

THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



September 2015



Many years ago (like nearly 20!) I heard a clever phrase from a colleague that has stayed with me: *Worship Plus Two*. We would invite everyone in the church to participate in *Worship Plus Two* — to worship (of course) and then to find two other things to do at church — one which feeds YOU and one which feeds OTHERS. So you might attend a class or prayer service (feeding yourself) and then you might work at the Fair or take a meal to someone in need (feeding others — literally!).

The 2015 version of this might be called www.church.love! The three w's being:

Worship
Word
Witness

Worship: It is vital for us to bring our whole selves (our joys and our struggles, our sufferings and our celebrations) to God; and then be lifted up to see, hear, taste and receive assurances of God's presence in Christ with us.

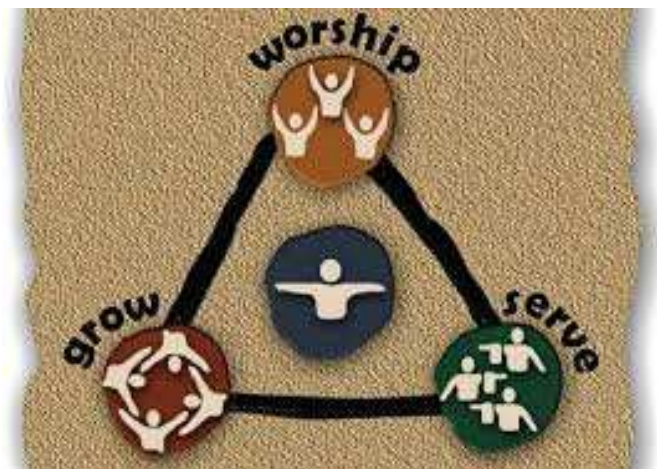
Word: It is my deep desire that all who call this church home will have an **active, growing** relationship with Christ. Emphasis on **active and growing**! And the primary way we do this is by engaging the Word (Christ) through the word (Bible). But simply hearing a few passages read and preached on Sundays is not enough. Because what happens on Sunday morning is essentially a "monologue" — I talk, you listen. Growth comes through dialogue, not monologue. And to do this we must meet together around a text or a topic (doesn't have to be only the Bible) and, as Linda Richman (Mike Myers' character on SNL in the 90's) used to say, "Discuss..." We'll be offering a Parenting Class in October/November called *Sticky Faith* that will be a great opportunity for this.

Witness: We are called to serve — to share what we have, what we know, what we love — with others. And there are many opportunities for this at church this fall....these pages are full of ways we can share the abundance of love and joy we have experienced and known in our lives.

So, before your calendars become too full, flip through this newsletter, or take home the green announcements page from Sunday and fill your fall with www.church.love!

In Christ and On the Journey,

Gail





Our Church Family/Church News



Our Ongoing Prayer List: (These names are prayed out loud at Open Sanctuary Time each Wednesday.)

Jimmy Breault
Kristen Collins
Becky Cross
Harold Gould
Alex Haas

Carol Hess
Jonathan Greenleaf
Xavier Johnson
Sean Koller
Doris Lewis

Holly Norton
Karen Sands
Rudi Schmid
Priscilla Simmons
Alan Smith

Opal Smith
Annik Spencer
Joe Swales
Liz Waggoner

This list has been refreshed (and 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.



- David and Angela Lauritano, who were married in our church on August 1
- Ken, Dena, Austin and Ashlynn Hance as they relocate to Pennsylvania
- Joe Marchesani, being treated for an infection
- Those leaving for college and their families
- Kim Peters, who was in an accident and broke her leg and a couple ribs (15467 Winged Trace Center, Draper, UT 84020; 801-890-1585)



Melinda (Biocchi) and Noah Van Niel welcomed baby Vincent Thomas on August 7!



Marin Colbert was baptized on Sunday, August 30. Congratulations to Marin, her parents Bill and Kristin, and big brother Liam!

