

THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



March 2017



We have just begun the season of Lent in the church. The word *Lent* comes from the Old English word *Lencten*, because in this season the days *lengthen* and we begin to see the goodness that emerges from the darkness of winter. The ground thaws, from which new life will spring forth in the days and weeks to come.

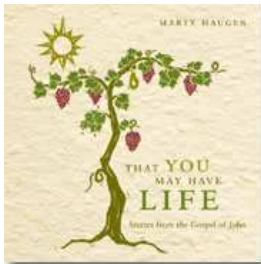
This stretching of daylight is also a metaphor for our spiritual lives, and so the church also has developed habits and practices to invite us to grow in our faith. This year, we will gather **every Wednesday evening for five weeks to worship and learn.**

Feel free to come for worship only, book group only, or both. And you don't need to be at all the Wednesdays to participate—come as you are able.

With you on the journey,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail".

Five Wednesdays beginning March 8. . . In the Parlor



Prayer Service

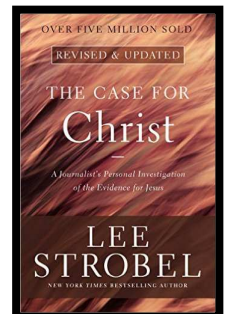
7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This half-hour worship service focuses on God's promise in Christ: *That You May Have Life*. The service is mostly sung (similar to the *Holden Evening Prayer* we did on January 1st), and includes prayers, scripture, and simple hymns.

Book Discussion (7:30 - 9:00 p.m.)

The Case for Christ, by Lee Strobel

This book examines Jesus from the perspective of an investigative journalist, considering the skeptics' view and asking the hard questions about who he was and what the Bible says about him. We'll begin our time with a 15 minute teaching video and then discuss the suggested chapters for the night.



Reading Schedule

On this date:	We will discuss:	
March 8	Book: Chapters 1-3	Study Guide: Session 2
15	Book: Chapters 4-6	Study Guide: Session 3
22	Book: Chapters 9 & 10	Study Guide: Session 4
29	Book: Chapters 11-13	Study Guide: Session 5
April 5	Book: Conclusion	Study Guide: Session 6



Our Church Family



Ongoing Prayer List

Kathy Bond
Jack Cornforth
Russ Dalrymple

Harold Gould
Fred Halbritter
Debbie Sampson

Donna Sattler
Rudi Schmid
Liz Waggoner

This list is refreshed twice a year (January and June). If there is a name you would like to put back on this list or if you would like to add a name, please contact Gail Miller or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).



- Ron LaPointe (Jen Luth's father), being treated for pancreatic cancer.
- Dave & Julie Zeiler, in the death of their daughter, Paige.
- The McElroys, who celebrated the marriage of their son, Matthew, to Sara in February.
- The Gracey family, in the death of Priscilla Furgal.
- Anne Cahill, in the sudden death of her sister-in-law, Elaine Hayward, in Florida.
- Susan and Charlie Nelsen in the sudden death of their friend Stacy Schmidt.
- Anne Larsen, in the death of her grandmother, Anna Wood.
- Norman Faunce, at Westford House recovering from a recent fall.

Thank You

Thank you to our 'church family' for the lovely cards we received both for the passing of Mark's father and for Bonnie's surgery. We have also been so appreciative of the delicious meals that have been made and delivered to us. With one hand, Bonnie is rather useless in the kitchen!! We have been so spoiled!!!

Heartfelt thanks...Bonnie and Mark

Charlie returned home on 3/1 and I just wanted to thank everyone for the prayers and cards. Also, a BIG thank you to all those who offered me rides.

Peg Elwood

From the Gracey Family

Dear Rev. Gail:

Our family thanks you for your support and guidance as we remembered Priscilla's [Furgal] wonderful life. We felt that the church was gracious and caring as we held the service; we felt the kinship of gathering in the common space afterwards. We thank you and the church members for helping our family in this time of grief and remembrance.

*Fondly,
Martha and Ian Gracey
Katherine, Becca, and Lizzy*

March Birthdays

Jim Brennan	03/03	Craig Smith	03/18
Jim Daly	03/03	Bill Townsend	03/18
Christina Daly	03/06	Tyler Milner	03/19
Janet Goudey	03/09	Sheila Mitchell	03/21
Kaleb Larsen	03/11	Carl Prestia	03/23
Sophia Smith	03/12	John Brooks	03/26
Leslie Row	03/13	Bob Huguenin	03/26
Emma Nickerson	03/14	Bonnie Biocchi	03/28

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!

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 Council Meeting Summary February 15

The 2017 budget has been balanced. A copy of the balanced 2017 budget is available at the back of the Sanctuary.

The proceeds from the 2017 Harvest Fair will go to a charity that the Missions Committee will choose.

The FaST Team is still showing the Master Plan to small groups; contact a member if you have not seen it. There will be a Special Congregational Meeting to approve the Master Plan; watch for details.

The congregation is reminded that Church Council meetings are open to everyone; if you are bringing a concern, please contact Moderator Stefanie Lempp to be put on the agenda.

Woman's Bathroom Renovation is Finished!

The Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone who made the Winter Carnival/Woman's Bathroom Project a huge success. With tremendous teamwork, energy, and enthusiasm, our church family put in approximately 180 hours over a 2 ½ week period in remodeling the woman's bathroom. Church members funded the entire project (approx. \$5,000) through cash donations and on-line registry purchases and also provided their time and talents, which included organizational, demolition, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, flooring, painting, and cooking skills – the workers were well fed! The project provided wonderful fellowship as we all came together to upgrade our beautiful church building.



