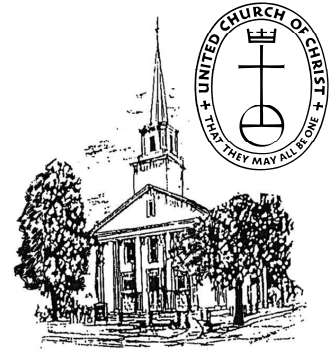


THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



November 2016



Becoming a Generous Church! Join the Conversation!

As you know, all proceeds from the Harvest Fair this year went to *Common Cathedral*, an **outdoor church for people experiencing homelessness and their friends**. The Missions Committee chose *Common Cathedral* as the beneficiary of these proceeds in order to further our church's relationship with this ministry.

A little history on how we got to this: 2015 was the first year we, as a church, were blessed to be able to direct Harvest Fair proceeds to something other than our own operating budget. This was a goal we had been moving toward for some time, and we were relieved to have the burden of having to meet an income item in the budget lifted! In January 2016, after inviting the congregation to participate in a discussion about how to direct the profits of the 2016 Fair, the Church Council decided that the profits from the Fair should again go toward a particular mission, and that the recipient would be decided by the Missions Committee (who chose *Common Cathedral*).

Some of the reasons for directing 100% of Harvest Fair profits to a mission are:

- To reflect to our immediate community (Groton) who we are as a church, that is, a church that looks to serve beyond its walls;
- To further our mission, "Sharing Christ, Changing Lives";
- To model the love of Christ by being outwardly generous;
- To engage with a "mission partner" in a way that builds upon an existing relationship;
- Since our "pledged" missions giving is only 5% of our church's income, having this fundraiser serve in mission gives us an opportunity to increase our giving beyond our walls;
- To bring new enthusiasm to both Fair volunteers and community members spending their money at the Fair.

Once again, we are inviting you to join the Church Council to discuss how we might direct the profits of the 2017 Harvest Fair. Please join us on November 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall so we can hear your thoughts! Please contact Stefanie Lempp () or Gail Miller (gail@uccgroton.org) for more information or if you are unable to attend.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Stefanie Lempp, Moderator



Our Church Family/B&G



Ongoing Prayer List: 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.

Norm Boucher
Rosemarie Bradley
Sally Mayo DeWinkleer

Evo Facchini
Harold Gould
Liz Lienhard

Debbie Sampson
Rudi Schmid
Joe Swales

Liz Waggoner
Shirley Wishart



- Bert Tompkins, at home after a stay at Lifecare in Littleton.
- Edward Wall, Connie Wall-Haas' brother, hospitalized in Utah with a serious health issue.
- All those affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Confidential Prayer Chain

Need prayer and need it now? Share your concern with the Confidential Prayer Chain. Email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call Lori McElroy () and she will put your prayer request in motion. 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.)

November Birthdays

Lisa Hitsos	11/02	Halsey Platt	11/10	Bryce June	11/21
Makayla Hughes	11/02	Jacqueline Gervais	11/11	Robert Rosenfeld	11/22
Caroline Caiozzo	11/03	Erica Davenport	11/12	Sally Waite	11/22
Karen Sjoberg	11/04	Samuel Landry	11/13	Anna Moon	11/23
Hailey Sullivan	11/05	Bob Brown	11/16	Izzy Smith	11/24
Nina Morrison	11/06	Heather Houde	11/16	Briana Manalo	11/25
Connie Wall-Haas	11/06	Kim Daly	11/18	Barbara Gale	11/26
Liam Colbert	11/07	Leon Avey	11/19	Diana Mendel	11/30
Krista Kubick	11/08	Kelli Hnath	11/19		

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?

Buildings & Grounds



Church Fall Clean-up Day

Saturday, November 19, 12:00—5:00 p.m.

You are invited! Outdoor clean-up and raking leaves will be our primary job. If you can, please bring a rake and a tarp for the clean-up. Refreshments will be served. Contact John Brooks (). **Thank you!**

Volunteers Needed for Winter Shoveling

Your Buildings & Grounds Committee will be prepared for the upcoming snow, but could use additional help. We'll have shovels, salt, and sand at church — when you finish your driveway, please lend a hand here on Sunday mornings after a storm to clear a sidewalk or two. Contact John Brooks ().



Buildings & Grounds

—John Brooks, Chair
—Bill Gale, Jr.

—Bonnie Biocchi
—Barb Lefebvre

—John Biocchi
—Joe Zambuto

—Ken Lefebvre

Church News

Potential Building Project: Next Steps

We have completed our meetings with the architects and are eager to share the design and layout of the new building. Before our architects come to make a formal presentation to the congregation at large, we'd like to share the drawings with you in more informal conversations at your convenience. Contact anyone on the Facilities Steering Team to set-up a time to see and learn about the project. *Pete Hnath*

(), *Julie Platt* (), *Stefanie Lempp* (), *Tim Dumont* (), *Bernard Crane* (), *Gail Miller* (gail@uccgroton.org).