September Birthdays

Charles Elwood	9/1	Cheryl Townsend	9/9	Pat Woods	9/24
Julie Sutherland-Platt	9/1	Corissa Robinson	9/17	Caroline Poser	9/26
Gianna Hitsos	9/2	Russell Byron-Kelly	9/19	William Dean	9/29
Paul Meehan, Jr.	9/5	Daniel Flynn	9/20	Jacob Gervais	9/29
Karen Sherwin	9/6	Emily Townsend	9/21	Cathy Rimkus	9/30
Christine Brooks	9/8	Alyssa Hughes	9/21	Nathan Townsend	9/30

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

Church Council July Meeting Summary

At the July 13 Church Council meeting, Pete Hnath reported that the Missions committee has decided that the profit from this year's Harvest Fair will go to Common Cathedral (City Reach, our annual overnight trip to Boston, is part of this organization). Several people from the organization will be at the Fair, including the associate minister and several of the staff who are homeless; some will stay overnight and be in church on Sunday to give testimonials. They have a distinctive cross that they give out to the homeless and we will buy these for them; they would like to start a new ministry around the holidays and we can partner with them on this.

There was a discussion on our decision-making process and specifically the Birthday Fund. Some of the questions were: who should decide? should we solicit ideas from the congregation? from committees? should we spend it every year? how much communication should there be? The consensus appeared to be that the process regarding how to spend the Birthday Fund should be simple, possibly using a process that's already in place. As far as other decisions, we were reminded that we, the Church Council, are the deciding body for the congregation between church meetings.



Registration Open!

Super Saturday

Saturday, October 17

8:00 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

Keefe Regional Technical High School, Framingham

Join hundreds of pastors and lay leaders from across two Conferences for worship, workshops, forums, networking, a marketplace, featuring Dr. Marcia McFee. Marcia is an author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher and artist. Her engaging and interactive style has been called “refreshing,” “inspiring,” and “unforgettable.” Marcia’s passion for helping the church to worship God fully is especially directed toward the education of local congregations.

For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/487028>. There is a PDF of the brochure and also a “register” button.



October Courier

Please submit items for the October Courier by Tuesday, September 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.



Budget Reminder

Committee chairs are reminded that the initial 2016 Budget request is due by September 4th. If you haven't

already, please send your initial budget to Church Treasurer, Dennis Carey at DCareyUCC@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Bible Study



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Begins September 9

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

The next topic in The Present Word series is titled, *God's Prophets Demand Justice*, which will examine justice and injustice through the writings of seven prophets. We'll begin with *Amos* focusing on right from wrong, hiding injustice, the injustice of greed and selfishness, and the failure to heed warnings to end injustice. Contact: Janet Kennedy

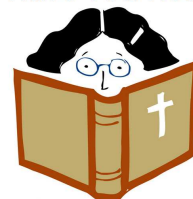
Thursday Morning Bible Study

Begins September 17

10:00 a.m. at 26 Court Street

Summer reading was John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* in preparation for a deeper involvement in this valuable reflection on the Christian life. Join us for meaningful conversations, tea and coffee, and cookies too. Contact: Marvin Caldwell (978-448-5496)

Have You Read



the
GOOD BOOK
Lately?

Harvest Fair



Harvest Fair Saturday, October 3 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Harvest Fair is almost here! This year, the profits from the fair will go to *Common Cathedral*, an outdoor congregation for the housed and un-housed on Boston Common. Come to the fair and meet Pastor Mary Eton and members of the staff. And please contact the appropriate chairperson directly if you are interested in being a part of a particular area. Contact Lorrie Morgan () or (), if you have any questions.

