

# THE BROOKFIELD BRANCH

Brookfield Congregational Church  
On the Common  
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JANUARY 2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2026



**PLEASE JOIN US for the Annual Church Meeting and Potluck luncheon. January 25, 2026 after church service, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.**

It is an important time for our church family to discuss the budgets and visions of the upcoming year. Your input is important to us, you do not have to be a member to be heard and you are invited to attend. Please note that everyone is welcome but only members will be able to vote on the articles and issues that require a vote.

Now is a good time to speak with a board member if you feel called to serve or join a committee or board. You may speak to a Deacon or Pastor Brian and they may direct you to the person/chair of that committee.



We would like to take this time to thank everyone for their donations to the giving tree. We were able to send gifts to the Dismas Farm, Brookhaven, and to provide gifts for a family from the Center of Hope. It is because of the generosity of the people in this church we are able to do these outreach opportunities to help others and make their Christmas just a little brighter. May God bless you all.

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## The Pastor's Page

*"Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.<sup>31</sup> And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat."*

*-Mark 6:30-31*

Hello My Friends,

By the time you read this, it will be 2026 and the new year will be upon us. While the changing of the calendar can be a springboard into new activities and plans it is important to take time to reflect and intentionally find time to rest.

In the midst of His ministry, Jesus would often be found taking time to break away from the crowds and disciples to rest and pray. He modeled this for us and also made it a point to tell the disciples to do the same. Jesus had sent the disciples out on their first solo mission where they were to heal and bring His message of the coming Kingdom out to the people. When they had returned and excitedly told Jesus of all they had done, He said to them to find a quiet place and rest a while.

Jesus knows better than all that ministry can take a lot out of us. Stepping back, remembering and renewing the why behind our actions is always a good thing. It keeps us grounded and focused on following the path that Jesus calls us to.

At the end of January, we will be having our annual meeting. This is a time when we vote on the budget and all the plans that it supports. It is a time of reflection on all that has been accomplished and excitement for what lies ahead. I invite you, prior to the meeting, to take some time to rest and pray about the church and ministry here at BCC. Meditate on where we are and where we are going and reflect on what Jesus would want from us. What direction would He want us to take? What programs would He want us to offer?

The church is the body of Christ. Working together as a collective group filled with gifts and skillsets that work in concert. As we create this plan, let us agree to support one another through the year in ways that lift each other up and inspire one another! Let the Spirit flow through us in ways that ignite a passion for service that bursts through our doors and into the streets to the community and beyond!

Bless you all this new year. Bless our church, the community, our nation, and the world. Let us love one another well.

With much love,

-Pastor Brian



## Moderator's Moment: Looking Ahead to 2026

The Church Council met on Monday, December 8th, in the Fellowship Hall to discuss our shared ministry and upcoming business. As we prepare for our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25th, 2026**, I would like to invite the congregation to prayerfully consider several important updates.

### **Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign**

A central part of our Annual Meeting is establishing a sustainable budget for the coming year. In 2025, our stewardship campaign secured \$103,000 in pledges. However, to keep pace with rising operating costs and to fully support our vital new **Director of Faith Formation** position without relying on savings, we must grow our collective giving.

Our pledge goal for 2026 is **\$125,000**. As of mid-December, we have received \$86,000 in commitments.

- **To those who have already pledged:** Thank you for your generosity.
- **To those still considering:** It is not too late to help us reach our goal.

Together, we can bring this year's theme to life: "*Dreaming God's Dream: No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big.*"

### **Serving Together: Committee Volunteers Needed**

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." Our committees are the engine of our congregation, but several are currently shorthanded. We are seeking:

- **Missions Committee:** At least 1 new member.
- **Christian Life Committee:** 2 to 3 new members.

The only qualification needed is a heart for service. If you feel called to help, please reach out to me, Pastor Oxman, or any current committee member to learn more.

