Crayons  
Hand Sanitizer  
Paper  
Pencil Cases

Erasers  
Pencil/Crayon Sharpeners  
Project Folders  
Cleaning Wipes

The donations will be brought to the school in the last week of August. So, the last day we collect items is August 24<sup>th</sup>.



### **You're Invited to Our Back-to-School Bash!**



Join us **Sunday, August 17th** right after service in the church backyard as we say goodbye to summer and kick off a brand-new school year!

We'll have:



A Bounce House



Delicious Food



Lawn Games for All Ages

This celebration is for **all students and church members**—let's come together for fun, fellowship, and fresh starts. While you're here, don't forget to **register for the new year of Sunday School!** Bring your family, bring a side to share, and bring your best game face—we can't wait to see you there!

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## *The Pastor's Page*

*"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done**, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." Luke 11:2-4*

Hello My Friends,

This past week during our worship service, we walked through ways of understanding God's will. I felt it was appropriate to write about it here because it is an important topic for us to grasp as we pray for it every week when we recite the Lord's prayer saying, "Your will be done". If Jesus is asking us to pray for it when we talk to God, it is something that warrants our attention.

The million-dollar question then is, what is God's will? What is it that God desires? What is it that we are praying for?

In seminary we would look at the will of God in three categories:

**Providential** – What God chooses to do regardless of what we want or ask for. Ex. God made the Earth, Sun and Stars. God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God will come again to judge the living and the dead. From what God has done and says He will do will help us to paint the picture of what God wants and desires for us.

**Moral** – God's commandments to us help us to understand what God desires. God gave us the ten commandments, commands us to love one another as ourselves, and love our God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul.

**Personal** – What God desires for us individually. When we make decisions do they align with what God wants? The personal will of God is where the rubber meets the road in our lives. Should I take that job? Buy that car? Enter into or exit from a relationship?

Pastor Andy Stanley describes the inter-relation between the categories by saying the more **Aware** we are of God's providential will, and the more **Obedient** we are to God's moral will, the **Easier** it will be to discern God's personal will for our lives.

As a teenager, I knew my parents' history. Decisions they had made in their lives that led to where they are now (Providential). I also knew the rules they had for me and my siblings (Moral). By understanding and following this information it was easier to understand if the decisions I was making on my own aligned to my parents' desires for me (Personal).

When we pray the way that Jesus taught us, we pray to God saying, "Your will be done." We are truly asking God to help us understand His will. We are praying for God, to put us in a position to ensure His will be done. To discern God's will, let us take the time in study, meditation, and prayer to learn what God has done, what God has commanded us to do, and let that be a guide for us when we make decisions in our lives.

With much love,

-Pastor Brian



## Moderator Moment — August 2025

The Council met on July 14 in the Fellowship Hall, continuing our hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom options. However, as virtual attendance has declined significantly in recent months, the Council has decided to discontinue Zoom as a standard offering. Beginning with the August meeting, all Council gatherings will return to being in-person at the Fellowship Hall.

We want to ensure everyone's voice can still be heard. If you're unable to attend in person and need virtual access to a future meeting, please reach out to me or Pastor Brian—we'll be happy to make accommodations as needed. Our hope is that this change won't cause any inconvenience.

On a brighter note, I'm thrilled to share that our new church website is now live! This project has been a labor of love by a group of dedicated members, and we're grateful for their hard work. The site features church information, upcoming events, archives of sermons and services, important forms, and even a new online giving portal. I encourage you to explore the website at [www.bcc1857.org](http://www.bcc1857.org) and experience the wonderful work that's been done—thank you to everyone involved!

One pressing issue we're addressing is the church roof. Lately, the Trustees have found shingles scattered around the church grounds after strong winds. Thanks to Gwen's archival sleuthing, we discovered that the current roof was installed in 1962—that's 63 years of faithful service! It's safe to say we got our money's worth.

After surveying the roof using a drone, it's clear that age has taken its toll. Several shingles are missing, with only tar paper standing between us and the elements. Needless to say, we can't afford to wait. Trustees are now gathering quotes for a roof replacement—a major but necessary investment—and will report back to the Congregation soon.

Matt Mullen, Church Moderator

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### **\*\*Announcement: Sermon in Song on August 17\*\***

Dear Brookfield Congregational Church Family,

We are excited to announce that the Music Ministry will be hosting a Sermon in Song during our Sunday Service on August 17! We invite you to participate by submitting a hymn that you would like us to sing that day. To make your submissions easy, there will be note cards placed at the back of the church. Simply fill one out and drop it into the small box next to it, or hand it to one of the music ministers. We will do our best to include every submission, so please don't hesitate to share your favorite hymns with us.

