

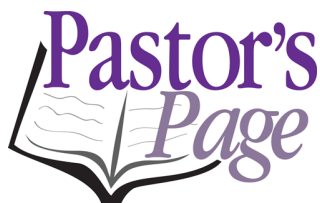
THE UNION COURIER

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rev. Corey J. Sanderson, Interim Pastor

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



October 2020



It was many years ago that I read a beautiful little novel entitled, *A World Lost*. The author, Wendell Berry, is best known as a poet, essayist, and prophetic voice in the ongoing work of environmental awareness and education. Throughout all of his literary works, Berry reminds us of our eternal connection to creation and to the ways in which people and places are central to the communal identity we have. What always draws me back to Berry's writings is this uncanny sense that he is writing as a modern-day Henry David Thoreau.

In the novel, *A World Lost*, Berry tells the story of a nine-year-old boy named Andy Catlett. It's the summer of 1944 when young Andy learns that his mentor and hero, Uncle Andrew, has just been murdered. In this tragic moment, the world that young Andy has always known falls apart and seems now lost forever. All he now has is just the memories of his uncle's life. Years later, as an adult, Andy embarks on a journey of remembrance and recollection in an effort to try and reclaim the earlier world and life that he once knew.

One afternoon, while in his grandmother's home, the now adult Andy stares at the small sampler hanging on a wall. Even though he had seen this piece many times through the years, Andy suddenly has a profound epiphany. The sampler, that was stitched by his mother many years early, is a simple verse that reveals a profound truth of the world that he has come to know. It reads,

HOURS FLY
FLOWERS DIE
NEW DAYS
NEW WAYS
PASS BY
LOVE STAYS

In this moment, Andy realizes that of all the things in his grandmother's house, this is the most beautiful and meaningful to him. Can you see why Andy was so moved? When the period is finally placed at the end of the sentence that is our life, only love will remain. Everything else in life is finite and terminal; the hours and flowers, the new days and new ways. The same is true of our very lives. Only our love, both the ways we love and the ways we choose to be loved, are left behind for others. The strange paradox of all this is that, if our love is to be left behind tomorrow, we likely have to leave behind some of the other stuff we are doing today. After all, we all know that love requires sacrifice.

The world of today needs a lot of love. With more than two hundred thousand deaths due to COVID-19 and more social and political unrest than any of us can handle, our call as Christians is to add more love and justice to the world. In thinking of the many ways our church already does this, we are tasked with always keeping this mission at the forefront of what we do. In the days ahead, whether in terms of Stewardship or the Capital Campaign, we have the chance to sacrifice now to ensure that love endures long into the future.

At the end of Berry's novel, Andy says, 'Remembering, I suppose, the best days of my childhood, I used to think I wanted most of all to be happy—by which I meant to be here and to be undistracted. If I were here and undistracted, I thought, I would be at home. But now I have been here a fair amount of time, and slowly I have learned that my true home is not just this place but is also that company of immortals with whom I have lived here day-by-day. I live in their love, and I know something of the cost...'

In the lingering days of the season of Pentecost, in which we reflect on being the church, let us hold fast to the call of spreading the love and justice of Jesus now and in the days ahead.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Corey".

The word "Love" written in a large, white, cursive font, set against a background of a purple and pink cloud-like or watercolor-like shape.



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).

Peggy & John Blair
Connie & Bob Brown
Mike Corbett & Family
Tiffany Gibb

Betty Goulet Chris Joyce
Brigid and Brian Klingberg
Myrtle Murphy
Betty Sampas

Rudi Schmid
Matt & Mandy Spain
Joe Marchesani

Bill Moeller
Betty & Liz Waggoner
Laurie Waye

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 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 Anniversary

Janice and Steve Flynn are celebrating their 35th Wedding Anniversary on October 25. Congratulations to the Flynn's!



Milestone Birthday!

A Special Happy Birthday to **Edie Tompkins**, who turns 90 years old on October 26! God Bless you Edie!

