

THE BROOKFIELD BRANCH



Brookfield Congregational Church
On the Common
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VOLUME 29, ISSUE 08
AUGUST 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2026



It's Tag Sale Time – Apple Country Fair Prep

Please bring in your items. Please be sure the items you offer are clean, have all their parts, and are not chipped, cracked, stained, or broken. If you have any questions, please speak with Jane Snyder. See

the list on the Mission Board for items accepted. Thank you for helping us have a profitable year. – Tag Sale Team



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATIONS – The Mission Board will be collecting back to school supplies, and other items like back packs, tissues, and sanitizer, for Brookfield Elementary School. We will collect until August 23rd. The bin will be in Fellowship Hall.

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The Pastor's Page

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

—1 John 3:18



Hello, my friends,

As I write this, we are preparing to leave on our church's fourth mission trip. Let me start with a huge thank you to all those who have provided support both financially and spiritually. This year, thirteen people will travel to Hazlet, New Jersey, bringing their hearts and hands to serve those in need. It is an opportunity not only to complete important work, but also to build relationships, offer encouragement, worship together, and share God's love through our presence and service. In total there will be over 400 participants between the teenagers and the adults coming from all over the country to support this community.

Mission trips remind us that faith is about more than what we believe. It is also about how we live. Each person traveling brings different gifts and abilities, but everyone shares a willingness to serve. Together, we will work, learn, laugh, and perhaps even discover something new about ourselves, one another, and the ways God is at work in the world.

When we return, we will move right into Vacation Bible Camp (formerly Vacation Bible School). Once again, our church will open its doors to the wider community, inviting children to come together for a week of learning, creativity, friendship, and fun. Through stories, songs, games, crafts, and the care shown by our volunteers, we hope each child will experience a place where they learn about and get a little closer to God.

At first glance, a mission trip and Vacation Bible Camp may seem like two very different ministries. One takes us beyond the walls of our church to serve others, while the other invites our neighbors inside. Yet both share the same ultimate purpose: helping to build a foundation of faith for everyone involved.

That foundation is built not only in those we serve or the children who attend. It is also strengthened in every volunteer, participant, family member, and congregation member who supports these ministries. Faith grows when we step forward, work together, welcome others, and allow God to use what we have to make a difference.

Please keep our mission team, the people we will serve in Hazlet, our Vacation Bible Camp children and families, and all our volunteers in your prayers. May these weeks remind us that wherever we go—and whoever walks through our doors—we have an opportunity to plant seeds of faith, share God's love, and help build a foundation that can last a lifetime.

With much love,

-Pastor Brian

Moderator's Moment



The Church Council met on Monday, July 13th, and discussed several upcoming events for the next few months: • By the time this newsletter reaches you, our Youth Mission Trip team will be back home • Vacation Bible Camp takes place the first week of August. • Selling hot dogs on the Common on August 15th, part of Brookfield's celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary. • A Back-to-School barbecue and fun day, also in August. • The first face-to-face meetings between members and our newly formed Fellowship Committee. • The conclusion of our congregation's first Grief Share program. • More car washes, combined with small tag sales, will take place in September and October to benefit next year's youth mission trip. • Pie-making for the Apple Country Fair and a large tag sale in October. • And more to be announced soon (or elsewhere in this newsletter!). I'm tired just writing down all of these activities! To say our church is active and engaged would be an understatement. None of these events happens without the dedication of volunteers who give their time and effort. Getting involved is a rewarding way to get to know your fellow church members better. If you'd like to participate in any of these activities but aren't sure how to get started, please reach out to me or Rev. Brian Oxman — we'd be happy to help you get connected. Ever wonder what actually happens during a Council meeting? Minutes are taken and approved for every Council meeting to record the actions and information discussed. These meeting notes are open for anyone to review. If you'd like to look over past Council meeting notes, simply stop by the church office, where hard copies are kept in a binder there.

