

# THE BROOKFIELD BRANCH



Brookfield Congregational Church  
On the Common  
P.O. Box 457  
Brookfield, Massachusetts 01506

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## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025



We are looking for volunteers to help with the Brookfield Apple Country Fair. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. There are many opportunities that you can take part in. From the preparation to the actual day of the Fair. We need all hands on deck to make this happen. The tag sale and apple pie making are very popular. This is our biggest fundraiser for the general fund for our church. So please sign up. There is a list inside the newsletter for items that we are accepting for the tag sale. This cannot come together without your help. Thank you.



*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)

**JOIN US:** 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)



The BCC Church will be participating in the townwide tag sale weekend on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 from 9am-3pm. We are looking for volunteers to help. Please speak with Jane Snyder, Cathy Farr or Patti Coltey. The funds will go to the general fund. We are still planning to do our

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tag sale during the Apple Country Fair. Thank you.

## *The Pastor's Page*

*"Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching."*

Luke 12:37

Hello My Friends,

Question for you all. Would you be able to identify Jesus if He were to walk in our church? Or maybe in the supermarket, the library, or just on the street? I am reminded that the disciples had trouble recognizing Him after the resurrection as well as on the road to Emmaus.

I look at all the pictures we have of Jesus and they are all painted, drawn, based on renderings from folks who never saw Jesus in person. Nowhere in the Bible does it physically describe what Jesus looked like. Did He have blue eyes or brown? Was He tall or short? What was the color of His skin? I would argue that none of these matters.

Luke records a parable that Jesus spoke where He asks us to be ready like a servant waiting up at night for the master to come home. He says to be vigilant for the master could come home at any time. And when he does, the servant should open the door and serve him a meal. The point of the story, is to be ready for when Christ returns, however, if we are to be expecting Him, do we need to know what He looks like?

One alternative for us to consider applying is that if we do not know what Jesus looks like, could we treat everyone we encounter as if they were Jesus? This way we would not only be covered but most likely would treat everyone the way that Jesus would want us to. If we were to see Jesus in every person, would we have more compassion? More tolerance? More love and forgiveness?

Is it that farfetched? We are all created in the image of God as children of God. We are asked to be the hands and feet of Jesus here on Earth. We are asked to follow Jesus in His teachings and actions. We are all part of the one body of Christ in this world. If we all followed Jesus without question, and treated one another like we would treat Jesus, think of where we could go as a community and even beyond.

I tried this just prior to going on vacation. When I met with folks, my energy level rose, my desire to learn about them felt enhanced. I invite you to try this and let me know your experience. If the Lord has asked us to be ready for His return...and He might be hard to recognize, let us treat everyone as if they are Jesus.

What a way to love our neighbor!

With much love,  
-Pastor Brian



## Moderator Moment — September 2025

The Council, along with several church members, met on August 11th in the Fellowship Hall. We were pleased to see so many church members accept our standing invitation to attend and learn more about church operations.

As discussed in the August Moderator Moment, our Sanctuary roof requires replacement. The Trustees have diligently solicited bids from multiple contractors and investigated financing options. At our last Council meeting, the Trustees presented their recommendations for both the contractor and financing approach. The Council voted to forward these recommendations to the Congregation for approval.

Any commitment to financing and contractor selection requires Congregational approval. The Trustees and Council estimate the entire process—securing financing, contracting, materials delivery, and completion—will require 6-8 weeks.

To avoid conflicts with bad weather, diminishing daylight, and the Apple Country Fair, we're targeting a mid-to-late October completion. Working backward from this timeline, we need Congregational approval by early September.

**Therefore, the Council has scheduled a special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 31st, immediately following the church service.**

We recognize this falls on Labor Day weekend, which is not ideal. However, given our timeline constraints and the urgent need to complete this work before winter weather arrives, we have limited scheduling options.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting. The Trustees and Council will provide information about:

- Recommended financing options
- Recommended contractor selection
- Project timeline and logistics

Your voice and vote are essential to moving this critical infrastructure project forward.

