

# THE UNION COURIER

Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
The Reverend Gail L. Miller, Pastor

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## June 2014

### FROM THE *Happy Anniversary!*



**PASTOR**

As we undergo the shift from "school year" to "summer schedule," which takes place this month, it's easy to miss an important anniversary date. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, I'll have served as your pastor for 8 years! And, taken historically, I will become "average."

Since its founding in 1826, our church has had 20 pastors (not including interims); and the average length of stay is 8 years. (For the number types among us, the MEDIAN length of stay is 6 years.) The longest pastor to serve was Paul Wedlock (1972 - 1996) and the shortest was Charles Kittredge (1833 - 1835). Of the 20 pastors, 8 of them served four years or less.

I read their names on the back walls of the Sanctuary and often wonder about the stories behind the names and dates. I imagine the celebrations shared in the Sanctuary through the decades – weddings, baptisms, confirmations; the meals shared in the Fellowship Hall; the prayers offered by the bedside and by the graveside. How I'd love to see a video montage of the history of our church – little vignettes of what it was like before there was electricity, or before the Sanctuary was raised up to the second story.

I wonder about the volumes of sermons preached from the pulpit, the hours of pastoral care shared, the miles covered (by horse and buggy and then by car), the sleepless nights of worry, the hands held, the joyful moments shared between these pastors and their congregations through the years. And I wonder how their ministries, and the congregations of our past history in this place, have shaped OUR congregation today.

They say that congregations have a DNA – that is the deep structures of identity that shapes (pre-determines even?) who we are now. It's an interesting, and fitting, image for the church which is the BODY of Christ.

While I was in South Africa, I read a book by Desmond Tutu and his daughter (also a pastor) Mpho Tutu entitled *made for goodness, and why this makes all the difference*. In it, they call the reader to hope, to joy, and to claim the goodness we were made for.

*With God's eyes we can see ourselves as we are, with all of our pride, every lack, all our limitations, and each prejudice. And we can see ourselves as we truly are - not sinners in need of saving but saints in need of seeing. And all of us are good. No, not just good, but very good. We are precious to God; the crown of creation, beautiful beyond compare. Very, very good. (p. 199)*

And I would hope that we would see our church similarly. And that, as we pause to reflect on where we've been and where we are going, we never lose sight of this fundamental truth. What a joy it is to serve with you here in this place and at this time. Happy Anniversary!

*Gail*



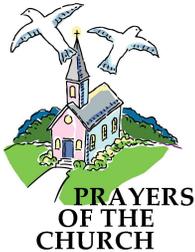
# Our Church Family



## Ongoing Prayer List—Refreshed as of June 1

In order to keep our prayer list current and relevant, the Deacons have decided to "refresh" the list twice a year. Our first "refresh" will be Sunday, June 1, where we will "start over." If you would like to add or return a name to this list, please email Carol Zaiatz ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) with the person's name and the prayer request, or contact Gail Miller directly ([gail@uccgroton.org](mailto:gail@uccgroton.org)), and we will gladly add the name to the list. The list below consists of names we have received notification to keep or add to the list as of June 1. As always, names can be added or removed at any time with a call or email to Carol or Gail.

|               |                    |                         |                           |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sue Adams     | Mr. C.             | Janet Luttrell          | The Middlemiss Family and |
| Kristen Beyer | Suzanne Lampognana | Lynn O'Brien and Family | baby Jack                 |
|               |                    |                         | Brent Peters              |



- David, Nancy, Maddie and Travis Bugbee, in the death of David's mother, Virginia Bugbee.
- Barbara Lefebvre and family in the death of her mother, Margaret Watson.
- The missing girls in Nigeria and their families.
- Brent Peters, recovering at home after recent surgery.
- Bonnie Martin, undergoing surgery for a kidney stone on Monday, June 2.

