

# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## June 2016



### ALL ARE WELCOME

We say this all the time at church. I say it every month at Communion as well. And we mean it! It's just that, to be honest, not everyone is ACTUALLY welcomed; because not everyone can get in, get up, come forward.... We issue the invitation, but still there are very real barriers to participation for many who come to church week after week.

The Building Project has as its primary objective to provide a building that is welcoming and hospitable to ALL people. And so it will include an elevator for access to all levels of the building. It will be one building so that our children do not need to go outside to get to Sunday School. The building will communicate, "You want to be here!" as well as "Christ's love is for ALL people!"

There are many moving parts to the project... there is the Church building and the addition off the back, there is the Parish House, and there is parking. We have resurrected plans that were drawn up by Ross and Associates in 2001 for parking along Willowdale Road, and are engaging with them and our architects to explore possibilities there.

Every week, it seems, I hear the words, "That's why we need a new building," coming out of my mouth! Yesterday doesn't seem soon enough to resolve our accessibility issues! And so while I am constantly praying for guidance, I am also praying for patience!

In the meantime... we do our best with what we have; and I am grateful for the gifts, skills and patience of so many of you who help us "do the best we can." This last month, in particular, I am grateful to Tom Hanson for helping bring about the "Lower Sanctuary" for those who do not want to climb the stairs on Sunday morning.

We are now providing a live feed of worship to a large screen TV by the Prayer Wall, complete with comfortable chairs with arms, large-print bulletins (including hymns and scripture — thank you Carol!), and a Deacon to serve communion and collect the offering. (We'll explore moving this into the Parlor when Sunday School finishes at the end of June.)

We are also uploading an mp3 recording of the scripture and sermon to our website immediately following worship for those who may have missed worship, or were teaching Sunday School, or who may want to share it with someone.

These are both small things, that are really big things...making it easier for people to engage with our church, participate in our life together, hear the Word, and receive the blessings of Christian fellowship.

The church at its best!!!!  
How blessed I am to serve with you,

*Gail*





# Our Church Family



## Ongoing Prayer List—Refreshed as of June 1

In order to keep our prayer list current and relevant, we have refreshed the list. Names added in May remain, and any other names requested to remain are here. As always, if you would like other names added, 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)). Thank you.

Anna Biocchi  
Sheila Craigen  
Eva Facchini

Edie Garvey  
Harold Gould

Liz Lienhard  
Alex Martin

Joe Swales  
The Vincent Family



- Janice Owen and her family, in the recent death of her nephew, Eddie Williams.
- Jennifer Luth, recovering from a concussion.
- Townsend family: Mitchell recovering from mononucleosis; Nathan recovering from a broken collar bone; and Bill recently hospitalized with what (thankfully) turned out to be a minor heart issue.
- Robinson Family, moving to Colorado this month.



Thank you to my church family for all your cards, well wishes, prayers, visits, and delicious meals from the Faith Ringers following my recent hip replacement surgery. I am most grateful.

—Ellen Hargraves

## June Birthdays

Bill Gale, Sr.	06/01	Sammi Smith	06/11	Liz Smith	06/21
Liam Clinton	06/01	Jacob Elibero	06/11	Carol Zaiatz	06/24
Gerry Cahill	06/05	Grant Howard	06/12	Alison Houde	06/24
Barbara Avey	06/07	Amy Nickerson	06/13	Cailidh Houde	06/24
Jillian Van Pelt	06/08	Gregory Poser	06/13	Kim Burgess	06/25
Doris Barreiro	06/09	Kathy Bates	06/14	Ruth Silva	06/25
Caroline Cocossa	06/09	Mary Cocossa	06/18	Isabella Meehan	06/27
Peg Elwood	06/09	Bianca Greenan	06/19	Bill Semienko	06/28
Hayley Cahill	06/10	Daniel De Binder	06/21	Edward Stratton	06/28

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?

