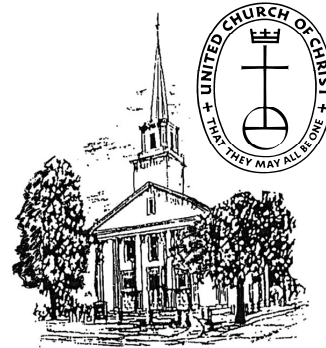


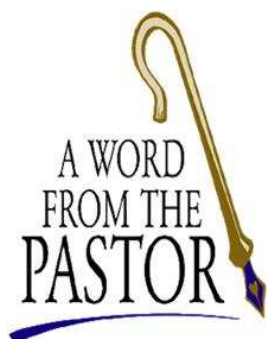
THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



October 2018



As long as I've been pastor here (12+ years now!) and for decades before I arrived, this church has struggled with the INaccessibility of our buildings. Not just the second floor sanctuary, but even the "First" floor (Fellowship Hall, bathrooms, etc.) still requires six steps up and two steps down to get to it.

Between 2013 and 2017 the Facilities Steering Team worked to develop a building plan, which would not only make our Church building accessible, but our offices and Sunday School as well. This plan included a building addition extending out back of the Church building, and was large in scope and in cost. We determined that this plan is not the right thing for us at this time, and so we "paused" the project to reconsider our priorities.

Since then, both at public meetings and in private conversations, many of you have shared that we should not abandon the goal of making our Church building fully accessible. And so the Church Council has been discussing a Building Project 2.0. We would like to share those conversations beyond the Church Council, and so you are invited....

Building Project 2.0 Informational Forum Sunday, October 14, after worship

We'll look at the process and next steps for addressing the accessibility issues for the Church Building.

It feels good to be "hitting the play button" on this very important issue in our church. It is heart-breaking to hear of people who don't worship or attend gatherings in the Fellowship Hall because they cannot get into the room. And it happens more than you might think.

If we're going to be faithful to our purpose of *Sharing Christ and Changing Lives*, we need to make it easy for people to get in and around in our building.

Plan to be there on October 14, as we take a step in the right direction.

With you on the Journey,



Sharing Christ ~ Changing Lives



Our Church Family/Church News



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
Julie Kenyon
Scott Joyce
Chris Laursen

Joe Marchesani
Jan Miller
Bill Moeller
Myrtle Murphy
Debbie Sampson
Karen Sands

Rudi Schmid
Edie Tompkins
Karen and Marc Vandenbulcke
Laurie Wade
Connor Welles
Liz Waggoner



- Heather Houde and family, as her mother, Helen, is in hospice care.
- Julie Kenyon, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.
- Gary and Grace Johnson, in the death of Gary's mother (Nancy Johnson) in September.

Confidential Prayer Chain

Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call Carol or Gail in the Church Office (978-448-2091) and they will put your prayer request in motion for you. Prayer requests are held in confidence among those who are praying for you, and you may request that your name be withheld.



September Baptism

Congratulations to The Howard Family on the **Baptism of Emily Corinne Howard** on **Sunday, September 30!**

October Birthdays

Kirsten Sjoberg	10/01	MacKenzie Luth	10/11	Anna Kubick	10/18
Alex Ansted	10/02	Carly Detwiller	10/14	Nevan Rosenfeld	10/21
Juliet Silveri	10/03	Bob Hargraves	10/14	Ben Ansted	10/22
Charlie Nelsen	10/05	Casey Cunningham	10/15	Connie Brown	10/23
Helen Misselhorn	10/06	Maggie Wickham	10/15	Edie Tompkins	10/26
Joe Zambuto	10/06	Richard Ferrero	10/17	Andrew Howard	10/29
Mitchell Townsend	10/09	Evan Elibero	10/18		

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, October 5 *The Bamboo* (Westford)

Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool

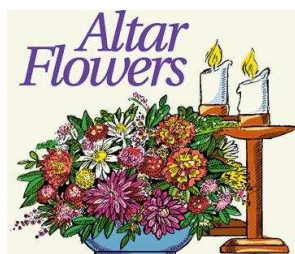
All women of the church are invited! If you need a ride, contact Janice Owen, Brenda Semienko, or Peg Lloyd. *The next Ladies' Lunch will be on Friday, November 2.*

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.

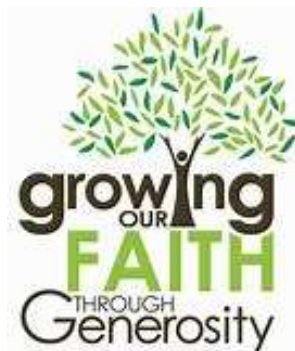


If you would like to dedicate flowers on a particular Sunday, please:

- 1) Fill in your name and dedication on the Flower Chart downstairs in the Church Parlor;
- 2) Send a check for \$25 (made out to the UCC; memo: Altar Flowers) to the Church Office (220 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450).