- **Attic Treasures** — Barbara Wyman () and Liz McQuillin ()
- **Bake Sale** — Mark Rzeznikiewicz (): The bake table needs much more than the wonderful pies! Home made items, such as quick breads, muffins, coffee cakes, candy, are all popular, as well as cookies and bars. Jams, jellies, pickles, and relishes are always quick sellers. Please package/ wrap and label for nuts. Feel free to do your own pricing.
- **Book Sale** — Martha Dean (): A box is on the table in the hallway of the church for dropping off books. We welcome adult and children's books in good condition, except for textbooks and encyclopedias.
- **Children's Clothing** — Krista Kubick ()
- **Children's Toys** — Charlene Kelly ()
- **Christmas Table** — Lois Berge () and Lori McElroy ()
- **Church Craft Table** — Erica and Drew Davenport (): We are looking for some new, fresh items to include on the church's craft table. We have a lot of knitted items, so other types of crafts would be especially welcome.
- **Kitchen** — Joel Hughes ()
- **Pie Baking** — Mary Hanson ()
- **Silent Auction** — Liz Brennan ()
- **Woodworking** — Leon Avey ()
- **Yard Sale** — John Biocchi ()
- **Publicity** — Lorrie Morgan ()

Thank you to everyone! Talk to your neighbors, friends, and families.

Fair Set-up

Sunday, September 27, After Worship

Help us take apart the nursery

Wednesday, September 30, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

Saturday, October 3

- Set-up starts about 7:30 a.m. for everything outside — need many helpers for a couple of hours
- Fair tear-down from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.:
 - Help return items to original locations
 - Rebuild the nursery
 - Pack-up/store yard sale items (can you donate some boxes for this?); dump the trash



Grotonfest—Saturday, September 19 (rain date 9/20)



An Opportunity to Reach Out to Our Community—Help Needed!

This is an important day for our church to be visible in our community. It's also a wonderful way for people without a "church home" to get information about us, ask questions, and make a connection in a casual setting.

We seek volunteers for our church booth to greet people, hand out information, and answer any questions people might have about life at UCC. You need not be a Groton resident — we are looking for people with a warm smile and a willingness to engage in light conversation. (There will be at least two people at the booth at all times and kids are always welcome to help as well.) Grab a friend or two and sign up together - with many participants, the shifts are short and making connections with friends and newcomers alike is a blessing! We will also need people to help with set-up and breakdown of the booth area.

Please contact Carol Zaiatz at unioncc@uccgroton.org or (978) 448-2091 and let her know what times are best for you to be at the booth. *If you have other questions about helping out that day, feel free to contact Carol or Stefanie Lempp (*

or (978)).

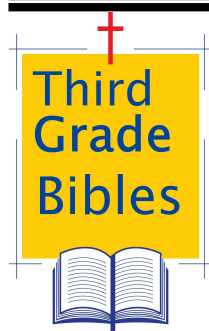


Sunday School Begins September 13

Registration forms can be found on our website (uccgroton.org) or at church on the back tables in the Sanctuary. We ask parents to complete the Registration Form (New Student or Returning Student), whether your child will attend Sunday School regularly or occasionally. This ensures that we have current emergency information on hand, as well as allergy information. **Please return this form to the church office (220 Main Street) or bring it with you on September 13.** (Forms will also be available on the 13th, along with Sunday School packets.) If you have any questions, please contact Carol at the church office (448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).



Make and Impact—BE A TEACHER!! The curriculum has been ordered; we will continue to use *Spark*, which includes online access to make it easier for you to prepare (we will also have hard copies available at church). Please consider teaching our children about Jesus! The Sunday School sign-up board will be available in the downstairs hallway next Sunday; and if you are enthusiastic to get signed up, talk to anyone on the **Christian Education Committee (Jean Armstrong, Anne Cahill, Diane Landry, Kelli Hnath, or Anne Larsen)**. You can also contact Carol Zaiatz (unioncc@uccgroton.org or 978-448-2091) in the **Church Office** and she can put you on the schedule according to the week or weeks that work best for you.



