

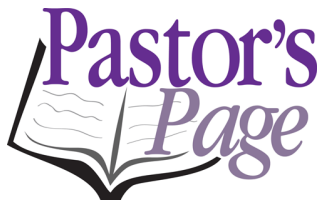
# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## May 2017



### Anticipation.... Anticipa-a-tion Is Making Me Wait...!

Remember that song from the ketchup commercials? That's how I feel about these days leading up to May 7<sup>th</sup>, when our architects will share the design/layout of the proposed new building addition.

Some of us have been waiting since January of 2016 when 50+ of us met in small groups for our Dream Big conversations, which set us on the path of an addition to the church building to make the sanctuary accessible and move all the Parish House functions to the same piece of property as the church.

Some of us have been waiting for years as we've lived with the inconvenience (some of us would say unacceptable inconvenience) of sending our kids across the street in all kinds of weather to get to Sunday School, and watching those with mobility issues struggle or (even worse) stay away.

Some of us have been waiting for decades (as long as you've been in the church!) as plans for expansion have been drawn up going as far back as 1950!

Well, the waiting is almost over! And May 7<sup>th</sup> is a day you DON'T WANT TO MISS!

#### Here's what it (May 7<sup>th</sup>) will look like:

Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. (deliver them directly to the PH and then come to the Sanctuary)

Kids will make their music video and then watch a movie in the Fellowship Hall (with snacks)

Worship will be SHORT - 30 minutes short! (Including a sermon and communion!)

We'll move seamlessly (VERY quickly) from worship into the Presentation

No Fellowship Hour for the adults (just snacks for the kids watching the movie)

Plan to be at church until 11:30.

This is in preparation for...

#### June 4<sup>th</sup> - after worship - Stated Congregational Meeting and Vote

At this meeting we will decide two things:

- 1) To approve the Building Project (in concept)
- 2) To authorize a Financial Feasibility Study in advance of the Capital Campaign

These are important meetings and conversations.

As we make plans and decisions, we discover that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves; that God does indeed have a calling upon our church and has given us a stated purpose:  
*Sharing Christ and Changing Lives!*

Be a part of what God is doing in the heart of Groton!  
See you on May 7<sup>th</sup>!

With you on the journey,

#### 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 (goal to be determined by the Feasibility Study)

Decisions will be made on the funding plan at a later date, when we receive the report from our Capital Campaign Consultant's Feasibility Study.



# Our Church Family



## Ongoing Prayer List

Kathi Bond  
Jack Cornforth  
Megan Bettison  
Susan Dalrymple and family

Charlie and Peg Elwood  
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](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)).



**Norman Faunce** has moved to Colorado to be near his daughter.  
His new address is:

8204 Wetherill Circle  
Castle Pines, CO 80108



## Confidential Prayer Chain

**Need prayer and need it now?** Simply email [prayer@uccgroton.org](mailto: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.



**Kathryn Elizabeth Kingsborough was Baptized on Sunday, April 30!**  
Congratulations to Kathryn, her parents, Richard and Corey, and big brother, Ryan.

## May Birthdays

Anne Cahill	05/03	Nancy Huguenin	05/12	Katie Milano	05/23
Chris Hecht	05/03	Kyle Plausse	05/14	Drew Davenport	05/24
Monique Meehan	05/04	Joel Hughes	05/15	Bill Gale, Jr.	05/24
Jocelyn Byron-Kelly	05/05	Kelly Sullivan	05/16	Dennis Carey	05/25
Sara Zambuto	05/06	Mike Smith	05/20	Caleb Brennan	05/28
Deb Shields	05/08	Ginny Fraser	05/21	John Brooks	05/31
Margaret Sullivan	05/10	Emily Hanson	05/21	Tyler York	05/31

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!

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# Church News

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## Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14

in the Fellowship Hall after Worship

### MENU

Muffins and Rolls

Salad with strawberries, goat cheese, and  
poppy seed dressing

Fruit Salad

Frittatas (gluten free)

Roasted Chicken

Scalloped Potatoes

Spring Vegetables

Baked French Toast w/syrup, and  
berries and whipped cream

Assorted Desserts

Lemonade and Iced Tea

*Reservations can be made in person following worship  
on May 7 or by calling the Church Office (978-448-2091)*



## April 26 Meeting Summary

On May 7, there will be a presentation of a potential building project by the architects; this will occur during the church service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Approval will be sought at the June 4 Stated Meeting.

On June 4 we will hold our Stated Meeting. The agenda will include, but not be limited to, approval of the potential building project, nominations to committees and updates from some committees.

Bob Shire (Capital Campaign Consultant) has been hired to conduct the Campaign Feasibility Study upon the June 4 Stated Meeting approval to move forward with the potential building project.