After worship, the Deacons will deliver the flowers to someone in the church who could use a gift of love. Contact Carol in the office if you have any questions (unioncc@uccgroton.org; 978-448-2091).

A Message from the Stewardship Team



With summer vacations behind us and kids back in school, the picnic following worship on September 9 welcomed family and friends back to UCC Groton. The front lawn was full of people sharing good food, exchanging summer memories, and reconnecting. It was a celebration of fellowship and it was more. It was a celebration of everything that our church and God has bestowed upon us.

Within the walls of our church, each Sunday morning, we are blessed to receive Gail's sermons and have Bernard's musical direction to enhance our worship. Raising money for *Teen Challenge* with the upcoming Harvest Fair, serving with the Backpack Drive, supporting *Common Cathedral*, and sending our youth on Mission Trips gives us opportunities to support, serve, and live our faith beyond our walls.

Pledge Sunday (November 18) is another opportunity for each of us to celebrate and give thanks for all that God and this church provides for us. **Please keep an eye out for your Pledge Sunday invitation to celebrate through giving.**

Harvest Fair Thank You!



Harvest Fair

A big "Thank You" goes out to all who participated in the Harvest Fair on September 22. It was a beautiful fall day and the fair was a big success, thanks to many of you! Our combined efforts raised just over \$7,200 for our friends at *Teen Challenge*, which is more than the \$6,900 that we made last year.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the businesses and individuals who so graciously donated to this year's Harvest Fair Silent Auction:

Anthony's Coal Fire Pizza
Bailey's Bar & Grill
Lois Berge
Birch on Hollis
Blackbird Café
Body Mind Spirit Salon & Day Spa
Bruno's Pizza
Country Butcher & Deli
Courtyard Marriott
Littleton
Erica Davenport
Chip and Carly Detwiller
Facets
Filho's Cucina
Gervais Ford
Gibbet Hill Grill
Bob Goudey
The Groton Inn
Tom Hanson
Indigo of Groton

Jack O'Lantern Wine & Spirits
Lavender
Steve and Charlene Legge
Jennifer Luth
Luth's Family Karate/Harmony Wellness
Bonnie Marchesani
Mariano's
Bonnie Martin
Rev. Gail Miller
Moison's Ace Hardware
Nashoba Valley Dance Academy
O'Neil Cinema
Halsey and Julie Platt
Salt & Light
Sheila Smith
Spavia Day Spa
Tavern in the Square
Margaret Wheeler
Hannah York



Christian Education



October 7—*Activity in the Fellowship Hall*

October 14—*A Rich Man's Questions, Mark 10:17-31*

October 21—*James and John, Mark 10:35-45*

October 28—*Bartimaeus Sees, Mark 10:46-52*

Christian Education Committee

—Krista Kubick, Chair

—Amy Nickerson

—Jean Armstrong

—Carl Prestia

—Bonnie Marchesani

LILIES (Lord Inspired Ladies in Eternal Sisterhood)

Esther: Fulfilling Life's Mission

October 1 and 15

6:30—8:00 p.m. (Zambuto Home—500 Pepperell Rd., Groton)

ALL women of the church are invited to grow in faith and friendship as we explore the biblical story of Esther — a short little book of the Bible which reads like a novel, and is full of great spiritual lessons. The greatest being that God protects His people. Even though God is never mentioned, we see how God is at work even when we don't see Him.

Over four sessions we'll follow this self-guided study (the first two sessions were held 9/17 and 9/24). Come when you can — you do not need to attend every session to participate. If you would like a copy of the materials (pdf), email Myra Lockett.

Bible Study

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

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

Contact: Janet Kennedy

Thursday Morning Bible Study

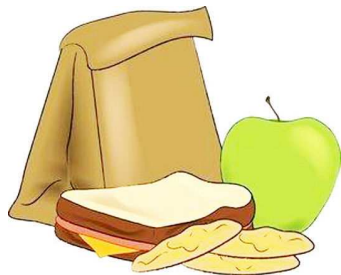
10:00 a.m. (26 Court Street)

Contact: Marvin Caldwell

Missions

Sharing Christ ~ Changing Lives

The Missions Committee has a number of opportunities in which you can share the love of Christ and change lives in October and November. Please consider joining us on any one or all of these events:



Sandwich Run

Monday, October 8 (Columbus Day Holiday)

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (approx. times)

All are invited, including children in upper elementary grades and their families. Meet at church and assemble sack lunches; then head to Alewife and to Central Square. We walk a route organized by the **Outdoor Church** (a homeless ministry in Cambridge), handing out lunches, and extending the warmth of God's love. Questions: Gail (978-448-2091)



All Church Pot Luck/Game Night

Saturday, October 20

5:30 p.m.

