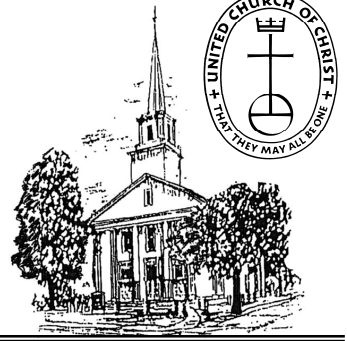


THE UNION COURIER

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Reverend Gail L. Miller, Pastor
Gary Gumuchian, Pastoral Intern

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



May 2019

FROM THE



PASTOR

After Psalm 23, I think Psalm 121 may be the next well known of the 150 Psalms. It is also often read at funerals, and in my opinion is more appropriate for such times than is Psalm 23. It speaks of the steadfast presence of the Lord, especially during difficult times. The last line is:

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore (v.8).

“Going out” and “coming in” moments are fraught—fraught with drama, anxiety, and possibility. Another word for these times is *transition*. And spring, it sometimes seems, is one transition after another.

Graduations. It went by so quickly.
A job change. Will I be up to it?
A move. Everything is different here.
Retirement. I can't wait. I'm terrified.

If it is true that God offers a special promise of presence during these in between times, then it is also the case that such changes may break us open to the Holy Spirit in unexpected ways. (Tony Robinson, UCC Daily Devotional for May 1, 2019)

As Christians, all of our life is lived “in between” In between our acknowledgement / acceptance / awareness of God's claim and call on our lives, and the future to which He is calling / sending us or the person / people He desires for us to be. There is no standing still for Christians! We are always on the move!

That doesn't mean our journeys and these transitions are not difficult at times — they are to be sure. And when seismic changes come, we can feel vulnerable. We ask, *What and whom can I hold onto?* and *Who, or what, holds onto me?*

Well, ours is a God who knows the journey, who is also on the move, who goes ahead of us to Galilee. You will be upheld. You will be sustained in your going out and coming in. And so we trust this.

Trusting God's Promises With You,

Gail

Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from
where will my help come?*

*My help comes from the Lord, who
made heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

*He who keeps Israel will neither
slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is
your shade at your right hand.*

*The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.*

*The Lord will keep your going out
and your coming in from this time
on and forevermore.*



Our Church Family/News



Ongoing Prayer List

This list will be refreshed in June. If there is a name you would like to remain on the list or add to the list, please contact Gail Miller or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Dottie Bartlett
Megan Bettison
Peg Elwood
Ellen Hargraves
Scott Joyce
Frank Kanour

Julie Kenyon
Joe Marchesani
Jan Miller
Helen Misselhorn
Bill Moeller

Myrtle Murphy
Betty Rettig
Karen Sands
Rudi Schmid
Matt and Mindy Spain

Diane Thorne
Edie Tompkins
Karen and Marc Vandenbulcke
Laurie Wade
Betty and Liz Waggoner



- Carl Prestia and family, in the death of Carl's father on April 7.
- The Silveri/LaGasse family, in the death of Brian's mother, Rose McDonald LaGasse, on April 18.
- Ellen Hargraves, at home recovering from surgery.

May Birthdays

Anne Cahill	05/03	Kyle Plausse	05/14	Katie Milano	05/23
Monique Meehan	05/04	Joel Hughes	05/15	Drew Davenport	05/24
Jocelyn Byron-Kelly	05/05	Kelly Sullivan	05/16	Bill Gale, Jr.	05/24
Sara Zambuto	05/06	Mike Smith	05/20	Dennis Carey	05/25
Deb Shields	05/08	Ginny Fraser	05/21	Caleb Brennan	05/28
Margaret Sullivan	05/10	Emily Hanson	05/21	John Brooks	05/31
Nancy Huguenin	05/12	Raquel Majeski	05/23	Tyler York	05/31

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?

Confidential Prayer Chain

Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call Carol or Gail in the Church Office (978-448-2091) and they 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.

