
The Congregational Connection

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August, 2025



Pastor Michael C. Dubbs

Holy Smokes!

To tell this story, I have to go all the way back to before Springfest. Rob Harding, the chef for the last several of our church meals, asked me about what we as a church do at Springfest. My answer was, over the years we have done several things, but usually the Men's Fellowship grills hot dogs and the Women's Fellowship makes baked goods, and we set up a tent and sell them on our lawn. I probably also went into my speech about how the success of Springfest is not how many hot dogs we sell, but the visibility of our church and the interaction we have with people that day.

Rob asked, "Can I make some pulled pork BBQ to sell along with the hot dogs?" How would you have answered that question? My response was something along the lines of, "Yes Please!"

Well, the BBQ was outstanding, and at some point during Springfest, Rob says, "I love

smoking BBQ. I wish there was a way to turn BBQ into a ministry." That's all you have to say around me! In fact, if someone said, "I wish there was a way to turn hopscotch into a ministry," we would have a hopscotch team by now!

So, we batted a few ideas around. Our Men's Fellowship has been kind of inactive for several years and I was looking for a way to inject some life into that and to do more community outreach. The result was Holy Smokes BBQ!



By now, you probably know that we had a free lunch to test this idea out, and we honored first responders, military and the recovery community, and it was a huge hit! I worked the end of the food line, slaw and chips, and because I was at the end, I was the one who was asked, "Where do we pay?" I loved people's expression when I told them, "You don't!" We did have a donation jar, and we received over \$1,000 that day! Not bad for a free lunch!

But that's not even the coolest part of the story! A few days before the BBQ event, the church received a call from a soldier at Ft. Bragg inquiring about the BBQ and offering to help. I called Braden and thanked

him for his inquiry and told him that we would love his help. Then he asked me, "Do you mind if I smoke some brisket to bring to the event? (See previous response: Yes Please!)"

We now have an outreach event booked and the Men's Fellowship will be providing Holy Smokes BBQ to the event raising money for Immigrant Hope, a local organization led by Matt Jones, one of the guys who covers for me when I'm away.

The possibilities for outreach are endless. Think about how many of Jesus' teaching moments occurred around a meal! Think about our charge to feed the hungry and to clothe the naked. Then, think about how much fun we can have fulfilling what God had commanded us to do!

Thank you, Rob, for your idea, thanks to the whole crew who helped pull it off, and thank you in advance to all of you who will help with Holy Smokes BBQ in the future. This is a great outreach opportunity for our church.



Oh, and hopscotch practice starts next Tuesday!

~ Pastor Mike ~

Holy Smokes BBQ ~ "When it's gone...it's gone"



Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, May 3, the church hosted its first ever 'Blessing of the Animals'. People from the church and the community brought their pets or a photo of their pet and Pastor Mike blessed those important family members.



Indoor Picnic!

In May, the congregation was treated to an indoor picnic in the Fellowship Hall, provided by the Board of Christian Education. What a generous and fun thing to do. It was great!





Last March we enjoyed a good rainy day for a “Rubber Ducky” scavenger hunt inside the church! Bible verses were used with hidden clues for finding the ducks! The young ones and some young at heart had a blast with pizza for lunch, the scavenger hunt AND creating a Blessing Board! Thank you, Board of Christian Ed, Pastor Mike, and everyone who participated!

Happy Birthday!



September

Robert Angeloff	09/04
Amanda Johnson	09/16
Vickie McInnis	09/17
Ann Shields	09/20
Natalie Dauner	09/24
Thomas Beddow	09/28

October

Ross Caudell	10/02
Rhonda Duncan	10/05
Clarissa Angeloff	10/12
Jane Newton	10/13
Ralph Cole	10/20
Becky Cameron	10/22
Sharon Hogan	10/22
Mavis B. Martin	10/30
Sally Raynor	10/30

August

Dotty Garman	08/01
Macey Jackson	08/14
Lois Womack	08/16
Chuck Barron	08/22
Robert Mobsby	08/24
Sue Aceves	08/28
Nancy Cameron	08/31

Begin your day with an “I get to” mentality instead of an “I have to” thought process...
 I get to go to work, I get to have a busy day,
 I get to move my body...whatever it may be.
 We often dress our opportunities as stress,
 but they are in fact blessings.

