

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOCA RATON



We believe that

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING . . .

and through our church's wider mission,
we change lives.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BOCA RATON

Dear Friends:

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your life's journey, *you* are welcome here!

As a local congregation of the United Church of Christ, the Congregational Church of Boca Raton proclaims that God is still speaking and extends hospitality and welcome to all those seeking a church home. We are an active, vital and engaging community of faith in the Boca area.

Here we welcome all. Here is where we worship. Here many hearts seek to grow in grace and mature in discipleship. Here we build friendships with one another and with God. Here we spread The Word and deepen our reach, lighting the way for new generations.

Our many ministries, activities and programs are featured in this booklet. We hope these pictures and words paint a beautiful family portrait of our church; not a still-life portrait, but a vibrant and inspiring image that will draw you in and encourage you to join us for Sunday worship. We look forward to extending to you a warm and personal greeting. Won't you join us soon?

In Christian Faith,

Pastor Tom Lacey

Worship and Music

The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played.

~2 Chronicles 29:28

As we gather together each Sunday, we express our love and devotion to God through music and worship. Worship is the central act of who we are and what we do. We praise God, remember His blessings, and hear God's call, through scriptures and sermons, to live in Christ. Each worship service is carefully planned so that music and worship are interwoven in a creative spirit.

Music not only inspires, but also leads the congregation into a deeper appreciation and understanding of the scriptures. The musical moments in our church services - as we sing to God and about God - add a moving element of praise to our worship. The ministry of music seeks and encourages talent within the congregation. The hymns and songs are blended to include traditional, gospel and contemporary. The singing and worship services are upbeat and joyful.

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| ✦ Chancel choir | ✦ Special study groups |
| ✦ Organ and piano music | ✦ Baptisms |
| ✦ Bell choir (Boca Bells) | ✦ Holiday services |
| ✦ Mixed ensembles | ✦ Intinction communion |
| ✦ Instrumental solos | ✦ Communion elements |
| ✦ Children's holiday choir | ✦ "We care" greeting card program |
| ✦ Christmas cantata | ✦ Weekly Bible study |
| ✦ Liturgical dancing | ✦ Ushers and Greeters |
| ✦ Holiday brass quartet | ✦ Inspiring sermons |
| ✦ Prayer groups | ✦ Floral arrangements |
| ✦ Children's message | ✦ Technical Systems |



Mission and Volunteers



Our Lord says to the Father, "As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."
 ~John 17:18

Simply put, the work of the church is to be in mission; and it is a very important component of the ministry at the Congregational Church of Boca Raton. We believe we have a responsibility to serve God's people to meet vital human needs and share our gifts in diverse and local communities.

As we work in our own community, we represent the entire denomination. Our congregation is open to opportunities for local mission and committed to action to help support others.



We also affirm that mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race, and national border. That's why we're proud to be a "5 for 5" congregation - supporting Our Church's Wider Mission and all four of the UCC denomination-wide special offerings.



- ✦ Boca Helping Hands
- ✦ Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)
- ✦ One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)
- ✦ Strengthen the Church
- ✦ Neighbors in Need (NIN)
- ✦ The Christmas Fund
- ✦ Covenant Keepers
- ✦ Alex's Lemonade Stand
- ✦ Food for the Poor
- ✦ *Souper Bowl* of Caring
- ✦ Salvation Army
- ✦ The Haven
- ✦ Family Promise
- ✦ Going Green
- ✦ Workshops
- ✦ Blood drives
- ✦ Newsletter volunteers
- ✦ Office volunteers
- ✦ Tote bag seminar



Fellowship

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
~John 13:34, 35



The Congregational Church of Boca Raton — open, affirming, accessible, ecumenical, multiracial, multicultural, multigenerational, inclusive, diverse yet united — these are basic assumptions of our identity. Here one sees a broad spectrum of people worshipping together as a Christian community and "life friends". We pray for the light of Christ to shine through us and warm relationships in our local community and worldwide.



- † Women's Fellowship
- † Sunday hospitality
- † Luncheons
- † Game day
- † Story telling
- † Movies
- † Boat rides
- † Prayer groups
- † Rummage sale
- † Welcoming committee
- † Name tags
- † The "Connection Team"
- † Transportation to worship
- † Church photo directory
- † Boca Christians Eating Out (BCEO)
- † Musical variety shows
- † Golf outings
- † Pastoral visits
- † Ecumenical partnerships
- † Church weekly bulletins,
- † Vantage newsletter
- † Church website
- † Attendance with cards, notes, follow-up phone calls and visits



Christian Education and Nurture



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven".

~Matthew 19:14

There are many settings for education and the spiritual formation of children. The family and the congregation are two important ones. The worship service is the heart of our church life and we think that children and youth need to be included and welcomed so that they learn that they belong. There are many ways in which our children are involved in our church service - from the time they are little and participate in the weekly children's message to their confirmation and beyond. Having been welcomed as full participants in the community of faith, it is our hope that they will be more likely to remain in the church as adults or make worship a regular part of their adult lives wherever they reside.



- † Sunday school
- † Nursery
- † Special programs
- † Annual Easter egg hunt and butterfly release
- † Youth group
- † Confirmation classes
- † First communion
- † Acolytes
- † Greeters
- † *Souper Bowl* of Caring
- † Operation Iraqi Children
- † Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation
- † Malaria Foundation International
- † Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign
- † Annual Sunday youth service
- † Annual weekend conference retreat
- † Weekly children's message

Our Property

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

~Acts 20:28

At 22 feet above sea level, our church sits on 5.3 acres of land at the highest spot in Boca Raton. With its unique architecture, steep sloping roof and beautiful stained glass window, the building stands as a distinctive beacon of hope and faith in our community. Founded in 1965, the building requires diligent care and the grounds constant maintenance to survive the hot south Florida sun, hurricanes and other forces of nature and man.

Our custodian and volunteers work year-round to keep our facilities and grounds attractive, clean and welcoming. Our open doors invite people to come in, explore the good news of our faith and join us in worship.



- † Sexton
- † Memorial garden
- † Driveways & parking lots
- † Air conditioners
- † Landscaping
- † Lawn maintenance
- † Sprinkler system
- † Light fixtures
- † Property supplies
- † Carpet cleaning
- † Marble polishing
- † Painting
- † Computer equipment
- † Phone equipment
- † Office furniture
- † Sound system

Congregational Church of Boca Raton

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Pastor Tom Lacey



God is still speaking,

ALL THE PEOPLE

