

THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



October 2014



Be Inspired!

I keep a folder on my computer called "Poetry and Quotes," which I turn to from time-to-time to be encouraged and inspired. Here is a sampling....

To me the affirmation that God can be found outside the church has never seemed like much of a claim. The true wonder is that God can be found inside the church, among quirky, flawed, and broken people who may have little in common and yet are bound to one another.

~Martin Copenhaver

This life is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it; the process is not finished but it is going on. This is not the end but it is the road; all does not yet gleam in glory but all is being glorified.

~Martin Luther

*Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace.
And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.*

~Jerry Bridges

*When you have no helpers, see all your helpers in God.
When you have many helpers, see God in all your helpers.
When you have nothing but God, see all in God;
when you have everything, see God in everything.
Under all conditions, stay thy heart only on the Lord.*

~Charles Haddon Spurgeon

To be followers of Christ is to be persons, whose lives, individually and corporately, are lived by a set of values radically different from those of the broken world, persons whose behaviors are shaped by the structures of a different order of being - the kingdom of God.

~M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

*For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.*

~Fred Pratt Green (From the hymn, *For the Fruit of All Creation*)

Be Inspired! Share the Joy!

Maintaining Our Unity in Christ

Conversation with our UCC Associate Conference Minister

October 12 after Worship

The Reverend Kelly Gallagher will be our guest preacher. After the luncheon for Helen Misselhorn's birthday (see page 2), Rev. Gallagher will lead a conversation on *Maintaining Our Unity in Christ*. This is a good opportunity to engage with and receive from our denomination, the United Church of Christ.



Our Church Family



Our Ongoing Prayer List

(These names are prayed out loud at Open Sanctuary Time each Wednesday.)

Elizabeth Berndt	Nicole Irvin	Leigh Mezzetti	Michael Rubin
Marvin Bernstein	Walter Kelleher	Middlemiss Family	Rudi Schmid
Tony Biegler	Sean Koller	and baby Jack	Opal Smith
Kathi Bond	Bob Latvalla	Myrtle Murphy	Betty Sowkin
Gerry Elliott	Doris Lewis	Holly Norton	Joe Swales
Vinnie Gambuzza	Janet Luttrell	Lynn O'Brien and Family	Lucille Temple
Charles Girard	Lavon McMurrian	Adriana Piacentini	Liz Waggoner
Brenda Grand		Brent Peters	

This list will be refreshed twice a year. Feel free to contact Gail Miller or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org) to add a name to this list.



- ◆ Bonnie Marchesani, undergoing knee surgery on October 3.
- ◆ Debbie Shields in the death of her mom, Elaine, who died on September 13.
- ◆ Hailey Sullivan, recovering from oral surgery.
- ◆ Marlene Byron (Charlene Kelly's mom), recovering from a stroke.
- ◆ Bob Latvalla, recovering from heart surgery (Bob is Lori McElroy's father).



Helen Misselhorn Turns 90—Let's Celebrate October 12 after worship (Fellowship Hall)

Her actual birthday is October 6, but we'll be celebrating here at church on the 12th. Come join us to wish Helen congratulations on reaching a milestone! There will be quiche, fruit salad, cake, etc. — be sure to stay after worship and join us at coffee hour.

If you would like to send Helen a card, her address is: 15 Douglas Drive, Ayer, MA 01432.

October Birthdays

Randy DuBreuil	10/1	Jack Dooney	10/18
Kirsten Sjoberg	10/1	Anna Kubick	10/18
Alex Ansted	10/2	Meghan Lofgren	10/18
Joanna Chase	10/5	Lyra Harper	10/19
Helen Misselhorn	10/6	Nevan Rosenfeld	10/21
Joe Zambuto	10/6	Ben Ansted	10/22
Mitchell Townsend	10/9	Cooper Ciozzo	10/23
Lorrie Morgan	10/13	Cameron Fraser	10/27
Christopher Morgan	10/13	Andrew Howard	10/29
Bob Hargraves	10/14	Isabel Bresnahan	10/31
Maggie Wickham	10/15		
Richard Ferrero	10/17		



Birthday Blessings to You All!