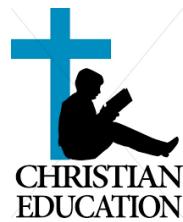
### **Do We Look 200 Years Old?**

Our historian, Gwen Yaskoski, has confirmed a momentous milestone: **2027 will mark the 200th Anniversary of our congregation!**

While 2027 feels distant, a celebration two centuries in the making requires careful planning. We want to unleash the creativity of our entire congregation to decide how we should honor this legacy. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help us celebrate our past and dream for our future.

Matt Mullen, Church Moderator

## Christian Life Board – January 2026



### Christian Life Board

What a wonderful Christmas pageant we all enjoyed the first week of December. It was a creative and meaningful way to share the story of Jesus' birth and a seamless collaboration between the kids and adults. Thanks go to the kids for their great performances, Reagan Paras and the Angel Choir and to our Director of Faith Formation, Colleen Fipps, for her organization and hard work. The pageant was perfectly followed by the "Experience Bethlehem" event – we truly had a full day. If you were unable to be there, you can still catch the performance on the Brookfield Congregational Church Facebook page.

We hope everyone had a nice Christmas and stayed warm through the windy and snowy days. With snow still in the forecast, we have a "Snowman" painting event planned for February 22nd, 2:00 PM to 4 PM. The cost for the workshop will be \$10.00. Look for the sign-up sheet after Christmas. It will be on the Christian Life bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



In February we will be hosting a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. More details will be forthcoming.

Your Christian Life Board; Ellie Fournier, Punk Snyder, Nancy Mullen and Director of Faith Formation, Colleen Fipps



Exciting information we would like to share. We received a grant from the Brookfield Community Club to help pay for the Grief Share Program we hope to be developing soon. There are so many in need of this program not only for our church but for our community. We will be forwarding information as it develops.



Women's Bible Study continues with Amy Voskamp's "One Thousand Gifts".

We will meet Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM @ the Jay residence. Video and discussion : Trust: Empty to Fill, Chapters 10 & 11. Contact Margaret Aubin with questions.



## 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 JANUARY 2026:

Soups: Tammy -Lazy Golumpki Soup

Soups: \_\_\_\_\_

Soups: \_\_\_\_\_

Rolls/Bread: \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

## BROOKFIELD ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY



The B.E.F.P. is an all volunteer organization. It was created by the churches in Brookfield to help those who find themselves in need of supplementary food and/or household supplies. The B.E.F.P. is open on **Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 - 11:00 AM.**

There are no requirements, such as income, other than that you are a Brookfield or East Brookfield resident. You are also allowed to come monthly. Many, many people donate goods and/or money to the B.E.F.P. Also, other groups and businesses donate to the pantry - groups such as; school students, scouts, state police, banks and other organizations. Money allows us to purchase non-food household items such as soap, paper goods, cleaning supplies and other items not covered by S.N.A.P. (food stamps).

*Once a month, devoted volunteers travel to the Worcester County Food Bank in Shrewsbury. There, we are able to obtain a lot of food to help replenish our shelves at very little or no cost. We are located at 4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506.*

For more information, please call Louise Woodard at 508-867-3891.

When you come please bring your own bags and on the first visit and some proof of residency.

Thank you, Paul Shailey, Board Member, 508-867-9298

*In the back of the church is tote set up for any donations that are needed if you would like to give to the food pantry. They are always in need of laundry detergent, dish liquid, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, household cleaners, bathroom supplies, personal care items, and of course all food items. If you choose to send a \$\$\$ donation please see Paul Shailey and checks can be made out to B.E.F.P. There is a great need this year as many people are financially struggling, so every little bit helps. Thank you for your support.*



## Living Our Faith Through Giving: Heifer International Partnership

Our children and congregation partnered with Heifer International this year to live out our faith through giving. Through fundraising and VBS, we raised \$2,500 to provide livestock, clean water, education, and sustainable resources to families around the world.

We're so proud of our students for choosing gifts that reflect compassion, stewardship, and God's love for all. Thank you to everyone who supported this meaningful mission!