This time will be different from past Sermon in Songs. We hope that those who submit will also be willing to share a brief testimony about what that hymn means to them. Your stories will enrich our worship and bring us closer together as a community. As we prepare for this special service, we are reminded of the words from Psalm 100:1-2 (NKJV): "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing."

We look forward to hearing your hymn selections and testimonies!

Blessings,  
**Reagan G. Paras**

## CHRISTIAN LIFE BOARD MARCH 2025



The BCC Women's Bible Study invites you to join us for the next gathering on Friday, August 1 @ 6:00 PM at 12 East Main St., Brookfield. We would love to have you come and share in this enriching experience.

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit: Four Habits for Faithful Living*  
by Christina Hergenrader

The August topic is : "Reflection".



*Living Stone Foundation is a place of refuge for people of all faiths or no faith, to visit and see the wisdom of God's Word creatively engraved in stone.*  
Check out: [livingstonefoundation.com](http://livingstonefoundation.com)

Happy August to all! It is our hope you have been able to stay cool on these hot summer days! The week of Vacation Bible School was a hot one but what a wonderful week it was! Thanks to all the volunteers who made it such a terrific week. The kids seemed to enjoy themselves immensely!!

We have a picnic coming up on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>, giving everyone the chance to register for the new Sunday School year and share the afternoon together. Mrs. Fipps has great things planned. Please consider being a Sunday School teacher this year. You would be amazed at how much you learn and benefit from being a teacher. See Colleen Fipps if you are interested.

On Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> we are planning an adult picnic at the Living Stone Foundation. We recognized there is not much for children to do at the foundation as it is more a place for prayer, meditation and contemplation. We will plan to bring our own picnic lunches with us and know that we have also reserved Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> as a rain date.

Nancy Mullen, Ellie Fornier, and Punk Snyder

Christian Life



## VBS 2025: Finding Our True North!

June 21–25, 2025

What an incredible week we had at this year's Vacation Bible School! From June 21–25, children from our church and community came together to discover their "True North" through Bible stories, hands-on activities, worship and song. Each day was filled with energy, laughter, learning—and lots of God's love.

Our theme, *True North*, guided us through the Book of Matthew as we explored what it means to follow Jesus and stay on the right path, even when life feels uncertain. Each day brought a new adventure through scripture, crafts, science experiments, music, missions and puppets.

### Crafts and Creations:

Our creative stations were a hit! Kids made bird seed ornaments to care for God's creation, tie-dye t-shirts bursting with color, northern lights painted canvas bags, and compass-inspired nail art. Every project tied back to the theme and let their creativity shine. Thank you Gina, Nancy, Glenna & Joey

### Science and Exploration:

Our little scientists were amazed as they created *northern lights in a bottle* and experimented with *compass navigation*—two fun and educational ways to connect God's creation with His direction for our lives. Thank you Punk and Glenna. Monica Carty wrapped up the week with many of her collection of animal items. Thank you!

### Mission Project:

Our mission focus again was Heifer International, and we are thrilled to report that the kids raised over **\$600** to help bless a family with sustainable resources like farm animals. What an amazing way to show that small hands can do big things for God! Thank you Nancy for your presentation.

### Worship and Celebration:

Throughout the week, each age group learned special songs and dance moves that they performed during our *Friday night celebration* in the church sanctuary. We ended the week with a joyful *Block Party on the Town Common*—a beautiful night of music, fellowship, and community. Thank you Reagan and Lindsey.

We are so thankful for everyone who made VBS possible—our volunteers, families, donors, and of course, the amazing kids who made the week unforgettable. We can't wait to see how they continue to follow their *True North* all year long!

Colleen Fipps & Nancy Mullen (VBS Leads)





**THE MOTTO FOR THE DISMAS ORGANIZATION IS: DISMAS IS FAMILY**

What better way to spend time with "family than around the dinner table."

On the fourth Thursday of each month members of our church family join the family of residents at the Dismas Family Farm in Oakham. If you are considering joining us on this valuable outreach but have questions, please speak with me at church or feel free to call/email me. 774-200-7571 or [tammy.bccmissionoutreachboard@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.bccmissionoutreachboard@gmail.com)

**MENU FOR AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

Pasta Dish : Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese -Tammy

Second Pasta Dish: \_\_\_\_\_

Green Salad: \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert: Tammy

Garlic Bread: \_\_\_\_\_

The menu sign-up sheet will be posted on The Mission Board in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in helping to contribute a dish for the monthly visit. If you are unable to prepare a dish but can contribute \$\$ towards the dinner, please speak with Tammy. Thank you.