## 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! Year-to-date total is \$728.



## 2016 Graduates

Have you or your son/daughter just graduated from High School/College/Graduate School? If so, we would love to include this in our summer newsletter, which comes out in July. If you would like to be included, please send Carol Zaiatz ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) the following information:

- Name of student
- Graduating from (high school or college/university name & degree)
- What's next? (high school grads: college, technical school, military service, work, adventure?) (college grads: work, military service, grad school, adventure?) (graduate school grads: work, military service, more school, adventure?)

We are eager to share this milestone in your life with the whole church. Thank you.

# Church News

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## Volunteers Needed Are you comfortable with computers?

We are adding lots of exciting features to the website; and one of them is a recording of the sermon. This will be great for Sunday School teachers that miss the sermon or if you are home sick or out of town. In order to do this, we would like a small team of people who are comfortable using a computer to upload the recording each Sunday after worship. *If this sounds like you and you are curious about the process, please contact Mary Hanson ( ).*

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## Church Council

## May 26 Meeting Summary

Most of the meeting was a Building Project update (the same presentation that was made following worship on May 22).

The budget is tracking as projected; more details will be given at the Stated Meeting on June 12.

Other items that will be updated at the Stated Meeting include FaST Team, Endowments, and this year's Harvest Fair.

The live feed of the worship service to the Fellowship Hall is working well and appreciated.

June 5<sup>th</sup> marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reverend Gail serving as our Pastor.

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## Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, June 12, after worship

Please join us at this all-church meeting in the sanctuary after worship. We will update the Committee Roster and hear reports from Finance and FaST (Building Project). All are invited. See or email Stefanie Lempp ( ) if you have any questions.

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**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 Wednesday, June 15; and remember to include anything that needs to be known for early September.

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## Summer Fun! You Are Invited!

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**Wednesday, July 13**

**At the Sunset Tiki Bar & Grill at Nashoba Valley**

**4:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Families, kids, adults of all ages are invited to hang out, play in the sand and water, have dinner.... Look for Pastor Miller and Sophia.

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# Church News—Summer



**Worship  
Schedule  
for the  
Summer**

## Summer Worship starts on Sunday, June 19 Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion (first Sunday of the month) will be by "intinction." Worship is at a more relaxed pace, with a shorter (45 minute) service. Keeping worship at 10:00 a.m. allows people to be less rushed getting to church on Sunday mornings. ***When you are not away on vacation, we hope you will continue to worship with us during the summer months!***



## Something for the Children

This summer our Nursery Attendant, Molly Hutchins, will lead/supervise an activity for children in the Fellowship Hall during worship each week.



## Summer Musicians

## Summer Musicians Needed!

We begin our Summer Music Schedule on June 19, and so we are looking for musicians from the congregation to provide music for each of the 12 weeks of summer.

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 at some point.

## Summer Coffee Hour

Summer Coffee Hour begins June 19. With the warmer weather, we'll switch to a relaxed mode: 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 while the children play in the front yard. Join us! Helpers are needed — you can bring fruit, cheese or snacks of any kind. Thank you! *Questions? See Joel Hughes, Janet Carey, Irene Katrouba, Mark Rzeznikiewicz, Ruth Silva, or Sara Zambuto.*

## Altar Flowers for the Summer

This summer we would like to have flowers from your gardens on the altar. We will pause our normal altar flower delivery from *The Country Florist* from June 19 through Labor Day. We have an assortment of vases available in the kitchen, if you'd like to make your arrangement here. *Please sign-up on the Flower Chart in the hallway downstairs at church.* Thank you!



***Greeters, Ushers  
and Readers  
Needed***

We are always in need of Greeters, Ushers and a Reader each Sunday; and during the summer months, with people away on vacation, we need your help in filling these spots each week. If you are interested in serving on a Sunday morning, please contact **Ellen Hargraves ( ) to be a Greeter or Usher, and Steve Legge ( ) to be a**

**Reader.** And if (after volunteering) your schedule changes (even at the last minute) and you can't make it, just let us know. Remember, summer worship is more relaxed and we welcome whatever help you can give!

