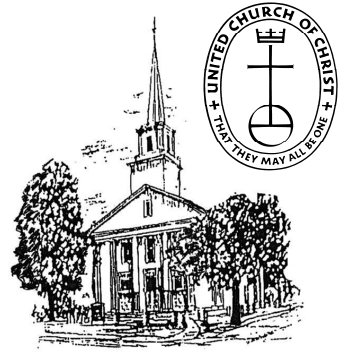


THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



April 2017

FROM THE



PASTOR

What's Up With The Building Project?...A LOT!

While it may seem as if you've not been hearing about the Building Project lately, we have been at work on the next steps. As you may recall, last fall we concluded our work with the architects and they gave us large poster drawings of the outside of the building and general floor plans for each of the two levels.

Then we began meeting with you in small groups and individual conversations, sharing the drawings and receiving your feedback. Along the way it was suggested that we change the (interior) design some, and we have given those notes to the architects, who will make the suggested changes to the drawings.

Also, in January, a group of us (FaST and Stewardship and Dennis our Treasurer) interviewed two Capital Campaign Consultants and selected Bob Shire to work with us.

So here's what's next:

May 7 – after worship – Architects' Presentation: Jonathan and Philip will join us for worship and a presentation of their design / layout of the new addition. This will include a 3D model.

During the month of May: Then we will want to be sure EVERYONE in the church sees the plans and the model and gets their questions answered as we prepare for...

June 4 – after worship – Congregational Meeting and Vote: At this meeting we will decide two things:
To approve the Master Plan (in concept)
To authorize a Financial Feasibility Study in advance of the Capital Campaign

Funding the Building: We have three potential income sources for funding the new addition:
Proceeds from the sale of the Parish House (recommended, not yet decided)
Mortgage
Capital Campaign

About the Capital Campaign: Before we authorize a campaign, we need to discover how much we can expect to raise. The process for determining this is called a **Feasibility Study** and is led by our Consultant, Bob Shire. He will have private conversations with some (not all) of us and learn from us how much we might give toward this project. He'll look at our giving patterns and data from recent annual campaigns, apply formulas, and give us reasonable and stretch target goals in a report. He will not begin the Feasibility Study until AFTER the approvals, on June 5.

What's important through all of this is that we lift our heads up out of the weeds of process and approvals, to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and what he wants for his church: that more and more would come to know him as Lord and Savior, and that lives would be changed for knowing him and knowing him better! Sharing Christ~Changing Lives!

If you've not yet seen the Master Plan, contact anyone from the Facilities Steering Team (Pete Hnath, Stefanie Lempp, Julie Platt, myself) and we will be pleased to share them with you (no need to wait 'til May 7!).

What an exciting time for our church!

With you on the journey,



Our Church Family



Ongoing Prayer List

Kathi Bond
Jack Cornforth
Megan Bettison
Russ Dalrymple

Charlie and Peg Elwood
Norman Faunce
Harold Gould
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).



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 Lori McElroy () and she 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 Wedlock family, in the death of Paul Wedlock on March 2. Paul Wedlock was the pastor here from 1977—1995. You can write to his widow, Pat Wedlock, at P.O. Box 415, Wilton, NH 03086.
- Anne Larsen, in the death of her grandmother, Anna Wood.
- Gail Miller's mother, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- The Zambuto family, in the death of Sara's grandmother, Florence Doughty, on March 31.

April Birthdays

Stefanie Lempp	04/01	Liz Brennan	04/07	Chris Clinton	04/17
Devin Goudey	04/03	Michelle Emerle	04/07	Andrea Burrier	04/19
John Hitsos	04/04	Ben Coviello	04/09	John Gervais	04/23
Jason Hnath	04/04	Wayne Elibero	04/09	Danika Manalo	04/23
Randy York	04/04	Georgia Row	04/09	Irene Koutrouba	04/29
Georgia Brooks	04/06	Julia Zambuto	04/12	Grace Nickerson	04/29

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?

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!

Church News / Mother's Day Brunch

Church Council Meeting Summary March 22

Rev. Gail will be with her mother in Wisconsin from March 27-April 6 while her mother recovers from knee surgery. She will be available by email and cell phone.

The Missions Committee has chosen *Teen Challenge* as the recipient of the 2017 Harvest Fair proceeds. They will be working with us on the day of the fair.

Anyone who has not seen a presentation of the possible building project should contact a FaST Team member; the architects will present the building rendition to the congregation (Sunday, May 7 - watch for details). There will be a congregational meeting (Sunday, June 4 - watch for details) to approve the building project and to approve a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study.