If we missed your birthday, it is not in our database. Please email 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



Confidential Prayer Chain

Need prayer and need it now? Share your concern with the Confidential Prayer Chain. Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call Lori McElroy (978-448-2841) and she will put your prayer request in motion for you. Prayer requests are held in confidence among those who are praying for you, and you may request that your name be withheld. Want to be a pray-er? Use the same email to let us know and you'll be added to the list. (This email is a private address seen only by the administrators of the prayer chain.)



July—September Meeting Summaries

The church finances (income and expenses) remain on budget.

The Fellowship Hall ceiling and the new piano were the big expenditures over the summer; these costs have been covered without borrowing and without dipping into the Endowment principal.

The budgeting process has begun based upon conservative increased pledging. On November 23 there will be an all-church meeting to discuss the budget for 2015. Still in question is the funding of capital projects.

The Missions Committee is in need of more members.

The GPS (God's Purpose Seekers) will hold an All-Church Meeting on October 29 to discuss the results of the survey taken in the spring and where they are in answering the question 'What is God asking us to do as a Church?'

Stated Meeting Summary (September 14)

The Endowment Committee reported that endowments are up 10% (up \$391K from \$351K) and that this trend is expected to continue through the 3rd quarter of next year.

The PPRC By-Law change was passed unanimously; the Mission and Purpose By-Law change (trinity language) was passed after much discussion.

Jean Armstrong was nominated and approved to be a member of the Christian Education committee.



New Members' Class

Sunday, October 26

12:00 – 3:00 p.m. (lunch provided) in Church Parlor

As soon as coffee hour winds down and the children's choirs are finished rehearsing, we will gather with Pastor Miller and a few Deacons to talk about the Christian faith, the church, and our church. Childcare and lunch will be provided. Attending this in no way obligates you to become a formal member. If, however, you are interested in membership, we will receive new members in worship in November. All are welcome to attend, whether you've been here two times or for two years. Please RSVP to the church office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org) so that we can plan for food and babysitting.



November Courier

Please submit items for the November Courier by Wednesday, October 15, in order to be sure they get into this issue. All submissions to the Courier should be emailed to Carol Zaiatz at unioncc@uccgroton.org. Thank you.



Church Clean-up Day Saturday, October 25 (Rain Date Nov. 1) 8:00 a.m.

You are invited! Outdoor clean-up and raking leaves will be our primary job. More hands make the work fun and go faster. If you can, please bring a rake and a tarp for the clean-up. If you have any questions, contact any member of the Buildings & Grounds Committee or Jeff Kubick (448-2589, jpkubick@gmail.com). **We appreciate your support.**

Buildings & Grounds

—Jeff Kubick, Chair
—Chris Sullivan

—John Brooks
—Joe Zambuto

—John Biocchi

Stewardship



Stewardship Corner

Faithful Stewardship of Money

Everything we have comes from God.

This is a basic theme that the Stewardship Team has been focusing on for the last two years. As faithful stewards we have the privilege of managing 100% of all that God has provided. Our talents, family, relationships, career, health, faith and money all come from God.

As for money, God is not only interested in how we spend it. He is also interested in how we acquire it, how we manage it, and even how we regard it. He wants us to manage all these aspects of money in joyful God-pleasing ways.

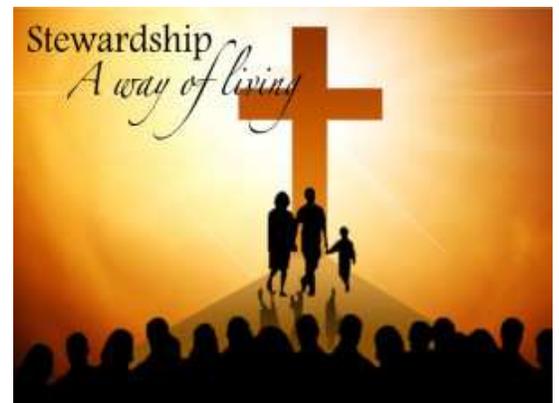
How we spend and steward our money reflects our values, spiritual health, and determines what sort of person we will become. Too often people correlate joy with having lots of money. However, abundant and joyful lives are the result of stewarding money and everything else He has provided in God-pleasing ways.