## June Birthdays

|                  |       |                     |       |                 |       |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Bill Gale, Sr.   | 06/01 | Amy Nickerson       | 06/13 | Kim Peters      | 06/25 |
| Liam Clinton     | 06/01 | Kathy Bates         | 06/14 | Ruth Silva      | 06/25 |
| Gerry Cahill     | 06/05 | Mary Claire Cocossa | 06/18 | Isabella Meehan | 06/27 |
| Barbara Avey     | 06/07 | Liz Smith           | 06/21 | Bill Semienko   | 06/28 |
| Peg Elwood       | 06/09 | Carol Zaiatz        | 06/24 | Edward Stratton | 06/28 |
| Conor Bresnahan  | 06/09 | Jenn Quinn          | 06/24 | Bill Nickerson  | 06/29 |
| Caroline Cocossa | 06/09 | Cailidh Houde       | 06/24 | Jonathan Foster | 06/30 |
| Haley Cahill     | 06/10 | Alison Houde        | 06/24 |                 |       |
| Sammi Smith      | 06/11 | Kim Burgess         | 06/25 |                 |       |

If we missed your birthday, it is not in our database. Please email [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org) to give us your birthday. Also, we would like to recognize significant anniversaries — would you share that information with us?

## Church News

### Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Forum Sunday, June 1, after church

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will host an open discussion focusing on their purpose and scope. Over the past year the committee has prayerfully considered the direction in which this committee should grow, mindful that times and needs change. They have read articles, books, and other churches' descriptions of their PPRC's. They would like to share their thoughts with you and listen to your input and concerns. In particular, we are hoping to hear from people who were involved in the church between 1995 and 2005, as well as those who are interested in learning about our recent past. (Refreshments will be served.)

# Church News

CHURCH COUNCIL  **May 28, 2014**

The annual reviews of church staff will occur in June.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee continues to improve the budgeting cycle; they also plan to review and implement appropriate controls to ensure best practices in all areas of our financial life.

Buildings and Grounds have accomplished much and have plans for even more; they will begin to budget for larger projects.

We discussed the Harvest Fair and the transitional "season" we are in regarding its leadership and purpose in the congregation.

## Sabbatical Slide Show

**Two Showings this Month**

**Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. and**

**Wednesday, June 18, 10:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

Gail will share details of her recent time serving in mission in Cape Town, South Africa.



## Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation

This year, we will be holding the Annual Stated Meeting on September 14 instead of in June. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Moderator, Stefanie Lempp ( ).



## Nursery Update

After three years of service, we say good-bye to Marcia, our Nursery Attendant, who has resigned in order to spend more time with her growing family of grandchildren. The Christian Education Committee will review and update the job description for the Nursery Attendant, publicize the position and interview candidates. If you know someone who might be interested in this job, direct them to Gail or Carol in the office for details/job description.



## Summer Coffee Hour

Summer Coffee Hour begins June 22. Helpers needed!

With the warmer weather we'll switch to a relaxed mode for Fellowship Hour. Hot coffee will be supplemented by cold beverages and lighter fare. Weather permitting, we'll set up on the front lawn to enjoy fresh air and watch the children play on the grass. Join us!

Please sign up to help out! It's beyond easy!  
Go to <http://tinyurl.com/UCCFellowshipHosting>

Questions? See Joel Hughes, Mark Rzeznikiewicz, Gordon Row or Irene Katrouba



## Mid-Summer Courier

The "Mid-Summer Courier" will be mailed the beginning of July and will include information for July and August. Please email ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) your information by Monday, June 16. *This should include any upcoming Sunday School information that will need to get to the Congregation prior to September.*

## Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

In 2013-2014, 40 people volunteered their time to make our Sunday School classes possible. Some are long-time participants, while others taught or helped for the first time. Together, they taught approximately 140 classes to over 50 children during the course of the year! In their honor we have purchased and inscribed Children's Bibles to go in the pews alongside the adult Bibles and in the Sunday School classrooms. **June 8** we will acknowledge our Sunday School Teachers in worship. Sharing the Word of God with our children is such a joy!



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## Something for Children During Summer Worship *One-Room Schoolhouse*

The Christian Education Committee is committed to making Sunday worship during the summer months inviting for families with children. Offering something for children (as well as nursery care) allows parents to worship undistracted, and it keeps us more “together” rather than so scattered.

We are looking for a person (or two) for each of the summer Sundays who would spend 20 minutes or so with the children downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. The church has a variety of kid-friendly activities to choose from, including reading a story, doing a craft, or singing songs. You need no Sunday School teaching experience, simply the ability to be with a small group of children in a leadership role. If you can share a few minutes of your time, we'll give you an activity to do with the children — it's that simple!

