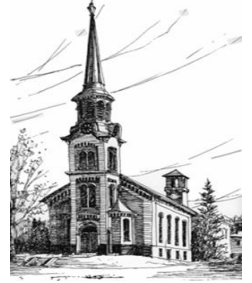


THE BROOKFIELD BRANCH



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

www.bcc1857.org
(508) 867-6262
bccucc1857@gmail.com

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 10
OCTOBER 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 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 are in Fellowship Hall. We need peelers, dough makers, rollers, and other odd jobs. It is more than making pies, it is great fellowship and time to meet new people. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Apple Country Fair is Oct. 10th 10AM-4PM.

Tag Sale Update:

The Apple Country Fair is approaching and we have until September 27th to receive all donations. Please remember to be mindful of your donations. All items should be clean, with all their parts. If toys have batteries, the batteries should be working in order for buyers to test the toy. No baby cribs, car seats, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, electronics or mugs with business logos on them. Thank you for participating in this year's tag sale. Also, if you are available on the day of the fair and would like to help man a table for a bit, please speak with Jane Snyder. We would enjoy having you on our team.



See inside the newsletter for more information and donation list for the Second Chance Animal shelter.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS.....	01
PASTOR'S PAGE.....	02
MODERATOR'S MOMENT.....	03
VOICE MINISTRY.....	04
MISSIONS.....	05-06
HELPING HANDS.....	05
CHRISTIAN LIFE.....	07-09
CHURCH TREASURER.....	09
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	10
CHURCH FUN PAGE.....	11
CALENDAR.....	12
WEBSITE NEWS.....	13
OFFICE.....	13

The Pastor's Page

"Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"
—Matthew 13:30



Hello, my friends,

By this point in our sermon series on the coming Kingdom of God, we have been reviewing Jesus' parables and learning to unwind earthly viewpoints in deference to Kingdom thinking. We have considered how to prepare ourselves and how to reconsider fairness. In the coming weeks we will be looking at how to practice forgiveness and recognize the importance of small acts of faithfulness. These teachings will lead us toward one of the most difficult questions of faith:

If God is good and all-powerful, why does God allow evil to remain?

In Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43, Jesus tells of a farmer who plants good seed in his field. During the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds among the wheat. When both begin to grow, the servants ask the question we might ask: "Where, then, did these weeds come from?"

They want to remove them immediately, but the farmer warns that pulling up the weeds could also uproot the wheat. He allows both to grow until the harvest, when they will finally be separated.

Jesus does not give us a simple explanation that makes tragedy understandable. The parable does not tell us that God created evil or that suffering is secretly good. The enemy plants the weeds—not the farmer. Evil stands opposed to God's will and to the goodness God desires for creation.

Yet God created human beings with genuine freedom. That freedom makes love, faithfulness, and moral responsibility possible, but it can also be misused to harm, exploit, and destroy. Sin does not affect only one person or one decision. It can spread through families, communities, organizations, and even entire nations. As it spreads, good and evil can become so mixed together that fixing the problem is rarely as simple as we would like it to be.

The parable also gives us a promise: evil will not remain forever. A harvest is coming, justice belongs to God, and the weeds will not have the final word.

Until then, we are not called to ignore evil or passively accept suffering. We are called to protect those who are vulnerable, confront injustice, cultivate what is good, and resist evil without allowing hatred to transform us into what we oppose.

We may not be able to explain every weed in the field, but we can decide what we will grow. As Kingdom people, we trust God with final judgment while faithfully planting mercy, justice, courage, and love.

With much love,

-Pastor Brian

Moderator's Moment



Moderator's Moment

The Church Council met on Monday, September 14th. Here are a few of the topics we discussed.

Sanctuary Heating

Last winter we had to replace the main control board in the boiler that provides heat for the Fellowship Hall and the Addition. The control board and its installation used up our entire repair and maintenance budget for the year.

Last spring you may remember we had some very cold Sunday services. That is because our Sanctuary Heating system needs repair. The Trustees obtained two repair quotes, the cheapest being approximately \$2400. We have applied for a Love of Church Rapid Response Grant through the UCC which is designed to secure ongoing ministry during unexpected financial hurdles such as critical infrastructure repairs. We are waiting to hear if we have been approved for a grant.

Regardless of the grant application, we will need to proceed with the repairs in October before the really cold weather sets in.

Apple Country Fair is almost here!!

