

THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



Mid-Summer 2019

A Message From The Reverend Gail L. Miller

Thank You and Godbwe!

First – THANK YOU for the beautiful party at Gibbet Hill on June 16th. I will cherish the memories, the kind words, and thoughtful gifts of my (and our) time together. And if you’ve not picked up my gift to you – a photo of the steeple with a quote from Augustine on it – they are available in the hallway downstairs at church on Sundays, or in the church office during the week.

Second – GODBWYE, which is a contraction of the phrase “God be with ye.” Throughout the years the word “good” was substituted for “God” due to the influence of phrases such as “good day” or “good evening,” becoming “goodbye” as we say today. And so, with this final newsletter article I say “goodbye” to you all.

And here’s what that will look like. I am in the final days of packing my office and will move out on Thursday, July 18. (If you can help load the truck beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m., please let Carol know. Most of the furniture in the office belongs to me and will go with me to Concord.)

Cell Phone: The number I’ve used as your pastor (978-877-2177) will be disconnected as of July 18. Your new pastor will have a new number and decide for themselves if they’ll have a church cell phone or not.

Facebook: The Facebook page I’ve been using will go away at that time as well. If you want to stay connected to the church via Facebook, be sure to “like/follow” the church’s official Facebook page.

Email: Gail@uccgroton.org will no longer be my email address. An autoresponder will give contact information for various ministries here as well as my new phone/email in Concord.

Participation in future services: It is only natural that you might want me to participate in a funeral or special service in the near future. However, these services are important for your new pastor (Interim or Settled) to perform for and with you and your families; it is how they get to know you and you get to know them. It was these times in your lives during my early years here that we began to grow together in a deeper sharing in Christ. Should you want me to share in a service with your new pastor, you should talk to them about this first rather than reach out to me as your first pastoral contact. Your new pastor will advise you on how to proceed from there.

These past thirteen years have been blessed beyond measure – for all three of us. And as we go our separate ways, we don’t know what the future holds, but we sure know Who holds it. And so, one last time...

Thank you and God Be With You,

Important Contact Information

Pastoral Emergencies

The Reverend Skip Lloyd
Email: thelloydfam@aol.com
Phone: 978-925-9176

The Reverend Marvin Caldwell
Email: mjccaldwell71@gmail.com
Phone: 978-448-5496

Moderator

Jean Armstrong
Email: jean_armstrong@verizon.net
Phone: 978-448-2827

Deacons

Charlene Legge, Chair
Email: InsurCoord@aol.com
Cell: 978-302-8903

Office Administrator

Carol Zaiatz
Email: unioncc@uccgroton.org
Phone: 978-448-2091
Cell: 978-808-7204

Gail's Farewell — June 16, 2019

During the church service, Gail was presented with two gifts from our church; a beautiful handcrafted stole, as well as a coffee table book with photographs from Groton. Everyone was encouraged to write a message in the book for Gail and her family. At the reception, we had several people share their thoughts and memories of how Gail had impacted their lives: Izzie Smith spoke on behalf of the youth of the church, Edie spoke on behalf of the seniors, and Pete spoke for the rest. Gail was presented at the reception with a drawing of a tree in which most of the youth of the church stamped their fingerprint "leaf" onto the tree. Their names will be added to the back with their current grades/ages. Gail was also presented with a quilt made out of every Mission Trip t-shirt that she had organized for our church.

The book and the fingerprint tree are in the Church Office.

We encourage anyone who wants to add their signature or fingerprint to stop (prior to July 16).

Below are some pictures from worship and the Farewell Reception at The Barn at Gibbet Hill





Our Church Family



Ongoing Prayer List

This list is refreshed in January and June. If there is a name you would like to add or remove from this list, please contact Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Megan Bettison
Robina Carestia
Mike Corbett & Family
Peg Elwood
Tiffany Gibb

Ellen Hargraves
Frank Kanour
Joe Marchesani
Jan Miller
Helen Misselhorn

Bill Moeller
Myrtle Murphy
Karen Sands
Rudi Schmid

Matt and Mandy Spain
Diane Thorne
Edie Tompkins
Karen and Marc Vandenbulcke
Betty and Liz Waggoner



- Bonnie Martin and Mark Rzeknikiewicz, in the death of Mark's mother, Catherine Degon.
- Christine Brooks, in the death of her sister, Kathleen Hughes.

Baptized
in the name
of the Lord



Baptized on June 2

Congratulations to the following families:

- The Dabritz family, in the Baptism of Lily and Ryan.
- The Meiners family, in the Baptism of Joy.

