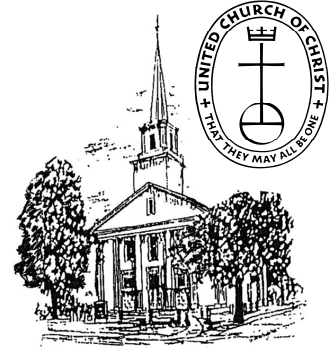


# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

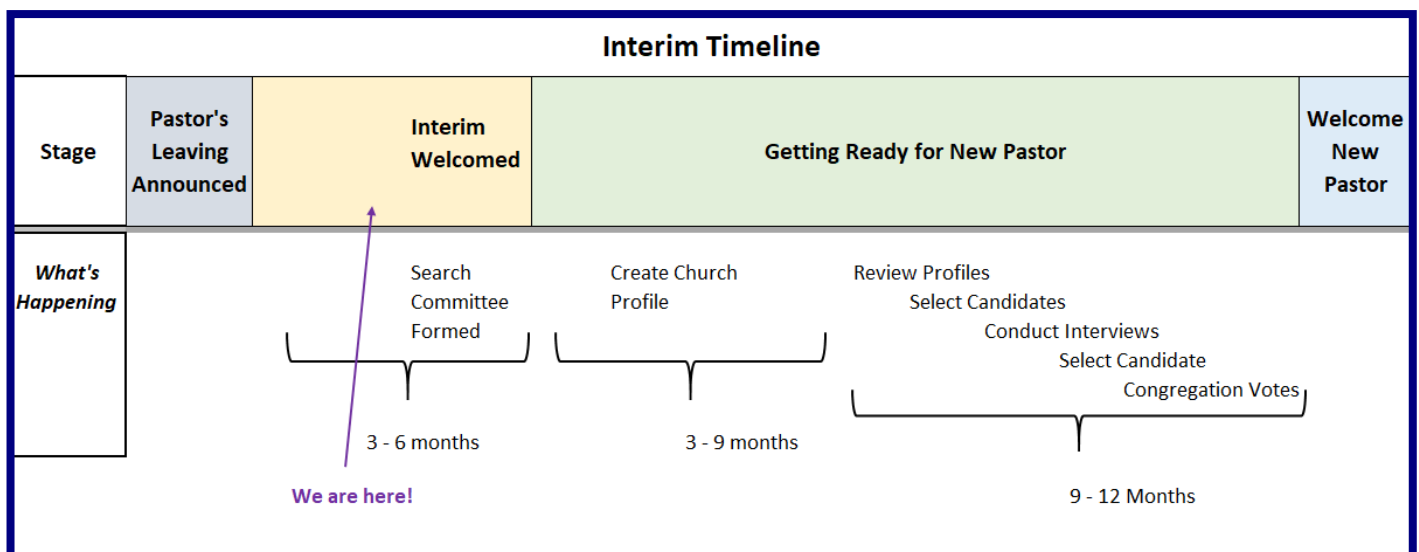


## September 2019

### A Message from Our Moderator

September always feels like the beginning of the year for me. I wonder how long that will last once my children have long since graduated from school. Fall is the end of the growing season, but still feels like a new start for me. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with everyone at church, as we all return from our summer adventures.

At church we have many things starting up — Sunday School, *LILIES*, etc. There's a lot going on in addition to searching for an Interim Pastor and beginning the search process for a Settled Pastor. Here's a broad timeline of the pastoral search process and where we are right now.



The Search Committee for an Interim Pastor is in the process of interviewing candidates and is looking to make a decision this Fall.

The next step in our journey is to form a Search Committee for the Settled Pastor. The Church Council and Deacons will provide the congregation with details on the role and responsibilities for serving on the committee. Nominations will be submitted to the Church Council and Deacons who will form the Search Committee.

Blessings to you all as we continue our journey.

*Jean Armstrong, Moderator*



# 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; [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto: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



- The Balligan/Dziuba family, in the death of Kyle Dziuba (son and brother) on July 25.

### Confidential Prayer Chain

**Need prayer and need it now?** Simply email [prayer@uccgroton.org](mailto:prayer@uccgroton.org) and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call Carol in the Church Office (978-448-2091) and she 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.



## Milestone Anniversaries

- **Barb and Ken Lefebvre** are celebrating their **35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** on **September 1**
- **The Reverend Gail Miller and Mike Smith** are celebrating their **20<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** on **September 4**.

