

# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## June 2017



*The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps.  
(Proverbs 16:9)*

This Sunday marks a significant milestone in our church's life and history. It all began back in 1887 when the Sanctuary was raised from the first floor to become the second floor with the grand staircases just inside the front doors. And then in 1966 we purchased the Parish House across Willowdale Road, which houses the Sunday School and Church Offices. These decisions were made to meet the needs of the congregation in those days and times and, as faithful Congregationalists, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We find ourselves at a similar moment this Sunday — June 4<sup>th</sup> — when we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we discern the next step in our journey toward making our church fully accessible to all people of all ages and stages.

Several years ago a group in the church gathered to assess our buildings and properties and make suggestions as to how we could become a safe, accessible, welcoming facility for all who might want to make this church their home. We then undertook to ask God to reveal to us our purpose as a church here in Groton. *Sharing Christ and Changing Lives* was His answer! We also asked if there were any barriers in our current life as a congregation to fulfilling this purpose. Again and again, we were drawn back to the inaccessibility and disconnectedness of our two buildings.

We prayed and debated and prayed and discussed and have been lead to an excellent design for a building addition to the current church building, which accomplishes our two primary goals: 1) accessibility for all people to all the ministries and areas of our church and 2) consolidate our ministries to one property. Congregationalism at its most faithful is the people of God gathered together under the Lordship of the Head of the Church: Jesus Christ, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, discussing together and moving forward as the Holy Spirit would lead.

And so we will meet after church on June 4<sup>th</sup> for this very purpose. I think it is no coincidence that the day we will gather to decide the next step in our building project is Pentecost Sunday — the same day that the Church Universal celebrates the Holy Spirit's gathering of the first church nearly 2,000 years ago. The wisdom of the Bible speaks loudly to us through Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

It is clear to me that in order to be truly faithful to our mission of *Sharing Christ and Changing Lives* we must address the accessibility and disconnectedness of our buildings. Plan to be in church this Sunday and to stay for the meeting afterwards, when we will seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as we consider the next step toward becoming fully accessible.

With you on the Journey,





# Our Church Family/News



## 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) with the person's name and the prayer request, or contact Gail Miller directly (gail@uccgroton.org). Thank you.

Kathi Bond  
Megan Bettison  
Diane Black

Jack Cornforth  
Debbie Sampson  
Donna Sattler

Rudi Schmid  
Liz Waggoner



**Bob and Bebe Goudey** are proud to announce that their daughter, **Katie Goudey, is marrying Christopher Morrison** later this month. The couple met at Providence College where they both graduated in 2010.

On the first Sunday of June, **Pastor Miller** celebrates **11 years as our Pastor!**

**Celebrating**   
*An Anniversary This Month*

### Milestone Anniversaries

**John and Bonnie Biocchi**, celebrating 35 years on June 26.

**Robert and Ellen Hargraves**, celebrating 55 years on June 30.



### Lisa Maciejowski and Ben Gambuzza

Lisa and Ben have sold their house in Groton and plan to move to the Cape. Until then, their contact information will be:

55 Donna Terrace  
Taunton, MA 02780

## June Birthdays

Bill Gale, Sr.	06/01	Aiden Luth	06/11	Liz Smith	06/21
Liam Clinton	06/01	Sammi Smith	06/11	Alison Houde	06/24
Gerry Cahill	06/05	Grant Howard	06/12	Cailidh Houde	06/24
Barbara Avey	06/07	Amy Nickerson	06/13	Carol Zaiatz	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	Ed Stratton	06/28
Jacob Elibero	06/11				

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!



## Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, June 4, after worship

Please join us for this very important all-church meeting. We will decide whether to approve the Building Project Plan (in concept) and whether to authorize the Financial Feasibility Study in advance of the Capital Campaign. We will also update the Committee Roster and hear reports from Finance. All are invited. See or email Stefanie Lempp ( ) if you have any questions.

# Church News

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## 2017 Graduates

Congratulations to all our recent graduates and wishing you God's blessings for a bright and happy future!

