

THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



Mid-Summer 2018

Youth Mission Trip to Lynn, Massachusetts June 24—July 1

Our youth (and advisors) served in homes for disabled adults, the *Boys & Girls Club*, *North Shore Christian School*, and *My Brother's Table*. What a wonderful way to Share Christ and Change Lives beyond the borders of our town.

Youth: Ryan Carey, Hasi Gedara, Emily Hanson, Jason Hnath, Kristina Hnath, Alison Houde, Cailidh Houde, Anna Kubick, Ellie Kubick, Charlotte LaGasse, Cassie McKiel, Emma Milano, Katie Milano, Jacob Morrill, Curtis Prestia, Kirsten Sjoberg, Sophia Smith, Bryce York, Chloe York

Advisors: Mary Hanson, Pete Hnath, Gail Miller, Liz Smith (Tom Hanson and Carl Prestia on the Retreat).



Youth Mission Trip (cont.)





Our Church Family



Ongoing Prayer List

This prayer list is refreshed twice a year (June and January). If you would like other names added (or any name removed), 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.

Megan Bettison
Joel Eaton
Frank Kanour
Scott Joyce
Chris Laursen

Joe Marchesani
Jan Miller
Bill Moeller
Myrtle Murphy
Debbie Sampson

Rudi Schmid
Edie Tompkins
Laurie Wade
Connor Welles
Liz Waggoner



- Rev. H. V. "Skip" Lloyd, Jr., who celebrated his 44th Anniversary of Ordination in June

- Jan Miller, Gail's Aunt, diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer.

- Betsy Bridge, having surgery on July 17.



JOINED IN
Marriage

**Brian Keese, Jr.,
and
Mikel Birindelli**
were married on
Saturday, July 7

in
Lakewood, Washington

Congratulations!

July Birthdays

Charlie Bridge	7/1	Mary Kubick	7/15
Eleanor Ferrero	7/2	Rylan Rosenfeld	7/16
Reaghan Carleton	7/3	Brent Emerle	7/18
Sara Clinton	7/3	Leslie Howard	7/18
Peg Lloyd	7/3	Caroline Clinton	7/19
Jennifer Gervais	7/4	Cassie Sampas	7/19
Bob Goudey	7/4	Thor Berge	7/20
Chip Detwiller	7/5	Jon Sjoberg	7/20
Paige Carleton	7/8	Betsy Bridge	7/22
Lynn Manalo	7/9	Amy Sjoberg	7/24
Robert Houde	7/10	Lois Berge	7/25
Abigail Howard	7/10	Destiny Bou	7/26
Eleanor Kubick	7/10	Caden Rosenfeld	7/27
Janet Kennedy	7/12	Sarah Flynn	7/30
Myra Lockett	7/12	Bryce York	7/31
Cloe Bridge	7/13		
Finley Clinton	7/14		

August Birthdays

Jack Van Pelt	8/1	Matt Carey	8/23
Ellen Hargraves	8/8	Pat Woods	8/24
Diane Landry	8/8	Macie Bridge	8/25
Kristin Ansted	8/9	Kristina Hnath	8/26
Grace Johnson	8/12	Steve Legge	8/26
Leo Biocchi	8/13	Jennifer Boucher	8/27
Barb Lefebvre	8/14	Makaila Meehan	8/28
Patrick Daly	8/16	Beth Hughes	8/29
Janice Flynn	8/16	Nancy Bugbee	8/30
Bebe Goudey	8/17	Bob Lockett	8/31
Jenna Plausse	8/20	Alex Platt	8/31
Pete Hnath	8/21	Jason Zambuto	8/31

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?

Pastor Miller will be away on vacation July 12—August 6. She'll return to the office on August 7 and to worship on August 12. The Reverend Skip Lloyd will be available for pastoral emergencies in her absence. Guest Preachers will be The Reverend Susan Scott and The Reverend Kaz Bem.

Church News

Stated Meeting (June 3) Summary

Mary Hanson filled in as Moderator in Stefanie Lempp's absence.

Annual Meeting Minutes (January 28): Unanimously accepted as printed.

Backpack Drive: Andrea McDonough presented a proposal to adopt the Backpack Drive (formerly organized by *Loaves & Fishes*) as an ongoing ministry of our church. This would become our own ministry and we will put a Christian emphasis on it. After questions and conversation, we unanimously approved adopting this program.

