

THE BROOKFIELD BRANCH



Brookfield Congregational Church
On the Common
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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



Apple Country Fair Prep

It's that time of year again! Please join us on October 7th & 8th @ 9AM-6PM to make **apple pies**. Sign up posters will be in Fellowship Hall. It is more than making pies, it is great fellowship and time to meet new people. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. On Friday, October 9th, the tag sale team will be setting up the **tag sale** for the church. We could use a lot of help. This is a joint effort, we look forward to another successful year! Apple Country Fair is Oct. 10th 10AM-4PM.



*For those that would like to help make pies, or who help with special food events, we will be having a **Servsafe review of the process and some guidelines we must follow**, on **September 13th**, Sunday after coffee hour. We would like everyone aware of the requirements and procedures. If this time does not work for you, and you plan on participating with these events, please speak with Darlene Dean.



Ham Dinner – Helping Hands will be hosting a Ham Dinner, September 19th, 2026 @ 5:30PM. Tickets will be \$12.00 adults, \$5.00 children 12 and under, \$36. For a family of 5 or more. **Menu:** Ham, Roasted Potatoes, Baked Beans, Mixed Veg., Rolls, Dessert. See Darlene Dean or Harriet LaCasse for tickets. This is a fundraiser for the General Fund / Church repairs.

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The Pastor's Page

*"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand."
—Mark 1:15*



Hello, my friends,

When Jesus wanted people to understand the Kingdom of God, he often told them a story. He would start with the familiar, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." He spoke of wedding celebrations, workers in a vineyard, seeds planted in the ground, hidden treasure, and wheat growing among weeds. Through familiar images, Jesus revealed a way of life very different from the values of the world around us.

This September and October, we will begin a new sermon series exploring these parables and asking what we can do to prepare for God's coming Kingdom.

We sometimes think of the Kingdom as a place we hope to enter someday. Jesus, however, proclaimed that "the kingdom of God has come near." God's Kingdom is not only a future promise, it is God's transforming work already taking place among us. Wherever grace overcomes resentment, generosity replaces greed, forgiveness interrupts retaliation, and love challenges injustice, we catch a glimpse of the Kingdom drawing near.

Throughout the series, we will consider how Jesus calls us to unwind some of our earthly viewpoints and learn to think differently. We will ask what it means to be prepared rather than simply waiting. We will explore ideas about fairness and whether we can celebrate grace when it is extended to someone else. We will touch on forgiveness, as well as the value of small and seemingly insignificant acts, and the ways God uses the ordinary to accomplish extraordinary things.

These teachings will eventually lead us to one of faith's most difficult questions: If God is all-good and all-powerful, why does evil exist? How can we believe in God amid war, poverty, cruelty, injustice, and human suffering? We may not discover an explanation that makes tragedy understandable, but Jesus' parables can help us understand how Kingdom people are called to respond. They teach us to recognize evil without surrendering to it, to protect what is good, and to participate in God's healing work.

This series will not only ask us what we believe about the Kingdom, it will ask how our belief changes the way we live. If God's Kingdom has truly come near, what must change within us? How can our choices help reveal it? And how might we become signs of the Kingdom for those still waiting to see it?

I hope you will join us as we work through Jesus' teachings to prepare ourselves to participate in the Kingdom of God.

With much love,

-Pastor Brian

Moderator's Moment



The Church Council met on Monday, August 10th. Here are a few of the topics we discussed.

Event Advertising

Our church is very active and holds a lot of events. However, we recently had a situation arise when an event was advertised with conflicting information. To prevent this from happening again, the Council would like all event advertising to be coordinated through Colleen Fipps, our webmaster. Colleen has developed a brief form for event organizers to fill out, and she will then get the information posted to our website and social media. This will help ensure the advertising is consistent across all platforms.

Church Use

The Board of Health requires someone under our church permit to be in attendance and oversee any event that includes serving food and having a ServSafe Certified individual at the event. All ServSafe Certified individuals must have a copy of their ServSafe Certification and Allergen Certificate on file with the Board of Health. This includes any BCC-sponsored events where food is being served. It is the responsibility of the event organizer, not Helping Hands or church staff, to arrange for a ServSafe Certified individual to be in attendance. The need for a ServSafe Certified person will also be included on a new checklist being created that will be given to anyone from our church that will be planning food events and will be available in the church office. Our current ServSafe people are: Darlene Dean, Pat Jeznach, Gary Jeznach, and Jake Oxman. Jake can run the event but must have a person over 18 to assist. People from outside the church who fill out a church use form and will be representing their own food event (and not the church), they will be responsible for their own permits and ServSafe representatives. ServSafe individuals for non-church sponsored events must still have a copy of their certifications included/listed under the Church with the Board of Health. This requirement will be reviewed with those involved with non-church sponsored events at the church when they fill out a church use form.

Financial Updates

The Council agreed to eliminate the weekly financial information from the Sunday Bulletins. Instead, a financial update will be provided in the monthly newsletter with some brief explanatory comments. The Council also agreed to provide an update in the Sunday Bulletin once a quarter.

