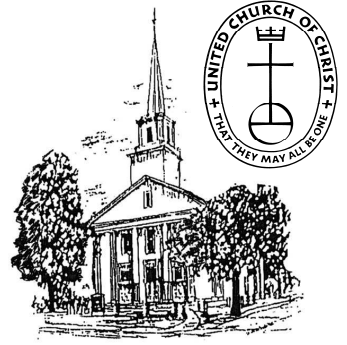


THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



March 2018

FROM THE

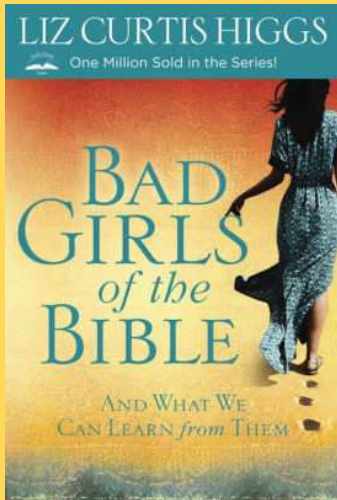


The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman. ~Elisabeth Elliot

Being Christian certainly does make us a different kind of.... (fill in the blank).... teacher, parent, friend, coach, banker, doctor, programmer, manager, cashier, driver, waiter, business owner, engineer, nurse, volunteer.... you name it.

And so we turn to the Bible to help us know what a Christian (fill in the blank) looks like. What are the biblical principles that inform how we think about our own identity and our attitudes towards others...and from there how we treat others and live out the different roles we are called to? Christians are different!

Women of our church will be gathering this month and next to look at some particular women in the Bible ~ *Bad Girls of the Bible* ~ and what we can learn from them. You don't want to miss this!



Wednesdays, 6:30—8:00 p.m.

March 14

March 21

March 28

April 4

April 11 (concluding before April break)

86 Main Street, Groton

(the home of Raquel Majeski - one of the Lawrence Academy houses with a driveway off of Main St.)

Snacks / drinks provided

A few copies of the book are available for purchase at church this Sunday (3/4), or order your own.

We'll begin on March 14 at the beginning - Chapter One - All About Eve!

"Girls" - you are invited!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gail'.



Our Church Family/News



Ongoing Prayer List

Megan Bettison
Charlie Elwood
Scott Joyce

Joe Marchesani
Myrtle Murphy
Rudi Schmid

Edie Tompkins
Liz Waggoner

This list is refreshed January 1 and June 1. If there is a name you would like to put back on the list or add a name, please let Gail Miller or Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org) know.



- Toni Bond and family, in the death of her daughter-in-law, Kathi Bond.
- All who have been injured and traumatized by the shooting in Parkland, Florida.

The families of those who died: Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jamie Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, and Peter Wang.

The perpetrator, Nikolas Cruz, and his family.

March Birthdays

Jim Brennan	03/03	Finley Street	03/11	Sheila Mitchell	03/21
Jim Daly	03/03	Sophia Smith	03/12	Carl Prestia	03/23
Christina Daly	03/06	Emma Nickerson	03/14	John Brooks	03/26
Janet Goudey	03/09	Craig Smith	03/18	Bob Huguenin	03/26
Wade Majeski	03/09	Bill Townsend	03/18	Bonnie Biocchi	03/28
Kaleb Larsen	03/11	Tyler Milner	03/19	Brody Tyler	03/29

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!



Ladies' Lunch

Friday, March 9 (postponed from 3/2 due to weather)
(Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool)

Ixtapa (308 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg)

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 or Brenda Semienko.

Bible Study

Wednesday Evening

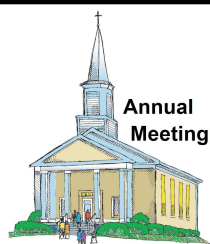
7:30 p.m. in the Pastor's Office

Contact: Janet Kennedy

Thursday Morning

10:00 a.m. 26 Court Street

Contact: Marvin Caldwell



Annual Meeting Summary (January 28)

The new roster of Officers, Committee, and Ministry members was approved. (This is available on the inside cover of the yellow Directories on the back tables at church.)

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Carey presented the proposed changes to the 2018 Operating Budget. Pledges were well below our goal of \$295K, resulting in \$35K in cuts from the previously approved budget (Nov. 2017). Then we received an additional \$21,000 toward the 2018 Operating budget (\$20K as a single one-time gift). Conversa-

tion continued around our Church's priorities and what might be restored. A variety of opinions were expressed: The Harvest Fair as mission money, or operating, or a combination of both; restore salary increases, care for our buildings and grounds, accrue sabbatical funds. It was also suggested that we examine why there was such a decrease in pledging, and how we are reaching and engaging new people. The budget discussion was closed without a vote. The Finance Committee and Church Council will continue to monitor and adjust the budget.

Facilities Steering Team (FaST) Update: Craig Smith summarized the decision to "pause" the Building Project due to the concern about taking on a mortgage given the budget short fall this year. Questions were raised about modifying the plans, taking a phased approach. Several people expressed the wish that the "pause" not be very long. The Council will continue these conversations.

Church Council Meeting Summary February 28

This was the first meeting of the 2018 Church Council, so we spent time with introductions and sharing.

Dennis Carey and the Finance Committee presented a final 2018 budget with a profit of \$945. In light of the recent gifts / increases received, they have lowered the Fundraising Income to \$1,000 (freeing up the Harvest Fair profit to go in mission), and restored salary increases as well as a number of committee budgets. The budget was approved by the Council and will be available in the office and at church in the near future.