Our first Trivia Night was a HUGE success!

On July 28th, everyone brought their "A" game and had a great time. Lots of fun & yummy food!
 Thank you Jeff, Severine and Pastor Mike for arranging this fun event!

TRIVIA
 of Night



A Favorite Anthem

~ Submitted by Robin Lynne Frye ~

*This My Church Shall Be*

Lamp of wisdom burning, this my Church shall be;
 Pillar bright of learning, this my Church shall be;
 Flare of conscience guiding, flame of faith residing,
 Star of sages, light of ages, leading up to Me,
 This my Church shall be.

Font of water flowing, this my Church shall be;
 Fruitful vineyard growing, this my Church shall be;
 Field its harvest bearing, bread as body sharing,
 Living, dying, seed supplying, from the Paschal Tree,
 This my Church shall be.

Hands to heal the crying, this my Church shall be;
 Arms to hold the dying, this my Church shall be;
 Eyes for justice seeking, mouth for mercy speaking,
 Voice for preaching, tongue for teaching, truth with
 charity, This my Church shall be.

Saints unnumbered singing, this my Church shall be;
 Songs eternal bringing, this my Church shall be;
 Hosts of earth rejoicing, hymns in heaven voicing,
 Ransomed praising, carols raising, round the crystal
 sea, This my Church shall be.

Borghild Schoberg Jacobson (1932-1994)

Clothe Yourselves with Compassion

Did you ever sit back, look around in church and ask: “Lord, am I the same person as when I came here? Or have I changed throughout the years?”

Well, I have noticed we had a lot of church families who gave a lot of their time to participate with love and compassion in programs like memorials and funerals; some we liked, some not so much, but we did it anyway. Time is going by fast and let’s face it, we are getting older and slower with helping out, but I hope our compassion to the church and others is still there.

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

That verse says we should clothe ourselves with compassion. So, what holds us back? No time? Can’t be bothered? I like to think when our time comes to meet God, there will be members and others who come to show their respect, compassion and love for our church families.

God would be pleased.

~ Ingrid ~



The Story Behind the Song “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This song came from India. After the Welsh revival in 1904 -1905, there was a missionary who went to northeast India and while he was sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, there was a village which had never heard the gospel, and when a family of a father, mother and two sons heard the gospel, they believed in Jesus and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When the Chief heard about it, he brought them out in front of the whole village and he said to the father, “You have got to renounce this faith that we have never heard.” The father stepped up and said, “No! I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back.” With that the Chief gave the command and the two boys were shot. As the two kids are lying on the ground dying, the Chief looked up at him and said, “You have to renounce this faith” and the father said, “No turning back, though none go with me, I still will follow.” With that, Chief gave the order and the wife was shot. Now, only the man remained. The Chief said “I do not understand. You have got to renounce this faith.” He replied, “The cross before me, the world behind me, I have decided to follow Jesus.” And they shot him. The family which gave their lives for the name of Jesus shares a testimony in how the whole village became followers of Jesus Christ and the Chief himself received Jesus, resulting in the spread of Christianity in the region. What is more beautiful is the singing of the hymn. “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” in the entire world even until today.

The Village is in the state of Meghalaya, one of the eight states in northeast India and about 30% of the India’s Christian population resides in these eight states. The Hindus constitute about 80%, the Muslims about 15% and the Christians approximately 2.3% of the population in India in 2025.

~ Natalie Dauner ~



Music for the Summer ...and Beyond

Music is alive and well at CCC during the summer months!

Our most recent special event was the final concert of our season, held in July. Pianist Larry Arnold, bassist Logan Jackson and drummer Darius Dawson presented Cool Jazz for a Hot Day, playing both jazz standards and original compositions by Dr. Arnold. It was interesting to hear him speak about the various inspirations for his original pieces.