Sincerely yours,

Matt Mullen, Church Moderator



Helping Hands would like to invite you to help us with some much needed fundraising for our church. We are currently working to help with meeting our church budget and we also have much needed repairs that need to be done to the church. We had a meeting on July 22nd and have decided to work on a

few fundraising projects, but we need your help. This is what we have come up with. On Saturday, September 19th, we are planning a Ham Dinner (information and tickets will be upcoming), and Friday, November 6th, we will be having a Soup, Salad, and Sandwiches Dinner. In addition to that, we are trying to be creative and we would like to make some apple aprons for the Apple Country Fair to sell, also, we have decided to put on a Fall Fest Church Bazaar & Bake Shop November 21, 2026, the weekend before Thanksgiving. If you have some items made that you would like to donate to our Fair please speak to us. We will also need help making items for our bake shop – just in time for Thanksgiving! Plans for craft workshops will be set up for those that would like to help in creating craft items to sell for the church there will be cooking times set up to bake before the event. Let's have some fun and fellowship while working on this project together! Hope you can join us.

Your Helpings Hands Group, Darlene Dean, Gwen Yaskoski, Cathy Farr, Elizabeth Jay, Patti Coltey, Debbie Gordon, & Natalie Morris

Growing Together in Faith—and Stewardship

We are so grateful for the wonderful growth our church has experienced. Through the faithful leadership of our Pastor, the dedication of our Director of Faith Formation, and the inspiring ministry of our music team, our congregation continues to grow in both numbers and faith. It is a blessing to welcome new members, strengthen relationships, and see God's work flourishing among us.

As our congregation grows, so do the costs of supporting the many programs, services and ministries our church offers. In addition, the costs of maintaining our historic church building continue to rise. Together, these increasing expenses have resulted in a budget deficit for the third consecutive year.

To provide some perspective, our weekly bulletin recently reported year-to-date income of **\$83,749**, which at first glance appears to be keeping pace with our budget. However, that total includes approximately **\$12,000** from annual pledge payments received earlier than anticipated and designated fundraising for the Youth Mission Trip. Excluding those amounts, operating income is approximately **\$72,000**, compared to a six-month budget of **\$83,000**—a shortfall of about **\$11,000**. Meanwhile, year-to-date operating expenses totaling approximately **\$85,000**, include a **17% increase in heating costs** and about **\$5,000** in unbudgeted building maintenance.

To help reduce the shortfall, our Pastor has graciously offered to forgo two weeks of salary through unpaid time off. While this generous offer reflects his servant's heart and dedication, we believe it is not the direction we want to take. Our church family is strengthened each week through the faithful preaching of God's Word, compassionate pastoral care, and the leadership our Pastor provides. We want to ensure that this vital ministry continues without interruption.

Instead, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help meet this need. If you already make a financial pledge, thank you for your faithful generosity. If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge, beginning one if you have not yet done so, or making a special one-time gift.

Every gift, regardless of size, helps sustain our ministries, supports our growing church family, and brings us closer to a balanced budget. Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to the mission God has entrusted to our congregation. Together, with God's guidance, we can continue to grow in faith and serve our community for years to come.

Cheri Carty, Church Treasurer



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

MENU FOR AUGUST 2026:

1. Fajitas: _____
2. Mexican Rice: _____
3. Cucumber & Tomato Salad: _____
4. Broccoli Slaw: _____
5. 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.

To Our Church Family and Friends,

On June 20th a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner was held in Fellowship Hall. This was a fundraiser to benefit church repairs. Approximately 80 people attended and all enjoyed an evening of Christian Fellowship.