Please contact Gail Miller (978-448-2091 or [gail@uccgroton.org](mailto:gail@uccgroton.org)), if you can take a Sunday between June 22 and August 31.

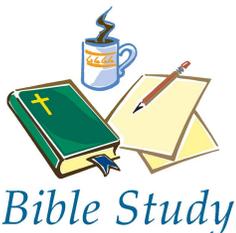
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### Christian Education Committee

—Pete Hnath, Acting Chair  
—Dena Hance

—Jean Armstrong  
—Diane Landry

—Anne Cahill



## Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m. in the Pastor's Office

The early Christians used Hebrew scripture to help them understand and interpret Jesus' crucifixion. We'll read from Hosea and Isaiah along with Luke to gain insight into the resurrection and the fulfillment of the Hebrew promises through Jesus' life. Join us at 7:30 as we read the scripture and the lesson from *The Present Word* together. *Contact: Janet Kennedy*

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

**10:00 a.m. at 26 Court Street**

Thursday morning Bible Study will wrap up our study of Hebrews in time for summer vacation. It's been interesting to find gems of verses and phrases of the sort: So that came from Hebrews. We recommend it for summer reading. We'd love to have you join us come September for sparkling conversation, tea and cookies. *Contact: Marvin Caldwell (978-448-5496)*

# Fall Harvest Fair / Family Ministry / Music

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## Next *Friends of the Harvest Fair Meeting* Sunday, June 8, after Coffee Hour Fellowship Hall

If you have any ideas, are interested in a particular area, or want to participate in any way (large or small), please join us. Thank you to those who have already volunteered so far:

- Attic Treasures - Barbara Wyman and Liz McQuillin
- Bake Table - Mark Rzeznikiewicz
- Books - Martha Dean
- Children's Clothing - Krista Kubick
- Children's Toys - Charlene Kelly
- Christmas Table - Lois Berg and Lori McElroy
- Church Craft Table - Drew & Erica Davenport
- Clean-up Crew for FH and nursery - Tom Hanson
- Craft Table/Setting up eating area - Bonnie Martin
- Jewelry Table - Mary Hanson
- Kitchen - Joel Hughes
- Pie Baking - Mary Hanson
- Publicity (including being Carol's primary contact) - Lorrie Morgan
- Silent Auction - Kristen Ansted
- Wood Items - Leon Avey
- Yard Sale - John Biocchi

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## Family Ministry

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### Family Ministry—Let's Play Ball!

#### Lowell Spinners Game

**Saturday, June 14 at 5:05 p.m.**

Springtime means baseball is in the air! Let's catch a minor league game together before the school year is over. If you are interested in attending this game, please contact Corissa or Larry Robinson ( ) or look for the sign up sheet during coffee hour starting Sunday, May 4. Ticket prices will be around \$6-8/person, depending on the number of people that attend the game.

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## Summer Music

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### Summer Musicians Needed!

Spring is finally here, and summer is just around the corner. In fact, we go to our Summer Worship Schedule on June 22, and so we are looking now for musicians from the Congregation to provide music in Worship. Do you sing or play an instrument (piano, organ, or other)? Please contact Pastor Gail, Bernard Crane, or anyone from the Music Committee, if you wish to schedule a date. Let us know soon so you can get the date that you want. We may have a men's chorus one Sunday, as we have in the past, and perhaps a women's group as well.



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**Music Committee:**

—Sheila Mitchell, Chair  
—Jon Morgan

—Paul Brown  
—Bonnie Marchesani

—Heather Houde  
—Barbara Wyman

# Missions

# Youth Mission Trip

At the half way point of this year, the Missions Committee has requested expenditure of half of the budgeted amounts to be disbursed to charities that were selected by the committee. The following organizations will receive donations that are included as part of the Missions budget with the source being pledged donations:

Loaves and Fishes: \$412  
Hagar Sisters \$312  
Pepperell PACH (food pantry) \$250, which represents an annual amount  
UCC (Our Church's Wider Mission) \$1,500

Amounts received from special collections this year include One Great Hour of Sharing (\$935) and Heifer Project (\$909 to date). Thank you for the support for all these worthy causes!

