

Christ Community Church of Blackstone
Proclaiming Hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ since 1822

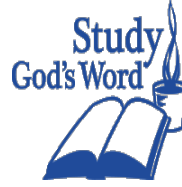
January 2026 - Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Joe -

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own
understanding.*

*⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6*



*Tuesday morning study
at 10 am via Zoom.com
Opened to all!
If interested, email
LynnePJ36@aol.com*

A Challenge for the New Year

Hello Everyone,

As the calendar turns and the celebrations of Christmas settle into memory, we step into a new season filled with fresh opportunities. While the world speaks of resolutions and self-improvement, Scripture reminds us that true transformation comes from the Lord. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The new year is not simply a chance to try harder, but an invitation to trust deeper—allowing God to continue His renewing work in our hearts and lives.

For those of us who walk with Christ, this season calls us to intentional growth. The apostle Paul encourages believers to "forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead" (Philippians 3:13–14), pressing forward in faith, obedience, and love. Whether through deeper prayer, faithful time in God's Word, or serving others with renewed purpose, we are reminded that spiritual maturity is a journey walked daily with Jesus. We do not move forward alone; the Holy Spirit empowers and guides each step.

As we begin this year together as a church family, may we seek the Lord with expectancy and hope. Proverbs 3:5–6 calls us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and acknowledge Him in all our ways, confident that He will direct our paths. Let this year be marked not by fleeting resolutions, but by steadfast faith—lives rooted in Christ, growing in grace, and shining His light in a world that so deeply needs Him.

May God bless you all.

Pastor Joe

Jesus Christ
my living hope



Happy Birthday

Bill Wronski

January 2

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

We have prayer meeting on
the first Wednesday of the
month at

7 pm via Zoom.com

Contact Lynne @ lynnepj36@aol.com for link.

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST by Oswald Chambers

You shall not go out with haste, ...for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. —[Isaiah 52:12](#)

Security from Yesterday. "...God requires an account of what is past" ([Ecclesiastes 3:15](#)). At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise when we remember our yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace tends to be lessened by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual growth for our future. God reminds us of the past to protect us from a very shallow security in the present.

Security for Tomorrow. "...the Lord will go before you...." This is a gracious revelation—that God will send His forces out where we have failed to do so. He will keep watch so that we will not be tripped up again by the same failures, as would undoubtedly happen if He were not our "rear guard." And God's hand reaches back to the past, settling all the claims against our conscience.

Security for Today. "You shall not go out with haste...." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, forgetful delight, nor with the quickness of impulsive thoughtlessness. But let us go out with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays hold broken and irreversible things for us. It is true that we have lost opportunities that will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ.

Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.

Wishing
★ YOU A
Blessed
★ NEW YEAR ★

2025 IN REVIEW

JANUARY

In January, the church initiated a Saturday morning "Men's Breakfast." An invitation was extended to all men in the community to come and engage in conversation around the breakfast table. The first gathering was Saturday, January 18th at 8am at the Church. The men gathered and decided that the third Saturday of the odd months will be the meeting dates for the year.



Just give me that Old-Time-Religion



January 26, 2025 was planned to be a special service. However, you know what they say about well-laid plans! Jonathan Steele had been asked to play the organ for us but when he arrived that morning, he could not get the organ to work. In addition, our Projection Technician, Paul Mandeville, came down with the flu and was unable to come in.

Pastor Joe to the rescue!

He offered to play the piano for the Prelude and Postlude. Coleen, the pastor's wife, offered to play her guitar and selected wonderful music as she led the Congregation in song. I overheard someone say, "It was one of the best services we ever had."



FEBRUARY

On **February 9**, due to inclement weather, we cancelled the service at the church and held it on Zoom.com. Since Pastor Joe was recuperating from pneumonia, Pastor Marc led the worship service and gave a sermon on "What is Your Soul Worth?"



February 16, due to snow, our service was held via zoom.com.

MARCH

Rev. Steve & Theresa Ford Guest Speakers - March 2, 2025

On Sunday, the Fords came to our church to speak about their work as missionaries. Working in the remote jungles of Peru — where books and Bible translations are scarce they use "Orality" to train pastors, disciple believers, and establish new Christian churches.

Orality is oral Bible training. While it might sound exotic or unique, it is an age-old method even Jesus used. He wasn't just telling stories, He was praying with His disciples and discipling them.

They are a very delightful couple and truly blessed us with their presence. We enjoyed fellowship with them after our service. (Steve Ford is Coleen's brother.)



Rev. Steve & Theresa Ford with Pastor Joe

March 23 @ 3pm - Spring Hymn Sing with Rev. Gil Bourquin

We had a wonderful hymn sing with Pastor Gil and all those who attended.



We were given an additional treat when Pastor Joe played the keyboard and our teen girls, Hope, Abbie and Adrianna sang.

March 15

We lost our dear friend, Beth Hoyle, this year. She was 89 years young.



APRIL

Maundy Thursday, April 17, we held a service remembering Jesus life and death. Several people attended and read scripture from the Gospels and we shared communion together.

Saturday, April 25 Our Church hosted a Night of Worship at 7pm featuring Jonas & Becky Woods.