Conversation: What's next for our church?

- **People & Participation:** Steve Legge presented. A group from the Council (Bebe Goudey, Steve Legge, Mary Hanson) joined by Anne Larsen, Janet Kennedy, and Margaret Wheeler, has met nine times over the last two months discussing our church, its culture, and how we reach out to folks who are new or have stopped attending. They have been reading the book *Multiply Your Impact* (by Paul Nixon and Christie Latona). This group will make recommendations to the Council later this summer, but in the meantime another group will meet to consider how to improve our hospitality to first-time visitors and people who are new to the church.
 - **Building Project:** Mary began by asking for our thoughts on what our priorities should be relative to the building. Clearly accessibility to the sanctuary is a priority. Several members also spoke about the inability of outside groups to utilize our space for their events due to lack of accessibility. Others mentioned improving parking and ongoing maintenance of the Church Building and the Parish House. Configurations of ramps and elevators were suggested. The Church Council will take all of this into account when determining how to proceed with next steps.
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Church Council

June 20 Meeting Summary

Pastor Gail's Report: Upcoming Feedback Circle August 19 (Topic: Pastoral Care). Reminder: We still need to buy padded chairs for the Fellowship Hall from the 2017 Birthday Fund monies. Gail will be away July 12—August 6 and back in the office on August 7.

Julie Platt and Ellen Hargraves (Missions Committee) paid a visit to *Our Father's Table* in Fitchburg.

Hallway Renovation Update: (Craig Smith) Gail would like to gather a Design Team to decide on signage and furniture. We are asking the congregation for interested people.

Book Discussion: *Lasting Impact*, by Cary Nieuwhof (chapter 2).

Backpack Drive: Approved at the June 3 Congregational Meeting. We're now gathering a Coordinating Team to run this. Opportunities for all-church participation will come at the end of August.

What's next for the church? Move forward with a building project of some sort? We will continue to discuss this at the August and September Council Meetings.

Multiplying Your Impact book group will report to Church Council next meeting with recommendations.

LILIES (Lord Inspired Ladies in Eternal Sisterhood)

ALL women of the church are invited to gather throughout the summer for various activities. Come as your schedule allows — this is a great opportunity to meet and make friends!

Wednesday, July 18 Prayer Journal Activity, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

(Raquel's House - 86 Main Street, Groton) Join us to learn about the power of prayer journaling. We will review the process of journaling and share its impact in our lives.

Sunday, August 19 Tour of Life Gate, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

(Life Gate, 66 Boston Rd, Groton) Join us for a personal tour of Groton's newest holistic facility.

Wednesday, August 22 Assist with the Backpack Drive, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

(Devens Community Center, 800 Sherman Avenue) See p. 6 for more details.

Contacts: Raquel Majeski or Myra Lockett

Church News

Feedback Circle

Topic: Pastoral Care

Sunday, August 19, After Worship

Feedback Circles are a formal program by which we engage in ongoing evaluation of our life together and the various ministries of our church. These small group discussions are led by facilitators (from our church) and give us the opportunity to talk thoroughly about a particular topic. If you have thoughts to share about experiences you have had regarding Pastoral Care in our church, plan to attend this conversation after worship. Contact Carol (unioncc@uccgroton.org; 978-448-2091) in the office to sign up. Questions? Contact Bebe Goudey or Andrea McDonough.



Ladies' Lunch

Friday, August 3

The Devens Grill (4 Ryans Way, Devens)

All women of the church are invited! Meet at church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool. If you need a ride, contact Janice Owen, Brenda Semienko, or Peg Lloyd.



Lowell Spinners Game

Wednesday, July 25

5:00 p.m. - meet at church; 6:35 game starts

Theme: Christmas in July (wear your ugly Christmas sweater!)

The Lowell Spinners are a minor league baseball team which feeds into our own Boston Red Sox; and they're in our own back yard! Spinners games are designed for families with entertainment between innings, and games and prizes throughout the evening. So come join your friends from church for an evening of fun!

Bonnie Marchesani has purchased 20 tickets. At \$15 each you get entrance to the park, a hot dog, drink, and ice cream. (If you prefer to meet at the ball park, Bonnie will get the tickets to you beforehand.) Parking is limited, so an early arrival is recommended, especially if you want to qualify to get a free snow globe as one of the first 1,000 people into the game!

