

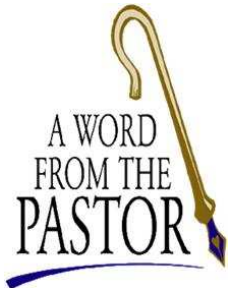
# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## October 2017



### ***The church exists to serve those who are not yet a part of it.***

A mentor of mine used to say that all the time; and every time I heard it, it was as if I was being returned to the core truth and purpose for being in the church. The church exists not for itself, but for Christ and HIS purposes ~ which are always to serve others. It's so easy to only see those who are in the room with us, or even in the pew with us (or in front of us!). But the Gospel — the Good News of God's love given in Jesus Christ — is for EVERYONE; and we need to remind ourselves of that over and over and over.

More and more of my time is spent working on the Building Project ~ conversations, meetings, plans, emails, phone calls ~ there are many moving pieces to it! It is exciting! And every once in a while I need to lift my head up out of my calendar and the keyboard to view the horizon of possibilities God has put before us. He has called us to be the church — to share Christ so that lives are changed. And we do this by:

*Providing a Christian foundation for families  
Learning more about Jesus  
Living our faith beyond our walls*

So lift up your heads! See what God could, might, and will do with us, for the sake of those who are not yet among us.

*Gail*

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## Building Project Update

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As we emerge from the lazy days of summer back into the "getting things done" days of September and October, your Facilities Steering Team (FaST) has been hard at work. When last you heard from us, we were undertaking a Feasibility Study under the direction of our Capital Campaign Consultant, Bob Shire, to explore the "feasibility" of the project as presented in concept in June. Bob's

report has given us the "thumbs up" to continue to the next steps toward fulfilling our vision to make the Church building fully accessible and to consolidate our functions to one property.

So, what ARE the next steps? There are a few...

### ***Meeting with the Town:***

It is clear that before we make any more decisions, we need some questions answered — particularly around the Parish House land and parking. And so we are meeting later this month with town officials to learn what is and is not possible with the PH land, all with an eye to maximizing the number of parking places near the church. We are not presenting the plans for the building extension to the church building, because it would be out of order for us to share with the town something that has not been approved by the congregation. (To be clear - back in June, we decided to take the next step TOWARD a building expansion, we have not decided to actually build anything yet.)

*(continued on p. 2)*

# Building Project Update (cont.) Church Family

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## ***Hiring an Architect:***

We are interviewing two architects this month. We are open to interviewing a third architect, so if you know someone who might be a good fit for us, please find someone from the Facilities Steering Team to talk to about that.

## ***Financing the Project:***

A small group is exploring different options for taking out a loan / mortgage and assessing our ability to carry debt. We are also in the early stages of forming the Capital Campaign Committee.

## ***Timeline:***

### **Oct. / Nov.**

We will spend these months doing all this research, seeking answers to questions that have come up along the way.

### **Dec. 3 (Sun.) ~ Informational Meeting after Worship**

This will be a "your questions answered" meeting, so if you have lingering questions that you've not yet brought to a meeting or a person (Gail or anyone on FaST), please find one of us sooner rather than later so we can provide the best information possible on Dec. 3. We will share the findings of the Feasibility Study and outline next steps and possibilities in light of our discoveries through our meetings with the town.

### **Jan. 28 ~ Annual Meeting**

At this meeting we hope to have before the Congregation the formal next step in the process, which would be to authorize a Capital Campaign (with a particular goal, which will be shared at the meeting on Dec. 3), and the hiring of our Consultant (Bob Shire).

As always, if you have thoughts or questions about any aspects of our work on this, find anyone on the Facilities Steering Team.

*FaST: Stefanie Lempp, Julie Platt, Pete Hnath, Gail Miller*

*Others who've been helping with these recent steps: Dennis Carey, Bob Goudey, Halsey Platt, Craig Smith, Mike Smith*



## Our Church Family



**Prayer List** This list is refreshed twice a year (January and June). Please contact Gail Miller or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) to add or remove a name.

Diane Black  
Kathi Bond  
Megan Bettison  
Jack Cornforth

Charlie Elwood  
Scott Joyce  
Ellie Kennedy

Jack Lyons  
Myrtle Murphy  
Holly Norton

Debbie Sampson  
Rudi Schmid  
Liz Waggoner



- The Lackey, Krause and Parker families in the tragic deaths of their family members.
- Family and friends of Staff Sgt. Alexander Dalida of Dunstable, who was killed in a training exercise at Fort Bragg on 9/21.
- Cheryl Townsend in the death of her cousin, Donna Sattler.
- Wendy Jones and her family, in the death of her husband, Michael.
- Helen Misselhorn, at Lowell General Hospital.
- Debbie Sampson, Dennis Carey's sister, recently hospitalized.
- The families of the Las Vegas shooting victims, and all who suffer the devastation of this tragedy.
- For all those affected by hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes.

## October Birthdays and Milestone Anniversaries

Kirsten Sjoberg	10/01	Carly Detwiller	10/14	Anna Kubick	10/18
Alex Ansted	10/02	Bob Hargraves	10/14	Nevan Rosenfeld	10/21
Charlie Nelsen	10/05	Casey Cunningham	10/15	Ben Ansted	10/22
Helen Misselhorn	10/06	Maggie Wickham	10/15	Connie Brown	10/23
Joe Zambuto	10/06	Richard Ferrero	10/17	Cameron Fraser	10/27
Mitchell Townsend	10/09	Evan Elibero	10/18	Andrew Howard	10/29
MacKenzie Luth	10/11				



**Donald and Diane Landry**, celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on **October 11**.



### Ladies' Lunch The Phoenix in Shirley Friday, October 6

**Meet at the church at 11:45 a.m. to carpool**

Join your friends from church for lunch. (The restaurant varies each month.) All women of the church are invited! If you need a ride, contact Janice Owen ( ).