As the Stewardship Team prepares for the 2015 Pledge Drive, we ask you to think and pray about these questions:

What truly brings me joy?

What have I done lately that is God-pleasing?

Given my past giving practices, what is the next step I need to take to become a “joyful and generous giver”?



The 2014 Stewardship Team

—Bob Goudey
—Halsey Platt

—Jeff Kubick
—Craig Smith

—Liz McQuillin

—Gail Miller



41th Annual Harvest Fair

Saturday, October 4

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Drop-off Dates and Times

Donation Drop-off at the Parish House:

Friday, October 3, all day

- Children's Clothing - Preschool Room
- Attic Treasures - Front Room
- Children's Toys - Carol's Office
- Books - Kitchen
- Yard Sale - Shed

Bake Sale Drop-off at the Table in the Fellowship Hall:

Friday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 4, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Craft Items Drop-off at the Church:

Wednesday, October 1, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Anytime Thursday morning

Place all donated items in separate labeled bags or boxes according to these categories. Please do not donate anything that cannot be resold - if we must dump it, it will cost us.

Note: Extra plastic bags and paper bags are needed for the sales.

Fair Set-up and Tear Down

Wednesday, October 1, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

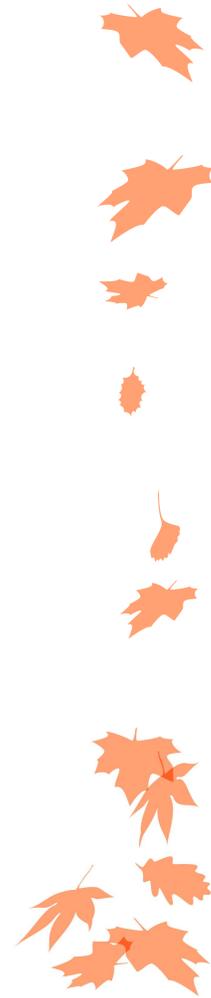
- Set up tables in Fellowship Hall
- Bring items to the Church from storage in the Parish House

Saturday, October 4

- **Set-up starts about 7:30 a.m.** for everything outside - need many helpers for a couple of hours. **Yard Sale particularly needs setting up tables.**

Tear-down from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

- Help return items to original locations
- Clean up trash and leftover yard sale items
- Rebuild the nursery (to be supervised by Brita Reilly, Nursery Attendant)
- Pack-up/store yard sale items (bring some boxes) and dump all trash from the day (strong backs for lifting are needed)



Family Ministry



It's Corn Maze Time!

Goss Farm (446 Pleasant Street, Dunstable)

Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 p.m.

(rain date October 26)

We're so excited that they have opened back up this fall! They have a corn maze, hay rides, cow train rides, hop along rodeo, and a cow milking contest all for one price. If we can get a group of 20 people to go, the cost will be \$8/person, and if not then the cost will be \$10/person. Please contact Corissa Robinson by e-mail (rissie17@gmail.com), cell phone (508-333-7040), or in person if you would like tickets. This should be a very fun and festive afternoon for the whole family, and the Patriots are not playing on October 19th, so there isn't any reason to stay home and miss this great event!

Bible Study

Christian Education



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

7:30 p.m. in the Pastor's Office

Last month the focus in 1 Corinthians was on building and maintaining community among believers. In 2 Corinthians the focus shifts to ways to sustain the community. The lessons give specific emphasis to prayer, forgiveness, love, cooperation, and sharing. *Contact: Janet Kennedy.*

Thursday Morning Bible Study

10:00 a.m. at 26 Court Street

Thursday Morning Bible Study began with the Discipline of Thanksgiving. We will continue through October with Confession, Meditation, Study, Worship and Submission and Service. The Groton Interfaith Council is hosting a discussion of Fasting as experienced by Christians, Jews, and Muslims, probably early November. We will conclude our investigation and introductory practices in November with Simplicity. Join us for sparkling conversation accompanied by tea, coffee and cookies.