Contact Bonnie Marchesani to purchase tickets or if you have questions.

The Sunset Tiki Bar & Grill at Nashoba Valley

Wednesday, August 15

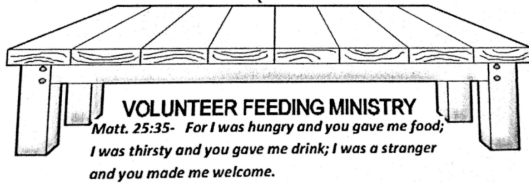
5:00 p.m. - whenever!

Families, kids, adults of all ages are invited to hang out, play in the sand and water, have dinner. Come as early as you can to help claim a table by the water. Look for Pastor Miller!



Missions

Our Father's Table



Our Father's Table

The all volunteer staff of Our Father's Table proudly serves the Fitchburg Community with fresh hot nutritious meals twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

A few people from the Missions Team have begun to volunteer at *Our Father's Table* in Fitchburg, helping to serve dinners to those in need on Thursdays this summer. If you are 18 years or older, are interested and would like to help serve (we are rotating weeks), the time commitment is 4:00-6:30 p.m. Contact Julie Platt (julielsp@verizon.net or 978-448-9944) for more detailed description.



Loaves & Fishes

Help Needed with Food Delivery

Last month our congregation donated 186 pounds of food. Thank you to all who contributed! Feel free to visit their website for a listing of the most needed items: www.loavesfishespantry.org

We are currently looking for a volunteer to deliver the donations each month from our church to the *Loaves & Fishes* Food Pantry located in Devens. Deliveries can be made Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8 p.m. or during the day while there is an open pantry session (the *Loaves & Fishes* website has more details). If you are interested, contact Julie Platt.

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair
—Lynn Manalo

—Brenda Barker
—Halsey Platt

—Ellen Hargraves

Backpack Drive



Praise God for the unanimous adoption of the Backpack Drive at the June 3 Congregational Meeting. Families at *Loaves & Fishes* have started registering to receive backpacks! We are seeking a couple people to serve as Coordinators with Stefanie and Andrea.

August 20 - 23: We set up the donated supplies at the Devens Community Center (LILIES will lend us a hand on Wed. the 22nd, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.).

August 24: Distribution Day! We'll have two shifts which need staffing: morning and evening.

Contact Stefanie Lempp or Andrea McDonough if you'd like to help out in any of these ways!

Sunday School



Fall will be here before you know it, and we are busy at church preparing for Sunday School. We are adjusting the classes to keep the number of kids per class in balance and assigning rooms in the Parish House accordingly.

Sunday School Teachers will again teach in teams (3-4 teachers per team per grade). Each team will divide up the Sundays as fits their schedules, and coordinate directly with each other. This provides consistency for the kids and ready support for the teachers, while simplifying communication regarding the kids and the classes. We are still seeking a couple of teachers at each grade level. Please contact Krista Kubick or anyone on the Christian Education Committee if you are interested in helping as a teacher or being on our "sub" list.

Christian Education Committee

—Krista Kubick, Chair
—Amy Nickerson

—Jean Armstrong
—Carl Prestia

—Bonnie Marchesani



Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 22 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



This year, the Harvest Fair is again supporting **Teen Challenge**, which offers Christ-centered, faith-based solutions for youth, adults, and families struggling with life-controlling problems, such as addiction. *Teen Challenge* 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 donating to the Children's Clothing room.
- Do you have suitable items to **donate to the Attic Treasures**? Not sure? Talk to 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...). Contact Liz Brennan
- **Bake and freeze things for the bake table.** Do you have an extra crop of blueberries? Save them for blueberry pies!
- **We need someone to lead Pie Baking this year.** Do you have new ideas? Contact Mary Hanson. *In the absence of organized pie baking, you are still invited to make a pie (or two!) to sell at the bake table.*

Do you have an idea for the fair or want to help somewhere in particular? Contact Mary Hanson.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

[] PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST
Please return to your mail carrier.

Summer Fun—All Are Invited!



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(see p. 5 for details)

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*We hope you will continue to worship with us on
Sundays when you are not away!*