Third Graders to Receive Bibles Sunday, September 27, during Worship

This is a gift from the church, and we hope all families of third graders who consider this their church will be in worship on September 27 for this special day. As of mid-August, our records show the following kids from our church in the third grade:

Lily Burgess
Jacob Gervais
Lyra Harper
Makayla Hughes

Makaila Meehan
Emma Nickerson
Rylan Rosenfeld

Alyssa Slade
Margaret Sullivan
Jason Zambuto

Also, if you are new to the church and have children in the upper elementary grades who don't have a Bible and would like one geared toward children (3rd—8th graders), please let us know. It is important to us that we not miss anyone, so if your son or daughter is not listed, please call the church office (978-448-2091) so that we can make sure they receive a Bible.

—Pastor Miller and the Christian Education Committee

Middle School Ministry Schedule



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 deepen these vital friendships and to support you as parents, you and your middle schoolers are invited....

September 20, Sunday, 4:00-7:00 p.m. at church

- Prep for Children's Activities at the Harvest Fair (Pete Hnath, organizer)
- Dinner for kids and parents, starting 5:30 (Janet Carey, organizer)

October

3rd, Saturday - Harvest Fair

12th, (Monday/no school) - Sandwich Run in Cambridge (contact: Gail)

23rd, Friday, 7:00 - 9:00, at Church: Halloween Party/Pumpkin Carving/Games

November 15, Sunday, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Youth Group (4:00 p.m.) and Family Dinner (5:30 p.m.) at church

December

4th-5th, Friday-Saturday: Overnight (local, tbd)

20th, Sunday after church: Cookies 'n' Carols!

Contacts: Pete Hnath (), Jean Armstrong (), Janet Cary (),
Mary Hanson (), or Pastor Miller (978-448-2091)

Join Us!