Looking back for a moment, in May, Duo Guitiano, comprised of Dr. Carlos Castilla, guitar, and his wife, Dr. Amanda Virelles, piano, delighted us with a widely varied concert of duets and solos. They were a huge hit with the audience and answered numerous questions about their repertoire and their musical collaboration.

The upcoming season of Community Congregational Concerts has plenty of treats in store!

- Dr. Kristina Henckel, well-loved area concert pianist and professor at Sandhills Community College, will play a sparkling fall recital.

- To banish the winter blues, we will host our own singer, Barron Maness and friends, including Village Chapel Director of Music Dr. Stephen Gourley on piano, plus saxophone and percussion, for an afternoon of popular favorites.

- In the spring, flutist Kelly Shea, who has played for us on several occasions, will be joined by harpist Laura Brandenburg, featuring the musical possibilities of this intriguing instrumental combination.

- The season will conclude with a summer celebration of woodwinds, when oboist Matthew Covington will be joined by friends on clarinet and bassoon for solos, duets and trios.

Our own substantial church talent enriches our worship services throughout the summer. A couple of my voice students who have sung for us before will also be singing. Here is a look at all of the summer's offerings – both those we have already heard and the schedule of what is upcoming:

June 15 - Robin Lynne Frye, Piano - Holy, Holy, Holy

June 22 - Amanda Johnson, Soprano - Amazing Grace

June 29 - Luellen Sorget, Soprano; Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Alto; and Karen Lewis, violin - Come Unto Him

July 6 - Ginger Rolfe, Soprano; Sharon Hogan, Soprano; Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Alto; Shelton Raynor, Tenor; and Ross Caudell, Bass - A Prayer for Our Time

July 13 - Ginger Rolfe, Soprano; Suzanne LaFollette-Black, Alto; and Barron Maness, Bass - He Touched Me

July 20 - Nikolas Epstein, Baritone - O God, Have Mercy

July 27 - Sue Aceves, Piano; and Robin Lynne Frye, Organ - Cantabile

August 3 - Amy Stovall, Soprano - Alleluia

August 10 - Sue Aceves, Piano

August 17 - Sue Aceves, Piano

August 24 - Lydia Gill, Piano

August 31 - Lydia Gill, Piano

I will be out for most of August recovering from hip replacement surgery. I'm grateful to Sue Aceves and Lydia Gill for stepping in to cover for me, and I know you will enjoy their music.

I hope to be well enough to return just after Labor Day, along with our wonderful choir!



ROBIN LYNNE FRYE
Let your music soar

Little Things

Did I forget to thank Thee, Lord
For things that may seem small.
A flower by the wayside,
A wild bird's lovely call.

For all the daily happenings
That we call commonplace,
For autumn and for sunsets,
and a neighbor's smiling face?

For life is made of little things
So let me not forget
To thank you Lord
For those small blessings
Before the sun is set.

Youth Highlights

Our Youth Program may be small, but the youth are the finest young adults anyone could ever meet! Please talk to any of the youth in our church and you will easily and quickly find out how marvelous they are. They have personality, and you will be delighted to find out more about each of them and their talents and interests!

In the past few months, as a group, they presented a “Readers Theater” presentation for the Congregation. The presentation was based on Paul and Silas in prison as written in Acts 16:16-34.



The youth, along with other members of the Congregation who are ‘young at heart’ tried their hand at Disc Golf at Reservoir Park and Pickle Ball at the Southern Pines Park. All participants had a great time and all learned that the Boane family are multi-talented and great at every activity!



Individually, the youth have news to share as well.....

Raegen Boan

Raegen is 14 years old and a rising Union Pines High School Freshman. Her summer started with flying to California with her travel soccer team. Then she spent the 4th of July visiting family in Massachusetts.



Finally, the summer concludes with Shakespeare's Hamlet and The Wizard of Oz at Temple Theater. Reagan has been named Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz and will perform on August 1 and 2.

Raegen is looking forward to going to Disney World in the winter! CONGRATULATIONS!