The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! If everyone participates, this will add up to a significant amount. Please participate and watch our gifts grow!



Ladies' Lunch

Friday, May 3 (Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool)

Taka (602 Constitution Avenue, Littleton)

All women of the church are invited! Contacts: Janice Owen, Brenda Semienko, or Peg Lloyd.



Upcoming Graduates

Are you or someone in your family graduating? We would like to honor our graduates in the June Courier. Please let us know who is graduating and from where, and any significant next steps in their lives. **Please email your information to Carol in the Church Office (unioncc@uccgroton.org) by May 26** so we can be sure to get your information in our newsletter! Thank you.



Spiritual Memoir

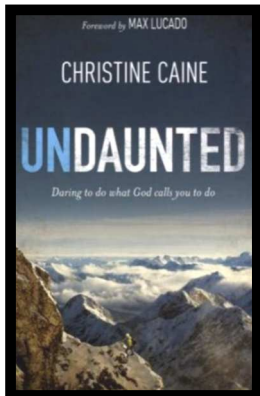
Tuesday Evenings

(May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4 and 11)

7:00 p.m. in the Parish House Front Room

In this six-week workshop, we will examine our lives, read excerpts from some spiritual memoirs written by others, write and share memoirs. For those lacking confidence in their writing, this is an opportunity to write

in a safe, loving environment with no grades and certainly no marks off for grammar or spelling errors. Come discover how to tell your story. **Sign up on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway at church or email Gary (gary@uccgroton.org).**



All Women of the Church are Invited!

Undaunted

Wednesday, May 8, 15, and 22

6:00—7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor

This video study (authored and featuring Christine Caine) offers life-transforming insights into how to not only overcome challenges, wrong turns, and painful circumstances, but to actually grow from those experiences and be equipped and empowered because of them. *Hopefully you will experience a fellowship worthy of our name: Lord Inspired Ladies In Eternal Sisterhood (L.I.L.I.E.S)! Contacts: Myra Locket or Betsy Bridge.*

Accessibility Project—Progress Update

On April 11, our Church Accessibility Project Team got a first look at preliminary Schematic Design plans. We were pleased to see that architect, Paul Adison, captured the essence of our ultimate goal, to make both floors of the church fully accessible to all. His design creates a welcoming space that also preserves the historic and neighborhood character of the church. In addition to an elevator, important features of the plans are ADA compliant men's and women's lavatories on both floors, a music office/rehearsal room, deacons' storage, and a new stairway. We'll be receiving and reviewing the cost estimate sometime in May. Stay tuned!

Accessibility Steering Team

—Anne Cahill

—Karen Sherwin

—Chip Detwiller

—Chris Sullivan

—Bebe Goudey

—Sara Zambuto

—Rev. Gail Miller

Craft Fair / Sunday School / Missions / Music

Spring Craft Fair

14th Annual Spring Artisan Craft Fair

Saturday, May 4

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Be sure to come by to shop (we have five new artisan crafters); and you can stay to enjoy lunch with your friends. *Profits for the church come from table rentals, the kitchen, craft items, and the bake table.*

Drop Off Times/Help Needed

Baked Goods: Sat. by 9:30 a.m. (so we have time to price items). Please wrap items and label for nuts.

Saturday at 2:00 p.m.: Begin break down of hall and rebuild the nursery.

Contact: Bonnie Martin

Sunday School



May 5
Saul to Paul
Acts 9:1-20

May 12
Peter and Tabitha
Acts 9:36-43

May 19
Peter's Dream
Acts 11:1-18

May 26
All Together Time
Fellowship Hall

Christian Education Committee

—Carl Prestia, Chair

—Bonnie Marchesani

—Amy Nickerson

Missions

Hagar's Sisters Our church provided seven volunteers to help with set-up and in running the silent auction at the Hagar's Sisters benefit on April 27. Thank you!

Stay tuned to learn about more ways you can serve in the upcoming months. For now, opportunities include:

Loaves & Fishes Your donations of non-perishable food items at the top of the stairs are always welcome. Thank you for your generous donations!