- **Macie Bridge**, graduating from GDRHS, attending Trinity College in Hartford, CT.
- **Mary Cocossa**, graduating from GDRHS, attending Syracuse University.
- **Caroline Cocossa**, graduated with honors from Fordham University.
- **Sarah Jennings Cassidy** (Bob and Ellen Hargrave's granddaughter), graduated cum laude from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- **Alexander Platt**, graduating from GDRHS, attending Bates College in the Fall of 2018 after a Gap year traveling across the United States with his best friend from high school, Will Premru (leaving mid-late August).
- **Amy Sjoberg**, graduating from GDRHS, attending Pennsylvania State University (pre-veterinarian studies).
- **Sammi Smith**, graduating from GDRHS, attending Skidmore College.
- **Amanda J. Stratton** (Ed and Kathy's daughter), graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Marshall University School of Medicine. Amanda will complete her residency in Emergency Medicine with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.
- **Chris Sullivan**, graduating from the University of New Hampshire School of Law.
- **Edie Tompkins grandchildren: Brittany Tompkins**, graduated from Bridgewater University; **Andrew and Philip Tompkins** from Middletown High School in NJ; **Douglas Tompkins** from Middletown Academy of Science and Technology (MAST)
- **Mitchell Townsend** graduating from GDRHS, heading to Wentworth Institute of Technology to study Construction Management.
- **Tommy Wickham**, graduating from the Pomfret School in Connecticut and will be attending Trinity College in Hartford to study Mechanical Engineering.



## May 24 Meeting Summary

There will be a Congregational Meeting on June 4. On the agenda is approval, in concept, of the building project; if that is approved, approval will be sought for a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study (these approvals are not for 'shovel in the ground' but rather to continue to research the possibility; there will be another Congregational Meeting in the future for the 'shovel in the ground' vote). There will also be financial updates and approval of the updated Committee Roster.

June 4 is Pentecost; please wear red to worship!

On June 18 there will be a collection for Leigh Maynard, a friend from *Common Cathedral*, who is moving to be with his daughter in Virginia. Monies collected will go toward his train ticket.

Confirmation dinner will be on June 7 and Confirmation Sunday will be June 11.

The Mother's Day Brunch was enjoyed by about 80 people and was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.



**Edie Tompkins** will be honored as one of the *Commonwealth's Unsung Heroines of 2017*. This is an award given annually by the *Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women* and honors women who "without fanfare or recognition, use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others." ***She will receive a citation from the Governor in a ceremony at the State House in Boston on June 21.***



## Nursery News

Dunstable High School and lives on Flavell Road.  
***Please stop by on June 11 to say goodbye to Molly and welcome Lauren!***

**Molly Hutchins' last day** in the Nursery will be June 11. **Our new Nursery Attendant** will be **Lauren Prestia** (who will also be here June 11). Lauren is a Junior at Groton



*To the Prayer Shawl Group:*

*Thank you for the lovely Prayer Shawl—made with the help of God's hands with prayers in every stitch!*

*With God's Blessings,  
Ellie (Elvira Kennedy)*



**From the Collector:** Online Giving is a great way to keep your pledge donations current over the summer, if you are away. Go to the Church's website and click on the *Giving* icon and follow the instructions. You will be on your way in no time. Enjoy your summer! *Questions, please contact Bob Goudey*

## Summer Worship



### Summer Worship Schedule

## Summer Worship starts Sunday, June 18 Worship remains 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

Our new Nursery Attendant, Lauren Prestia, will lead/supervise an activity for children in the Fellowship Hall during worship each week.



## Summer Coffee Hour

With the warmer weather, we'll switch to a more relaxed mode: hot coffee will be supplemented by cold beverages and lighter fare. Weather permitting, our Fellowship Hour team will serve outside on the front lawn to enjoy fresh air while the children play in the front yard. If you are assigned Fellowship Hour on a summer Sunday and will be away, please contact the Kitchen Ministry or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091) as soon as possible. *Questions? See Joel Hughes, Janet Carey, Bill Colbert, or Sara Zambuto.*

## Summer Altar Flowers

Again this summer, we would like to have flowers from your gardens on the altar from June 18 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!



# Summer (cont.) / Christian Education / Handbells



*Greeters, Ushers  
and Readers  
Needed*

We are always in need of **Greeters, Ushers and a Reader** each Sunday. 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 **Sara Zambuto** ( ) 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!

## Sunday School



*June 4—The Holy Spirit  
Acts 2:1-21*

*June 11 (Last day of Sunday School)  
Creation—Genesis 1:1-2:4a*

*June 18 (Summer Worship Starts)  
with activities for young children in the  
Fellowship Hall*

## Teacher Appreciation Sunday

## June 18 During Worship

During 2016-2017, 20 people volunteered their time to teach our Sunday School classes. Some have consistently taught for multiple years, while others taught or helped for the first time. Together, they taught approximately 150 classes to approximately 35 children during the course of the year! On **June 18**, we will acknowledge our Sunday School Teachers in worship. What a wonderful way to share the Word of God with our children!