Paul Dana

Paul has had a great summer with several trips to the beach and he just finished up a week at Camp Caraway where he completed his 6th year as a camper.



Paul turned 15 on June 19th and got his Learner's Permit the same day! He will start 9th grade in high school in August, but he isn't quite ready for summer to end just yet!

Congratulations Paul! We will be watching for you driving around Moore County!

Abriana Chiapperino



Abriana is a rising 7th grader at STARS Charter School where she continues to shine both academically and artistically! This summer, she has been busy rehearsing for her upcoming role in Seussical, Jr.

She is also looking forward to an exciting year filled with after-school dance classes, musical theater rehearsals, and continuing her commitment with the National Junior Honor Society.

Abriana has also enjoyed some fun summer adventures such as traveling with her family to Myrtle Beach, Asheville, and Deerfield Beach. Before the school year begins in August, she will be making another special trip to New York. We're very proud of you, Abriana!

Nicolo Chiapperino

Nicolo is headed into 5th grade at STARS Charter School and has had an exciting, activity-filled summer! Nicolo has been busy swimming, spending time with the Bogey's baseball team, and showing great dedication to his travel baseball team. He and his teammates recently made an impressive run to the semi-finals in the Cal Ripken State Tournament.



This fall, Nicolo will continue to focus both on academics and athletics as he joins the Sandhills Select 10U team. He has also discovered a new passion for fishing - thanks to the influence of his Bogey team big brothers! Way to go, Nicolo!

Macey Jackson

Macey graduated from North Moore High School in June. She will be attending N.C. Wesleyan in Rocky Mount, NC in the fall where she will be playing softball along with majoring in Elementary Education.

This summer, Macey went on a mission trip to Florida where she served the needs of small children and did different crafts with them. She also took a 4-day cruise to Mexico, Honduras and Belize and had an awesome time. We wish Macey the very best in all of her college endeavors!



Youth Highlights ~ continued

Josie and Jethro (Jet) Jawanda



The Jawanda family has had a busy summer! They traveled to Michigan for a wedding of close family friends and were able to spend time with Paul's parents, his sister and her husband. They also made it to a Detroit Tigers baseball game and Paul took them to his Alma Mater, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Right after they returned from that trip, Josie and Jet, along with Jennifer, headed to Wilmington for Jet to attend a tennis camp at UNC-W. While the Jawanda family has been home, Jet has been taking tennis lessons and playing a couple of times a week.

Josie has been busy working at Chicken Salad Chick and getting ready for her big move to attend the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill in August. We wish Josie all of the best as she begins this new and exciting college experience!



Kileigh Cameron



Kileigh finished her Junior year at Union Pines High School by being inducted into the National Honor Society where she will serve as their Secretary for her Senior year beginning in August. Kileigh also served as a Junior Marshall during the 2025 graduation ceremony.

Kileigh has spent the majority of her summer taking care of the two new puppies her family acquired because of the deal Kileigh made with her mother at the beginning of softball season. After hitting 11 home runs, the deal was that Kileigh could have a puppy. To everyone's surprise, 2 puppies came to their house instead.

Kileigh also enjoyed a trip to the Bahamas where she swam with pigs! What? Pigs? Yes!

(Pigs in the Bahamas love the water and will often swim with people at the beaches.)



Today's Joke from Bill Shockley!

An 85 year old is playing golf with the course pro who offers him a 12 stroke handicap. "I don't need a handicap," says the elderly man. "The only problem I have is getting out of sand traps."

As they approach the 18th hole, they're even. But then the old man hits a long drive, which lands in a sand trap. From there, he knocks it out and it rolls right into the hole.

The pro is stunned. "I thought you said you have a problem getting out of sand traps."

"I do," says the octogenarian. "Now give me a hand."



Legacy Giving Insight: Turn Taxes into Impact

Many people leave charitable gifts through their will or trust, often spread across accounts without regard to taxes.

A more strategic approach is to give the amount you've planned and earmarked for charities, such as our church, from a pre-tax account like an IRA or 401(k). The charitable recipient would receive such a gift tax-free. If your heirs inherit your IRA, they will be responsible for paying the tax on all future withdrawals. They would be better served to inherit your other non-taxable assets.