The Brookfield Apple Country Fair will be held October 10th this year. We will be baking pies for sale at the fair again. It is quite an effort to make over 250 pies over the days leading up to the fair. I encourage any of you that have not had an opportunity to share in the fellowship, camaraderie and fun (yes it is fun too!) to sign up to help. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Likewise, we have our annual Tag Sale during the Saturday of the fair. We need volunteers to help set-up on Friday evening, help out during the Tag Sale on Saturday and then to transfer the unsold items back into the Fellowship Hall after the Tag Sale. If you are able to help with the Tag Sale, please contact Jayne Snyder or Cathy Farr.

VOICE Ministry

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a letter introducing the recently formed VOICE Ministry. Please take a moment to read the letter completely. It summarizes the purpose of the VOICE Ministry. This ministry is an important effort to better understand the current and future needs and goals of our church congregation. Please prayerfully consider responses to the topics outlined in the letter.

Sincerely yours,

Matt Mullen, Church Moderator

Dear Brookfield Congregational Church Community:

We are reaching out as the newly formed VOICE Ministry to introduce ourselves and to let you know about our plan for the upcoming year. VOICE stands for Vision, Outreach, Interaction, Conversation, and Engagement. We are similar to a stewardship committee, which is charged with managing gifts and resources, but we'd like to take a more personalized approach.

We want to hear directly from you as to what you think about our church—what we do now and what we might be able to do in the future. Over the next year, a member of the committee will reach out in the hopes of setting up a meeting with you. We'd like to have an honest, open, informal conversation about what the church means to you, and ways you might be able to get involved, whether that's through your time, your talents, or your treasures.

Some of the questions we may ask include:

What draws you to the Brookfield Congregational Church?

Where do you feel closest to God in the church?

What needs in the church or community do you feel aren't being addressed?

In what areas are you being called to be more involved?

Are you curious about how the church's finances work, and different levels of giving?

While the Brookfield Congregational Church relies on funds to maintain our many activities and ministries, pay our staff, and keep the building running, we also rely on people and their ideas and abilities to continue growing as a church. The VOICE Ministry hopes to increase awareness of our church's finances while also encouraging individual involvement in the church, relying on feedback from the church community.

In September, we'll start reaching out to set up meetings with as many of you as possible. If you'd like to arrange a meeting without waiting to be contacted, please speak with Matt Mullen (860-573-5910) or Margaret Aubin (941-932-3744). These conversations will be private and confidential, and while they are not in any way mandatory, we hope you'll be able to meet with us and let us know your thoughts about how we can work together to continue to make the Brookfield Congregational Church a wonderful and welcoming place for all.

Sincerely,

The VOICE Ministry

Margaret Aubin

Pat Mesick

Matt Mullen

Kate Simpson

Jane Snyder



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 OCTOBER 2026:

Meatloaf: _____
 Mashed Potatoes: _____
 Green Beans: _____
 Apple Crisp: _____

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



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 be having **craft workshops** to make things for this event on **Oct. 19th & 26th, 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





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. Luke's 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.

**BROOKFIELD
BCC
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

on the Brookfield Common

Join Pastor Brian Oxman and
Brookfield Congregational Church
as we bring back the Blessing of the Animals!

Bring your pets for a special blessing.
Please keep all animals
safely leashed or in carriers.

Saturday, October 24th | 10:30-11:30

DONATION DRIVE AT EVENT
We'll be collecting kennel supplies from the
Second Chance Animal Services wish list.
Tammy (BCC Member) will collect and deliver
donations to help animals in need.

Items needed for Second Chance:

- *Dog/Cat Toys
- *Plastic Spray Bottles
- *Poop Bags
- *Puppy Pads
- *Pillow Cases
- *Sheets/Blankets (new and gently used)
- *Dry Dog, Cat, Kitten & Puppy Chow (Purina is the shelter-preferred brand, but we accept all brands, especially bland pet food available at Veterinarian offices such as Purina EN, Hill ID, hydrolyzed protein, etc.)
- *Slip Leads, heavy duty
- *Kuranda Dog and Cat beds & Towers (especially Sm & Med beds for dogs & beds and towers for cats)
- *Pooper scoopers
- *Clean Towels (new & gently used)
- *Canned Cat & Dog Food
- *Squeegees (hand and floor)



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.



Centering Prayer – Tuesday's @ 10AM in the upstairs library.