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 20, in the Sanctuary (after Worship)

Copies of the proposed Preliminary 2017 Budget will be available in the Sanctuary and the Church Office beginning November 6. Then on November 20, after worship, all are invited to a meeting at which the membership will approve a Preliminary Budget for 2017 to be finalized in February). Questions may be directed to our Treasurer, *Dennis Carey* (), *Liz McQuillin*, Stewardship & Finance (), Moderator *Stefanie Lempp* (), or Reverend *Gail Miller*.



Decorate the Sanctuary

Saturday, November 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Start the season with the Deacons for the annual decorating of the church Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Bring the whole family for a festive morning of beautifying the church. There will be treats, hot cocoa, and coffee available. Everyone is welcome—please join us!

Church Council Meetings

September 29

Rev. Gail will be attending a preaching conference in Minneapolis October 2-6.

The preliminary budget was reviewed by Church Council and will be presented to the congregation on November 20.

We are looking into an online photo directory (see Mary Hanson or Holly Haase for more information).

Buildings & Grounds will be going before the town's Historic Districts Commission on October 18 regarding the vent for the new kitchen hood fan.

The Feedback Circle on the subject of Stewardship has been postponed until after the new year.

October 19 (Budget)

We received and discussed the first draft of the 2017 Preliminary Budget prepared by the Finance Committee. It will be available in church on Sunday, November 6; and will be presented to the congregation for approval on November 20.

October 26 Meeting

The 2017 budget will be available on Sunday, November 6, in preparation of the Congregational Meeting on November 20.

The Church Council will decide how to spend the \$1,814 in the Birthday Fund soon. If you have suggestions for its use, please contact any name listed on page 7.

There will be a discussion on where to direct the proceeds from the 2017 Harvest Fair on Wednesday, November 16 from 7:30-8:15 in the Fellowship Hall (see page 1 for more information). If you cannot attend, but have thoughts on this subject, please contact Rev. Gail (gail@uccgroton.org) or Stefanie Lempp (stefanie.lempp@msn.com).

Thank you to the Detwillers for donating a new-to-us sofa and chair for the Parlor.

Committees/Christian Education/Mission Trip



Serving on Committees and Ministries

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting in early 2017 (when the “turnover” of committee members occurs), The Church Council invites you to let us know your interest in serving on Committees and Ministries. *Committee* positions require formal membership in the church and *Ministry* positions allow for anyone to serve. The current Committee/Ministry Roster can be found inside the Church Directory (available on the back tables in the Sanctuary).

Feel free to approach Stefanie Lempp (Moderator) or Pastor Miller with your questions or to express an interest in a particular Committee or Ministry.

Bible Study

Wednesday Evening

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

Join us as we begin *Toward a New Creation*, studying scripture from the minor prophet Zephaniah outlining the consequences of disobedience to God. God intervenes to provide hope. No prior experience needed. All are welcome. *Contact: Janet Kennedy*

Thursday Morning Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

We are exploring the Gospel according to Matthew. November 3 and 10 we will meet in the Church Parlor under the guidance of Rev. Skip Lloyd. **We return to Marvin's home (26 Court Street) November 17.**
Contact: Marvin Caldwell ()

Sunday School Schedule

November 6—All Saints Sunday
The Sadducees' Question Luke 20:27-38

November 13—*God's Love is Forever*
Luke 21:5-19

November 20—Pledge Sunday
The Day Jesus Died Luke 23:33-43

November 27—Carols and Crafts (Advent 1)
Fellowship Hall

Christian Education Committee

—Anne Cahill, Chair
—Krista Kubick

—Jean Armstrong
—Diane Landry

—Kelli Hnath
—Anne Larsen

Youth Mission Trip 2017



June 25 - July 2

Rutland, Vermont

Middle and High School Youth

We invite kids (in grade 6 THIS year and up) to serve in mission in Rutland, VT. We will clean/repair homes, work in thrift shops/soup kitchens, lead a kids camp.... And through our serving we will share Christ's love and grow in our own knowledge and love for the Lord. While we will travel and serve as one youth group, we will split into small groups for our evening youth group time. After serving in mission, we will spend the weekend at a lovely retreat house in Bennington VT. Cost to families is \$300/youth (scholarship available — see Gail). We are excited to offer this opportunity to so many in our church. **Your payment (\$300 --> UCC, memo: Youth Mission 2017) secures your child's spot.** Questions? Seek out Stefanie Lempp, Halsey Platt, Pete Hnath. Tom and Mary Hanson, or Gail Miller.

Missions



Harvest Fair

A big Thank You goes out to all who participated in the Harvest Fair. Despite the weather, the fair was a success, thanks to many of you! Our combined efforts raised \$6,500 for our friends at *Common Cathedral* to help support their ministry in Boston. To see the "thank you's" for the Silent Auction sent to local newspapers by Liz Brennan, please visit our website at www.uccgroton.org (Serving/In Missions/ Harvest Fair).