### 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. For July and August, we will switch to Thursday nights.

Contact: *Janet Kennedy*

### Thursday Morning

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

The final meeting before summer break will be June 15. We will be back again in September. Contact: *Marvin Caldwell*

( )

## Handbell Choir



### UCC Faith Ringers

We are looking forward to the **Area 1 Festival (UMass Amherst)** at the end of June, where we will be joining approximately 500 handbell ringers across New England. We will rehearse, take technique classes and participate in Master classes with clinicians from all over the country.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to join us **Sunday, July 2 at 3:00 p.m.** for our final concert in **The Mullins Center**. Look for the **UCC Faith Ringers** Banner. We hope to see you there!

# Mother's Day Brunch — May 14

*There were approximately 80 people who enjoyed the Mother's Day brunch. We enjoyed bacon, ham, French toast, quiches, glazed carrots, salads, sweet breads and muffins, fruit and so many delicious desserts. We had beautiful floral arrangements, which were donated by Rose of Sharon. Thank you to all of our "Guest Chefs" who helped make the brunch overflowing with delicious food, as well as those who helped with set-up and clean-up.*

*Peace,  
The Kitchen Ministry*



## THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to Janet Carey and Sara Zambuto for all their organizing and coordinating of the Mother's Day Brunch. We also thank Joel Hughes, Bill Colbert, and all those who helped with cooking, set-up, and clean up!

Below are just a few of the "thank you" comments received:

- ...everything was superb
- ...a wonderful treat
- ...it was obvious that much planning and organizing went into making it
- ...a very special event honoring the mothers of our church
- ...the food was delicious and the company was very enjoyable
- ...the benefit of leisurely eating with my family without the restaurant hassle

## Youth Mission Trip



June 25—July 2  
Rutland Vermont



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  
Destiny Bou  
Becca Brennan  
Hayley Cahill  
Matt Carey

Ryan Carey  
Taryn Emerle  
Jackie Gervais  
Emily Hanson  
Kristina Hnath

Jack Horsman  
Robert Houde  
Anna Kubick  
Charlotte Lagasse  
Clarissa Lagasse

Katie Milano  
Curtis Prestia  
Sophia Smith  
Bryce York

**Advisors:** Gail Miller, Mary and Tom Hanson, Pete Hnath, Bonnie Marchesani, Carl Prestia

### Important Mission Trip Dates

**Sunday, June 4** 6:30 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting (Kids only)  
7:30 p.m. Parents and Kids (FORMS ARE DUE)

**Sunday, June 25** 10:00 a.m. Worship — Commissioning Prayer in Church and Departure  
All are invited to “pray us off” and wave goodbye!

Harvest  
Fair



## Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 30 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Who are we Fundraising  
for this year?



**Teen Challenge** offers Christ-centered, faith-based solutions for youth, adults, and families struggling with life-controlling problems, such as addiction. *Teen Challenge USA* is holistic – meaning that they are concerned with the body, mind, and spirit of those who come to them for help. They endeavor to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well and spiritually alive.

### How can you help NOW?

- Save your kids clothes for the Children’s Clothing part of the fair.
- Do you have suitable items to donate to the Attic Treasures? Not sure? Talk to Liz McQuillin ( ) or Barbara Wyman ( ).
- Do you have an idea for the Silent Auction? It can be a physical thing (tickets to an event, a vacation home, a painting, a handmade blanket....) or you could offer your services (house painting, making dinner, cleaning a yard...)
- Bake and freeze things for the bake table. Do you have an extra crop of blueberries? Save them for Blueberry Pies!
- Do you have an idea for the fair or want to help somewhere specific? Let Mary Hanson know



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## June Highlights

### **Sunday, June 4—Pentecost (Wear Red)**

Worship and Holy Communion

11:30—Annual Stated Meeting (p. 1 & 2)

6:30 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting—Kids only (p. 7)

7:30 p.m. Mission Trip—Parents and Kids (FORMS DUE)

### **Sunday, June 11**

Confirmation Sunday



### **Sunday, June 18 10:00 a.m. (Happy Father's Day)**

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

Teacher Appreciation

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

### **Sunday, June 25**

Commissioning Prayer for Mission Trip participants

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

### **Sunday, July 2** Mission Trip participants return in the afternoon