Bible Study – Thursday's @ 10AM in the upstairs classroom. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study – Will meet Friday, October 16, @ 6PM, at the Jay residence. Any questions, speak with Margaret Aubin. We will be studying Lesson 8. Esther 9&10 "Reversal of Fortune", pages 227-248 (Final Esther Study).

Teens Gather for 2027 Mission Trip Reveal

BCC teens recently gathered for the **Unfiltered Mission Trip Reveal Event**, enjoying an evening of make-your-own pizza, drinks, dessert, fellowship, and plenty of excitement about the year ahead. The evening also gave everyone a chance to reflect on this past summer's mission trip and the ways God worked through the team.

The highlight of the evening was the big reveal of the **2027 Mission Trip destination and dates!**

2027 Mission Trip: Belle, West Virginia June 20–26, 2027

Next summer, our teens will return to **Belle, West Virginia**, in the Upper Kanawha Valley, where the group will participate in home-repair projects through Group Mission Trips. Projects may include painting, roof coating, building ramps and porches, and other minor repairs to help homeowners in the community.

Last year, our mission team included **3 adults and 10 teenagers**, and we are excited to see that team grow in 2027! **We are actively looking for donation sponsors and beginning our fundraising efforts now** to help make it possible for even more teens to participate.



If you, your family, business, or organization would like to **sponsor a teen, make a donation, or support one of our upcoming fundraisers**, please watch for more information from BCC. Every contribution helps give our young people the opportunity to serve, grow in faith, build relationships, and make a difference in a community beyond our own.

We're excited to see where God leads our 2027 team!



Christian Life Board



Fall is upon us with many events and activities. We hope you enjoyed an afternoon of painting with Nancy on Sunday, September 27th.



Each year for Halloween the Christian Life Board hands out candy at the front of the church. We are looking for donations of bags of candy, which can be put in the laundry basket in the fellowship hall. Anyone available that evening to join us, please let Nancy know. It's a great evening of socializing with our neighbors!



Apple Country Fair is around the corner and the plan is to have decorative hair strands being done again as a fundraiser for the Missions Trip. Join in the fun!



Winter and Christmas will be here before we know it! We start thinking Christmas pageant in November with the first rehearsal starting during Sunday School on November 15. We are trying something new this year so keep your eyes open and your ears perked for exciting ways to participate.



SAVE THE DATE: Advent Workshop

Get ready to welcome the Christmas season with a creative afternoon at our **Advent Workshop!**

Join us on **Sunday, November 15th, from 2:00–4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall** to create a beautiful Advent wreath-inspired fabric artwork using **Kinusaiga Art**.

Kinusaiga Art. Is a traditional Japanese craft that creates a mosaic-like, textured design by tucking

fabric scraps into grooves in a base—**no sewing required!**

This project is a wonderful opportunity to slow down, enjoy some fellowship, and create something meaningful for the Advent season.

Cost: \$5 for supplies **Please bring your \$5 to the workshop.**

Space is limited, so be sure to sign up on the **Christian Life Board in Fellowship Hall**. We hope you'll join us for this fun and creative afternoon as we prepare our hearts and homes for Advent!

A Season of Blessings and Gratitude

As we review our finances through August 31, 2026, there is much to celebrate and give thanks for. Our church family continues to demonstrate faithful stewardship, generosity, and a willingness to work together in support of our ministries.

Our **year-to-date net operating income is \$116,692**, including \$6,584 in fundraising from the Tag Sale and Youth Mission Trip activities. The Mission Trip has been especially blessed, receiving **\$7,863 in fundraising and donations**, while expenses totaled \$6,968—leaving a **net excess of \$895**. What a wonderful example of our congregation coming together to support our youth and their mission work!

Excluding the unbudgeted Mission Trip fundraising, our operating income is **\$108,829**, which is **\$1,409 above our 8-month budget** of \$107,420.

Our year-to-date operating expenses, excluding the fully funded Mission Trip expenses, are **\$112,341**, just \$921 over the 8-month budget of \$111,420. This reflects the tremendous effort of our boards and committees to carefully manage expenses despite increased utility and maintenance costs. **Thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible!**

With our biggest fundraiser of the year, the **Apple Country Fair**, just weeks away, our year-to-date net operating deficit stands at only **\$2,618**. With continued generosity, fundraising, and the faithful support of our congregation, we can look ahead with grateful hearts, trusting in God's continued provision.