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
Bob Goudey	7/4	Cassie Sampas	7/19
Chip Detwiller	7/5	Jon Sjoberg	7/20
Paige Carleton	7/8	Cameron Grasso	7/21
Lynn Manalo	7/9	Betsy Bridge	7/22
Robert Houde	7/10	Colin Grasso	7/24
Abigail Howard	7/10	Amy Sjoberg	7/24
Eleanor Kubick	7/10	Lois Berge	7/25
Janet Kennedy	7/12	Leigh Maynard	7/25
Myra Lockett	7/12	Destiny Bou	7/26
Cloe Bridge	7/13	Caden Rosenfeld	7/27
Finley Clinton	7/14	Sarah Flynn	7/30
Mimi Dabritz	7/14	Bryce York	7/31



Milestone Anniversaries

Scott and Kim Burgess, celebrating their 20th anniversary on August 7.

August Birthdays

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

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?

Address Changes

Already Moved

Megan Mahony and Tom Wickham
45 Crescent Avenue
Scituate, MA 02066
Email: mmahony20@gmail.com

Moving July 30

Paul and Donna Brown
242 Columbia Street
South Kingstown, RI 02879

Moving July 31

Alison and Robert Rosenfeld
Kathy Bates
1 Blue Herons Way
Pepperell, MA 01463

Church News

A Message from the Church Council

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."*

~Jeremiah 29:11

God has a lot of changes planned for our church! This last month we have spent time preparing for Pastor Gail's departure and celebrating our 13 years with her.

Now our focus is shifting to searching for an Interim Pastor. The UCC Conference is working closely with the Council and the Deacons to guide us through the process of finding an Interim Pastor.

The Deacons completed the church profile, which recently was posted on the National Ministerial Opportunities website.

What happens next:

1. Search Committee is formed.
2. Search Committee interviews candidates
3. Deacons will make the hiring decision.

We anticipate interviewing candidates over the summer and into September and making a decision in the fall timeframe.

As much as we like things to stay the same, change can be exciting. God has plans for us, let us be open to where God is leading us.

Change is inevitable--except from a vending machine.

~Robert C. Gallagher

Schedule this Summer

Gary (our Pastoral Internal) has completed his time with us as of June 30; he will be back as a guest preacher on August 11. Other summer preachers include Sarah Hubbell, Susan Scott, Kaz Bem, and Skip Lloyd. Watch your weekly emails for details as we move through the summer. The Reverend Skip Lloyd is available for pastoral emergencies (see p. 1). **Gail's last official day is July 17**, and she will move out of her office on July 18.

Boxes and Assistance for Gail: Gail has begun packing up her office. If you have moving boxes that you could share, please drop them in the Parish House as soon as you are able. Also, **starting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 18**, she will need help loading the truck with furniture and boxes. If you can help with this, let Carol know (unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Church Office: Carol Zaiatz will be on vacation **beginning Friday, July 19**. She will **return to the office on Tuesday, July 30**. During this time, the church office will be closed. We will have someone come in during that week to check on emails, mail, etc.

Church News (cont.)



Nursery News

We will welcome **Emily Hutchins** as our new Nursery Attendant on August 11. **Allie Cebollero's** last day will be August 11 — both will be here that day so Allie can show Emily around. Please be sure to stop by to say “goodbye” to Allie and “hello” to Emily. Emily is the younger sister of Molly Hutchins, our Nursery Attendant a few years ago.

Church Council (June 12) Summary

The Council shared some sorrows and some joys in anticipation of Gail's imminent departure. We also thanked Gary for the time he spent with us during the church year, as his time here also comes to an end.

The Accessibility Steering Team provided an update with a timeline of a planned presentation to the Congregation on September 22, and the Council approved this date. In addition, the Council set the Stated Meeting for October 27, at which point the congregation will have the opportunity to vote to approve the project to date.

The Summer Worship schedule goes into effect beginning June 23. Worship time will remain at 10:00 a.m., and we have preachers and musicians in place for the entire summer.

There was a proposal to suspend our participation in *Grotonfest* this year for several reasons, among them the transition, the difficulty of staffing the booth, and the focus on the Harvest Fair the following weekend. We agreed that we will not have a booth at *Grotonfest* this year.

An update on the pastor transition was shared; our church profile is nearly complete and shortly we will begin receiving candidates for an Interim Pastor.

