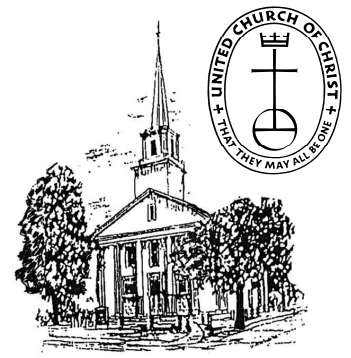


# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## April 2018

FROM THE



PASTOR

### What's happening on April 29?

Good Question!! A lot of things are happening on April 29! Well, at least two main things that concern us here at church...

The first is that the *Groton Road Race* has moved their start time for the adult race to 10:00 a.m., which means the roads around our church will be closed off just before that.... (I don't know the details of all the various activities they're running that day, check out their website to learn more.) The impact of this for us has lead us to....

**Moving worship to 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon.** We've done this a couple of times before and April 29 is a perfect Sunday to do it again. This gives people time to run the race, have a big lunch, take a nap, take a shower and come to church! And if you're not running in the race, it gives you an opportunity to sleep in (if that's your thing) and to do your day a little differently.

We'll have a "modified" Sunday School with some music and age appropriate activities in the Fellowship Hall for older and younger kids. Fellowship Hour afterwards will be hors d'oeuvres, and everyone will be able to be home before dark.

So mark your calendars for worship at 4:00 p.m. on April 29!

See you in church.

#### Nursery Attendant Position Available

Lauren Prestia will be leaving to prepare for college this fall. If you know someone who might be interested in this job, direct them to Gail or Carol (978-448-2091; [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) in the office for details/job description. Thank you.



### "Pick Up" Choir — You Are Invited!

At least once a year we like to have a "pick up" choir for a particular season or piece of music. This makes it easier for folks who'd like to sing, but can't commit to joining up for a long period of time. This year's "pick up" season will **begin on Thursday, April 26 and run four Thursdays (April 26, May 3, 10 & 17),** culminating with **singing in worship on May 20 (Music Appreciation Sunday!).**

If you love music, but have never sung in a choir before - this invitation is for you!  
(You don't need any experience or need to read music.)

If you sang in a choir way back when, but haven't sung in ages - this invitation is for you!  
(It's like riding a bike - it will all come back!)

If you want to get to know a smaller group of people in the church - this invitation is for you!  
(Choir is fun!)

Bernard Crane — our awesome director! — has a beautiful piece of music (*God Showed His Love*) picked out and waiting to be "picked up!" Contact him if you have questions or want to know more, or find him on a Sunday morning. And watch the weekly email for a link to the song!



# Our Church Family/Church News



## Ongoing Prayer List

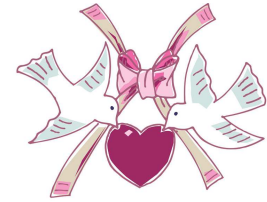
Megan Bettison  
Charlie Elwood  
Joe Marchesani  
Scott Joyce

Bill Moeller  
Myrtle Murphy  
Debbie Sampson  
Rudi Schmid

Edie Tompkins  
Laurie Wade  
Liz Waggoner



- Hannah York's mother, Corinne Lakes, who is hospitalized with a serious illness.
- Cassie Sampas, recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- Cheney and the Harper family in the death of Cheney's brother Ian.
- Jean and the Armstrong family in the unexpected death of Jean's brother-in-law in Ohio.
- The Faunce Family in the death of Norman Faunce (at age 90). If anyone would like to write to his daughter, Nancy Faunce, her address is: 3228 Country Club Parkway, Castle Rock, CO 80108
- Robert Elliott, Sara Zambuto's father, with various health issues.



### A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to **Carly and Chip Detwiller**, who will be celebrating their **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** on **April 20**.

## April Birthdays

Stefanie Lempp	04/01	Liz Brennan	04/07	Andrea Burrier	04/19
Marley Cunningham	04/02	Michelle Emerle	04/07	John Gervais	04/23
Devin Goudey	04/03	Ben Coviello	04/09	Gail Jefferson	04/23
John Hitsos	04/04	Wayne Elibero	04/09	Danika Manalo	04/23
Jason Hnath	04/04	Julia Zambuto	04/12	Irene Koutrouba	04/29
Randy York	04/04	Alicia Barbon	04/17	Grace Nickerson	04/29
Georgia Brooks	04/06	Chris Clinton	04/17		

If we missed your birthday, it is not in our database (please email [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)). Also, we would like to recognize significant anniversaries if you would share that information with us?