**Helping Hands: TAG SALE 2025**

Once again, we are preparing for this year's annual tag sale that takes place during the Apple Country Fair. Donations may be dropped off as of Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please keep the following in mind which we

**CANNOT** accept while you peruse your treasures at home.

No items that show signs of mildew

No baby equipment

No items that do not have all its parts

No items that do not work

No dishes, home décor or trinkets that are chipped or cracked

No mugs with business logos on them

No electronics of any kind

No televisions, I-pads or phones

No stereo speakers or accessories

No large pieces of furniture

No humidifiers

No dehumidifiers

No tools that are rusted

All items must be clean and if batteries are needed, they should come with the item

All clothes should be clean, without rips, tears or stains

Most importantly, please remember any items that are dropped off which cannot be used, cost the church money each time the trash is taken to the transfer station. This cost takes away from the funds we are trying to raise to help sustain the life of our church. Thank you all in advance for your wonderful donations.

Should you have any questions please speak with: Jane Snyder, Patti Coltey or Cathy Farr

## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT GERTRUDE AND HEIFER?



Your missions Board embarked on a new journey last winter. We, as a team, decided to try and raise \$2,500 to send to Heifer International which is based in Little Rock, Arkansas. This company's goal is to eradicate hunger around the world by providing instructions to families on how to care for animals given through Heifer International. Whether it be ducks, chickens, goats, a bee colony or a water buffalo, people learn to be self-sustaining providing the necessary nutrition their family needs. Once given, if these animals are bred, the family is expected to offer one of the offspring to a neighbor so they in turn can become self-sufficient as well.

Not only animals but water treatment systems and information on farming may be distributed as well.

Currently, we have reached **\$1588.57** from donations including the children's VBS donations from last year. This year the children will again put their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to good use by placing them in ceramic banks as the week of VBS progresses. The proceeds will be added to our current total. We truly hope to raise the full amount stated before sending funds to Heifer, as we feel the number of animals and assistance that amount would provide would certainly make a real difference in someone's quality of life.

That brings me to Gertrude the Goose. She resides at Brookfield Congregational Church and comes out to visit with folks during coffee hours. Gertrude loves to be around people and is also excited and happy to have you feed her your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Everything Gertrude takes in will also go to this fundraiser we have set in motion. If you do not see Gertrude out and about, she is probably visiting the office. Feel free to speak with our secretary as I'm sure she can round up Gertrude in seconds.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this fundraiser whether it be in the form of change for Gertrude or a little something extra in your tithing envelopes marked for Heifer.



Submitted by Jane Snyder

Missions Board



### Mark Your Calendars!

Signup sheets will be available soon to help with the Apple Country Fair held on October 11, 2025. Making Pies and helping with the Annual Church Tag Sale. We need all hands on deck. This is our biggest fundraiser for our general fund. If you could plan ahead, we could use your help. It takes a lot of people to put this together. It's not just about making money for the church it is also about fellowship and working together towards our goals. We hope you can join us for this exciting event.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT OF INCOME: JUNE 2025

ANNUAL BUDGET	\$176,402.92
PROJECTED MONTHLY AVERAGE	\$14,700.24
RECEIVED INCOME FOR MONTH OF JUNE	\$20,934.96
<i>Offering</i>	\$19,738.30
<i>Other Sources</i>	\$1,196.66
PROJECTED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	\$88,201.46
RECEIVED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	\$83,359.17

### Worship Team Volunteer Schedule for AUGUST 2025

	Readers	Children's Sermon	Greeter(s)
8/03/25	Miles & Reagan Paras	Communion Sunday	Ellie Fournier
8/10/25	Cathy Farr	Tammy Taquino	Paul & Doreen Blouin
8/17/25	Michelle Bonneau	Paul Shailer	Elizabeth Jay
8/24/25	Jane Snyder	Punk Snyder	Debbie Gordon
8/31/25	Cathy Farr	Cheri Carty	Bill & Kate Simpson

### Scripture Readings for AUGUST 2025:

DATE	SCRIPTURE READING	GOSPEL READING	READER
8/03/25	Hosea 11:1-11	Luke 12:13-21	Miles & Reagan Paras
8/10/25	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Luke 12:32-40	Cathy Farr
8/17/25	Psalms 150, Colossians 3:12-17	Matthew 26:26-30	Michelle Bonneau
8/24/25	Psalms 71:1-6	Luke 13:10-17	Jane Snyder
8/31/25	Proverbs 22	Luke 18:15-17	Cathy Farr

\*\*Please note that if you are partaking in a role on the day of service and you cannot make it, we ask that YOU find a replacement and let the office know by Wed. for the bulletin. Thank you in advance.

### Deacons for the Month of AUGUST : Julie Buchanan and Cathy Farr



Hello Everyone,

We need to get a start on the prayer shawls for Blue Christmas. Last year we gave all we had away. If we start now, we should be in good shape for December.