Bible Study

Wednesday Evening

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

Contact: Janet Kennedy

Thursday Morning

10:00 a.m.

Contact: Marvin Caldwell

Youth Mission Trip / Sunday School / Spring Craft Fair



Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Church Supper

Sunday Evening, March 26

5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Menu: Pasta and Sauce, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert

Free-will Donations in support of the Youth Mission Trip will be received.

This June, 19 youth and 6 adults will travel to Rutland, Vermont. They will serve the community in a variety of ways: working with children, the elderly, and painting/repairing local homes, while getting to know the people they are serving. Please come support our teens as they grow in faith and in service.



March 5

***The First Sin* Genesis 3:1-24**

March 12

***Abram's Call* Genesis 12:1-9**

March 19

***Woman at the Well* John 4:5-42**

March 26

***Pool of Siloam* John 9:1-41**

April 2

***Lazarus* John 11:1-45**

Christian Education Committee

—Jean Armstrong
—Anne Larsen

—Kelli Hnath
—Bonnie Marchesani

—Krista Kubick
—Carl Prestia



12th Annual Spring Artisan/Craft Fair

Saturday, April 29

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Seeking Volunteers:

Kitchen: Joel Hughes () needs a kitchen crew and cashier, as well as some folk to make muffins and soups.

Bake Table: Snacks and yummy desserts. All donations will be greatly appreciated!

At this time, we have no one to set-up and staff a church craft table, so the space will be rented.

Set-up Help Needed:

Sunday, April 23: After church, break-down the Nursery.

Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m.: Set-up the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 29, starting at 2:30 p.m.: Break-down the fair and rebuild the nursery

Come shop for Mother's Day, birthdays, weddings, yourself! All "Made in America"!

Contact: Bonnie Martin ()

Middle School Youth Group

All 5th—8th graders are invited to fun and fellowship — held in the Fellowship Hall at church.

March 10-12 Winter Retreat, North Conway, NH

Saturday, April 8th 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group Meeting (details tbd)

Sunday, May 21st 6:30p.m. Middle School Families Dinner (details tbd)

Contacts: Jean Armstrong (), Mary Hanson (), Pete Hnath (), or Pastor Miller ()

Holy Week Worship Services



Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Palms will be handed out
Senior and Junior Choirs

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion will be served. Senior Choir will sing with the traditional Tenebrae scripture readings accompanied by the extinguishing of lights symbolizing Christ's death. A beautiful, dramatic worship service.



Good Friday, April 14

We gather to read the biblical account and reflect on Jesus' death.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Family Worship

Senior, Junior, and Cherub Choirs sing; Handbell Choir and Trumpet
Holy Communion will be served.

No Sunday School: Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers.



Do you know someone who doesn't have a church home? Consider inviting them to join you for Easter worship.

Easter Plant Order Form

Please use the order form below to order Easter plants to decorate our Sanctuary — cut on the dotted line and mail with your check as instructed below. Thank you!



2017 Easter Plants Order Form

Easter Sunday is April 16!

FORM DUE BY: Sunday, April 9

Please return this form and a check made out to UCC (memo: Easter Flowers) to the Church Office:

**Carol Zaiatz
Union Congregational Church
220 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450**

For the bulletin insert:

Plant is Given by: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor/Celebration of: _____

Qty. Ordered	Flower	Cost	Total
_____	Double Stem Lily	\$15.00	\$_____
_____	6" Potted Daffodils, Hyacinths or Tulips	\$ 8.00	\$_____
Total Order			\$_____

***You are welcome to take your plant(s) home after worship Easter Sunday (April 16) or plants will be delivered to folk in the church who might appreciate a gift of love.
Please Deliver to:***

(Name) _____

(Address) _____



If you have any further questions, please contact Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org). We appreciate your help decorating the Sanctuary! Thank you very much and may you have a Blessed Easter!



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
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 2:00—5:00 p.m.

Carol Zaiatz—Office Administrator

unioncc@uccgroton.org
Tuesday—Friday: 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
(Church Office is closed Saturday—Monday)

Bernard Crane, Music Director

Bonnie Marchesani, Cherub Choir

Cheryl Townsend, Handbell Choir

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.

Sermons: Audio and/or written copies of Pastor Miller's sermons are available on the website.

Weekly News Email: Weekly email is sent on Fridays through MailChimp. If you would like to be added to this mailing, please contact the Church Office

Name Tags help us become friends. Please wear yours. Sign up on the nametag list on the table in the 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

Christian Education: Kelli Hnath

Church Council Member-at-Large: Pat Woods

Diaconate:
Greg Balligan

Steve Legge

Endowment: Mary Hanson

FaST: Pete Hnath

Kitchen Ministry: Joel Hughes

Missions: Julie Platt

Pastor Parish Relations Committee:
Andrea McDonough

Stewardship & Finance: Liz McQuillin

Technology Ministry:
Mike Smith

Mary Hanson (webmaster)

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March Highlights

Sunday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

Worship and Sunday School

Special Offering: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting (parents join at 7:15 p.m.)

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
SUNDAY, MARCH 12**

Friday, March 10—Sunday, March 12

Middle School Youth Group Winter Retreat (see p. 5)

Sunday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Worship and Sunday School

Special Offering: *One Great Hour of Sharing*



Sunday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Worship and Sunday School

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class and Mentor Dinner

Sunday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Worship and Sunday School

5:30 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner (Mission Trip Fundraiser) (see p. 4)