Christian Education Committee

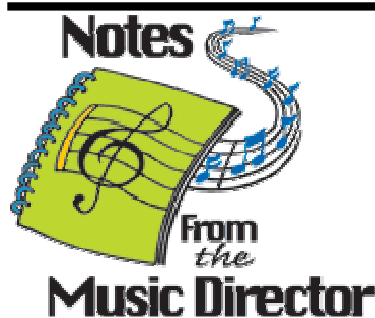
—Anne Cahill, Chair
—Anne Larsen

—Jean Armstrong

—Kelli Hnath

—Diane Landry

Music

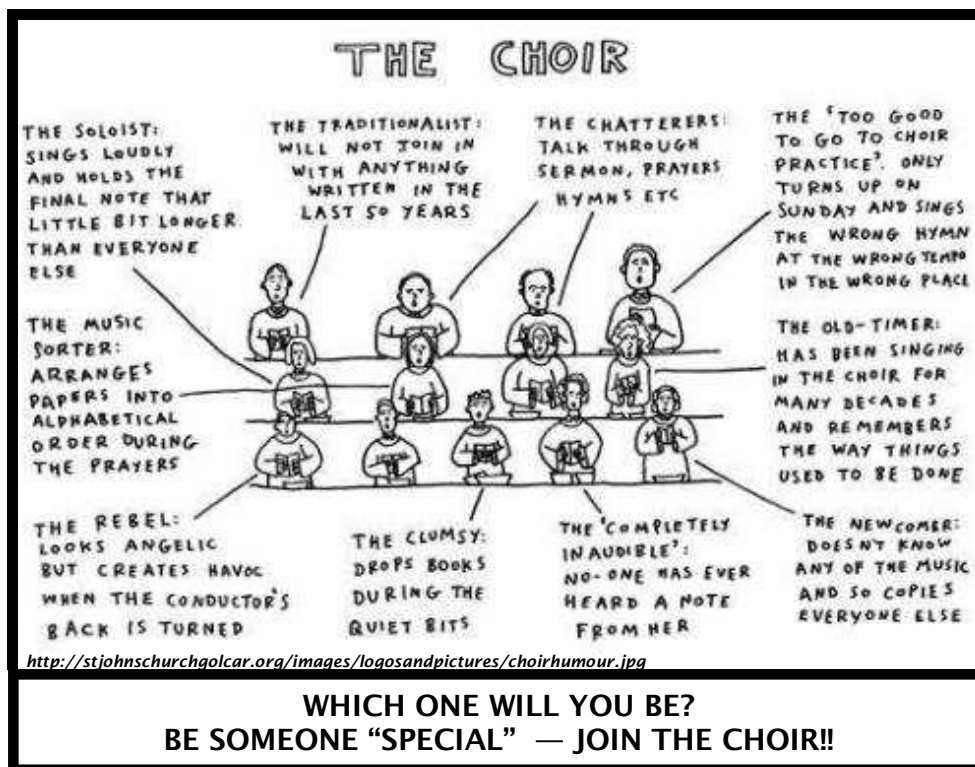


All kidding aside; we begin again, with joy — sharing the amazing, wonderful, awesome experience of combining our voices and worshipping God through music!

First rehearsal for the Adult Choir is Thursday evening, September 10 – 7:30 p.m.

Junior Choir (grades 3 thru 8) begins rehearsals Sunday, September 13 right after worship in the Sanctuary.

Cherub Choir (up to Grade 2) begins September 13 with rehearsals during the first 15 minutes of Sunday School in the Parish House.



Blessings,
Bernard



Junior Choir

Junior Choir (Bernard Crane, Director)

3rd through 8th Grade

First Rehearsal: September 13
After Worship in the Sanctuary

Junior Choir is a wonderful way for young people to participate regularly in worship. We have many new songs and old favorites scheduled. Come join us! Contact Bernard with any question (,)



Cherub Choir (Bonnie Marchesani, Director)

Children ages 3 through 2nd Grade

First Rehearsal: September 13
Parish House—during Sunday School

How in the world can summer be over? I hope all the Cherubs had a wonderful one!

Soon the Cherubs will begin rehearsing, but it will look a bit different this year! When you come to the Parish House for Sunday School we will spend the first few minutes learning new songs (and playing instruments I collected this summer!).

After we meet for about 15 minutes, you will then go to your Sunday School class. This way you will be able to enjoy a drink and snacks with your parents after church during Fellowship Hour.

Congratulations to those moving up to Junior Choir—Mr. Crane is going to be blessed to have you in his choir! Feel free to contact me with any questions (or)

—Ms. Bonnie

Missions



234 Barnum Road • Devens, MA
P.O. Box 1 • Ayer, MA 01432
978-772-4627 • www.loavesfishespantry.org

Backpack Drive

Our annual collection of backpacks and supplies for the 2016 summer delivery to Loaves & Fishes begins on Sunday, September 13. During fellowship time following worship, please take an item from the display in the hallway downstairs and return your backpacks or supplies to the stairway where you drop off groceries. The display will be in place through the fall. The local area youth and their families served by Loaves & Fishes are extremely grateful. Thanks to Anne Larsen, who for a number of years has organized the donations and delivered the filled backpacks to Loaves & Fishes.



Sharing Christ – Changing Lives

*For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—
and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)*

Last spring Rev. Miller invited members of **Teen Challenge**, the faith based residential recovery program, to lead us in worship sharing their personal stories and then joining us for lunch. Seeing members of our congregation sit and engage the men in conversation at lunch was unconditional love in action; however, it wasn't a one-way street. After the lunch we received many comments about the positive impact the men had on us by sharing the details of their lives and how God's grace was saving their lives.



We have the opportunity to develop another relationship and make new connections with individuals from **Common Cathedral**, the organization selected to receive the profits from the Harvest Fair, which is an outdoor congregation for the housed and un-housed on Boston Common. Come to the fair and meet Pastor Mary Eton and members of the staff. Can't make the fair? Sign up to spend the night and work with the **City Reach** staff in Boston on November 20.

With the funds from the fair the Common Cathedral staff is making plans to start a Christmas event in December. Stay tuned to learn how you can be a part of this mission project! Visit their webpage to learn more about the organization; commoncathedral.org.