## September Birthdays

Julie Sutherland-Platt	09/01	Cheryl Townsend	09/09	Jillian Coviello	09/26
Gianna Hitsos	09/02	Brian LaGasse	09/10	Kevin Kuliesis	09/28
Marin Colbert	09/03	Hannah Van Pelt	09/17	Jacob Gervais	09/29
Paul Meehan, Jr.	09/05	Russell Byron-Kelly	09/19	Cathy Fuller	09/30
Karen Sherwin	09/06	Daniel Flynn	09/20	Nathan Townsend	09/30
Terri Cappucci	09/07	Emily Townsend	09/21		
Christine Brooks	09/08	Alaina Foss	09/24		

If we missed your birthday, it is not in our database. Please email [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto: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!

# Church News

## Ladies' Lunch

**Friday, September 6** (11:30 a.m. at church to carpool)

**TAKA** (602 Constitution Ave., Littleton)

All women of the church are invited! Contacts: Janice Owen, Brenda Semienko, or Peg Lloyd

**RSVP to Margaret Wheeler, so we have a head count for reservations.**



## Welcome Back Picnic

**Sunday, September 8, After Worship**

**Feed Your Soul AND your Stomach!** Our summer schedules take us here and there; so let's gather to reconnect as the school year begins again. Plan to stay for good food (sandwiches, hot dogs, and Italian sausages), good friends, and good fun! RSVP on the church website ([www.uccgroton.net](http://www.uccgroton.net)) or contact Carol Zaiatz ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org); 978-448-2091) to confirm your attendance and/or how you can help. There is also a link to the signup in the Friday email. Questions? Please contact Janet Carey.

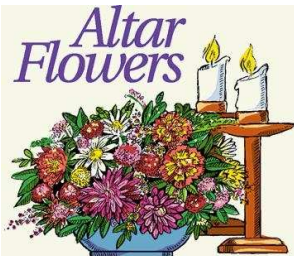


## Knitting Group

**Wednesdays**

**10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor**

Do you knit, crochet, needlepoint? Come join us—all are welcome! We meet every Wednesday (come when you can).



After a break this summer to allow people to bring their own flowers, we will startup our "standing order" with Country Florist on September 8. If you would like to dedicate flowers on a particular Sunday, please: 1) Fill in your name and dedication on the Flower Chart in the downstairs hallway bulletin board; and 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. Call Carol in the office if you have any questions (978-448-2091).

## All Women of the Church are Invited!

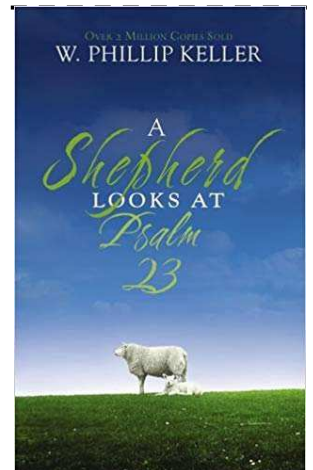
**A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23**

**Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m. (9/10 – 10/8)**

**Church Parlor**

We are excited to announce that we will spend September and October reading *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by W. Phillip Keller. **A signup sheet and books are available in the downstairs hallway at church.** The schedule is as follows:

September 10: Chapters 1 & 2  
September 17: Chapters 3 & 4  
September 24: Chapters 5, 6 & 7  
October 1: Chapters 8, 9 & 10  
October 8: Chapters 11 & 12



This is a "come when you can" group. Hopefully, you will experience a fellowship worthy of our name: **Lord Inspired Ladies In Eternal Sisterhood (L.I.L.I.E.S.)**! Contacts: Raquel Majeski, Myra Lockett, or Betsy Bridge

## Introducing Our New Collector

Hello, my name is **Margaret Wheeler** and I will be the new Collector. In case you are not familiar with the role of the Collector, that person is responsible for accurately counting, depositing, reporting and reconciling all monies given to UCC Groton, as well as managing the church's yearly pledge campaign and sending out reports quarterly.

I live in Westford and began attending worship services here in 2016. While I may have emailed with you for church events, such as the Ladies Luncheon Group, the Church Office has created a new email address **collector@uccgroton.org** that should be used for all emails to the Collector. If you prefer a more personal communication, please speak with me after worship.

*Margaret Wheeler, Collector*  
*collector@uccgroton.org*

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## Guest Preachers

As we move into the fall, our Guest Preachers are The Reverend Skip Lloyd, Gary Gumuchian, and The Reverend Marvin Caldwell.