I would like to thank everyone who bought tickets and who were involved in any way. A special thank you goes to the committee members who worked really hard that evening:

Tickets: Lee Farr & Darlene Dean

Set Up: Helping Hands

Serving: Tony Aubin & Family, Dave Bond, Pat Jeznach

Beverages: Glenna & Harry Pearson

Rolls: Karen & Ken Hodge

Salad: Jane Snyder, Pat Jeznach, Cathy Farr, & Ray Lacasse

Desserts: Tammy Taquino, Sharon Bond, Marilyn Price, Phyllis Day

Advertising: Colleen Fipps & Delores Dobson

Paper Goods: Ray Lacasse

Cooking: Dwayne & Michelle Robare

Several of the local supermarkets gave us a very generous donations:

Hannaford Market (North Brookfield)

Stop & Shop (Sturbridge)

Big Y (Spencer)

Big Bunny Market (Southbridge)

These donations helped us achieve an excellent profit. (\$810.00)

So, again thank you all and I really enjoyed working with everyone!!

Hope to do it again soon!!

Sincerely, Harriet Lacasse





For those looking to find a quiet, meditative way to end your day, please join us for the compline service at St. Joseph's on the **second Wednesday of the month.**

There will be a sign-up sheet on the Christian Life bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Let us know if you want to meet at the Abbey or need a ride. We are looking forward to sharing this peaceful, thoughtful

experience with you.

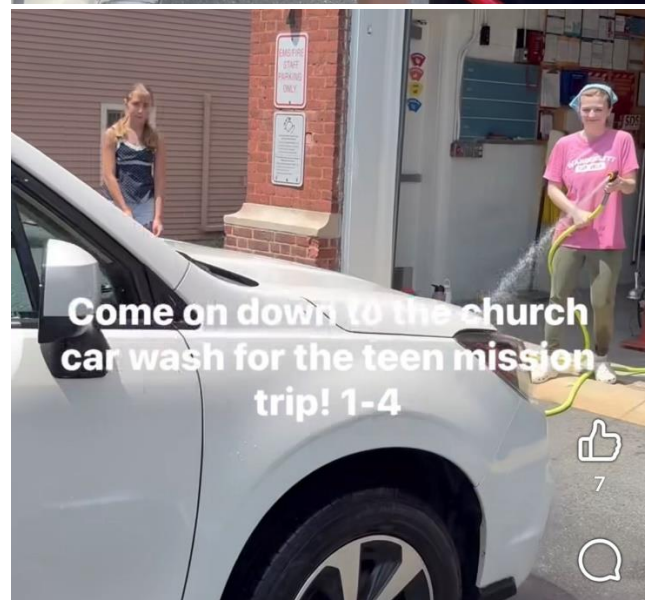


Women's Bible Study – Will meet Friday, August 21st @ 6PM, at the Jay residence. Any questions, speak with Margaret Aubin. We will be studying Lesson 6: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" pp. 177 – 201

Our Teen Mission Trip Car Wash,

held on **Sunday, July 11**, was another wonderful success! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our teenagers, along with the incredible support of our church family and community, we raised **\$506** to help send our youth to **New Jersey** for their upcoming mission trip.

During down time, the group worked on their BCC Mission Shirts for this year with the help of Margaret Aubin.



Christian Life Save the Dates for Fall:

September 27th: Painting craft with Nancy Mullen

September 26th: Family Trivia Night

November 28th: Murder Mystery Potluck Turkey Dinner

Thank You from Nancy and Matt Mullen

Matt and I would like to thank all the members of the church for the support given during my mother's illness and passing. It was a very difficult time, and the thoughts, prayers, hugs and cards made it so much easier to bear. It means the world to us to have such a caring and loving church family. Love, Nancy and Matt

BCC Youth Mission Trip a Meaningful Success

Our BCC Youth returned home with grateful hearts after an incredible week serving in Hazlet, New Jersey, from July 19–25. During the mission trip, our teens participated in community service projects, worship, Bible studies, and fellowship while sharing Christ's love with others. The week was filled with opportunities to grow in faith, serve those in need, and build lasting friendships.

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth through prayers, donations, and fundraising efforts.