On behalf of the congregation the Missions Committee made the following donations: \$500 to Loaves & Fishes and \$500 to the Groton Community Dinner.

Missions Committee

—Janet Kennedy, Chair
—Julie Platt

—Brenda Barker
—Pete Hnath

—Halsey Platt



What exactly is this Stephen Ministry we've been hearing about?

About a year ago, UCC launched its first Stephen Ministry program. Today we have **seven (7!)** well-trained Stephen Ministers, ready to offer Christian friendship and concerned listening to people in our congregation and community.

Are you, or is someone you know, going through a crisis in life, such as:

- loss of a loved one
- health issues (either their own or those of someone they look after)
- divorce
- losing a job
- facing an "empty nest"

The list is endless!

At times like these it is very important to have someone who cares, someone who is there to listen to you and offer **confidential** Christian support. Let our Stephen Ministers help. If you or someone you know could use some support, speak to Pastor Gail Miller (978-448-2091) or Andrea McDonough, our Stephen Leader ().

Mark Your Calendar—Invitations to Serve this Fall



Serve the Homeless

Outdoor Church (Cambridge)

Monday, October 12 (Columbus Day)

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (approx. times)

Children in upper elementary grades and their families are welcome to join Pastor Miller and Sophia. Meet at church, make sandwiches and assemble sack lunches; then head to Alewife and to Central Square. We walk a route organized by the Outdoor Church (a homeless ministry in Cambridge), handing out lunches, and extending the warmth of God's love. Questions: Gail (978-448-2091)