Consult your financial advisor for more input on this matter.

Your Stewardship & Endowment Committees

The following recipe is in honor of Pastor Mike's Children's Message on July 20th ~ Courtesy of Carol Coates



Olive You Forever!



Chicken with Green Olives

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil	1 bay leaf
8 Chicken thighs (about 2 lbs.) no bone	1 teaspoon ground cumin
Salt and black pepper to taste	1 teaspoon paprika
1 large onion, chopped	Pinch of cayenne, or dash of ground red pepper
2 teaspoons peeled and minced fresh ginger	2 cups chicken broth
One 3 inch cinnamon stick or 1/4 teaspoon ground	2/3 cup green olives, pitted
1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric	Fresh lemon juice to taste, at least 2 tablespoons
1 tablespoon minced garlic	Chopped fresh cilantro leaves for garnish
	Hot cooked Couscous (Near East Brand)

Preparation:

1. Heat olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium high heat. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Add chicken to pan, cook ten minutes browning on all sides. Remove chicken from pan, reduce heat to medium.

2. Add 1/2 tsp black pepper, onion, garlic, ginger, cumin, paprika, turmeric, red pepper (or cayenne), cinnamon stick and bay leaf. Cook five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add broth, bring to a boil. Return chicken to pan and reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until chicken is done. Discard cinnamon stick and bay leaf.

3. Add olives and lemon juice. Sprinkle with cilantro. Serve over couscous.



"No One in This World Should be Hungry"

On April 6, Community Congregational Church participated in the annual CROP Hunger Walk. The CROP Walk is an annual event that began over 55 years ago with the purpose of raising funds used to fight hunger at home and around the world. The first CROP Walk occurred in October of 1969 when more than a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked and raised \$25,000 to fight world hunger. Currently more than five million walkers have participated in more than the 1,300 annual CROP Hunger Walks that occur each year. CROP is an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Their mission initially was to help Midwest farm families share their grain with the hungry in post World War II Europe and Asia. Today CROP Walk fundraising events are community wide, interfaith events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS offices and local congregations across the United States. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised can be used locally with the remainder used to fight hunger overseas. These funds will provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.



As you all know, MariJo Brown passed away on June 17. In honor of MariJo we are including the following article which appeared in our newsletter in March of 2019.

Our Own MariJo

Every Sunday we all enjoy a flawless organ recital given by MariJo Brown. MariJo has been providing musical accompaniment to Community Congregational Church since 2000 when the former organist, Mr. Paul Long, decided to return to his previous Church. He contacted MariJo, whom he knew through their common musical endeavors, and asked if she would consider becoming the organist at Community Congregational Church.



MariJo hails from Atchison, Kansas. Music was always an interest. She would sing duets in Church with her sister, Amelia; and at the age of nine, MariJo started taking piano lessons from a sweet little

lady in Atchison. But after three years, she was forced to make a change since her teacher was about to retire. MariJo then took lessons at what is now the local Benedictine College where the resident nuns took their music lessons very seriously. And MariJo prevailed.

She later taught herself to play the organ at her childhood Church. The organist there encouraged her to spend time on the Church organ when the Church was empty. When MariJo was in high school, she auditioned for and won a youth competition which afforded her the opportunity to perform with the St. Joseph Symphony Orchestra in St. Joseph, MO, at one of their concerts.

When MariJo married, life became a series of moves from city to city as her husband was a professional chef who accepted positions in places like Houston, Kansas City, Chicago, New Orleans, The Carolinas, New Hampshire ... and then finally, in 1972, with her husband and three children, she arrived in Moore County!

MariJo was also an accomplished cook, having learned through family as well as 4H, where she regularly came home with Blue Ribbons from the County Fair. So she sometimes served as backup chef when her husband was the head chef at the Pinehurst Resort. She would run the kitchen, train new employees and bake desserts! She also put her musical talents to work

there, providing background music at different resort functions, such as the afternoon Ladies' Teas.