Matt Mullen, Church Moderator



## CHRISTIAN LIFE BOARD SEPTEMBER 2025

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### Back-to-School Bash a Huge Success!

What a joyful day we had at our Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, August 17th! The church lawn was filled with laughter, games, and delicious food as our congregation came together to celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new school year.

We fired up *two grills* for plenty of hot dogs and hamburgers, and everyone enjoyed the incredible potluck spread of sides and desserts that kept the tables full all afternoon. A large tent provided shade and plenty of seating, making it easy for families and friends to relax together.

The kids (and a few adults!) had a blast with the *yard games*—from Gaga Ball (thank you to the Paras family) to Cornhole (thanks to the Blouin's). The Mullen family graciously provided extra tents and tables, helping everything run smoothly. And, of course, the highlight for many was the *giant inflatable slip and slide and little tikes bounce house*—a special treat made possible by Party Patrol, who offered us a wonderful discount.

We are so grateful to everyone who pitched in, brought food, shared supplies, or simply showed up to enjoy the day. It was a true reminder of the joy that comes from fellowship, teamwork, and God's blessings. What a fantastic way to kick off the school year together! –Colleen Fipps

Faith Formation Director



The ladies bible study will continue meeting through the fall beginning on September 19 and we will continue to meet at Elizabeth Jay's house at 6pm. The book we have decided to read and discuss is "One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are", by Ann Voskamp. You can purchase the book on Walmart.com or Amazon. Any Questions, please speak with Margaret Aubin for details.

## Christian Life Board

We are looking forward to our adult picnic at the Living Stone Foundation on September 21st with a rain date of September 28th.

The address for the foundation is: 656 Wachusett St., Leominster, MA 01453. We will provide napkins, plates and silverware.

We continue to need Sunday School teachers and ask that the parents of our Sunday School children please consider teaching one Sunday every 3 months. Our website Sermon4Kids is very easy to use and provides all the resources you would need.

Please contact the Director of Faith Formation, Colleen Fipps or anyone on Christian Life.

October will be here before you know it, and we would again like to hand out candy on Halloween. We will put a basket in the fellowship hall for donations of Halloween candy. It is a lot of fun to do this in front of the church, join us if you are available.

In November we are planning events for both adults and families. Watch for notices in the fellowship hall for the making of Advent Wreaths, a potluck supper, or maybe a movie and popcorn.

Your Christian Life Committee, Nancy Mullen, Punk Snyder, Ellie Fournier and Colleen Fipps.

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We are contemplating holding a quilting workshop to make Flannel Baby Quilts. The workshop will be hosted by Hollice Turnbow and Glenna Pearson. The date is Saturday, September 26 & 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10am-4pm, In Fellowship hall here at BCC. If interested please sign up by Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> to make sure we have enough interest and help. The sign up sheet will be displayed on the Mission Board in Fellowship Hall. We need to get a count to see if there is interest in this mission.



### THANK YOU!

The Board of Missions and Outreach would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the donations that we have collected to give to the Brookfield Elementary School. Your generosity makes it possible to continue in our missions to provide help for our community.



## 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 SEPTEMBER 2025 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Meatloaf: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mashed Potatoes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Green Beans: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dessert: (possibly gingerbread) \_\_\_\_\_  
Rolls: \_\_\_\_\_

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



We are collecting Christmas Cards to send out to our soldiers. This has been a successful, meaningful mission that we have been doing for 5 years now. It means a lot to our troops to receive these cards, to let them know that we support them, and appreciate them.