We need:

6-Womens prayer shawls 22x60

2- Baby blankets 18x18

6- Men's prayer shawls 22x60

4-Children's with bears 18x50

You pick the colors, if you have any questions please speak with Patti Coltey.

When the shawl is done please let Patti know so we can keep these specifically for Blue Christmas and we can keep track of what we have made. Thank you.

Faithfully yours, Patti

From the mailbox

We have received several cards with many thanks to the Spirit Lifters for their wonderful visits and gifts from Carol Redmond, Pat McInnes, & Priscilla Johnson.





## CHURCH FUN PAGE

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

14	Michael Tamburri	21	Rebecca Morin
16	Arthur Rousseau	28	Crosby Taylor
18	Punk Snyder	31	Gae Warman-Gold
18	Nancy Mullen		

# Places in the Bible

## Word Search

P	U	M	X	M	P	B	O	D	Z	H	T	D	Q	H
J	N	A	Y	K	E	H	Z	B	N	E	O	B	T	J
V	E	M	S	I	C	L	H	T	G	A	N	K	H	J
D	C	T	O	I	B	V	A	E	W	V	E	E	A	A
O	Y	Y	R	D	I	P	T	S	V	E	D	K	R	R
V	Q	E	P	X	O	H	S	O	U	N	E	K	R	B
C	J	Y	S	R	S	S	Y	H	B	R	K	U	O	C
U	Y	B	R	E	U	L	E	B	A	B	E	Z	M	J
Z	T	T	M	S	C	S	T	B	D	Z	T	J	O	B
F	U	A	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	R	G	I
V	N	Z	P	X	I	U	H	Q	X	C	D	S	X	W
E	E	V	M	M	N	M	S	G	Y	A	D	C	H	M
Y	A	B	A	A	S	H	S	F	N	Q	E	D	T	Y
Y	B	I	E	L	I	P	J	B	Z	O	J	B	O	K
C	X	X	V	R	C	Z	I	S	R	A	E	L	A	C

BABEL

BETHLEHEM

CYPRUS

EDEN

GETHSEMANE

GOMORRAH

HEAVEN

ISRAEL

JERICHO

JERUSALEM

JORDAN

SODOM

Brookfield Congregational  
Church  
8 Common St., P O BOX 457  
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# AUGUST 2025

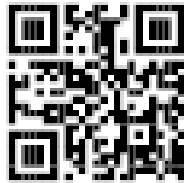
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFEE HR. <b>Board Meetings</b> <b>11:30 - 12:30 PM</b>	<b>4</b> 9:45 Belly Dancing COA Exercise Class 11:00 am	<b>5</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>6</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP 7 PM AA	<b>7</b> TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFE HR.	<b>11</b> 9:45 Belly Dancing COA Exercise Class 11:00 am <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Council Mtg.</b>	<b>12</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>13</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP 7 PM AA	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Zumba Gold TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM <b>CHURCH BACK</b> <b>TO SCHOOL BASH</b>	<b>18</b> 9:45 Belly Dancing COA Exercise Class 11:00 am	<b>19</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>20</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP 7 PM AA	<b>21</b> Dismas 5:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24/31</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM	<b>25</b> 9:45 Belly Dancing COA Exercise Class 11:00 am	<b>26</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>27</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP 7 PM AA	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Zumba Gold TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

Disclaimer: Dates are subject to change but will be announced accordingly. If you would like your groups event on this calendar, please contact the office at [bccucc1857@gmail.com](mailto:bccucc1857@gmail.com) or call 508-867-6262 and leave a message. Thank you.

## **WEBSITE NEWS:**



For the latest information on what's happening in our church please visit our website by entering <http://www.bcc1857.org/> or scan the QR Code.



Watch our Sunday morning services!  
Read messages from Pastor Brian Oxman, and  
Church Moderator, Matt Mullen  
Learn about our church activities!  
Visit! Come!

### **From the Office**

Hello everyone,

As we look to fall, please note coming into preparing for the next year, if you are interested in Volunteering for Reading, Greeting, or Children's Moment, it is time to start thinking about that. Drop a note into my basket on the door and let me know. I will make the lists towards the end of the year. We are always looking for help for our Sunday School Program. If you have any changes, additions, for the church directory please forward that information. I will update the church directory for the fall with new information and make them available to you.

Have a blessed day!

Darlene Dean.

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*United Church of Christ*

Or Current Resident



For the latest information  
on what's happening in  
our church please visit  
**bcc1857.org**  
Watch our Sunday  
morning services!  
Read messages from  
Pastor Condon and our  
church Moderator!  
Learn about our church  
activities!