**For Pastoral Emergencies, contact:**

**The Reverend Skip Lloyd** (978-391-4115; thelloydfam@aol.com)

**The Reverend Marvin Caldwell** (978-448-5496; mjcalldwell71@gmail.com)

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## Interim Pastor Search Committee Update

The Interim Pastor Search Committee has completed interviews with seven potential candidates. Of those seven, two candidates have accepted offers elsewhere, one withdrew due to medical issues, and one was removed from consideration by the Committee. The Search Committee is currently reviewing the three remaining candidates and will decide whether or not to move forward with any of them. An eighth profile was received this week and an interview will be scheduled as soon as possible.

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**Interim Pastor Search Committee**

—Kim Burgess

—Bill Gale, Jr.

—Kelli Hnath

—Charlene Kelly

—Craig Smith

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## Accessibility Steering Team Update

### Presentation on Sunday, September 22, after Worship

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**You're invited** to attend the presentation of the proposed project after worship on **September 22**. The goal of this project is to make both main floors of the church fully accessible to all people who have physical challenges. This project will be life changing for our church and the community we serve.

**Did you know that the plans for the proposed addition call for...**

- a three-stop elevator within a fully accessible entrance foyer at Willowdale Road?
- no ramp? (no ramp is needed = cost and maintenance savings)
- four new fully accessible lavatories? (two new ADA lavatories on each floor)
- entrance/exit doors at a small porch on the back side facing Hollis Street?

**On September 22**, you'll get to meet our architect, see the Schematic Design plans, learn details about the proposed project, including the cost estimate, and ask questions. We will provide other opportunities to learn about the project between September 22 and our Congregational Meeting on October 27.

If you haven't already done so, please read our updates in the May and June issues of the Courier where we summarized features of the proposed plans. And, feel free to seek out any one of us from the team. We'd be happy to discuss the proposed project with you. Please plan to join us on the 22<sup>nd</sup>! Thank you!

**"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" ~Psalm 133:1**

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**The Accessibility Steering Team**

—Bebe Goudey, Captain

—Anne Cahill

—Chip Detwiller

—Karen Sherwin

—Chris Sullivan

—Sara Zambuto

# Christian Education

## Sunday School

### Welcome Back!

#### Sunday School Begins Sept. 8

Sunday School information packets will be available in church on September 8. We ask that any **new students register on our website at [www.uccgroton.net](http://www.uccgroton.net)**. Even if your child will only attend occasionally, we ask you to complete this form so that we have accurate allergy and contact information. If you have any questions, please contact Carol (978-448-2091; [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)).

**Note:** *This year, the classes will be K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Grades 3-6, and Grades 7-8. Those children under age 5 are welcome to go to the Nursery to spend some time with Emily and do an activity.*

**September 8**  
*Welcome Back! Decorate Classrooms*

**September 15**  
*The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin, Luke 15:1-10*

**September 22**  
*Two Masters, Luke 16:1-13*

**September 29**  
*Parable of the Rich Man, Luke 16:19-31*

### Sunday School Teachers — *Can You Help!*

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—**are there any high school students who would like to be a Teacher's Assistant?** Please contact Amy Nickerson or anyone on the Christian Education Committee if you are interested in helping as a Teacher, Assistant, or a "sub".

**Note:** *All teachers/subs need a current CORI here at UCC — please check with Carol Zaiatz (978-448-2091; [unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)) to complete a form.*



### Bible for Third Graders Sunday, September 29, during Worship

This is a gift from the church, and we hope all families of third graders who consider this their church will be in worship on September 29 for this special day. As of mid-August, our records show that **Will Nickerson** is in third grade.

It is important to us that we not miss anyone, so if your son or daughter is not listed, please contact Carol in the Church Office ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org); 978-448-2091) so that we can make sure they receive a Bible.

Also, if you are new to the church and have children in the upper elementary grades who don't have a Bible and would like one geared toward children (3<sup>rd</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> graders), please let us know.

Christian Education Committee

—Carl Prestia, Chair

—Bonnie Marchesani

—Amy Nickerson

## Bible Study

### Evening Bible Study

**Moves back to Wednesdays (9/5)**

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

Contact: Janet Kennedy

### Thursday Morning Bible Study

**Resumes September 12**

**10:00 a.m.**

Contact: Marvin Caldwell



# Backpack Drive

# Harvest Fair



## Backpack Drive

On Friday, August 23, UCC Groton held its second *Backpack Drive* at Devens Community Center. Over 200 backpacks and supplies were donated to more than 100 families. In addition, surplus backpacks and supplies were delivered to schools in Groton, Leominster, and Ayer and to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, who will distribute them to students in Lowell. Many thanks to the 30 volunteers who helped on set-up and distribution days, to those who donated backpacks and supplies, and to those whose behind-the-scenes efforts made it all possible!



