

CCB Announcements:

February 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

It’s hard to find an upside to any of this Covid moment. Except that it is, it is, IT IS, damn it!! ... just a moment, and in the twinkling of an eye of geological time, it will be over.

Meanwhile, we do these Zooms, and dream that, to quote the Motown hit, “Some day, we’ll be together!”. But while we’re waiting for that to happen, something clicks in the brain to say, wait a minute, here we are on this planetary platform, with the possibility of doing a huge broadcast to reach lots and lots of people everywhere who want a different church thing than the one they’re getting. Who want to hear speakers from all over the world, give us their visions of a world where justice reigns, and where we have learned to study war no more. The task of creating such a broadcast is about learning to do the video work with grace and style; finding wonderful guest speakers, remarkable musicians, and devoting the time and resources to overcome the technical hurdles.

My hope is that we come out of this, our Pandemic One Hundredth Year, with a vision to not only meet in person again, but to also broadcast to the planet. We can include people not in our geography, but also people who are unable to attend for physical reasons, or people who, like me sometimes, just want to stay in bed and attend CCB in their pajamas. Can we create a community out of this? I am hoping so. Join us every Sunday morning in **February and March at 11 AM EST**, for another marvelous offering of speakers and musicians.

We will also, on **Tuesday, Mar. 16, (7 PM)**, commemorate the anniversary of Rachel Corrie’s death, with a showing of Abby Martin’s “Gaza Fights for Freedom.” Abby, who is taking a break from a remarkable journalistic career to be with her newborn, will join us afterward for a Q and A!!

We are also announcing a **Congregational Retreat**. Our board needs the congregation’s input around the use of space in our building. Our long time tenant, The Theater Offensive, has decided to leave us, and do their work virtually. It means that except for the first floor restaurant, we have the building to ourselves. What to do with this broken but majestic treasure? Look for new tenants? Take over the building for CCB? What to do with each of these four floors? How and when? We have lots of questions to sort through. And we’d like your input. We call it a retreat, though it is virtual. **Join us on Saturday March 13th, from 12 PM (noon!) until 2 PM.**

Thanks to all of you who responded to our December fundraising pitch. We always need your help.

Keep in touch, Make progress. Do good work!

Dean Stevens



A PEACE and JUSTICE CONGREGATION SINCE 1920

565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116



CCB VIRTUAL SUNDAYS & MORE!
February 7, - March 28, 2021

“Using Water as a Weapon: Israeli Policies in the
Occupied Palestinian Territories”
with Nidal Al-Azraq

February 7 at 11:00 AM
(Virtual service)



• *Nidal Al-Azraq* is a Palestinian refugee who was born and raised in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, the West Bank, Palestine. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree with Honors from Harvard Extension School, Dean’s List Academic Achievement Award, and Derek Bok Public Service Prize. He is currently working as the executive director of 1for3.org, a US based organization that focuses on water, food, health, and environmental work in Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank. Al-Azraq has also contributed in the making of the documentary film, *Degrees of Incarceration*; and he is an award-winning author who co-authored two books, one of which won the Josephine “Scout” Wollman Fuller Award for the promotion of peace and social justice in the Middle East. Nidal is currently organizing and leading medical missions from the US to Palestine to help improve the medical system, and treatment, primarily focusing in refugee camps. As well as partnering with Tufts University establishing small labs, water testing, and treatment programs.

music by Tareq Randisi & Naseem Alatrash

February 14 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)

“Housing Is the Cure’ Toward the
Human Right to Housing in 2021”
with Maria Christina Blanco

Maria Christina Blanco is a former anti-foreclosure and tenant rights community organizer, and a current City Life/Vida Urbana tenant leader, who will share how working-class tenants and homeowners are confronting the housing threat by putting forward a "Housing Is the Cure" agenda. Using public health as well as human rights arguments, they are demanding a strong eviction/foreclosure moratorium at the federal level, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase at the state level, and fair multi-year collective bargaining agreements between tenant associations and landlords at the local level. Join us for a discussion on how we can be good neighbors to each other and support people keeping their homes. • *Maria Christina Blanco*, is a Bolivian-American mother, organizer, and health worker who has engaged in human rights and social/economic justice activism for over 25 years in Greater Boston. She currently works as Grants & Fiscal Sponsorship Manager at the Center for Economic Democracy. She serves on the Governing Board of the Boston Community Leadership Academy High School.

music by Lea Morris



Watch our programs on CCB's Official YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxzqBfbvnhNkWmzpCm0IIA>; or scan the QR code to go directly to CCB's YouTube Channel. If you don't have the scanning application on your phone, you can download any free mobile QR code scanner app in the Google Play store; or send your email to commchurch@gmail.com to receive updates on our programs and login information for Zoom.

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The views and opinions expressed in these articles don’t necessarily mirror the views of The Community Church of Boston, or its members or board.