City Reach

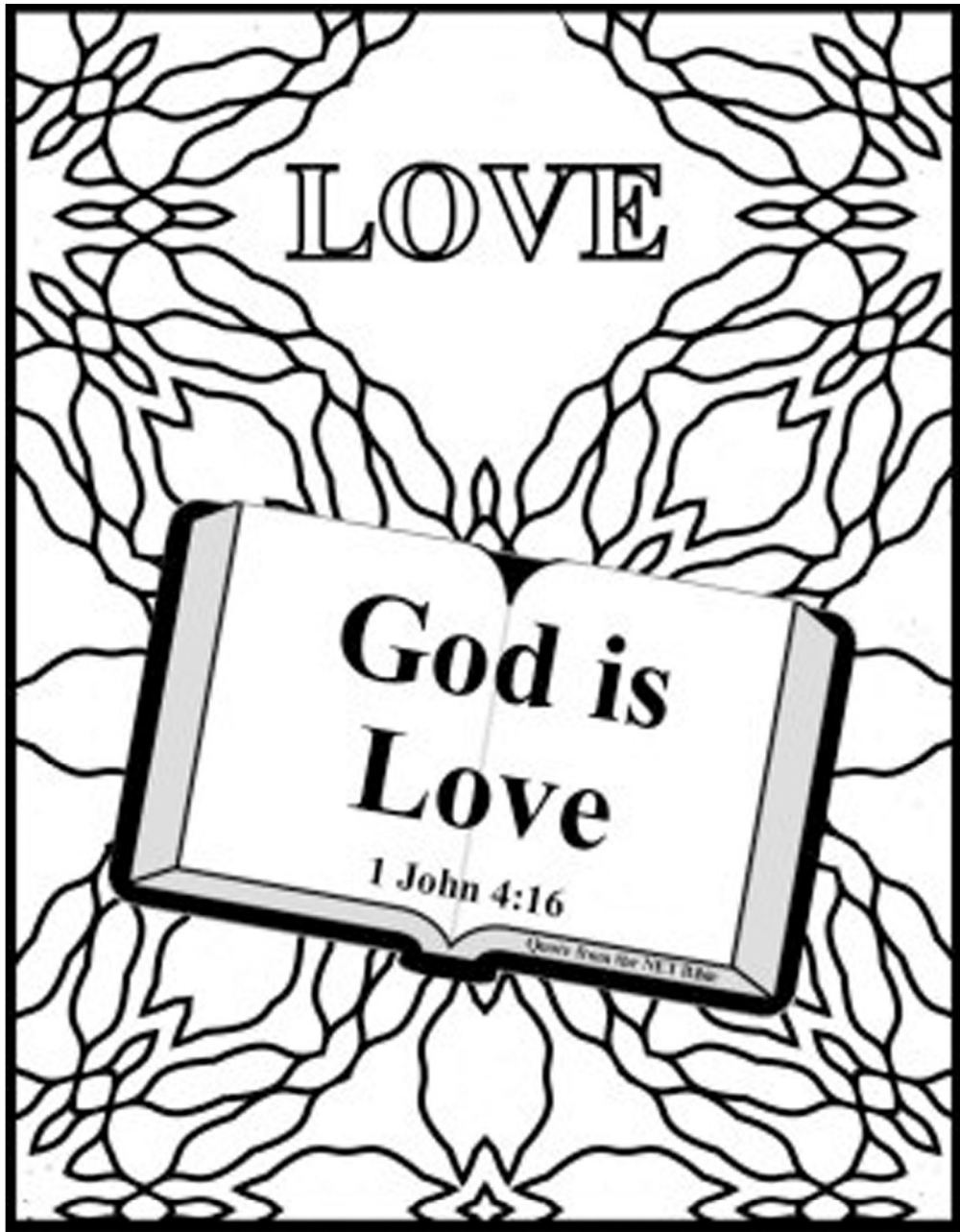
Friday-Saturday, November 20-21

5:00 p.m. Friday—5:00 p.m. Saturday

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/November — look for more information in the October newsletter and bulletin announcements.

Just for Fun—Coloring Page



For more free Bible Coloring Pages visit www.biblecoloring.org

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” - 1 John 4:16

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

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 2:00—5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Carol Zaiatz—Office Administrator

unioncc@uccgroton.org

Tuesday—Friday

8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

(Church Office is closed Saturday—Monday)

Music Director: Bernard Crane

Cherub Choir: Bonnie Marchesani

Handbell Choir: Cheryl Townsend

Church Officers

Moderator: Stefanie Lempp

Treasurer: Dennis Carey

Clerk: Lori McElroy

Collector: Bob Goudey

Internal Auditor: Bruce Wyman

September Deacons

Andrea McDonough/Tim Dumont

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 and give dates/times to Carol so she can input them into the calendar.

Sermons: Copies of Pastor Miller's sermons are available on the website.

Weekly News Email: We now send this email through MailChimp.

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:
Chris Sullivan

Christian Education:
Anne Cahill

Church Council Member-at-Large:
Pat Woods

Diaconate:
Tim Dumont

Endowment:
Mary Hanson

Missions:
Janet Kennedy

Music:
Sheila Mitchell

Pastor Parish Relations:
Bebe Goudey

Stewardship & Finance:
Don Kennedy

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220 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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Welcome to Church!

September 6: Worship at 10:00 a.m. with Communion

Sermon: Jesus said "You are the light of the World"

September 13: Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Sermon: Walking in the Light

Start of Sunday School: (Pre-K through 8th graders)

Registration/Orientation/Lesson: *Peter's Faith*

Junior Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary after Worship and

Cherub Choir Rehearsal during first 15 minutes of Sunday School (see p. 7)

Joyful Fellowship after worship on the front lawn (weather permitting)

Saturday, September 19

UCC Booth at Grotonfest—Helpers Needed (see p. 5)

Saturday, September 20: Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Guest Preacher: The Reverend Mary Eaton, Common Cathedral, Boston

Middle School Ministry (see p. 6)

Saturday, October 3

42th Annual Harvest Fair, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (see p. 4)

EVERY Wednesday: Open Sanctuary, 7:30—8:15 p.m. An opportunity for a peaceful moment in the quiet of our Sanctuary. All are welcome!