## Harvest Fair

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

**HAGAR'S SISTERS**  
Ending the cycle of abuse through the transforming power of God

### Who are we Fundraising for this year?

*Hagar's Sisters* is dedicated to ending the cycle of domestic abuse through the transforming power of God, addressing domestic violence with holistic solutions.

### How can you help?

- **Pie Baking:** We are asking people to bake pies on their own and drop them off at the Bake Table.
- **Bake Table:** You can bake for the bake table — just bring it on Saturday (ask Mary Hanson if you need ideas)
- **Children's Clothing:** Recycle your kid's old clothes to the children's clothing room. Contact Krista Kubick
- **Children's Toys:** Recycle your children's old toys.
- **Volunteers Needed:** You can volunteer a little of your time at one of the many areas (playing with the kids in the toy area or outside with the games, help in the kitchen...). Look for a link in the Friday email later this month; or contact Carol Zaiatz ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org); 978-448-2091).
- **The Silent Auction** is a long-standing (and fun) tradition at our annual Harvest Fair. Do you have an item or service to donate? Examples include:
  - Services such as yard work/window washing/painting
  - Gift certificates to your (local) business
  - A week or weekend at your vacation home
  - A one-of-a kind treasurePlease contact Liz Brennan

*Do you have an idea for the fair or want to help somewhere specific?*  
**Contact Mary Hanson**

# Missions      Music/Choirs      In the Community

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## Missions Committee

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### ***Hagar's Sisters Visit*** **Sunday, September 22**

*Hagar's Sisters* will join us in leading worship to share their ministry with us. They will also be joining us on October 5 at the Harvest Fair! We will be donating all the profits from the Harvest Fair to *Hagar's Sisters* this year. We look forward to a joyful day of celebrating *Hagar's Sisters'* ministry and knowing that we are living our faith and sharing Christ with our community!

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#### **Missions Committee**

—Julie Platt, Chair  
—Stefanie Lempp

—Brenda Barker  
—Sue Lunt

—Lynn Manalo  
—Halsey Platt

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## **Our Choirs ~ You Are Invited!**

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### **Youth Choir**

**Rehearses Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

We'll be incorporating great new music, old standards and kids' favorites. ...Kids (grades 3 and up, even high schoolers), you don't want to miss this! Similar to last year (depending on numbers), we will split into two groups based on age.

**Rehearsals start 9/5. Bernard Crane, Director**



**Senior Choir**

### **Senior Choir**

**Rehearses Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

All are welcome! We can certainly add more to all vocal parts. High school students are invited also. If you like to sing, please join us. **Rehearsals start Thursday, 9/5. Bernard Crane, Director**



### **Handbell Choir**

**Rehearses Monday evenings, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

This Fall we look forward to playing some congregational favorites from the past. We have had to return our large bass bells to the Church in Manchester, NH, which were generously loaned to us for the past three years. We hope to raise funds for our own set of bass bells over the next year. More details to follow. We welcome any great fundraising ideas. **Rehearsals start 9/16.** If you are interested in bells, come visit a rehearsal or contact *Cheryl Townsend, Director*

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## **In the Community...**

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*The Groton Interfaith Council Presents:*

### ***Global Fusion: A Musical Exploration of Faith and Culture***

**Sunday, September 15, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** (616 Great Rd., Littleton)

Several different faiths will share music and ways in which music enriches their worship, culture, or faith experiences. (Participating faiths include Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Unitarian, and more) **FREE** and open to the public. Appropriate for **ALL AGES**. Refreshments to follow. **Contact:** [info@grotoninterfaith.org](mailto:info@grotoninterfaith.org)



Groton Interfaith Council

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

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## **Welcome to Church!**

### **Sunday, September 1**

**Holy Communion**

**Guest Preacher:** The Reverend H. V. "Skip" Lloyd

### **Sunday, September 8**

**Guest Preacher:** Gary Gumuchian

**Start of Sunday School:** (Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> graders) (see p. 5)

**Welcome Back Picnic after Worship** (see p. 3)

### **Sunday, September 15**

**Guest Preacher:** The Reverend Marvin Caldwell

### **Sunday, September 22**

**Hagar's Sisters** leading Worship

**Accessibility Project Presentation**

### **Sunday, September 29**

**Guest Preacher:** Gary Gumuchian

**Third Graders receive Bibles** (see p. 5)

**Harvest Fair**  
**Saturday, October 5**  
**10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**  
(see p. 6)