Hope Basket (\$50): Rabbits and a starter flock of chickens, along with training and education

Gift of Clean Water (\$300): Support for treadle pumps, water conservation, and organic fertilizers

Two Gifts of a Water Buffalo (\$250 each). These water buffalo will provide rich, protein-filled milk and help make farming easier by tilling fields and producing natural fertilizer—further strengthening long-term sustainability.

Mating Pair of Cattle (\$1,000): A heifer and a bull to improve the productivity of a struggling farm and provide valuable offspring

Two Sheep (\$240): Wool and milk to provide clothing and nourishment for families living in harsh environments

Community Animal Health Worker Kit (\$200): Education and materials to keep animals in the community safe and healthy

Garden Seeds (\$60): Fruit and vegetable seedlings with education about healthy soil

Earth Gift Basket (\$60): A hive of bees and tree seedlings to increase crop production while caring for the Earth

Women's Self-Help Group (\$72): This gift provides a community with a group for women where they receive the education and support necessary to create better lives for themselves and their families.

If you'd like to learn more or give:

<https://www.heifer.org/give/gift-catalog/all-gifts>

## Soldiers Christmas Cards:

Now is the time to bring in any extra unused Christmas Cards for the soldiers that we send out in October. Also, keep an eye out for clearance sales on the cards at the stores. This is a great time to get them at a really good price. Your donations are greatly appreciated and I can tell you the soldiers really loved getting them. Thank you all for your help in this mission.

**Your Board of Mission and Outreach.**



## 2026 Youth Mission Trip Selected

Our church is excited to announce that the 2026 Youth Mission Trip will take place in Belle and the Upper Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, June 21–27, 2026. Our youth will assist with home repairs while building meaningful relationships and living out Christ's call to serve.

**Scan the QR code to sign up for more information**, including trip updates and upcoming fundraisers.



Multiple fundraisers will help send our teens, and the entire congregation is invited to participate. Our first fundraiser is listed below; please detach the order form and submit it with payment—by check, cash, or online—to the church office by Tuesday, February 3rd.



## Big Game Subs, Bigger Mission

**12-inch Subs for Super Bowl Sunday  
Fundraiser Feb. 8th**

**\$8**

This fundraiser is for the church HS/JH Youth Summer Mission Trip.

This year they will be doing construction projects in West Virginia June 21<sup>st</sup> - June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Last year we had 4 adults and 9 teens attend. This year we are hoping for more!

Subs will be assembled by the teens, under supervision, in our Safe Serve regulated kitchen.

**Thank you for your support.**

On White Buns

Cheese:  Provolone  
(Pick 1)  Swiss  
 Cheddar  
 Mozzarella

Meat:  Turkey

Ham  
 Roast Beef  
 Sliced Chicken  
 Soft Salami  
 Bologna

Side:  Lettuce

Tomatoes  
 Onions  
 Green Peppers  
 Mustard (packets)  
 Mayonnaise (packets)

**Orders & Payment DUE: Tuesday, February 3rd**

ONE SANDWICH PER ORDER FORM: Cash or checks payable to Brookfield Congregational Church

Subs can be picked up starting at 2pm on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Brookfield Congregational Church in the Fellowship Hall, or will be delivered that morning for an additional \$2/order or \$5/3+ orders.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery? (\$2/order or \$5/3+orders) NO YES Address For Delivery: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNUAL BUDGET	\$176,402.92
MONTHLY AVERAGE	\$14,700.24
RECEIVED INCOME FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER	\$12,193.00
Offering	\$11,094.77
Other Sources	1,098.23
PROJECTED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	\$161,702.68
RECEIVED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	\$143,221.43

### Worship Team Volunteer Schedule for JANUARY 2026

	Readers	Children's Sermon	Greeter(s)
1/04/26	Jessica Safford	Reagan Paras	Debbie Gordon
1/11/26	Reagan P. Paras/Jake Oxman	Communion	Bill & Kate Simpson
1/18/26	Paul Shailer	Rebecca Morin	Patti Coltey
1/25/26	Gina Mesick	Cheri Carty	Paul Shailer