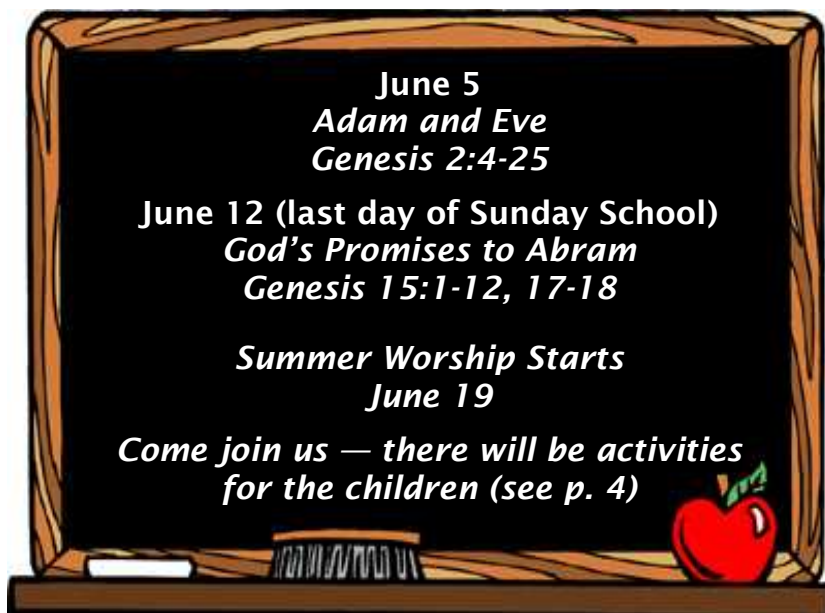


## Church Office — Summer Hours

Carol's summer hours will start June 21. She will work Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. **The office is closed on Mondays.**



# Sunday School / Bible Study / Spring Fair



## Teacher Appreciation Sunday

June 12 During Worship

For 2015-2016, 22 people volunteered their time to make our School classes possible. Some have consistently taught for multiple years, while others taught or helped for the first time. Together, they taught approximately 140 classes to approximately 40 children during the course of the year! On **June 12**, we will acknowledge our Sunday School Teachers in worship. What a wonderful way to share the Word of God with our children!

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### Christian Education Committee

—Anne Cahill, Chair

—Jean Armstrong

—Kelli Hnath

—Krista Kubick

—Diane Landry

—Anne Larsen

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## Bible Study

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

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

The last unit of *Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings* examines four special commemorations: Passover, the Feast of the Weeks, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Booths. Reading scripture from Exodus and Leviticus we'll learn what makes these commemorations so important. Join us as we read and discuss the lesson together. Study materials are provided. *Contact: Janet Kennedy*

### Thursday Morning Bible Study (Last Day June 2)

We will break for the summer and then return in the fall. Hope you can join us then! *Contact: Marvin Caldwell*

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## Spring Fair Thank You!

### Spring Fair April 30 — Thank you!

Our Spring Fair was held on April 30 and had a profit of \$1,090. Thank you to Tom Hanson and John Biocchi, who helped with Wednesday night set-up; and Tom Hanson, Mark Rzeznikiewicz, and Tony DiCenzo, who helped rebuild on Saturday. Thanks to those who helped Joel Hughes in the kitchen and those who prepared food to sell both for the kitchen and the bake table, as well as those of you who helped distribute the fliers. We also appreciated the new items that were added to the church craft table.

# Harvest Fair — October 1

## Harvest Fair



What will it look like this year? How can we transition our fair to align with our vision statement of creating the foundation for families, learning about Jesus, and living our faith beyond our walls? We've been growing into this vision for some time, with youth group meetings, book groups, a new website, mission trips and lots of ways to help in mission in church, as well as outside it. It's a very exciting time to be a part of our church!