MAY

On **May 2**, we supported our local baseball teams! Our banner proudly hung in Roosevelt Field.



On **May 10**, we held our Spring Arts & Craft Show as a fund raiser for the Meeting House Restoration Fund. We are thankful for its success.

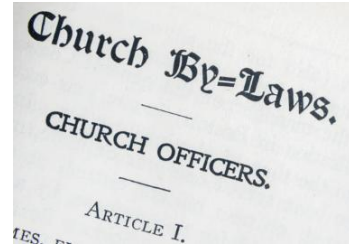


On **May 28**, our Church was presented with a donation for our Spring Craft Show from UniBank. We are most grateful for UniBank's support.



JULY

On **Sunday, July 20th**, the Church Council was re-instated according to the Church By-Laws.



AUGUST

August 17, Care Bears Project instituted in our church. Our first bear soldier was passed around during our recent Sunday service to be prayed over by each attendee. It was presented to Bill, a member of our Church, who is facing some medical challenges so he can know that we all love him and are praying for his healing.



CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

During the month of August we began our collection of items for the Straight Ahead Ministry. This is a ministry that caters to youth who are incarcerated. We collect items until November and give these gifts to the young men.

SEPTEMBER

On **September 10**, we went to Cracker Barrel as part of our annual outing.



OCTOBER



On Sunday afternoon. Pastor Gil Bourquin led us in a hymn sing. Pastor Joe greeted the twenty-five people gathered to just praise the Lord in song.



NOVEMBER

We held a Holiday Craft Show on **November 10** as a fundraiser to support our Meeting House Restoration.



On **November 29**, the Church was decorated by our resident elves!



DECEMBER

December 7, we hosted "Never Forgotten", a Christian group from Massachusetts. They sang an assortment of Christmas songs for us.



DECEMBER

The Annual Christmas Potluck lunch and ornament swap was held following the Church service on **December 14**.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

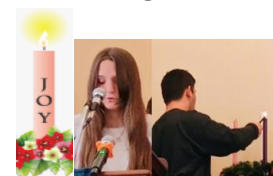
The advent candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE were lit on consecutive Sundays during the month of December.



HOPE



PEACE



JOY



LOVE

Our Missions/Outreach for 2025

Deacons' Fund - All donations to this fund are used to help anyone in need.

Dollars for Deb - Betty's Restaurant provides lunches for the homeless on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Embrace Grace - helps new moms & dads impacted by unexpected pregnancies.

Food Pantry - This organization provides food to local people in need.

Gideon's - This organization spreads the gospel message throughout the world.

Mary's Closet - Provides teens at a local charter high school in need of clothing, personal items and food snacks. We also help provide food for their families.

New Beginnings - A Woonsocket soup kitchen that provides meals to the homeless and anyone else in need.

Straight Ahead Ministry - is a faith-based organization offering a community of care for justice-involved youth.

Tres Dias - This 3-day event focuses on God's unqualified love for each of us through grace.

Happy New Year 🌟 May God's love ❤️ surround you, His grace ✨ sustain you, and His blessings 😊 fill every moment of 2026.

Therefore I live for today
Certain of finding at sunrise
Guidance and strength for the way.
Power for each moment of weakness,
Hope for each moment of pain,
Comfort for every sorrow,
Sunshine and joy after rain!
- Anonymous



**“Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter**

WORDS OF HOPE BY BILLY GRAHAM

For many years I have sought to walk with God every day. What a joy it is to wake up in the morning and know He is with me, no matter what the day has in store. What a joy it is to look back in the evening and be able to thank Him for His faithfulness and to experience His peace. What a joy it is to know that someday soon the burdens of this life will be over and I will awaken in His presence!



When I think about God's love, I tend to dwell upon all the good things He has done for me. But then I must stop and realize that even when circumstances have been hard or the way unclear, God has still surrounded me with His love. God's love is just as real and just as powerful in the darkness as it is in the light. And that is why we can have hope!

Every day I turn to the Bible to give me strength and wisdom for the day and hope for the future. Its words have seen me through good times and disappointment. God's Word can do the same for you.

Taken from Billy Graham, Hope for Each Day

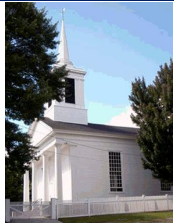
About us:

We are a bible-based, Christ-centered Christian church, located on the corner of Church and School Streets in Blackstone, MA. We are affiliated with the 4Cs – Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Overly

Associate Pastor: Rev. Marc Greenwald

Be sure to visit our website at www.cccob.org to listen to our sermons and to learn more about us.



January 2026

Christ Community Church of Blackstone

(508) 883-7885



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 Sunday Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School during service	5	6 Virtual Bible Study 10:00 am	7 Virtual Prayer Meeting 7pm 	8	9	10
11 Sunday Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School during service	12	13 Virtual Bible Study 10:00 am	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School during service	19	20 Virtual Bible Study 10:00 am	21	22	23	24
25 Sunday Service 9:30 am Children's Sunday School during service	26	27 Virtual Bible Study 10:00 am	28	29	31	31