Contact: Marvin Caldwell (448-5496)

Christian Education



Can You Help?

We need volunteers to spend one hour doing some of the most fulfilling work of the church—teaching our children about God's love. We've got a lot of openings on the calendar in coming weeks. Sign up on the white-board in the church hallway or by email to Carol Zaiatz in the Church Office (unioncc@uccgroton.org)

Christian Education Committee

- Anne Cahill, Acting Chair
- Diane Landry

—Jean Armstrong

—Dena Hance



Neighbors in Need Offering October 5 and 12

Neighbors in Need is a UCC special mission offering that supports works of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the receipts are used by the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, to be awarded by grant to various churches and organizations to help fund efforts for community service projects or advocacy efforts. One-third of the offering supports the UCC 's Council for American Indian Ministries.



In recognition of the church's annual support of *Loaves & Fishes*, we have received a Certificate of Appreciation as being a Silver Level Partner. We give on average \$1,200 a year to support this valuable ministry.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Backpack drive. Donations of backpacks and supplies may be returned to the designated bins at the church.

Missions Committee

—Janet Kennedy, Chair
—Janice Flynn

—Tony DiCenzo
—Larry Robinson

GPS Update



Last spring you were invited to fill out a survey about our church to assist the GPS (God's Purpose Seekers) Task Force as they discern God's will, purpose and direction for us. You are now invited to an Open House at the church to hear from the GPS about the survey results.

GPS Open House

Wednesday, October 29

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall at Church

Dessert will be served

We look forward to sharing our findings with you and hearing your thoughts.

GPS Task Force

—Mary Hanson, Chair
—Pete Hnath
—Halsey Platt

—Bonnie Biocchi
—Stefanie Lempp
—Larry Robinson

—Tim Dumont
—Gail Miller

Serving in Mission

Serve the Homeless in Cambridge—Outdoor Church

Monday, October 13 (Columbus Day Holiday)

Cambridge, Mass. - 10:00 – 2:00 (approximate times)

We will meet at church to make sandwiches and assemble sack lunches. We'll fill backpacks and head in to Alewife, park the cars and take the T to Central Square. Then we will walk a route organized by the Outdoor Church (a homeless ministry in Cambridge), handing out lunches, and extending the warmth of God's love. Children in upper elementary grades and their families are welcome to join Pastor Miller and Sophia. Questions: Gail (978-448-2091)

Youth Ministry

Join Us!



Middle School Youth and Families

How's it going? As you and your children navigate the treacherous waters of Middle School, how solid is your ship? Are you feeling tossed about? Need a lifeline — everyday, once a week, once a month? Nurturing, supportive, Christian friendships are crucial these days more than ever.

Facilitating these friendships for our kids here at church is extremely important, and will carry them more safely through these middle school years, into high school and beyond. So, to jumpstart these vital friendships and to begin to think more deeply about making a plan to support and serve these kids, you and your middle-schoolers are invited....

**Dinner and Conversation
Fun for the Kids
at the home of Karen and Jon Sjoberg
Saturday, October 18
5:30 p.m.**

RSVP to Karen (kfortune@djasolutions.com)

Christian families have so much to offer — passion, compassion, joy, hope, strength.... But we don't have these things because we muster them up ourselves. We have these qualities in our lives because they are God-given; and we are called to nurture, support and grow them. Impossible to do alone — more than possible together! And much more fun...!

Join us on October 18th! Contact Gail or Pete Hnath with your thoughts about Middle School ministry in general and bring your questions/ideas to the dinner.

Serve the Homeless in Boston—City Reach

Friday-Saturday, 11/14-11/15
Clothing Drive for the Homeless

Space is limited—reserve your spot via email to Gail Miller (gail@uccgroton.org). The trip will cost \$100/person—\$65 is a required donation to City Reach to fund their program and \$35 is for transportation, food, etc. The official departure and return times will be finalized later, but plan on approximately 5:00 p.m. Friday to 5:00 p.m. Saturday.

We will be collecting clothing donations in October!