In order to focus more on families, we have decided to move the **Children's clothes into the church itself to be at the heart of the fair in the Parlor!**

Krista Kubick does such a wonderful job of organizing the mountains of clothes she receives. We've also moved the Children's toys that are for sale into the Fellowship Hall.



**Our children's games and activities will be free! Lots of fun things to do without costing our children a penny!** It was suggested that we give the children some way to participate in the giving. We have a few ideas around this but nothing solid. Ideas are welcome!

**We'll have our Common Cathedral friends here** in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall, so they can share their art, as well as keep us focused on what our mission is that day: to raise money for them (because we are living out of the plate we don't need this money). So everything that is spent that day will be a donation to *Common Cathedral*!

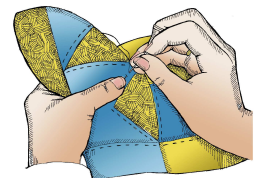


**Music:** We will be having music this year thanks to **Stefanie Lempp and Carl Prestia**. They will be organizing a schedule of musical offerings throughout the day in the Sanctuary. If you have some talent to share, let them know! It will be a great way to introduce the community to our church.

**Chili Cook-off:** **Bebe and Bob Goudey** have graciously offered to lead this endeavor. They are looking for some good chili makers and, if you think your favorite recipe qualifies, talk to them. It's shaping up to be quite a competition!



**Harvest:** We are looking for a **few produce vendors who might like to sell their goods** at our Harvest Fair. It will be nice to be able shop for some locally grown food in our own church fair. Any favorite farmers come to mind?



**Crafts:** We will have **crafts by Lori McElroy, Lois Berg, Bonnie Martin and her sister Beth**. They will be located in the Fellowship Hall. Lots of quality handmade items that you can't find in stores!



**Silent Auction:** **Liz Brennen** will be heading up the Silent Auction again this year and she always has wonderful items to offer!

**Food:** Beyond the Chili Cook-off, we will have a **bake table**, the kitchen with a **wonderful lunch and outside a pizza oven**. So many choices for food! Thank you to **Joel Hughes, Mark Rzeznikiewicz, and Halsey Platt** for leading up these delicious locations.