Sincerely yours,

Matt Mullen, Church Moderator



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 SEPTEMBER 2026:

Tri Colored Rotini w/ Pesto, Chicken, & Vegies: Tammy Taquino

Chicken Salad or Egg Salad: _____

Cucumber & Tomato Salad or another non-lettuce type salad: _____

Rolls or Bread: _____

Fruit or 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.

Harriet LaCasse

From Your Missions Board

The Missions Board would like to thank all who have participated in our collection of items for the Brookfield Elementary School. We originally were collecting items for the children but due to the generosity of the Friends of Brookfield we were able to focus on the teachers' needs. The Friends of Brookfield provided \$1,000.00 to our library to donate to an organization and it was given to the Brookfield Elementary School for the children's supplies. Therefore, we have been collecting items such as paper towels, hand sanitizer, Clorox Wipes and more for the teachers use. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

The Board of Missions is working on supporting St. Luke's Guest house in Southbridge. We are in hopes of gathering \$1,000.00 that will provide St. Lukes with funds to buy supplies, bedding and other needs in support of their efforts at St. Luke's in the Southbridge community. Any and all pledges are welcome and when we have reached our goal, we will present St. Luke's with a check for the amount stated above. St. Luke's offers temporary housing for men, women and children who are in need of assistance. Anyone staying at St. Luke's must agree to abide by the simple rule of no alcohol or drugs are allowed at any time, and everyone must follow general commonsense rules.



Helping Hands will holding a **Fall Fest Church Bazaar and Bake Shop**,

Saturday, Nov. 21st, 2026 from 9AM-3PM. If you are crafty or have a gift you would like to share with church, please speak with someone from the Helping Hands group. We will also open the event for 6 vendors to rent tables for \$35., if you know someone who would like to rent a space, please let us know.

We will be having craft workshops to make things for this event on Sept.11,& Sept. 21,6:30PM – 8:00PM, if you would like to join us. One of the things we will be making to sell is Theme Gift Baskets. If you have any good size baskets or want to create one, please let us know – examples: Popcorn Movie Night, Pet Gifts, Gardening Baskets etc...Thank you all in advance for your help. The money we raise will go to the general fund/church repairs. We will be making wreaths,

centerpieces, sewn items, crochet items, ornaments, Mason jar Mixed Soups & Cookies, also will be baking for the bake shop and more. All are welcome to join in. Your Helpings Hands Group, Darlene Dean, Gwen Yaskoski, Cathy Farr, Elizabeth Jay, Patti Coltey, Debbie Gordon, Natalie Morris, & Harriet LaCasse



**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

Hi Everyone,

We had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible Camp thanks to our Director of Faith Formation, Colleen Fipps. We had 30 kids and an abundance of volunteers who made their week a spectacular one!! Don't miss all the wonderful photos and videos on Facebook showing the activities of each day. Back to School day was another success with water features and a great cook out. Thanks to our chefs Matt Mullen and Paul Blouin. Please keep an eye on the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall for information regarding a Family Trivia Night with Potluck dinner. We will be requesting donations of Gift Baskets and prizes for the Trivia winners. The Gift Baskets will be set up as a Silent Auction on Trivia night which is being planned for Saturday, September 26th. If anyone has some great Trivia questions, please get them to anyone on the Christian Life Board.

We will be having another rock painting day with Nancy Mullen on September 27th from 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Please let us know if you will be attending. We had a great time last fall.

Save the Date: November 28th – a Murder Mystery Potluck Dinner is in the works!!

Your Christian Life Board: Nancy Mullen, Ellie Fournier, Punk Snyder, Jeff and Rebecca Morin and Director of Faith Formation Colleen Fipps.



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.



Bible Study – Will resume on Thursday's starting September 17th, @ 10AM in the upstairs classroom. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study – Will meet Friday, September 18th, @ 6PM, at the Jay residence. Any questions, speak with Margaret Aubin. We will be studying Lesson 7. Esther 8 "Grace Decreed", pages 202-226.

Family Trivia Night with Prizes and Silent Auction Baskets - Saturday September 26th – 6-8pm

Painting with Nancy Event – Sunday September 27th 2-4pm - \$5 per person for supplies

Sunday School Is Growing!

Starting in September, our Sunday School will be growing into two age groups—younger children and older children—so that we can provide lessons and activities that are better suited to each age level.

To make this possible, we are looking for Sunday School teachers and assistants! You don't need to be a Bible expert—just a willingness to share your time, faith, and love with our children.

Teaching Sunday School is a truly rewarding experience and a wonderful way to make a lasting impact on the next generation of our church.

Interested in helping? Please speak with Faith Formation Director Colleen Fipps to learn more or get involved. We'd love to have you join us!



Vacation Bible Camp: An Underwater Adventure!

What an incredible week we had at Vacation Bible Camp the first week of August! We welcomed **30 children and more than 30 amazing volunteers** for five fun-filled days of faith, friendship, learning, and plenty of water!