Donations can be dropped off in the alcove adjacent to the nursery in the Fellowship Hall

ITEMS NEEDED

- Backpacks, tote bags, fanny packs, small suitcases with wheels (used and in good condition)
- Travel-size toiletries such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, Chapstick, toothpaste, and shaving cream in small sizes, as well as tooth brushes and disposable razors, and tampons in small quantities (please no aftershave or mouthwash containing alcohol)
- New white socks (there can never be too many of these)
- New underwear (again, there can never be too many — 80% for men, 20% for women)
- Sleeping bags and blankets (clean and in good condition)

USED CLOTHING, including:

- Nylon jackets and pants, ponchos, and raincoats for Spring & Fall
- Warm coats for Winter
- Sweat shirts and sweat pants (especially hooded sweatshirts)
- Sweaters
- T-shirts
- Long-sleeve shirts
- Jeans, khakis and other casual pants (80% for men)
- Waterproof boots, comfortable shoes, and sneakers
- Hats, waterproof gloves, coats
- Belts



Donations for the
Homeless

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

Fall Office Hours

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Out of Office*

Thursday—Friday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

*available by cell phone/email or by appointment

Carol Zaiatz—Office Administrator

unioncc@uccgroton.org

Office Hours

Tuesday — Friday

8:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

(Church Office is closed on Mondays)

Music Director: Bernard Crane
sibelius415@gmail.com
617-768-7166

Cherub Choir: Bonnie Marchesani
978-448-5335
bonnie.marchesani@gmail.com

Handbell Choir: Cheryl Townsend
978-448-8147
cheryl_townsend@verizon.net

Church Officers

Moderator: Stefanie Lempp
978-448-3275 stefanie.lempp@msn.com

Treasurer: Kelli Hnath
978-272-1223 kbhnath@yahoo.com

Clerk: Lori McElroy
978-448-2841 lori@grotoncenterfarms.com

Collector: Bob Goudey
978-496-0973 bebebob.goudey@gmail.com

October Deacons

Cassie Sampas/Erica Davenport

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 978-448-2589
jkubick@charter.net

Christian Education Committee:

Anne Cahill (Acting Chair) 978-448-4053
anniebob29@yahoo.com

Church Council Member-at-Large:

John Gervais 978-448-0005
johngervais@gervaisford.com

Diaconate Committee:

Tim Dumont 978-448-6748
tdumont@groton.org

Endowment Committee:

Lorrie Morgan 978-448-6898
lorrie13@aol.com

Missions Committee:

Janet Kennedy 978-448-3419
jkennedy75@verizon.net

Music Committee:

Sheila Mitchell
gypsyhart@live.com

Pastor Parish Relations Committee:

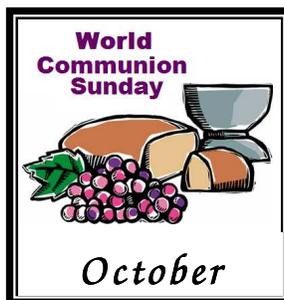
Bebe Goudey 978-448-0121
bebe.goudey@gmail.com

Stewardship & Finance Committee:

Liz Smith 978-448-6668
smith.liz@gmail.com

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
220 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GROTON, MA 01450
PERMIT #23

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

[] PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST



October

- ◆ **Sat., Oct. 4** **Harvest Fair** 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (p. 5)
- ◆ **October 5** **World Communion Sunday**
Neighbors In Need Special Offering (p. 7)
- ◆ **October 12** *Neighbors in Need* Special Offering
Luncheon for Helen Misselhorn (p. 2)
Maintaining Our Unity in Christ conversation (p. 1)
- ◆ **October 13** *Serve the Homeless* in Cambridge (p. 7)
- ◆ **October 18** *Middle School Ministry* Start-up (p. 8)
- ◆ **October 19** *Goss Farm Corn Maze* at 2:00 p.m. (p. 5)
- ◆ **October 26** **Reformation Sunday!**
- ◆ **Wed., October 29** *GPS Open House* at 7:00 p.m. (p. 7)

All Month: Clothing Drive for Youth Overnight Serving Boston's Homeless (see p. 8)