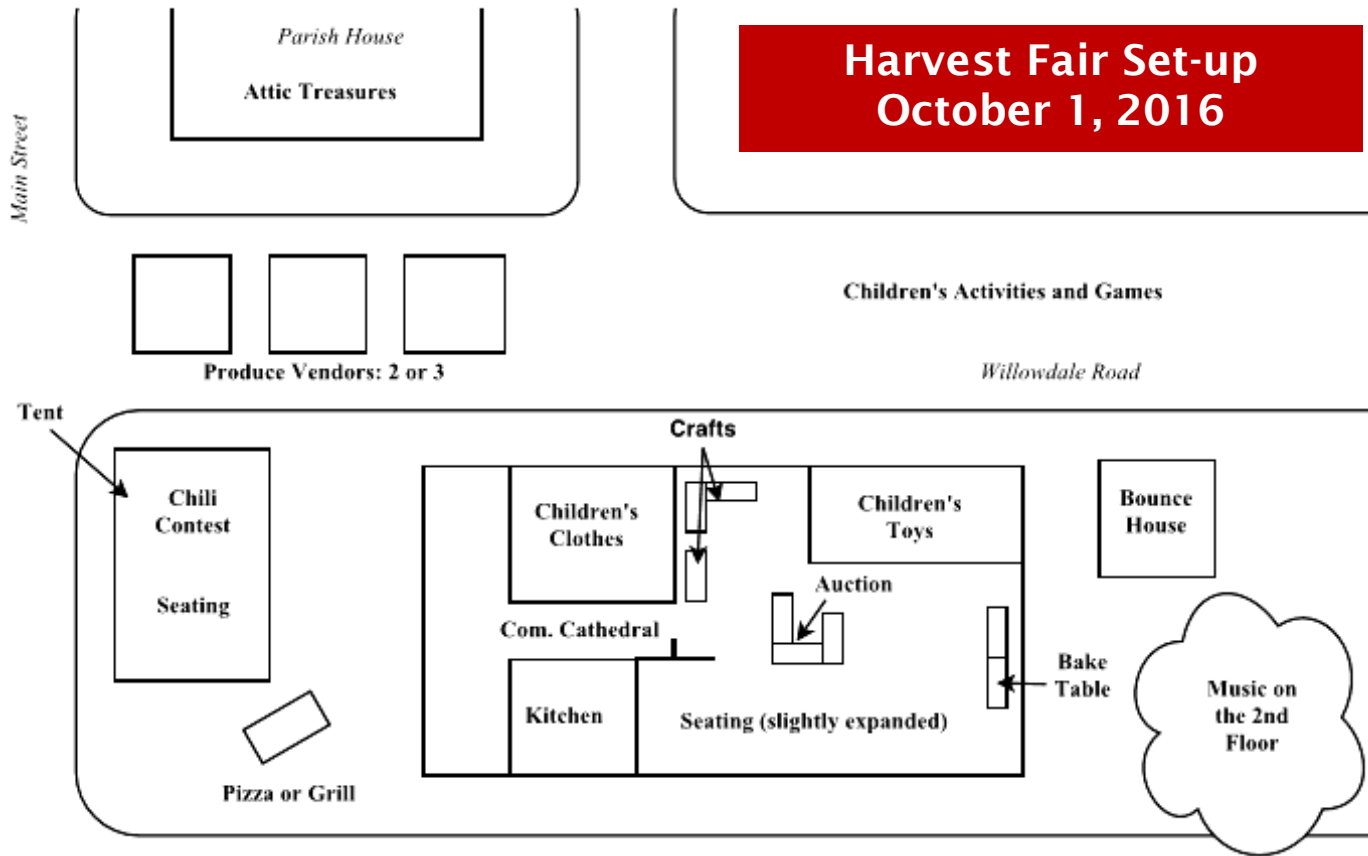


There are so many new things to offer and lots of ways you can be a part of it. Please contact any one of the area leaders with suggestions or offers to help or contact Mary Hanson at [mary.hanson@monotype.com](mailto:mary.hanson@monotype.com)

*(For a diagram of the set-up for the Harvest Fair this year — see the next page.)*

# Harvest Fair Set-up

# Youth Mission Trip



## Youth Mission Trip



June 26—July 3  
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

Taylor Ansted  
Arianna Boucher  
Matt Carey  
Ryan Carey  
Mary Cocossa  
Taryn Emerle

Jack Foster  
Emily Hanson  
Jason Hnath  
Kristina Hnath  
Robert Houde  
Jack Horsman

MacKenzie Luth  
Katie Milano  
Alex Platt  
Kaylyn Sampson  
Sammi Smith  
Sophia Smith

Nathan Townsend  
Lauren Weilbrenner  
Maggie Wickham  
Olivia Wirta  
Bryce York  
Billy Zhao

**Advisors:** Gail Miller, Mary and Tom Hanson, Pete Hnath, Stefanie Lempp, Halsey Platt

### Important Mission Trip Dates

**Sunday, June 5** 4:30 Mission Trip Meeting (kids only)  
5:45 Family Dinner (note: all forms are due)

**Sunday, June 26** 10:00 a.m. Worship — Commissioning Prayer in Church and Departure  
All are invited to "pray us off" and wave goodbye!

# Missions

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## ***Common Cathedral***

The opportunity to take and serve lunch at *Common Cathedral's Outdoor Ministry* in Boston on May 8 was a blessed way to spend Mother's Day. The guests we met and worshiped with were thankful for the delicious lunch and our presence. A big thank you to all who shopped for lunch supplies, helped in the preparation of lunch or served guests in Boston. We had over 35 members of our congregation participate in this ministry. What an important ministry to serve others in Christ's name.