Our campers dove into Bible stories with **Jonah and the great fish** and experienced the excitement of **Jesus calming the storm**. They explored the science of the sea and learned about the environmental factors that impact our oceans. Our creative crafts included painted shells, shell frames, pony-bead sea creatures, and handprint cross T-shirts.

There was no shortage of fun! Campers enjoyed recreation in the Town Hall and back lot, along with special guests like **Rocky the Scuba Expert** and **Bob the Turtle**. Friday brought the ultimate water-slide adventure!

We wrapped up the week Friday evening with an **epic performance by our campers**, followed by more water-slide fun, hot dogs, hamburgers, and fellowship with their families. It was truly a wonderful week, and we are so grateful to every volunteer, family, and camper who made this year's Vacation Bible Camp such a memorable adventure!

We can't wait to dive into another adventure next year!



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Team Volunteer Schedule for SEPTEMBER 2026

	Readers	Children's Sermon	Greeter(s)
9/06/26	Youth	Communion	Patti Coltey
9/13/26	Cathy Farr		Paul Shailer
9/20/26	Jane Snyder		Lee and Cathy Farr
9/27/26	Malia Wexler		Holly & Carrie Bernadone

Scripture Readings for SEPTEMBER 2026:

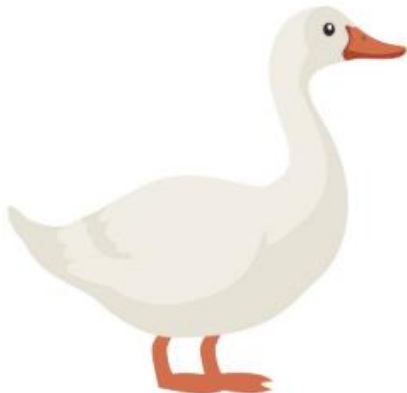
DATE	SCRIPTURE READING	GOSPEL READING	READER
9/06/26		Matthew 18:15-20	Youth
9/13/26	Psalms 51:1-10	Mark 1:14-20	Cathy Farr
9/20/26	Matthew 22:2-14	Matthew 25:1-13	Jane Snyder
9/27/26	Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45	Matthew 20:1-16	Malia Wexler

**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: Paul Shailer and Juliette Slanda



The Choir is looking 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. We are looking to expand our choir. If you like to sing, please consider joining us on Sunday Mornings.



Just a little reminder to bring your \$\$ and change to feed Gertude the goose during our coffee hour. This year the money we collect will go to Friends of St. Luke's Guesthouse. Let's feed her with lots of love & \$\$\$.



CHURCH FUN PAGE

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1	Kathy Crevier	18	Jan Wilson
4	Micah Wexler	23	Jessica Safford
8	Ellie Fournier	24	David Bond
9	Ryan Mullen	25	Brannon Pearson
11	Carrie Bernadone	26	Jane Snyder
14	Carol Vanderbrug	26	Addison Oxman
16	Jeff Morin		
16	Lisa Mollison		

God's Forgiveness

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

reconciliation
 sacraments
 anointing
 repent
 sick

forgiveness
 christians
 mistakes
 sorrow
 sin

temptation
 conscience
 healing
 peace
 god

confession
 holyspirit
 penance
 faith

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SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Centering Prayer 10 AM	2 AA 7 PM	3	4	5
6 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN. SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	7 Labor Day	8 Centering Prayer 10 AM	9 AA 7 PM Compline Serv. St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. 7:20PM	10	11 Helping hands Craft workshop 6:30PM – 8:00PM	12
13 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR. SERVSAFE REVIEW 11:30AM	14 Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM	15 Centering Prayer 10 AM	16 AA 7 PM	17 Bible Study 10AM COA OPEN HOUSE 5-7PM	18 NEWS LETTER INFO DUE INTO THE OFFICE Women's Bible Study 6PM	19 Fundraiser Ham Dinner 5:30 PM
20 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	21 Helping hands Craft workshop 6:30PM – 8:00PM	22 Centering Prayer 10 AM	23 MAILING NEWSLETTER AA 7 PM	24 Bible Study 10 AM Dismas 5 pm	25	26 Family Trivia Night 6-8PM
27 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR. Rock Painting with Nancy Mullen 2-4PM	28	29	30		NOTE: Darlene will be on Vacation Sept.24 th -Oct. 3 rd .	

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!



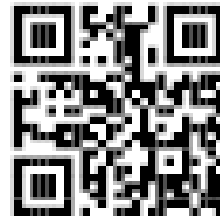
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From the Office:

Hello Everyone,

Just a note: I will be on **Vacation September 24th, - October 3, 2026**. If you need assistance with something, please contact the church office and leave a message, someone will get back to you. If it is an emergency, please contact Pastor Brian or a Deacon. Thank you, Darlene Dean

OFFICE ADMIN. HOURS:

Monday 8-11, Wednesday & Friday 8-12, 1-3

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On the Common
P.O. Box 457
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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!