“How COVID has Changed Education and Family Life”

with Regina Robinson

The impact of the pandemic on education and family life is still being felt as this new normal has exposed inequities, increased the need for support and resources, shifted schedules, and forced us to live life differently. Can we experience hope and peace in the midst of these changing times? Let’s explore the answers together! • **Regina Robinson** is the Dean of Student Affairs at Cambridge College where she delivers a comprehensive program of educational and support services to a thriving population of adult learners. As an experienced leader of student effectiveness and support for two decades, she was appointed to the Boston School Committee from 2014-2018 and continues to coach families and advocate for marginalized populations as a speaker in various roles in education. She is married to Jua and they are parents to 4 stars from elementary to high school, one with Downs syndrome who became her game changer in disability work, community advocacy, statewide and board leadership, having served both local and national organizations. Regina currently serves on the boards of Scholar Athletes and Special Olympics of Massachusetts and is pursuing her Ed. D in Higher Ed leadership at Regis College.

music by **Rod MacDonald**

February 21 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)



“U.S. Imperialism, the Latin American Left, and Liberation Theology”

with Ben Norton

During the Donald Trump administration, top U.S. government officials repeatedly invoked the nearly 200-year-old colonial Monroe Doctrine to justify US interventions in Latin America. Even under President Joe Biden today, these aggressive imperialist policies continue in the region, which Washington has long considered to be its "backyard." Ben Norton will speak about how the US government has for decades waged a war on the Latin American left, and how this brutal campaign continues today, targeting not only the secular left, but also progressive and revolutionary Christian movements inspired by liberation theology. • **Ben Norton** is a journalist, writer, and filmmaker whose work focuses primarily on US foreign policy, Latin America, and media criticism. Ben is assistant editor of the investigative journalism website The Grayzone. He has reported from numerous countries, including Venezuela, Bolivia, Honduras, Colombia, and Iran. Although Ben is a US citizen, he lives in Nicaragua.

music by **Dean Stevens & Rob Flax**

March 21 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)

February 28 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)

“W. E. B. Du Bois and the Presidents: Lessons for the 21st Century”

with Margaret Kimberley



W. E. B. Du Bois often advocated on behalf of certain candidates and presidents as being more beneficial to black people. But he ended his life in exile and proclaimed that he would not vote. His transformation provides important lessons as a new president takes office in 2021. • **Margaret Kimberley** is a co-founder and Editor and Senior Columnist for Black Agenda Report. She is the author of “Prejudential: Black America and the Presidents” and a contributor to the anthologies, “Killing Trayvons: An Anthology of American Violence,” “In Defense of Julian Assange,” and “Capitalism on a Ventilator: the Impact of COVID-19 on China and the U.S.” Her work as an activist includes leadership roles in the Black Alliance for Peace and the United National Antiwar Coalition.

music by **Sharon Katz** (*from The Peace Train*)

March 7 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)

“Creativity is Ageless”

with Susan Perlstein



• **Susan Perlstein** has spent decades promoting “creative aging,” which encourages people to find meaning and purpose in their lives through art during the course of their entire lives. She is the founder and executive director of the National Center for Creative Aging and Elders Share The Arts. She is also an educator, social worker, administrator and an artist who has written extensively on creativity and late-life learning. She talked to Growing Bolder about her programs, which have educated thousands of artists, educators and health care and social service professionals.

music by **Karen Klein** (*poet & dancer!*)



“Puerto Rico's Present and a Peek into Its Future”

with Amílcar Antonio Barreto

A series of economic and natural catastrophes have upended the lives of millions of Puerto Ricans, both on the home island and in Puerto Rican communities throughout the US mainland. These crises have profoundly altered the island's political landscape, including the perennial debate over its status as a US Commonwealth, becoming a state or becoming an independent country. This talk will outline and then analyze these events and speculate about the island's future and its relationship with the US federal government. • **Amílcar Antonio Barreto JD, PhD** is a professor in, and chair of, the Department of Cultures, Societies & Global Studies at Northeastern University where he has taught for the past 24 years. He is the author of six books. Four of them have focused on Puerto Rico's contemporary political, cultural, and social upheavals. The most recent was "The Politics of Language in Puerto Rico Revisited" (University Press of Florida, 2020).

music by **Sol y Canto** (*Brian & Rosi Amador*)

March 14 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)

March 28 at 11:00 AM
(virtual service)

“Peacemaking and Jailbreaks: Liberation in Captivity”

with John Bach

introduction by Joyce Katzberg



If we consider the existential threats of nuclear weapons and climate destruction as imprisoning the human family, what tools may we develop to resist the lunacy and give hope to each other and future generations? How can we keep ourselves free and reasonably happy? The example of Fr. Placid Karoly Olofsson, a survivor of 10 years in the Soviet Gulag, will be discussed. • **John Bach** is a longtime social justice and anti-war activist. He spent 3 years in federal prison during the American war in Vietnam. He makes his living as a house painter and is the Quaker chaplain at Harvard.

music by **Joyce Katzberg**

CCB VIRTUAL FILM SCREENING: GAZA FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM BY FILMMAKER ABBY MARTIN Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7PM

Remembering Rachel Corrie on the Anniversary of her Death

AFTER THE FILM JOIN US FOR COMMENTS AND A Q & A WITH ABBY MARTIN



FILMED DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE GREAT MARCH OF RETURN PROTESTS, IT FEATURES EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE OF DEMONSTRATIONS WHERE 200 UNARMED CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED BY ISRAELI SNIPERS SINCE MARCH 30, 2018.

THIS PROGRAM WILL BE BROADCAST VIA ZOOM. JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST TO RECEIVE LOGIN INFORMATION BY SENDING YOUR REQUEST TO COMMCHURCH@GMAIL.COM

Attn. CCB Members:

Congregational Retreat
Your input is needed!

COMMUNITY
CHURCH
OF BOSTON

A PEACE
and JUSTICE
CONGREGATION
SINCE 1920

Join us on Saturday March 13th, from

12 Noon until 2 PM. on Zoom.

login will be sent via email