#### Year-to-Date



#### Pledge Statements

**Year-to-date Pledge statements** through the end of September will be mailed in early October. Should you have any questions or concerns about meeting your pledge, please contact Bob Goudey at or at .



### CHURCH COUNCIL

## September Meeting Summary

An interim parking plan will be presented soon to make it easier for visitors and less able members; watch for it.

Bernard Crane will occasionally lead the Sunday School children in song during Sunday School. The Cherub and Junior Choirs have been suspended, as we explore new and different ways to share Christian music with the children of the church.

The new stoves have been installed in the kitchen — take a look!

Rev. Gail will be away October 10-17.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

November 19 - Pledge Sunday

November 19 - Special Congregational Meeting for the 2018 budget

December 3 - Building Project Update including Q&A

January 28 - Annual Meeting

## **Monthly Newsletter Update**

Thank you to those who have participated in the *Newsletter Survey* available through Survey Monkey, or who have emailed or called Carol with your preference. Starting with the November newsletter, we will only be mailing paper copies (first class mail) to those who have requested us to do so. All others will be able to access the newsletter on our website (link provided in the Friday email) or pickup a paper copy in church on Sundays.

Please email Carol (unioncc@uccgroton.org) if you HAVE NOT told her your preference yet. (If you want to receive the newsletter by mail, she needs to have your name in order to add you to the list.) Thank you!

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## **Sunday School**

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October 8—All Sunday School Lesson in the Fellowship Hall  
*Parable of the Vineyard, Matthew 21:33-46*

October 15—*The Wedding Banquet, Matthew 22:1-14*

October 22—*The Pharisee & the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14*

October 29—*The Greatest Commandment, Matthew 22:34-46*

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### **Christian Education Committee**

—Kelli Hnath, Chair  
—Anne Larsen

—Jean Armstrong  
—Bonnie Marchesani

—Krista Kubick  
—Carl Prestia

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## **Bible Study**

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### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

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

Contact: Janet Kennedy

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Marvin is away 10/19 and 10/26—meet in Church Parlor.*

Contact: Marvin Caldwell

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## **Music—Youth Handbell Choir**

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Youth grades 6-10 are invited to join a start-up Youth Bell Choir to learn a couple of Christmas Songs to play in church in December (including the early service on Christmas Eve). Rehearsals are Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at church and begin on Oct. 16 with Cheryl Townsend directing. No formal music training is required; you'll learn all you need to know under Cheryl's leadership and with coaching from ringers from our adult Bell Choir. What a wonderful way to express the joy of the Christmas season! ***Let Cheryl know your son/daughter's desire to participate, or find her with your questions ( ).***

# Youth Mission Trip

# Missions



## Youth Mission Trip 2018

June 24—July 1

Lynn, MA

Middle and High School Youth (Grade 6 and up)

We will clean/repair homes, visit in nursing homes, 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 two groups (middle school and high school) for our evening youth group time. We will also spend two days of R&R at a 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 2018) secures your child's spot.** Questions? Seek out Mary and Tom Hanson, Pete Hnath, Bonnie Marchesani, Carl Prestia, or Gail Miller.

## Missions



### Teen Challenge Banquet

Friday, October 27 5:00—8:30 p.m.

Radisson Downtown (700 Elm Street, Manchester)

We are so excited to have partnered with *Teen Challenge* for the Harvest Fair 2017. **We have reserved a table for 10 attendees for the Teen Challenge Banquet in Manchester, NH on the evening of Friday, October 27.** This is our chance to attend an awesome celebration organized by *Teen Challenge* every year. **Contact Lynn Manalo ( ) or sign up on Sunday, October 15 after church in Fellowship Hall.**

### Be a Missionary for 24 Hours!

**CityReach (Boston)**

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 10-11 (5:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.)

**Overnight: St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral (138 Tremont St.)**

A ministry of *Common Cathedral*: we sort donations, prepare a meal, visit with the homeless, 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**

**Questions: Pete Hnath**

**Reserve your spot via email to Gail Miller ([gail@uccgroton.org](mailto:gail@uccgroton.org))**

**We invite your donations of:**

Winter jackets and hoodies

Sturdy shoes and boots

New socks and underwear (men's and women's)

Toiletries



**These donations can be left in the Fellowship Hall under the *CityReach* sign (near the Prayer Wall).**

Thank you!

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Groton, MA 01450

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## October

- ♦ **October 8**    **Worship/Sunday School**  
    **Sermon:** *Hate the Sin, Love the Sinner*  
    **Special Offering:** *Neighbors In Need*
- ♦ **October 15**    **Worship/Sunday School**  
    **Guest Preacher:** The Reverend Betsy Waters  
    **Harvest Fair Follow-up Meeting** at 11:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor
- ♦ **October 22**    **Worship/Sunday School**  
    **Sermon:** *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves*  
    **Youth Ministry—Good Deed Day** (*Fall Cleanup at Edie Tompkins'*)
- ♦ **October 29**    **Reformation Sunday!**

**All Month: Receiving Donations for CityReach (see p. 5)**