MariJo later became involved with the Moore County Choral Society and served as Music Director for the Moore County Little Theater. She was the Stage Manager and Music Director for a local dinner theater and was also affiliated with the Temple Theater in Sanford. She has worked with the Pinecrest High School Choral Department as well as Union Pines High School and West Pine. For five years, Mary Jo provided the music in the Chapel at St. Joseph of the Pines. Prior to accepting the position at Community Congregational Church, MariJo was the organist at the Congregational Church of Pinehurst.

Things are a bit quieter now, with Community Congregational being MariJo's primary musical responsibility. Her three children and four grandchildren are scattered throughout the United States; and although she plays the violin, she hasn't had one for a while, so there has been little opportunity for practice.

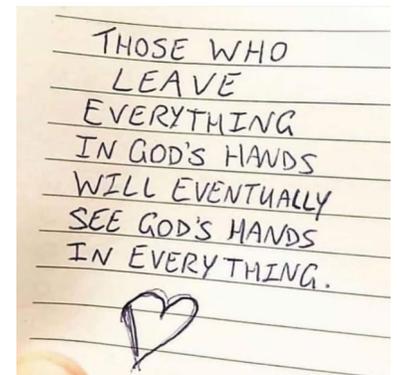


Community Congregational Church appreciates MariJo's dedication and commitment to providing the wonderful music we enjoy each week. Thank you, MariJo!

God is always faithful to answer

Sometimes His answer is a much desired "yes".
 Sometimes His answer is a merciful "no".
 Sometimes His answer is a faith-building "not yet".
 And sometimes...sometimes, when an answer cannot be found, His answer is simply

"Trust me"



Word Search

John 6:35

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

*Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life.
 Whoever comes to me will never be
hungry again. Whoever believes in me
 will never be thirsty."*

JESUS
 REPLIED
 BREAD
 LIFE
 WHOEVER
 COMES

WILL
 NEVER
 HUNGRY
 AGAIN
 BELIEVES
 THIRSTY

The words may be hidden in any direction:
 horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards and backwards.

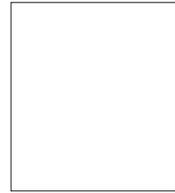
Community Congregational Church

P.O. Box 62, Southern Pines, NC 28388-0062

“The Church of Wide Fellowship”

Our Mission: “Be a place to praise the Lord through Christian teaching, fellowship and outreach.”

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Community Congregational Church

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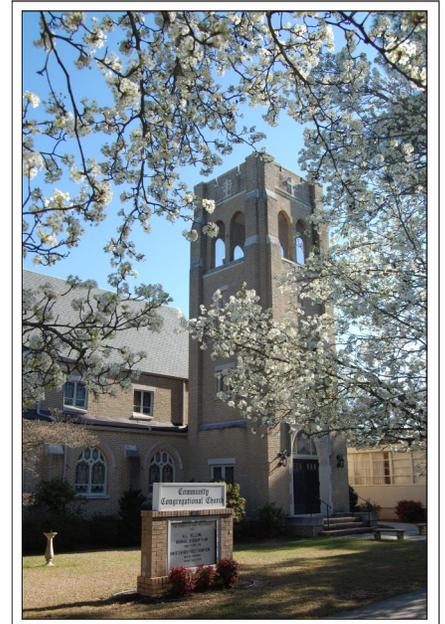


Sunday Worship Services
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Sunday Bible Study
10:00 am

Weekly Calendar

- Sundays:** Worship Services - 9 am and 11 am
Adult Bible Study - 10 am - Bill Shockley, Moderator
- Mondays:** 1st Monday - Deacons Meeting - 5:30 pm
2nd Monday - Trustees Meeting - 6:00 pm
3rd Monday - Church Council - 6:00 pm
- Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal Resumes on September 3rd - 7 pm



Community Congregational Church
Established in 1895
Photo by Renee Shawn Clement

Our newsletter will be interesting & helpful to our congregation, if YOU help us make it so! Call the church office with your news.