A Message from Gary Gumuchian

To the Congregation and Staff of Union Congregational Church of Groton,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve in Groton these past seven months as your Pastoral Intern. I have enjoyed getting to know you, serving in worship, and learning how UCC Groton takes care of its business. I will take the lessons I have learned with me wherever God leads me.

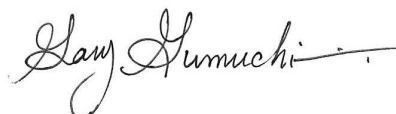
UCC Groton is a wonderful church family! I love your Communication Covenant. The formal lay leadership I witnessed through the Council, Deacons, and other committees in this church is so strong. As important, the informal lay leadership of those participating in the life of the church in unofficial capacities is also strong. During this time of pastoral transition, I know that the leaders will sustain this wonderful culture of Christian love.

UCC Groton is a faith-filled church. I enjoyed hearing the confirmands' reflections on scripture during worship. The “theological” conversations I had during children's time are treasured memories. In almost every one of my visits, I heard how church and faith played a role in each person's life. Your collective faith has held, holds, and will hold UCC Groton as a living expression of God's Kingdom and Christ's Body.

What a good natured and highly competent staff at UCC Groton! I have enjoyed working with them so much. Obviously, Pastor Gail is amazing and will be missed, but the flexible lay staff at UCC Groton can definitely roll with the changes. Tom knows where everything is. Bernard can play anything. Carol can always find space in the bulletin. Cheryl's bells always make a joyful noise unto the Lord. It is a group that laughs a lot and supports each other.

Due to my now having this experience at UCC Groton, the Committee on Ministry for Central Association has asked me to prepare my ordination paper over the next few months with an intention of presenting it to them early next year. Provided my paper is deemed sufficient, an Ecclesiastical Council will be held. The process may sound like a lot, but it is good to know pastors in the United Church of Christ have been thoroughly vetted.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on August 11, when I'll be back here in Groton as guest preacher. Blessings upon you all and hopefully our spiritual journeys will intersect again.





Welcome Back Picnic Sunday, September 8, after Worship

The Kitchen Ministry is planning ahead for the Welcome Back Picnic for the church family. We will start advertising it in the month of August with announcements and, later in August, a list of ways you can help. So, for now, enjoy the summer and we'll be in touch.

Kitchen Ministry:

—Greg Balligan
—Wendy Jones

—Janet Carey
—Myra Lockett

—Bill Colbert
—Sara Zambuto

Accessibility Project Update

Daydreaming About Accessibility and September 22

(NOTE: Picture yourself in one of the pews as you read this. This was the announcement I made to the congregation in church on Sunday, June 23. Thank you! - Bebe Goudey)



Good morning. I'm Chair of the Accessibility Steering Team....And,...I'm a daydreamer. But I'll talk about that in a moment.

For those of you who may not have heard anything about the Accessibility Project yet, the goal of the project is to make both main floors of the church fully accessible to all people who are physically challenged.

Now, about me being a daydreamer...I have a recurring daydream that makes me smile, and I want to share it with all of you, especially with the dear folks who worship with us every Sunday from the parlor downstairs (**wave toward the camera while saying...**). Hi Helen! Hi Toni! Hi Peg, Edie, Ellen & Bob and the rest of the folks in the parlor! This is my recurring daydream...



It's the first Sunday morning after the Accessibility Project addition is completed and ready for all of you to enter for the first time. The part of my daydream that makes me smile the most is I picture Helen, Toni, Peg, Edie and Ellen racing in to be the first person to press the button on the elevator that will take them up here to the sanctuary level where all of us can worship together here in this space. That's my daydream.



Now, back to my announcement, on behalf of the rest of my team, I invite you all to mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 22**, to be at church for a presentation of the proposed project after worship. You'll get to meet the architect, see the Schematic Design plans, learn details about the project, including the cost estimate, and ask questions. We will provide other opportunities to hear about the project if you cannot attend on Sept. 22. Thank you!

And, if you haven't already, please read our updates in the May and June issues of the Courier where we summarized features of the proposed plans.

Accessibility Steering Team

—Bebe Goudey, Chair
—Karen Sherwin

—Anne Cahill
—Christopher Sullivan

—Chip Detwiller
—Sara Zambuto

Backpack Drive



Sharing Christ ~ Changing Lives ~ Providing Backpacks!