We approved the hiring of a new Nursery Caregiver to begin June 11 (see details on p. 4).



## Nursery News

We have hired a new Nursery Caregiver to replace Molly Hutchins (whose last day will be June 11).

**Lauren Prestia** will start in the Nursery on June 11 (Molly will also be here so there will be an overlap and Molly can show Lauren the ropes). Lauren is a Junior at Groton Dunstable High School and lives on Flavell Road.

Please stop by on June 11 to say goodbye to Molly and welcome Lauren!



*Dear Union Congregational Church Friends:*

*Thank you so much for the lovely soft prayer shawl you had Gail bring to me. I surely appreciate your thoughtfulness. You have a most talented knitter among you! I am recovering very quickly from my knee replacement surgery.*

*I am so appreciative of Gail being with me those first ten days. Not only was she a tremendous help, but it was special just having this time together. She is a wonderful daughter, as you do know.*

*My sincere thanks to all of you.*

*Diane Miller*

## Sunday School



**May 7**

*Sunday School music video (see p. 1)*

**May 14 (Mother's Day)**

*God's House    John 14:1-14*

**May 21**

*The Promise of the Holy Spirit    John 14:15-21*

**May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend)**

*The Ascension    Acts 1:6-14*

**June 4**

*The Holy Spirit    Acts 2:1-21*

### 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**

Join us anytime.

Contact: Janet Kennedy

### Thursday Morning

**10:00 a.m. at 26 Court Street**

Currently studying the *Gospel of Matthew*—come join us!

**There will be no Bible Study on May 18.**

Contact: Marvin Caldwell ( )

## Missions



### ***Strengthen the Church Offering***

This is one of four special mission offerings we take to support the *United Church of Christ*:

- Funding new church starts and invigorating existing congregations
- Nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
- Building youth and young adult ministries
- Supporting the *God is Still Speaking Ministry* and its extravagant welcome for all within the *United Church of Christ*

The collection will take place in worship on May 21 and 28.

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#### Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair  
—Pete Hnath

—Brenda Barker  
—Lynn Manalo

—Ellen Hargraves  
—Halsey Platt

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## Music



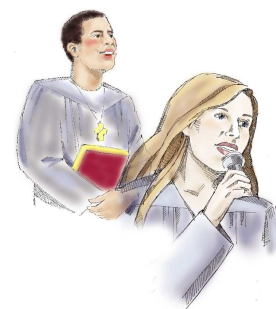
### **Music Appreciation Day Sunday, May 21**

Special plans for music are in the works, including pieces presented by the Handbell, Senior and Junior Choirs.



### **Summer Musicians Needed!**

Spring is finally here, and summer is just around the corner. In fact, we go to our Summer Worship Music Schedule on June 18, and so we are looking for musicians from the congregation to provide music in Worship. 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.



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## Middle School Youth Group



**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m. Middle School Families**  
Middle school youth and their families are invited to a potluck dinner at church.

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



# Ladies' Lunch / Graduates /Grandparent Camp

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## Ladies' Lunch—First Friday of Each Month Meet at church at 11:45 a.m.

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Some of the ladies of our church get together for lunch the first Friday of each month. It's a fun time and all are welcome to join them anytime!



*Most recent trip to Parker's Maple Barn for lunch.*

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## Upcoming Graduates!

Are you or someone in your family graduating this spring? We would like to honor our graduates in the June Courier. Please let us know who is graduating and from where, and any significant next steps in their lives. Please email your information to Carol in the Church Office ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) by May 26 so we can be sure to get your information in our newsletter! Thank you.

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## Grandparent Camp

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### Oceanwood (Maine)

**July 2-8**

In summers past, members of our church have attended this camp located in Ocean Park, Maine (right next door to Old Orchard Beach). Spend precious time with your grandkids at the beach! Observe or join in on all your grandkids' favorite camp activities. Participate in daily chapel and live entertainment as a family. Become part of the community while staying in cabins with other Grandparent campers. Counselors take the children to their activities, and grandparents are welcome to observe. Cost is \$240/person. Give your grandchildren memories they will have for a lifetime! For more information and to register, visit [www.oceanwood.org](http://www.oceanwood.org). *Some people from our church who have attended in the past are: Ellen Hargraves, Sophia Smith, Taylor Ansted and Ginny Fraser, Bonnie Marchesani and Destiny Bou.*

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# 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)  
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](mailto: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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## Upcoming Sunday Highlights

### Sunday, May 7

Holy Communion

Presentation of the Building Project

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class in the Parish House

6:30 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day)

Special Envelope Fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip to Rutland, VT

Mother's Day Brunch (see the menu on p. 3)

### Sunday, May 21—Music Appreciation Sunday

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class in the Parish House

6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Families Dinner in the Fellowship Hall (see p. 5)