God continues to provide through the generosity and dedication of His people. We are truly blessed—not only by what we have, but by the opportunity to use what we have been given to serve others and strengthen God's church.

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:19

God Bless,

Cheri Carty, Church Treasurer

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Team Volunteer Schedule for OCTOBER 2026

	Readers	Children's Sermon	Greeter(s)
10/04/26	Rhys Aubin	Communion	Clifton & Jessica Safford
10/11/26	Darlene Dean	Colleen Fipps	Jeff Morin
10/18/26	Bill Simpson	Reagan Paras	Gwen Yaskoski
10/25/26	Jessica Safford	Cheri Carty	Paul & Doreen Blouin

Sermon and Scripture Topics October 2026:

October 4th – COMMUNION - Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Series Part 3 - Unwinding our Earthly viewpoints in deference to Kingdom thinking. This week is how we view ***Forgiveness***.

October 11th - Old Testament Reading - Psalm 103:1-12, 19-22, Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31–33, 44–46

Sermon Series Part 4 - Unwinding our Earthly viewpoints in deference to Kingdom thinking. This week is about unwinding our earthly understanding of ***what is valuable and significant***.

October 18th – MISSION FOCUS SUNDAY - Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon Series Part 5 - Unwinding our Earthly viewpoints in deference to Kingdom thinking. This week is about understanding the coexistence of good and evil, human freedom, divine providence, and God's promised judgment. Answering the question if the Kingdom is free of evil and sin, ***Why does God allow evil to remain with us now?***

October 25th – Epistle Reading - Romans 8:18-25, Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:31–40

Sermon Series Part 6 - Unwinding our Earthly viewpoints in deference to Kingdom thinking. Taking what we have covered in the first five parts of Jesus' teachings to respond to the question, ***How do Kingdom people respond to evil?***

****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 OCTOBER: Bill Simpson & Malia Wexler



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 & \$\$\$.

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 The Family of Sylvia Ball (Nancy Mullen's Mom).





CHURCH FUN PAGE

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

3	Marilyn Price	18	Eli Aubin
7	Myiesha Wexler	21	Aaron Fipps
8	Rhonda Collette	24	Peggy Sullivan
10	Darlene Dean	26	Lindsey Brown
11	Natalie Morris	26	Harry Pearson
12	Timothy Brunelle	28	Gwen Yaskoski
18	Rhys Aubin		

kindness

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

forgiveness	innkeeper	Jerusalem	samaritan	strength
neighbor	kindness	clothes	parable	robbers
Jericho	wounds	prayer	heart	Jesus
faith	dead	mind	soul	Luke
wine	love	Law	God	oil

Brookfield Congregational Church
8 Common St., P O BOX 457
Brookfield, MA 01506 508-867-6262

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Bible Study 10 AM	2	3
4 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN. SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	5	6 Centering Prayer 10 AM Food Pantry Meeting For Volunteers 5:30PM FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOUSE 6:00PM	7 PIE MAKING 9AM - 6PM AA 7 PM Compline Serv. St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. 7:20PM	8 PIE MAKING 9AM - 6PM Bible Study 10 AM	9 TAG SALE PREPARATION	10 APPLE COUNTRY FAIR 10-4
11 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	12 Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM	13 Centering Prayer 10 AM	14 AA 7 PM	15 Bible Study 10AM	16 Women's Bible Study 6PM	17
18 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	19 Helping hands Craft workshop 6:30PM - 8:00PM	20 Centering Prayer 10 AM	21 AA 7 PM	22 Bible Study 10 AM Dismas 5 pm	23	24 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 10:30AM- 11:30AM PUMPKIN FEST
25 10 AM WORSHIP 10:15 SUN.SCH. 11 AM COFFEE HR.	26 NEWS LETTER INFO DUE INTO THE OFFICE Helping hands Craft workshop 6:30PM - 8:00PM	27 Centering Prayer 10 AM	28 AA 7 PM	29	30 MAILING NEWSLETTER Spirit Lifters	31 Spirit Lifters

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!



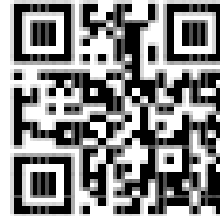
bcc1857.org



@brookfieldcongregationalchurch



@Brookfield Congregational Church



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

Brookfield Congregational Church

On the Common

P.O. Box 457

Brookfield, MA 01506

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!