We are ready to launch our second UCC Groton Backpack Drive and will be providing 250-300 students with backpacks and school supplies on August 23, 2019. Cheerful volunteers (YOU) are the key to making this program a success. Here's how you can help:

- **Volunteer to set-up** at Devens Community Center, **August 21-22**. We need people to be "on call" to unload a truck and to help stock tables on set-up day with donated school supplies and backpacks at several times on August 21 and 22. Morning, afternoon, and evening volunteers are welcome. All church youth are welcome and encouraged!
- **Volunteer on Distribution Day**, Friday, **August 23**. Be involved as a greeter who checks people in or as a "personal shopper" with families for backpacks and supplies during two separate shifts (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.) at Devens Community Center. Due to privacy concerns, volunteers must be adults.
- **Volunteer over the following weekend or Monday/Tuesday the following week** to help with clean-up, organization of remaining supplies, and distribution of supplies to area schools.
- **Make a monetary donation**, which will be used to buy school supplies and backpacks. Look for the link in the Friday email to give online; or you can write out a check to UCC Groton (Backpack Drive in the memo section) and mail it to Carol Zaiatz in the Church Office (220 Main Street).
- **Shop for backpacks**: A large number of backpacks are being donated by others, but we are responsible for providing approximately 50 varied backpacks for middle school, high school, and college students. Backpacks must be provided by August 1.
- **Volunteer to shop in early August** for any shortfall of school supplies that may still be needed. If you enjoy finding bargains and bulk-shopping (either online or in person), we may need a few people to help with last-minute shopping of outstanding items (to be determined). If they are items we have assigned, you can be reimbursed for the cost of purchased items.
- **Donate school supplies**: The following items are needed to round out the many donations provided by others. Please only provide items with the specifications listed here and feel free to buy in bulk to get the best deals:
 - 150 3-ring binders with 2-inch rings
 - 500 pocket folders
 - 90 packs of index cards (no more than 100 cards per pack)
 - 150 packs college-ruled 3-ring binder paper (pre-holed or "filler paper")
 - 150 college-ruled composition books
 - 120 packs of dividers for 3-ring binders
 - 120 mechanical pencils

Please consider giving a few hours of your time so that area children can share in the excitement of a new school year without the worry of being unprepared. **Donations of backpacks and supplies will be collected in Fellowship Hall near the Choir room starting July 18.**

Please contact Andrea McDonough or Stefanie Lempp to sign-up to volunteer, make a monetary donation, or to learn more!

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 Amy Nickerson 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

—Carl Prestia, Chair

—Bonnie Marchesani

—Amy Nickerson



Confirmation Sunday

On June 9, we celebrated the Confirmation of 14 of our young people. What a wonderful, joyous day!

At the end of their year, they were asked to write a letter to the Deacons, in which they shared their faith and beliefs. Some excerpts from those letters are on pages 9 and 10.



Confirmation (cont.)

In their own words. . .

Abigail Burgess (Mentor: Brenda Barker)

Going through confirmation has taught me the importance of my faith in everyday life. I enjoy coming to church every weekend with my family... Whenever I have a stressful, terrible, or just an ok day, I like to pray to God. It helps me to share problems, worries, and things that I am grateful for... I know that the Lord is always listening and knows what is best... being a member of this church would mean that I would be committing to my faith, which I know is something I am ready to do.

Hayley Cahill (Mentor: Cassie Sampas)

When I was younger, I didn't understand the importance of Baptism, but now I do... I know it represents my entry into the church, but since I don't have a memory to match a description of the event, I'm more excited to be confirmed... Jesus in my life is a solid figure, someone who I always know I can trust, who is always there for me... To me, the resurrection is a symbol of hope, that nothing is ever over... I see myself in the future serving Christ by always being kind and generous, and helping people in the world whenever possible.

Benjamin Coviello (Mentor: Paul Brown)

I have believed in God for nearly all of my life... I like the way it sounds when I say, 'I'm Christian'... Prayer is very important to me. My family and I pray together every night... I love our church community, there are so many kind people... I can't wait to be confirmed. I want to be a part of this church and I will feel closer to God as I go through the process on that Sunday.

Emily Hanson (Mentor: Bonnie Marchesani)

When I started writing my reflection of John 13:33-35, It brought back memories [from Mission Trips and City Reach] of loving one another... I want my new home to involve me not just in the church, but with the dedication of a whole community... [At times of] fear, confusion, and panic, it hit me like a bullet of truth. I looked to God and told him 'I don't even know what's happening anymore!' and begged. Then a voice in my head told me 'It's okay, I know what I'm doing.' and that was when I began to believe even in the times of stress and despair... Because if no one on earth knows what they're doing, I'll keep reminding myself that God knows what he's doing. That's why I'm willing to take this journey from here on out, not from reading anyone else's story, but for writing my own.