We discussed the first chapter of *Lasting Impact* by Carey Nieuwhof. A subset of the Council will also work through another book, *Multiply Your Impact* with Gail. Both of these books will help us define our priorities and purpose as a church.

Kitchen Ministry

March Mug Madness!

During the month of March, the Kitchen Ministry is hosting "March Mug Madness." Do you have a favorite coffee mug that you use every morning? Do you collect mugs from your family vacations? Do you sip and proudly display your kids college or university name? Or a memento from your hometown or growing up years? Bring in your mug and share its story with your friends during coffee hour. Make a new friend and chat with someone you don't know. Let's listen with our hearts. March is "Mug Madness"... make a friend and share some coffee. *PS... Paper coffee cups will still be available if you forget.*



Muffin Sunday is March 25

The Kitchen Ministry is hosting "Muffin" Sunday. We hope that you will join us for this fun and tasty gathering immediately following church. **Please bring in a dozen of your favorite muffins to share.** We will have display cards where you can write the muffin type and chef's name. Our table will be overflowing with homemade and tasty treats. The Kitchen Ministry will provide butter. Please remember - No Nuts, and Gluten Free is always welcome. Happy Baking!



Embroidery Help Needed

The Kitchen Ministry is in need of some help with embroidery. Is there anyone in the congregation who does embroidery who could give a hand? If so, contact Janet Carey. Thank you!

Sunday School / Missions / Youth Ministry



March 4

The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17

March 11

The Light of the World John 3:14-21

March 18

Music Sunday in the Fellowship Hall

March 25 (Palm Sunday)

Holy Week Mark 11:1-11; 14:1-15:47

April 1 (Easter Sunday)

No Sunday School

Christian Education Committee

—Krista Kubick, Chair

—Amy Nickerson

—Jean Armstrong

—Carl Prestia

—Bonnie Marchesani

Missions

CityReach - Early Donation Request

The *CityReach* in Boston event will not take place until November, but we have a 'winter' donation request now. As you begin to clean out your closets of winter items in preparation for spring, please consider setting aside donations for *CityReach*. The most needed items are waterproof boots, larger sized pants, winter jackets, sweatshirts and sturdy walking shoes (larger sizes).

Youth Ministry



Winter Retreat (5th grade and up...)

March 9th—11th

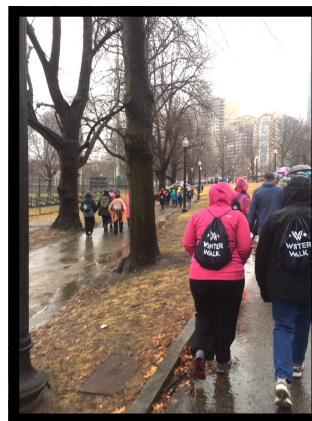
Lodging: A Retreat House in North Conway, NH

Cost: \$125/person (covers food and lodging)

Activities at Mt. Cranmore: Extra—though most are approx. \$50 (skiing, tubing, mountain coaster, zipline)

We have room for more kids: Your check for \$125 (to UCCG, memo: Winter Retreat) secures your son/daughter's spot. **Contacts:** Mary Hanson, Carl Prestia, or Pastor Miller (978-448-2091)

Common Cathedral Winter Walk with/for the Homeless



On Sunday, February 11, a group of us headed into Boston to participate in this wonderful event. We were able to raise \$2,277 (above our \$1,800 goal). Thank you to all who donated!

Easter Plants / Mission Trip Fundraiser / Spring Fair

Mail the form below or pickup one at church.



2018 Easter Plant Order Form

Easter Sunday is April 1!

FORM DUE BY: Sunday, March 25

Make your check payable to *Union Congregational Church (Memo: Easter Plant)*. Please put this completed form and your check into the Easter Plant envelope and place it in the offering plate OR mail it to:

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			\$ _____

After Easter, plants will be delivered to folk in the church who might appreciate a gift of love. If you have a specific person in mind, please enter their information here:

Name _____

Address _____

If you have any further questions, please contact Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unionccc@uccgroton.org). Thank you very much and may you have a Blessed Easter!

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, March 25

5:30-7:30 p.m. (come anytime) 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, we will serve in Lynn, MA. They will serve the community in a variety of ways: working with children, running a sports camp, helping in soup kitchens and thrift shops, visiting 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.

13th Annual Spring Artisan/Craft Fair

Saturday, May 5

10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Seeking Volunteers:

Kitchen: Janet Carey needs a kitchen crew, as well as soups and muffins

Church Craft Table: Erica Davenport would appreciate some new items! Our stocks are very low!!

Bake Table: In need of a solicitor for baked goods! Last year only three folk were able to contribute and we are considering renting the space to a crafter. **Please contact Bonnie Martin if you'd like to help with the bake table.**

Profits for the church come from table rentals, the kitchen, craft items, and the bake table.)

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
220 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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Please return to your mail carrier.



Holy Week



Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.

Palms will be handed out
Senior Choir
Youth Bell Choir



Maundy Thursday, March 29, 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.
(Contact Gail if you'd like to read scripture.)



Easter Sunday, April 1, 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Family Worship
Senior Choir, Handbell Choir and Trumpet
Holy Communion will be served
No Sunday School

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