Our Father's Table Two or three people from our church are invited to help with serving dinner and a light clean-up at Our Father's Table in Fitchburg. The time commitment is 4:00- 6:30 p.m., including travel time. If you would like to serve on May 28 or June 25, please contact Julie Platt (juliensp@verizon.net).

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair

—Sue Lunt

—Brenda Barker

—Lynn Manalo

—Stefanie Lempp

—Halsey Platt

Music



Music Appreciation Day

Sunday, May 19

Special plans for music are in the works, including pieces presented by the Handbell, Senior and Youth Choirs.



1868-1930

A Message from Bernard Crane

A Concert of the Music of Helen C. Crane
Saturday, June 1
2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Featuring: Amy Sims, violin; Velleda Miragias, cello; plus others.

Who is Helen Crane? I came across her quite by accident – just wondering if there were any other Cranes who were composers. There is an online database of all the world’s composers whose music is now in the public domain, where I discovered Helen Crane and one piece of music published in German around 1907. I was amazed at the quality, creativity, and “chops” of this composer, an American schooled in a European Conservatory (before Irving Berlin, George

Gershwin, or J.P. Sousa).

I became eager to find more of her music and discovered an article on the Crane family’s donation to the New York Public Library of all their significant documents, including Helen Crane’s original manuscripts. So I traveled to New York to see these items and, if possible, to come away with some images of the originals. What I found was 18 boxes of music (about 75 serious pieces of music, songs, chamber music, pieces for quartet, orchestra and chorus, even two symphonies and the sketches of a third). Most of these were in their original handwritten format, seemingly not seen or touched since 1940. Since these pages could not go through a copy machine, I photographed them and returned home to begin the task of printing them in a reproducible format.

Since that first visit to New York, I have retrieved 1,400 pages of her work, and it is amazing!! Breath-taking music, which has not been heard for over 80 years (Ms. Crane died in 1930 at the age of 62). I am eager to share with you this musical bounty! There is no charge, but donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of musicians. If you would like to get a preview of what you will hear live, check out www.soundcloud.com/bernardcrane; click on any of the pieces with her image. Listen and be surprised as I was. Please join me on June 1.



Summer Musicians Needed!

Spring is finally here, and summer is just around the corner. In fact, we go to our Summer Worship Music Schedule on June 16, and so we are looking 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 or Bernard Crane if you wish to schedule a date. Let us know soon so you can get the date that you want; and watch for an invitation to sing in a men’s or women’s group.

In the Community...

Storytelling for Adults

Saturday, May 11

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

First Parish Church (1 Powderhouse Rd., Groton)

An exciting and friendly evening of storytelling set in a coffeehouse atmosphere. Family-friendly language; some stories have mature subject matter not suitable for children. Refreshments provided. Beer and wine served.

Suggested donation: \$10 at the door; **Purchase advance tickets at:** uugroton.org/story; **Contact:** storytelling@uugroton.org *Proceeds support First Parish Church of Groton, a welcoming Unitarian Universalist community.*

Grandparent Camp

Oceanwood (Maine)

7/28/19 – 8/03/19

\$240 for ages 5+ / \$120 for ages 3 & 4 / \$50 for under 3

Spend precious time with your grandkids at the beach! Give your grandchildren memories they will have for a lifetime! For more information and to register, visit www.oceanwood.org People from our church who have attended are: Ellen Hargraves, Sophia Smith, Taylor Ansted, Bonnie Marchesani and Destiny Bou.

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United Church of Christ
220 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450



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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

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May Highlights

Friday, May 3—Ladies' Lunch (see p. 2)

Saturday, May 4—Spring Artisan/Craft Fair
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (see p. 4)

Sunday, May 5
Holy Communion

Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day)

Sunday, May 19—Music Appreciation Sunday
Lots of music from all of our choirs!

Sunday, May 26

**Harvest Fair Date
Saturday, October 5**