Alison Houde (Mentor: Stefanie Lempp)

Being able to be confirmed is very important to me, and I am honored to be a part of this church... The Mission Trips and other volunteering activities through the church has also strengthened my relationship with God. It has shown me Christianity can bring joy to anyone and God can change lives. I have always looked forward to helping others and knowing that I am spreading God and making a difference... Having God in my life has made me a better person and has helped me grow as a person... Jesus has guided me through life and given me a place to lean on when I am feeling down.

Cailidh Houde (Mentor: Julie Platt)

As a child I found my baptism pointless and found church to be a chore. Now I wake up and don't complain as I head to church. I love church, because it strengthens my relationship with God... The parts of church that have influenced me most are Mission Trips and City Reach. I have found Jesus and God through those trips and have connected a lot with my church group. Jesus in my life is there 24/7... Knowing that I have the ability every Sunday to strengthen my relationship with God has made me stronger.

Anna Kubick (Mentor: Bebe Goudey)

I have learned a lot about the church this year and want to learn even more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as I continue on with my journey through faith... Going to church frequently has influenced me to want to be confirmed, because I have learned a lot from Sunday School and Worship... To me, Jesus is a perfect example of how I should live my life as a Christian... He leads me in the right direction and teaches me how to be a better person in general.

Isabella Meehan (Mentor: Sara Zambuto)

Throughout the year, confirmation has brought me closer to God and the community within our church... I have been coming to this church since I was very little, and growing up I've learned of faith, love, friendship, and courage through the help of God and all those around me... To be a member of this church is an honor and a role I am excited to have this coming June.

Confirmation—In their own words (cont.)

Emma Milano (Mentor: Anne Larsen)

The Mission Trips and sandwich runs have influenced me by being able to experience God's work first hand. Going to church every Sunday has greatly influenced me, because I have learned so much from the sermons... My family has been a big part of my faith journey, because they have been the ones to encourage me to do almost everything I've done with the church... I am excited to join this church's community and keep learning new and wonderful things about my faith!

Grace Nickerson (Mentor: Charlene Legge)

The confirmation process has been very impactful on my faith to the Lord, this church, and has helped make this decision, as I changed my mind many times over the course of the past year... In the past I found church to be boring, but once I started learning more about our Lord, I started to enjoy it and understand worship more and more... Another thing that has drastically changed in my faith journey is prayer... it makes me feel like I have some control over whatever I'm praying for and makes me feel a stronger connection to God.

Kyle Plausse (Mentor: Bob Goudey)

Being confirmed is a big step in my faith and I am ready to take it... Being as young as I am, I am still figuring out who Jesus is to me and exactly what role he plays in my life... I believe in him and his death and resurrection have always been a very powerful thing to me... Before making decisions, I often think about what God would want me to do, and how my actions would be seen by him. I try my best to make the right decision based off of God and what I believe is right... It is very exciting for me to be a member of this church... I believe in the teachings of the church and of Christianity, and I believe the UCC is exactly where I need to be.

Curtis Prestia (Mentor: Steve Legge)

In my life, Jesus is a teacher and a mentor. His teachings guide me in my daily life and help make me a better person. To me, Jesus' death and resurrection are proof that God does love us, because he gave his only son out of love for his people. And knowing that I am one of God's children and that he loves me is something I often think about during low points in my life, and it often gives me reassurance. I see myself serving Christ in my life on Mission Trips and other church events... when I serve people who have less than me, I know that I am serving God, and changing and improving the life of another one of God's children.

Sophia Smith (Mentor: Bonnie Blocchi)

Self-discovery was a huge part of my decision to be confirmed... As soon as confirmation started, I realized that I wasn't so sure I wanted to be confirmed... After lots of processing, I realized that confirmation was not about what my mother believed. But about what I believe. As long as I stated that I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I could be confirmed... I do believe in God, I do believe in Jesus, and I do believe in the Holy Sprit.

Bryce York (Mentor: Chris Sullivan)

Throughout my life, I have always been a very strong believer in Jesus Christ... I have always held the word of God close to me, even if it gets very hard sometimes... Up until I started doing the sandwich run with the other members of this church, whenever I would see a homeless person I would just look the other way. Now that I have done all these great things with our church and interacted with other Christian communities, I have a new feeling of sympathy in my heart toward these people... This confirmation is important to me because, in my opinion, it brings me as close to God as I can reach before my salvation.