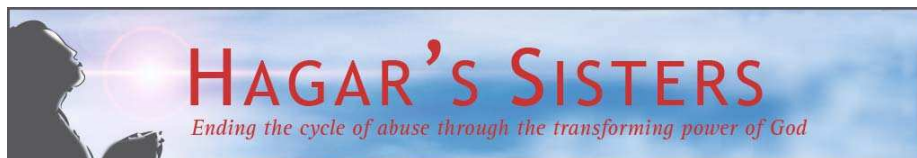


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## **Youth Mission Trip**

Our youth will be travelling to Queens, New York, on June 26 to serve a community there. This is the seventh consecutive Youth Mission Trip that we have lead, and this year we are making a big transition to include the next generation of our youth by dropping the age range to include sixth graders.

The Missions Committee has allocated \$6,175 to this ministry, which will cover the trip cost of the (6) adult leaders and \$100 of the cost for each of the (24) kids.



On Thursday, June 16, three members of your Missions Committee will be serving at a Volunteer Appreciation Event for *Hagar's Sisters*, one of our newer ministries. This organization's goal is to *end the cycle of abuse through the transforming power of God*. *Hagar's Sisters* offers services that empower women to find healing, a new healthy way of life for her and her children that is free from abuse, and a deeper relationship with God. Our serving at the upcoming event will be a good start for us to get more involved with *Hagar's Sisters*, so that we can continue building our relationship with them. This organization fulfills everything that we look for in a ministry: it is Christ centered, it changes lives and is local (Acton) so that we are able to serve in hands-on ways.

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### **Missions Committee**

—Julie Platt, Chair  
—Pete Hnath

—Brenda Barker  
—Lynn Manalo

—Halsey Platt



# Just So You Know

## Union Congregational Church

### United Church of Christ

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450  
978-448-2091

[www.uccgroton.org](http://www.uccgroton.org)

### The Reverend Gail Miller

Cell phone: 978-877-2177

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

Tuesday—Friday

8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

*(Church Office is closed Saturday—Monday)*

### *Summer Hours Start June 21*

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

*(Church Office is closed Saturday—Monday)*

Music Director: Bernard Crane

Cherub Choir: Bonnie Marchesani

Handbell Choir: Cheryl Townsend

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

**Weekly News Email:** This is sent out Friday afternoon through MailChimp.

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

## Committee/Ministry Contacts

### Buildings & Grounds:

John Brooks

Barb Lefebvre

### Christian Education:

Anne Cahill

### Church Council Member-at-Large:

Pat Woods

### Diaconate:

Greg Balligan

Steve Legge

### Endowment:

Mary Hanson

### FaST:

Tim Dumont

### Kitchen Ministry:

Joel Hughes

### GPS:

Stefanie Lempp

### Missions:

Julie Platt

### Pastor Parish Relations:

Bebe Goudey

### Stewardship & Finance:

Liz McQuillin

### Technology Ministry

Mike Smith

Mary Hanson (webmaster)

## Church Officers

Moderator: Stefanie Lempp

Treasurer: Dennis Carey

Clerk: Lori McElroy

Collector: Bob Goudey

Internal Auditor: Bruce Wyman

**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.

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## **June Highlights**

### **Sunday, June 5**

Worship and Holy Communion

11:30—Feedback Circle on Worship in the Church Parlor

4:30 p.m. Queens Mission Trip Meeting (kids only)

5:45 p.m. Mission Trip Family Dinner

### **Sunday, June 12**

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

Annual Stated Meeting after worship (see p. 3)



### **Sunday, June 19 10:00 a.m. (Happy Father's Day)**

#### **Summer Worship Begins!**

Children's Activities with Molly in Fellowship Hall (see p. 4)

### **Sunday, June 26**

Commissioning Prayer for Mission Trip participants

Mission Trip departs — join us to say good-bye!

### **Sunday, July 3** Mission Trip participants return!