

Christ Community Church of Blackstone
Proclaiming Hope through the Good News
of Jesus Christ since 1822
August 2026 - Newsletter



A Message from our Associate Pastor Marc

Peace to you from God our Father and
from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Sometimes it is good for us to go back to the fundamentals of our faith: belief that Jesus died for me, that there is the promise of life in heaven beyond the grave, the inerrancy of Scripture, etc. But I would like us to take a moment to consider an act within our Sunday service. It is the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Did you know that the word "pray" occurs some 367 times (202 in the OT and 165 in the NT)? As believers and followers of Jesus, it sometimes feels like we recite this prayer almost by rote. It rolls off our tongues similarly to when we corporately recite our Pledge of Allegiance.

Matthew chapter 6 tells us that Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer for a reason. It was a teachable moment for his disciples as well as believers today. It gives us a perspective on our relationship to our heavenly Father. The God through which all things that have ever been created were created. But more importantly we have been given a unique opportunity to us to communicate directly with our Creator without any need for intercession or intervention by others. Thus, I believe that God hears our prayers. I cite as an example John 1:43-50. Jesus calls Nathanael to follow him. Jesus states to him that "*here is an Israelite in whom there is not deceit*" to which Nathanael answers "*how do you know me*". Nathanael must have previously been crying out to the Lord for Jesus to have taken notice, James 5:16 states, "*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*" Prayer for ourselves or for others is a very effective tool God has given to us and should not be treated lightly.

I have heard it said by some that prayer is a waste of time for God doesn't listen to them. But I tell you that can't be true. God knew each and every one of us from the day of conception and Scripture tells us that we are engraved on the palms of His hands. He is near to all who confess Him as Savior and is closer to us than any other.

In my own life I could cite numerous examples where God answered my prayers, and I'd bet you could too. Always remember that to be able to pray to God is a gift and not a burden. Take time each day to spend time with the Lord. He wants to hear from you, in the good and not so good times of our lives. He knows your name!

May the Lord bless you richly this day,
Pastor Marc



Monthly Missions for July Operation Christmas Child

OCC is a program run by Samaritan's Purse, that we support as a church. Joyce introduced this Outreach Program on Sunday morning during the church service and Paul played a short video explaining the program to everyone.

If you would like to participate in this wonderful charity that teaches children about Jesus and provides a Christmas gift of a shoe box filled with different

items, just take a shoe box (located in front of the church,) fill it with items from the list, bring it back to church and we will be sure to get it mailed out for you.

Note: Each box costs \$10 to mail, however, if you don't have the extra money, bring your box to us anyway. We'll take care of it.

Fellowship Committee Seeking Volunteers

If your gift is hospitality, think about being a volunteer on Fellowship.

Julie is in need of help as she caters to our events. If you are interested, please speak with Julie after the church service.

**CHRIST
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**
— of Blackstone —

*Proclaiming Hope through
the Good News of Jesus
Christ since 1822*

**508-883-7885
www.CCCOB.org**

31 Church Street | Blackstone, MA



Placemats Ad

Very soon, you will see our advertising on Betty's Donut Shop's placemats.

Our ad will run for one year, (24,000 mats.)

Thank you to a generous donor for picking up the tab.



Church Council Meetings

We held a meeting on July 25 at the church. We discussed the following:

- Who will take over the "live streaming" of our church services
- The By-Laws will be reviewed by Council as soon as they get them. Thanks to the committee members for their diligence and special thanks to Michelle for all the note taking during the meetings and for the editing of the by-law document.
- In the first half we met our 2026 Proposed Budget.

Update on Pastor Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee:

- We've held 2 meetings.
- Position posted on several websites;
- Processed ten resumes;
- Interviewed 2 applicants;
- Sent a questionnaire to a 3rd;
- Waiting on a 4Cs referral.



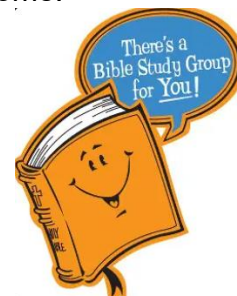
"Just have a seat, Reverend. The search committee will be right in."

Bible Studies

We have 2 active bible studies:

Joyce leads one on Tuesday morning at 10am via Zoom.com. If you are interested in joining this study, please contact Lynne at Lynnepj36@aol.com. She can add your phone number to the class.

The other is led by Pastor Marc on Tuesday at 6:30pm at the church. Just drop in if you are interested. All are welcome.



Please Pray for:

Lee – Dementia
Andrea – kidney stones
Enzo – treatment for Non-Hodgkins
Pastor Ruth & Pastor Warren -ongoing issues
Young David – continued healing
Eva – In a wheelchair – in rehab to learn to walk again
Cheryl - anxiety
Robin – anxiety, pain
Bill – continued healing from leukemia
Julie – travel mercies
Norm – heart attack
Christy – who will have surgery August 12



Also, Pray for

Mary & family – mourning the loss of Tommy
Barbara – Heart issue
Our Church - That God will send us children as we reopen our Sunday School in the Fall
Pastor Search Committee for wisdom in selecting and interviewing candidates.
Pray for America and our leaders

**Praise God! Bill is doing so well.
Thank you Lord for all of our blessings**

WANTED Live Streaming TECHNICAL PERSON

POSITION:

We are seeking an IT student who would be...