Visit our website, YouTube, or Facebook page to see their testimonials after their return.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

YEAR-TO-DATE REPORT OF INCOME: JUNE 2026

ANNUAL BUDGET	\$167,130.66
PROJECTED MONTHLY AVERAGE	\$13,927.55
RECEIVED INCOME FOR MONTH OF JUNE	\$12,306.00
Offering	\$9,298.00
Other Sources	\$3,008.00
PROJECTED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	\$83,565.33
RECEIVED INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE	\$83,749.46

Worship Team Volunteer Schedule for AUGUST 2026

	Readers	Children's Sermon	Greeter(s)
8/02/26	Youth	Communion	Gwen Yaskoski
8/09/26	Bill Simpson	VBC Performance	Paul & Doreen Blouin
8/16/26	Jessica Safford	Rebecca Morin	Elizabeth Jay
8/23/26	Gina Mesick	Nancy Mullen	Debbie Gordon
8/30/26	Paul Shailer	Cheri Carty	Bill & Kate Simpson

Scripture Readings for AUGUST 2026:

DATE	SCRIPTURE READING	GOSPEL READING	READER
8/02/26		Matthew 14:13-41	Youth
8/09/26	Genesis 33:1-10	Matthew 14:22-33,16:13-18	Bill Simpson
8/16/26	Genesis 27:1-29	Genesis 27:30-41 (not Gospel)	Jessica Safford
8/23/26	Genesis 32:22-32	Matthew 15:21-28	Gina Mesick
8/30/26	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28	Paul Shailer

****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: Margaret Aubin & Jane Snyder

From the mailbox: We have received several cards with many thanks to the Spirit Lifters for their wonderful visits and gifts. Thank you cards from Priscilla Johnson, Carol Redman, Patricia McInnes, Judith Ohman, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Landine. The 2026 Heart of New England Council National Youth Leadership Training sent a thank you for building use.



The Choir will be taking the Summer off. We look forward to regrouping after Labor Day, September 13th. If anyone would like to join the choir please speak with Reagan or Lindsey Paras. We would love to have you be part of our musical ministry.



CHURCH FUN PAGE

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

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

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 237

Matt.4:23-5.8



Beatitudes

BLESSED	EARTH
BROUGHT	FILLED
CROWDS	GOD
DISCIPLES	HEART
DISEASES	JESUS
GALILEE	JORDAN
HEALED	JUDEA
HEAVEN	MEEK
HUNGER	MERCY
INHERIT	MOURN
KINGDOM	PAIN
MERCIFUL	POOR
PREACHING	PEOPLE
SEIZURES	PURE
SICKNESS	REGION
SPREAD	SPIRIT
SUFFERING	SYRIA
TEACHING	SEVERE

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

JERUSALEM

Brookfield Congregational Church
8 Common St., P O BOX 457
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AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 VBC 9AM-12:30PM	4 Centering Prayer 10 AM VBC 9AM-12:30PM	5 VBC 9AM-12:30PM AA 7 PM	6 VBC 9AM-12:30PM	7 VBC 9AM-12:30PM 5:30 PM VBC Show and Cookout.	1/8
9 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN. SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR. Back to School Bash 11-1	10 Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM	11 Centering Prayer 10 AM	12 AA 7 PM Compline Serv. St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. 7:20PM	13	14 Women's Bible Study 6PM	15
16 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	17	18 Centering Prayer 10 AM	19 AA 7 PM	20	21 NEWS LETTER INFO DUE INTO THE OFFICE	22
23 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	24	25 Centering Prayer 10 AM	26 MAILING NEWSLETTER AA 7 PM	27 Dismas 5 pm	28	29
30 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	31					

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 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!



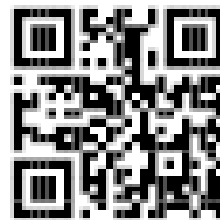
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From the Office:

Hello Everyone,

I will be on Vacation August 1st – August 9th. If you have an emergency you can leave a message on the church phone, or contact Pastor Brian or a Deacon.

Thank you all in advance.

Darlene Dean

Brookfield Congregational Church

On the Common

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United Church of Christ

Or Current Resident



For the latest information
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morning services!
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