Sunday School / Bible Study / Community

Sunday School



April 2

Lazarus John 11:1-45

April 9 (Palm Sunday)

Holy Week Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14-27:66

April 16 (Easter Sunday)

No Sunday School

April 23

All Together Sunday School Lesson

The Fellowship Hall

April 30

The Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35

Christian Education Committee

—Jean Armstrong

—Anne Larsen

—Kelli Hnath

—Bonnie Marchesani

—Krista Kubick

—Carl Prestia

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 ()

In the Community...

Good Friday Walk

Friday, April 14

Start anytime between 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Distance: 5, 10, 15 or 20 miles (course is a 5-mile loop)

Where: Harvard Common with registration at the Congregational Church of Harvard, 5 Still River Rd.

Website: gfwalk.org

Incentive: Walkers raising \$150 or more will receive a GFW baseball cap

Waking In Oak Creek

Sponsored by The Groton Interfaith Council

Saturday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Middle School Performing Arts Center in Groton (344 W. Main Street)

This film is a 34 minute documentary about a hate crime shooting in a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin, and the community's inspiring response to the tragedy. The film will be followed by a panel discussion which will include Groton's Chief of Police, Donald Palma, and two people who are featured in the film. The focus of the film and the discussion afterwards is how the town came together and learned about each other, working together to embrace their differences and to build a stronger community. It is the Groton Interfaith Council's intention to also bring this focus to our community, as we welcome a large, new Shirdi Sai Parivaar temple this summer, and to continue fostering conversations in our town about our differences and our commonalities. All are welcome, although there are parts of the film that can be disturbing to see, and it may be more appropriate for older teenagers and adults.

Spring Craft Fair



12th 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: Baked items needed—variety would be nice! All donations will be greatly appreciated!

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 ()

Harvest Fair



Mark Your Calendar!

Harvest Fair Meeting

Sunday, April 30 after Worship (in the Parish House)

This year we will be donating all the profits to *Teen Challenge*! How wonderful to be able to share the blessings in our lives with others by living our faith and sharing Christ with our community. We're hoping to have some fun, new activities this year. The Chili Contest was a great success and we plan on having it again this year. If you have any

ideas, let's hear them! Help make the fair a memorable day again this year. Please join us to discuss ideas you may have and how you are thinking about participating this year. Contact: Mary Hanson (mary.hanson@monotype.com) with any ideas you might have to make this the best fair ever!

Missions—Thank You's

Teen Challenge Luncheon The visit from *Teen Challenge* on February 26 was a time where we were able to listen to true testimonies of how Christ can change lives. Many thanks to all who brought food to contribute to the delicious luncheon. The leftover sandwiches, salads and desserts were packed up and sent home with the men from *Teen Challenge*. The Missions Committee has allocated \$800 to this ministry, which is more than enough to sponsor two men who are beginning their journey on the road to recovery from addiction.

Boston Warm On February 24, a group from our church served at the *Boston Warm* event, one of *Common Cathedral's* programs. This shelter program runs on Mondays and Fridays from 8am to 1pm through the long winter months. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to connect and catch up with some familiar faces, and to lend an ear and just listen to others who attended. We also had the pleasure to help serve lunch to the guests. Your Mission Committee brought donations of socks and Dunkin' Donut gift cards. Thank you to all who came into *Boston Warm*.

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair
—Pete Hnath

—Brenda Barker
—Lynn Manalo

—Ellen Hargraves
—Halsey Platt

Middle School Youth Group



Saturday, April 8th

Geo-caching

2:30 p.m. (meet at church)

Middle School kids and their families are invited to go geocaching – location in Groton to be determined. Meet at the church and then we will all drive/car pool to the location. If weather is bad, middle school kids will meet at the church at 2:30 for games.

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

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

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser—THANK YOU!

Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on March 26

Thank you to all those who worked at and attended our Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser for this year's Youth Mission Trip. Due to your generosity, we were able to raise \$965 toward their trip this summer! What a great way of supporting these kids!

Easter Joy

By Joanna Fuchs

*Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.*

*Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.*

*He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.
Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.*

*Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.*

*So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!*



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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Groton, MA 01450

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Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Worship

Palms will be handed out
Senior Choir



"Given for you..."

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

Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Worship

Holy Communion and the Extinguishing of the Light



Friday, April 14

Good Friday

We join with our neighbors for two different services:

- 12 noon - St. Andrews Episcopal Church (7 Faulkner Street, Ayer) - a brief, traditional Prayer Service
- 7:30 p.m. - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (80 Champney Street, Groton) - *Service of the Stations of the Cross*. We will move through Jesus' last days with readings, reflections, prayers and music. A moving way to recall and remember the sacrifice Christ made for us and the world.



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

Easter Worship

Holy Communion will be served.
Senior and Junior Choir
Handbell Choir and Trumpet
No Sunday School