Set aside the evening of Saturday, October 20, to join us in an All Church Potluck Dinner followed by a fun Game Night where everyone can participate. We have invited friends from *Common Cathedral* (a homeless ministry in Boston) to come along for the festivities and join us in worship on Sunday October 21. **Sign up in the Fellowship Hall after church on October 7 and October 14, or online (look for the link in the Friday email).**

CityReach (Boston)

Fri.-Sat, November 2-3 (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, and 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**

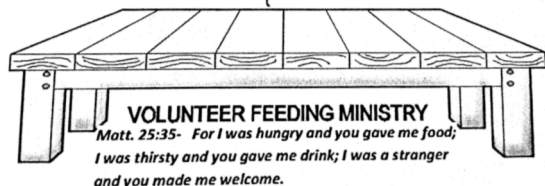
Reserve your spot via email to Gail Miller (gail@uccgroton.org).

We invite your donations of:

- Winter jackets and hoodies
- Sturdy shoes and booties (especially men's larger sizes)
- Toiletries
- New socks and underwear (men's and women's)

These donations can be left in the Fellowship Hall on the tables with CityReach signs (near the Prayer Wall). Thank you!

Our Father's Table



Our Father's Table

November 6 and 8

4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

We are inviting anyone 18 years and older in our church to join us in serving at *Our Father's Table* in Fitchburg, MA. We began sending volunteers this past summer and now we plan to send **two volunteers two times per month** to help serve.

Please consider joining us the **second week of each month**. You would be serving with someone from our church who has served there before. The time commitment is 4:00-6:30 p.m., which includes commute time to and from Fitchburg.

Missions (cont.) Youth Ministry/Mission Trip



Teen Challenge Banquet

Thursday, November 8

5:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hilton

(700 Elm Street, Manchester NH)

We have a limited number of tickets available for the *Teen Challenge Banquet* in Manchester, NH. Join us in celebrating this fantastic organization. Contact someone from the Missions Committee, if you're interested in attending.

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair
—Lynn Manalo

—Brenda Barker
—Halsey Platt

—Ellen Hargraves

Youth Ministry



All Middle and High School Youth are Invited!

As kids move into and through their teenage years, it seems that life only gets more complicated — for them and for you as parents. Staying grounded and centered in Christ is more important than ever! You and they will be strengthened for the journey, and they will be shaped into caring, compassionate people as they engage with their friends here at church — friendships that are extremely important and will carry them more safely through these middle and high school years and beyond. In order to deepen these vital friendships and to support you as parents, your youth are invited:

October

8th (Monday/no school): Sandwich Run in Cambridge

November

2nd-3rd (Friday-Saturday): *CityReach* in Boston (an overnight mission trip for kids 8th grade and up)

30th (Friday): *Journey to Bethlehem* (in Acton)

Winter Retreat in 2019 is yet to be scheduled! Stay Tuned....

Details will follow as we move through the fall, and other events may be added. For now, we hope you'll put these on your calendar and plan to have your son/daughter participate.

Contacts: Jean Armstrong, Mary Hanson, Pete Hnath, Carl Prestia or Pastor Miller

Youth Mission Trip 2019



June 23—July 1

Clendenin, West Virginia

Middle and High School Youth (Grade 6 and up)

We will be doing disaster relief work — construction projects and repair work; and through our serving we will share Christ's love and grow in our own knowledge and love for the Lord. We will also spend two days of R&R at a retreat house on the way home. 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 2019) secures your child's spot.** Questions? Seek out Mary Hanson, Pete Hnath, Carl Prestia, or Gail Miller.

Union Congregational Church
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Groton, MA 01450

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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October

- ♦ **October 7** **Worship/Sunday School (World Communion Sunday)**
 Sermon: Engaging Change — What Are We Doing (third in a four-part series)
 Special Offering: Neighbors In Need
- ♦ **October 8** **Columbus Day—Sandwich Run** (see p. 6)
- ♦ **October 14** **Worship/Sunday School**
 Sermon: Embracing Change — What's Next For Us (fourth in a four-part series)
 Building Project 2.0 Forum after worship (see p. 1)
- ♦ **October 20** **All Church Potluck/Game Night at 5:30 p.m.** (see p. 6)
- ♦ **October 21** **Worship/Sunday School**
- ♦ **October 28** **Reformation Sunday!**

All Month: Receiving Donations for CityReach (see p. 6)