- looking to earn extra school credits,
- technology knowledgeable
- Experienced with OBS Live Streaming software.
- Responsible for broadcasting our church service and music on Sunday mornings

REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must be generally computer accomplished, and specifically so with windows 10. (We have no one to teach the idiosyncrasies of a computer, of which there are many here)
- IT experience is a plus.
- The person will present music, and has to convert the music into useable mp4s and process them into the song show plus program. This requires special software that is resident on the church system.
- One would have to arrive before Sunday and make preparations.
- Punctuality on Sunday morning is a key factor

If you are interested in this position, please e-mail your resume to Jackie.stjean@outlook.com

Christ Community Church of Blackstone, Blackstone, MA

Prayer for our Unsaved Loved Ones

Heavenly Father,
In Your boundless compassion, You embrace each of us with love that knows no limits. Today, I lift up my loved ones who have yet to find their way to Your grace. Lord, I ask that Your love envelops them, revealing the depth of Your care and the joy of Your salvation. Let Your love be the beacon that guides them through doubts and uncertainties, leading them to the truth of Your Word. Pour out Your Spirit, O God, to convict their hearts not out of fear, but with the overwhelming realization of Your love for them.

May they see in us, Your followers, a reflection of Your love and kindness, compelling them to seek You. Help me to embody Your love in all I do, serving as a living testimony of Your grace. In faith, I trust that Your love can soften the hardest of hearts, opening eyes to see You in new light. With patience and hope, I await the day they choose to walk alongside us, in the fullness of Your love. Amen.

Baptism Anniversary August 27, 2023



Bill Wronski, Lynne Cignarella,
Sheila, Hope & Adrianna Robeau,
Nancy Mandeville, Beth Hoyle,
Jessica & Abby Lenahan, Marc,
Amanda and Gracie Guilbeault,
Pastor Warren Blais

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS
WE ARE HOSTING THE
2026 HOLIDAY
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Scheduled for
Saturday, November 21, 2026
10:00 to 3:00
ELK'S LODGE
380 Social St., Woonsocket, RI

For more details and reserving a table
Contact Jackie at jackie.stjean@outlook.com
or call her at 401.660.0473

\$40 for 1 table or 2 for \$70
payable with registration
(we supply tables and chairs)

PACK-A-BUS

August 3 - August 8
UniBank, 10 Cheney Street, Blackstone

*Collecting donations of new school supplies
supporting the Blackstone-Millville Regional
School District*

Sponsored by:



TELLSTONE & SON INC.



You can drop off your items at the Blackstone Library, UniBank or Divine Mercy Parish.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CREMATION?

Cremation is an increasingly common practice in many parts of the world, including among Christians. As traditional burial costs rise and cultural attitudes evolve, more families are choosing cremation for themselves and their loved ones. This shift has prompted questions among believers about whether cremation is compatible with Christian faith and biblical teachings.

Throughout his ministry, Billy Graham answered many letters and questions about cremation. Here are some of his responses, which reflect his thoughtful and pastoral approach:

On whether cremation is a sin: "The Bible nowhere forbids cremation, nor does it command burial as the only method for disposing of a body." Christians are free to choose it without fear of violating God's will. Graham emphasized that what happens to the physical body after death does not determine one's salvation or resurrection.

On whether cremation interferes with resurrection: "God can and will raise up those who have died, no matter what has happened to their bodies." For Graham, the heart of the Christian message is the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, not the specific method of body disposition

Many Christians have worried that cremation might make resurrection impossible, or that it is somehow less respectful than burial. He addressed these fears directly by reminding believers that at the resurrection, God will give each person a new, glorified body, regardless of the

condition of their earthly remains. A key theme in Graham's teaching is the respect Christians should have for the body, which he described as "the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19). He encouraged families to treat the remains of their loved ones with dignity.

He also advised Christians to avoid allowing secondary issues like cremation or burial to divide them. "Our unity is in Christ, not in our funeral practices," he said. Graham encouraged respect for others' choices and a focus on the essentials of faith.

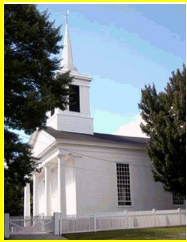
What Matters Most: Faith in Christ

For Billy Graham, the most important question was not what happens to the body after death, but what happens to the soul. He repeatedly urged people to prepare for eternity by trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation. "No matter what happens to our bodies," he wrote, "if we belong to Christ, we have the assurance of being with Him forever."

On how to decide between burial and cremation: "Pray about your decision, discuss it with your family, and seek to honor God in whatever you choose."

SOURCE: [Bible Analysis](#) © 2026

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~ August 2026~
 Christ Community Church of Blackstone
 (508) 883-7885



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am	3	4 Bible Study 10 am via Zoom.com	5 Prayer Meeting 7pm via Zoom	6	7	8
9 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am Church Council Mtg after service	10	11 Bible Study 10 am via Zoom.com	12	13	14	15
16 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am	17	18 Bible Study 10 am via Zoom.com	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am	24	25 Bible Study 10 am via Zoom.com	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday Service @ 9:30 am	31	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. Associate Pastor: Rev. Marc Greenwald <i>Visit our website at www.cccob.org to listen to our sermons and learn more about us</i>				