### Scripture Readings for January 2026:

DATE	SCRIPTURE READING	GOSPEL READING	READER
1/04/26	Christmas Message in Song		Jessica Safford
1/11/26	Psalm 46	Mark 1:35-38, 6:30-32	Reagan P. Paras Jake Oxman
1/18/26	Proverbs 4:20-27	Matthew 16:24-26	Paul Shailer
1/25/26	Daniel 2:16-23	Matthew 7:7-11	Gina Mesick

\*\*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 JANUARY: Jane Snyder & Paul Shailer

From the mailbox:

We have received several cards with many thanks to the Spirit Lifters for their wonderful visits and gifts, along with Christmas Cards from Carol Redman, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Landine, Judith Ohman, Pat McInnes, Brookfield Cub Scout Pack 159, Sharon & Nancy Collins, Nathan Slanda, Gloria Hughes, The Morins, Kathy Crevier, and Carol Redman.





## CHURCH FUN PAGE

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

2	Melanie Levine	18	Delores Dobson
3	Aiden Morin	20	Jim Joyce
10	Elizabeth Jay	29	Ben Fipps
17	Paul Shailer		

## Epiphany

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

Frankincense	Balthasar	Bethlehem	King Herod	Epiphany
Melchior	Offering	Treasure	Twelfth	Wisemen
Camels	Gaspar	Homage	Manger	Child
Feast	Gifts	Jesus	Light	Myrrh
Night	Three	Gold	King	Magi
Mary	Star			



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

# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFEE HR.	<b>5</b> COA Fitness 11 am	<b>6</b> <b>EPIPHANY</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 Centering Prayer 10am	<b>7</b> AA 7 pm	<b>8</b> COA Fit. 9 am Faith Foundations Class 9am Bible Study 10 am TOPS 6 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFEE HR.	<b>12</b> COA Fitness 11 am <b>Church Council Meeting 6:30pm</b>	<b>13</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 Centering Prayer 10am	<b>14</b> AA 7 pm	<b>15</b> COA Fit. 9 am Faith Foundations Class 9am Bible Study 10 am TOPS 6 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM COFFEE HR.	<b>19</b> COA Fitness 11 am	<b>20</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 Centering Prayer 10am	<b>21</b> <b>NEWS LETTER INFO DUE</b> AA 7 pm	<b>22</b> COA Fit. 9 am Faith Foundations Class 9am Bible Study 10 am TOPS 6 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 AM CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 AM <b>Potluck &amp; Annual Meeting</b>	<b>26</b> COA Fitness 11 am	<b>27</b> Chair Yoga 9 COA 10-12 Centering Prayer 10am	<b>28</b> AA 7 pm	<b>29</b> COA Fit. 9 am Faith Foundations Class 9am Bible Study 10 am TOPS 6 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

Disclaimer: Dates are subject to change but will be announced accordingly. If you would like your group's 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!

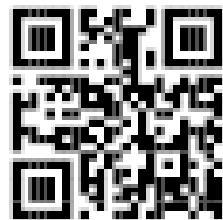
Visit! Come!



bcc1857.org



@brookfieldcongregationalchurch



@Brookfield Congregational Church

## From the Office

Hello Everyone,

I am pleased to announce that I have a new position as the Council on Aging Program Coordinator. I will continue to be the Church Administrative Assistant. Both positions will be 15 hours per week. However, my hours will change as far as office hours go. **My church office hours will be Monday 8am-11am, Wednesday 8am-3pm, and Friday 8am-3pm.** They may vary a bit here and there depending on demand from both positions and events. I will be here at the church for the Council on Aging the other days. I look forward to serving this church and the town in these roles, to the best of my ability. I am excited for the new challenges ahead of me and growing while helping others. As I will be here almost every day, I will check messages daily, if you need anything, please leave me a message and we will get back to you. Thank you.

With unending Faith, Darlene Dean

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P.O. Box 457  
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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**  
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Learn about our church activities!