The committee wants to wish the Youth Mission Trip participants safe travels and a rewarding experience on their Mission Trip to Queens, New York!

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## Missions Committee

—Janet Kennedy, Chair  
—Larry Robinson

—Tony DiCenzo

—Janice Flynn

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## Youth Mission Trip

June 22—June 29

Queens, New York



Please hold these kids in your prayers and offer your gratitude to the adults who are serving as their advisors. How blessed we are to have this opportunity, and so many who said “yes” to God’s call on their lives to serve in this manner.

### Youth

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Will Cullen       | Leah Pezanowski   |
| Maddie Eggiman    | Alex Platt        |
| Nicki Eggiman     | Gordon Platt      |
| Michaela Estes    | Will Premru       |
| TJ Fetterolf      | Sean Prestia      |
| Andrew Gingras    | Kathryn Preston   |
| Connor Johnson    | Amy Sjoberg       |
| Eleanor Keytel    | Casey Sjoberg     |
| Anthony Lovezzola | Izzy Smith        |
| Danika Manalo     | Sammi Smith       |
| Cary Peregoy      | Olivia Straw      |
| Abby Pezanowski   | Mitchell Townsend |

**Advisors:** Pete Hnath, Stefanie Lempp, Gail Miller, Halsey Platt

### Important Mission Trip dates:

**Sunday, June 8** 6:15—7:00 p.m.—Parents and Youth Information Meeting  
7:00—8:30 p.m. at church—Big House Youth Group

**Sunday, June 22** 9:00 a.m. Worship—Commissioning Prayer in Church and Departure

# Just So You Know

## Union Congregational Church

### United Church of Christ

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450  
978-448-2091  
www.uccgroton.org

### The Reverend Gail Miller

Cell phone: 978-877-2177

[gail@uccgroton.org](mailto:gail@uccgroton.org)

Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
or by appointment (please call the church office).

### Carol Zaiatz—Office Administrator

[unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)

### Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

### (Summer Office Hours starting 6/23

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday  
9:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

*Church Office is closed on Mondays)*

Music Director: Bernard Crane

Cherub Choir: Bonnie Marchesani

Handbell Choir: Cheryl Townsend

## Church Officers

Moderator: Stefanie Lempp

Treasurer: Kelli Hnath

Clerk: Lori McElroy

Collector: Bob Goudey

## June Deacons

Tim Dumont and Greg Balligan

### Prayer List

Feel free to call the church office to add or remove names from the prayer list.

### Booking Events

When planning meetings, please call the church office to be sure the space is available.

### Sermons

Copies of Pastor Miller's sermons are available on our website.

### Weekly News Email

Gail prepares the email to be sent from the Office Administrator's account, usually on Fridays.

**Name Tags** help us become friends. Please wear yours. Sign up on the nametag list on the small table in the vestibule, call or email the church office. You can use one of the blank name tags in the basket on the table until yours is ready.

## Committee Chairs

### Buildings & Grounds Committee:

Jeff Kubick

### Christian Education Committee:

Pete Hnath (Acting Chair)

### Church Council Member-at-Large:

John Gervais

### Diaconate Committee:

Tim Dumont

### Endowment Committee:

Lorrie Morgan

### Missions Committee:

Janet Kennedy

### Music Committee:

Sheila Mitchell

### Pastor Parish Relations Committee:

Bebe Goudey

### Stewardship & Finance Committee:

Liz Smith

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## June Highlights

### Sunday, June 1

Worship and Holy Communion

Senior Choir

*Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Forum* after church (see p. 2)

### Sabbatical Slide Show—Two Showings this Month

**Wednesday, June 4** and **Wednesday, June 18**

7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, June 8 Teacher Appreciation Sunday



### Sunday, June 15

Music: Maggie Wickham (solo); Cherub Choir

*Teacher  
Appreciation*



### Sunday, June 22 9:00 a.m.

### Summer Worship Begins!

Children's Activities during Worship

**Queens, New York, Mission Trip** departs

After worship—stick around to “wave us off”!