If you have any extra Christmas Cards or would like to purchase a box of cards, please leave them in the box by the mission board. We currently have 500 cards our goal is 1,000. We will be having a potluck luncheon Sunday Oct. 26, 2025 to write messages in the cards. If you would like to write messages at home in the cards and bring them in that would be great too.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNUAL BUDGET	<b>\$176,402.92</b>
PROJECTED MONTHLY AVERAGE	<b>\$14,700.24</b>
RECEIVED INCOME FOR MONTH OF JULY	<b>\$10,177.13</b>
<i>Offering</i>	<i>\$9,510.00</i>
<i>Other Sources</i>	<i>\$667.13</i>
PROJECTED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	<b>\$102,901.68</b>
RECEIVED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	<b>\$93,536.30</b>

### Worship Team Volunteer Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2025

	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Children's Sermon</b>	<b>Greeter(s)</b>
9/07/25	Reagan P/Reagan Paras	Communion	Debbie Gordon
9/14/25	Paul Shailer	Darlene Dean	Phyllis Day
9/21/25	Bill Simpson	Paul Shailer	Lee & Cathy Farr
9/28/25	Jessica Safford	Cheri Carty	Carolyn Boucher'

### Scripture Readings for SEPTEMBER 2025:

DATE	SCRIPTURE READING	GOSPEL READING	READER
9/07/25	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33	Reagan P / Reagan Paras
9/14/25	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-7	Paul Shailer
9/21/25	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13	Bill Simpson
9/28/25	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31	Jessica Safford

\*\*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 SEPTEMBER: Bill Simpson & Jane Snyder

**From the mailbox:** We have received several cards with many thanks to the Spirit Lifters for their wonderful visits and gifts from Jude Ohman & Patti King & family.





# CHURCH FUN PAGE



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1	Kathy Crevier	16	Jeff Morin
4	Micah Wexler	18	Jan Wilson
8	Ellie Fournier	23	Jessica Safford
9	Ryan Mullen	24	David Bond
11	Carrie Bernadone	26	Jane Snyder
14	Carol Vanderbrug	26	Addison Oxman

## About Jesus

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

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|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • JESUS        | • MESSIAH       | • KING        |
| • SAVIOUR      | • HEALER        | • FORGIVENESS |
| • HELPER       | • FRIEND        | • LORD        |
| • CROSS        | • SINS          | • TEACHER     |
| • RESURRECTION | • LIGHT         | • GATE        |
| • VINE         | • FIRST         | • LAST        |
| • WAY          | • TRUTH         | • LIFE        |
| • LOVE         | • BELIEVE       | • LEADER      |
| • CREATOR      | • RIGHTEOUSNESS |               |

Brookfield Congregational  
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8 Common St., P O BOX 457  
Brookfield, MA 01506

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP  7 PM AA	<b>4</b>  TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Town Wide &amp; CHURCH</b> <b>Tag Sale</b> <b>9AM - 3PM</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFEE HR.	<b>8</b> COA Exercise Class 11:00 am <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Council Mtg</b>	<b>9</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>10</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP  7 PM AA	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Zumba Gold  TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFE HR.	<b>15</b> COA Exercise Class 11:00 am	<b>16</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>17</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP  7 PM AA	<b>18</b>  TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>19</b>  <b>Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>6 PM</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM <b>Living Stone</b> <b>Foundation</b> <b>Picnic</b>	<b>22</b> COA Exercise Class 11:00 am	<b>23</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>	<b>24</b> 10 AM TAG SALE PREP  7 PM AA	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Zumba Gold  Dismas 5:30 PM TOPS 6:00 PM	<b>26</b>  <b>TENTATIVE</b> <b>WORKSHOP</b> <b>BOTH DAYS</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>QUILT</b> <b>10-4</b> <b>TBD</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM	<b>29</b> COA Exercise Class 11:00 am	<b>30</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 <b>Centering</b> <b>Prayer 10am</b>				

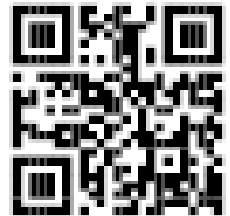
Disclaimer: Dates are subject to change but will be announced accordingly. If you would like your groups event on this calendar, please contact the office at [bccucc1857@gmail.com](mailto:bccucc1857@gmail.com) or call 508-867-6262 and leave a message. Thank you.

## 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!



bcc1857.org



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@Brookfield Congregational Church

## 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. If you have any changes, additions, for the church directory or would like your name and address added, email addresses, and phone #'s, to our 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.



**Brookfield Congregational Church**

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**Bcc1857.org**

*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!