## Church Council Meeting Summary

### March 21

Mary Hanson spoke on behalf of the Finance committee and distributed the document *Memorial Fund Guidelines*, which has been established for the consistent and appropriate handling of any memorial funds that may be established at the church.

We continued discussing the first chapter of the book *Lasting Impact* by Carey Nieuwhof. This led us to spend significant time evaluating our mission and how each and every thing we expend energy on should be completing some part of our mission.

Gail will be away doing some continuing education from April 8-17. The guest preacher on April 15 will be Susan Scott.

## Church Spring Clean-up Day

### Saturday, April 28

### 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You are invited! Outdoor cleanup and raking will be our primary job. More hands make the work fun and go faster. Please bring a rake and tarp if you can—and show up anytime for whatever time you can give! If you have any questions, contact John Biocchi or any other member of the Buildings & Ground Committee (Bill Gale, Jr., Chris Sullivan, or Joe Zambuto). **We appreciate your support.**

# Sunday School / Missions / Youth / Spring Fair



April 8  
*Doubting Thomas* John 20:19-31

April 15  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

April 22  
*All Together Sunday School Lesson*  
*The Fellowship Hall*

April 29—4:00 p.m. *Worship*  
*Music & Activities in the Fellowship Hall*

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## Christian Education Committee

—Krista Kubick, Chair  
—Carl Prestia

—Jean Armstrong  
—Amy Nickerson

—Bonnie Marchesani

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## Missions Committee

### Hagar's Sisters Fundraiser Saturday, May 5



*As a Christian ministry, Hagar's Sisters uniquely provides domestic violence education and support within the context of a woman's spiritual beliefs. Whether she is a woman of deep faith or a woman who questions if God is real, Hagar's Sisters is a safe place to explore the tough spiritual questions every woman asks in the midst and aftermath of abuse.*

The Missions Committee has purchased six tickets and four remain available for a Silent Auction and Comedy Night "Filled with Laughter" in Burlington, MA, on Saturday, May 5. Please consider joining us in supporting and learning more about Hagar's Sisters, now in their tenth year. If you are interested in attending, please contact either Brenda Barker or Julie Platt.

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## Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair  
—Lynn Manalo

—Brenda Barker  
—Halsey Platt

—Ellen Hargraves

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## Youth Mission Trip—Thank You!

**Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on March 25:** Thank you to all those who worked at and attended this year. Your generosity made this event a huge success and we were able to raise \$1,603 toward the trip this summer! Great job supporting our kids!

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## 13<sup>th</sup> Spring Artisan/Craft Fair

**Saturday, May 5 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

### Seeking Volunteers

**Kitchen:** Janet Carey needs kitchen help on Friday afternoon and Saturday, as well as donations. Look for a Signup Genius link in the Friday email or contact Janet (careydj@me.com; 978-449-0461) if you can help.

**Church Craft Table:** Erica Davenport is looking for sewing, crochet, and knitted items.

**Bake Table:** Thank you to Brenda Semienko and Mark Rzeznikiewicz for volunteering for this table; and to all those who have already offered to bake. More donations would be great!

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

### Set-up Help Needed

**Sunday, April 29:** After church, break-down the Nursery (Don't forget Worship is at 4:00 p.m.!)

**Wednesday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m.:** Set-up the Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, May 5, 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

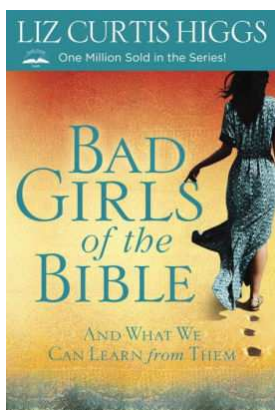
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## ***Bad Girls of the Bible***

**Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Women gather at Raquel Majeski's home (86 Main St.) to look at some particular women in the Bible ~ *Bad Girls of the Bible* ~ and what we can learn from them.

**April 11:** Chapter 10 - *I Beg Your Pardon*

**April 18:** Potluck Dinner at Raquel's

**April 25:** Meet at the Horsman's house (151 Broad Meadow Road) to continue *Bad Girls* or read Beth Moore's study of Esther (<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product-family/esther>)

## **Youth Book Club—7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**



7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join a new book club. The first book will be *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.

The Book Club will meet on **Sunday, May 6, right after Worship (11:30—12:30) in the Parlor** for an hour to discuss this book. Pizza will be served.

**Questions:** Contact any member of the Christian Education Committee (Krista Kubick, Jean Armstrong, Bonnie Marchesani, Carl Prestia, or Amy Nickerson).