On Sunday, November 6, the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Loaves & Fishes will take place. Please help make the holiday feast a memorable one for local families. See the list below for most-needed Thanksgiving items.

Supermarket Gift Cards (\$15 & \$20)
Stuffing Mix
Turkey or Chicken Gravy
Turkey or Chicken Broth
Cranberry Sauce
Holiday Snacks (Fancy crackers, nuts, candy)

Olives & Pickles
Canned Yams
Canned Pumpkin
Canned vegetables
Coffee/Tea/Cocoa
Juice

Turkeys (over 14lbs.), hams (3 lbs, 5 lbs and larger), and frozen fruit pies are *needed also; but these items need to be dropped off at Loaves & Fishes during open pantry or food collection hours. Check out there website (www.loavesfishespantry.org) for more information.*

Please bring your donations into the Sanctuary, as we'll bring them forward during the service.



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

CityReach – Invitation to Serve & Donation Request

CityReach in Boston will take place on **November 18 – 19, 5:00 p.m. Friday – 5:00 p.m. Saturday.**

At this overnight event, we will sort donations, prepare a meal, visit with the homeless and tour the city with our hosts (homeless and former homeless who serve as *CityReach* staff). This is a meaningful opportunity to learn, serve, and grow in our understanding of poverty, homelessness and the Gospel of Christ's love. Suggested donation: \$45/person

Donations are requested as well. The most needed items are: sweaters, sweatshirts, winter jackets, new socks, travel-size toiletries, sturdy walking shoes, sneakers and boots. Please leave them in the Fellowship Hall by the Prayer Wall.

Questions: Pete Hnath ()
Reserve your spot via email to Gail Miller (gail@uccgroton.org)

Middle School Youth Upcoming Christmas Season



Middle School Ministry and Family Dinner

Sunday, November 20

6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

There will also be information about the upcoming 2017 Summer Mission Trip. See you there! Questions? Contact Pastor Miller (gail@uccgroton.org)

Journey to Bethlehem

Friday, December 2, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Faith Evangelical Free Church in Acton
(54 Hosmer Street)**

Meet at the church in Acton at 6:45 p.m.

Join Pastor Miller and her family on this adventure, which takes you back to biblical times and reenacts the journey a family would have taken to Bethlehem to be counted in the census as Mary and Joseph were. It's not a show, it's a journey that winds through the grounds of the church and can't be described with words. (visit the church's website to learn more and see photos www.faithevfree.org/nativity.html). This is



Upcoming Christmas Season



Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve

Rehearsals:

Sunday, 12/4 (after worship)

Saturday, 12/17 (9:00-11:00 a.m.)

Performance at the 5:00 p.m. Worship Service

This year we will expand our Christmas Eve "drama" into more of a traditional "pageant." Our own Kathleen McKenzie has written a short play for our Sunday School kids to perform at the 5:00 p.m. service. It

will be put together in two rehearsals in December, and will involve as many kids as want to participate!

Sign-up at church beginning Sunday, November 13, or email Kathleen McKenzie directly at kmckenzie@hudson.k12.ma.us

All Church Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18

12:00—2:00 p.m.

We will gather at church to warm up. Then we'll visit people from the church who would appreciate a personal visit and the warmth of God's love shared in song. (It's Cookies 'n' Carols without the cookies!)



"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"



Groton Community Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 11
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

**Monday, December 12
7:30 p.m.**

Come and enjoy the 42st Annual Groton Community Christmas Concert. There will be wonderful music of the season, sung by children and adults from Groton and 11 surrounding communities; Edie Tompkins, Director. This concert is held in our Sanctuary and is free (though donations will be accepted at the door).

Just So You Know

Committee/Ministry Contacts	
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 <u>Office Hours</u> Tuesday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Carol Zaiatz—Office Administrator unioncc@uccgroton.org Tuesday—Friday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. <i>(Church Office is closed Saturday—Monday)</i> Music Director: Bernard Crane Cherub Choir: Bonnie Marchesani Handbell Choir: Cheryl Townsend	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: Pete Hnath 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	

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

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November Highlights

Sunday November 6—All Saints Sunday (Daylight Savings Begins)

- ◆ Holy Communion
- ◆ We name out loud those who have died in the past year.
- ◆ Senior Choir
- ◆ Service of Farewell (Tim Dumont who has moved to NH)

Sunday, November 13—Pledge Sunday

- ◆ We bring our Pledges forward in worship as an offering to God
- ◆ Senior Choir
- ◆ Confirmation Class/Mentor's Dinner at 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 18—Saturday, November 19 ***CityReach* Overnight**

Saturday, November 19—Fall Cleanup 12:00—5:00 p.m.

November 20—Christ the King Sunday

- ◆ Senior and Handbell Choirs
- ◆ Special Congregational Meeting after Worship (see p. 3)
- ◆ Middle School Youth/Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 26—Decorate the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 27—First Sunday of Advent (Thanksgiving weekend)



Annual
Stewardship
Campaign