From Pastor Miller's Confirmation Sunday Sermon

[In joining the church,] I became a member of a community, spread across time and space, whose ways of thinking and acting have, over the years, grounded, nurtured, instructed, guided, and [shaped] me. [The church for me is about] living gratefully, joyfully, and responsibly in this world.

~Nicholas Wolterstorff

Youth Mission Trip

Youth Mission Trip to Clendenin, West Virginia June 22—June 30

Our youth (and advisors) served on several building projects in the Clendenin area. What a wonderful way to *Share Christ and Change Lives* beyond the borders of our town.

Youth: Abby Burgess, Hayley Cahill, Ben Coviello, Hasi Gedara, Emily Hanson, Kristina Hnath, Anna Kubick, Ellie Kubick, Emma Milano, Curtis Prestia, Kirsten Sjoberg, Sophia Smith, Bryce York, and Chloe York

Advisors: Mary Hanson, Pete Hnath, Gail Miller



Youth Mission Trip (cont.)



Distribution of Missions Funds

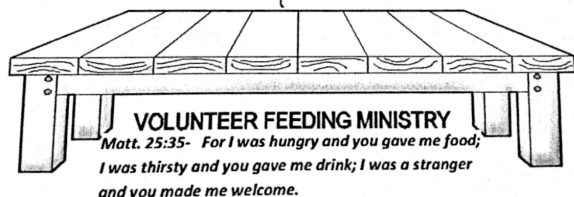
In June, the Missions Team announced in church where the funds given to Missions are distributed. A pie chart was created to illustrate the distribution. Please take a look downstairs in Fellowship Hall at the newly updated Missions bulletin board.

Missions has also listed the organizations with which our church is affiliated and where we can *Share Christ and Change Lives* with others. Please take a look at that new chart also posted in Fellowship Hall.

Opportunities to Serve

This summer YOU have the Opportunity to Serve in the following ways:

Our Father's Table



Our Father's Table (Fitchburg, MA)

Volunteers are needed to serve hot, nutritious meals to those in need. Time commitment is 4:00-6:30pm on the following dates:

Tuesday, July 30 and

Tuesday, August 27

More dates are available. Please contact: Julie Platt 978-857-1484 (mobile) or julielp@verizon.net

UCC Neighbors in Need / Caring Circle (Groton)

Missions is starting a new *very local* errand hour system for those in our church who need a small task completed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Stefanie Lempp 978-502-1754 (mobile) stefanie.lempp@msn.com

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair
—Lynn Manalo

—Brenda Barker
—Halsey Platt

—Ellen Hargraves

Harvest Fair



Harvest Fair

Saturday, October 5
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The Missions Committee has chosen *Hagar's Sisters* as the recipient of our proceeds from the Harvest Fair. Their mission is "*Ending the cycle of violence through the transforming power of God.*"

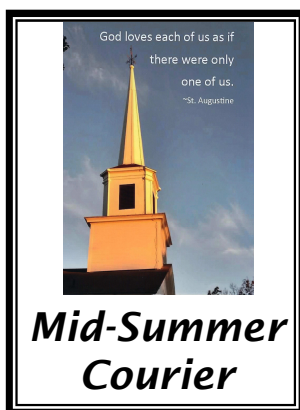
In Preparation this summer:

- **Save your kids clothes** for donating to the Children's Clothing room.
- 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 (Liz.Corcoran@Bain.com)
- **Bake and freeze things for the bake table.** Do you have an extra crop of blueberries? Save them for blueberry pies!

Do you have an idea for the fair or want to help somewhere specific?
Let Mary Hanson know (mary.hanson@monotype.com)

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

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God loves each of us as if
there were only
one of us.
~St. Augustine

Summer Worship—10:00 a.m. Preacher/Organist Schedule

July 14	Susan Scott/Sam Chase
July 21	Susan Scott/Sam Chase
July 28	Kaz Bem/Sam Chase
August 4	Kaz Bem/Bernard Crane
August 11	Gary Gumuchian/Bernard Crane
August 18	Susan Scott/Bernard Crane
August 25	Kaz Bem/Bernard Crane
Sept. 1	The Reverend Skip Lloyd/ Bernard Crane

***When you are not away on vacation, we hope to see you in
Worship during these summer months!***

Sept. 8—Welcome Back!
Sunday School begins! Welcome Back picnic (see p. 6)