October Birthdays

Kirsten Sjoberg	10/01	Carly Detwiller	10/14	Connie Brown	10/23
Juliet Silveri	10/03	Bob Hargraves	10/14	Edie Tompkins	10/26
Helen Misselhorn	10/06	Casey Cunningham	10/15	Michael Dabritz	10/27
Joe Zambuto	10/06	Richard Ferrero	10/17	Andrew Howard	10/29
Mitchell Townsend	10/09	Anna Kubick	10/18		
MacKenzie Luth	10/11	Nevan Rosenfeld	10/21		

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!

Church News

From the Collector

Thank you to everyone who has sent pledge offerings and donations to the Church Office or donated online. Donation Statements as of September 30 should be mailed in early October, so please keep an eye out for them. If you have any questions or concerns about your pledge, please contact Margaret Wheeler (collector@uccgroton.org).



Clothing Drive – *Give & Take*

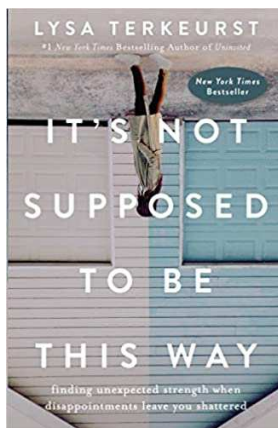
Our church family is developing a *Give & Take* in the near future, which will be on the first floor of the Parish House. At this time, we are asking for donations to start up this new mission. We would like to accept fall and winter clothing in children/teenager sizes that have been gently used. We hope to get our new clothing room open by Saturday, October 3, for our first shoppers to come and visit.

Your donations can be dropped off at the Legge Family's house on Townsend Rd, Groton. Please contact Charlene Legge with any further questions.

Thank you in advance for your clothing donations and encouragement!

Virtual Coffee Hour - You Are Invited!

Each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and something to snack on and say hello to church folks you might not have been in contact with these last few months. We'll start at 11:00 a.m. and end either when folks are done catching up or at 12:00 noon. A clickable link is available in the Friday email.



LILIES (All Women of the Church are Invited) **Wednesdays (9/23, 9/30, 10/7, and 10/14)** **7:00 p.m. via Zoom (see link info below)**

Has 2020 caused you to feel a bit annoyed and honestly angry that God isn't answering all of your prayers or showing up at the exact moment that you feel is right? Are you disappointed by God's apparent silence? If you can relate, please join us for this four-week series as we read *It's Not Supposed to be This Way*, by Lysa Terkeurst, and tackle these feelings and questions.

If you have already ordered the book, then join the Zoom Meetings (please sign in a few minutes prior to the start of the 7:00 p.m. meeting). **Meeting ID:** 838 9793 0394; **Passcode:** 5eebAe. The same zoom meeting link is being used for the entire series.

If you have any questions, contact Betsy Bridge or Raquel Majeski.

Sunday School

As you may be aware, we are not holding in-person or virtual Sunday School at this time. For PreK—6th grade, we have the pamphlets normally handed out during Sunday School. If you have not yet responded and would like to receive these at home, please contact Carol in the Church Office (unioncc@uccgroton.org; 978-448-2091) and she will add you to the mailing list. Please include your child/children's name(s) and their grade so she can send you the correct curriculum for that grade level. The pamphlets will be mailed on a monthly basis.

As the fall season comes to an end, CE will reevaluate for the winter season and let everyone know what the plan will be. Thank you for your patience during this unusual time.

Christian Education Committee

—Carl Prestia, Chair
—Amy Nickerson

—Jenn Coviello

—Bonnie Marchesani

A Message from the Stewardship Team



Stewardship Corner

As Christians we are instructed to worship together and go out and share God's word, but we have not been able to gather in-person this year. How we all miss our church family, especially at this time of year when we would normally be having our church picnic in front of the church. It has been a time of waiting, being still, and anticipating when we can be safe in each other's company.

We have had no choice but to live our faith outside our church's walls for the last six months. We have learned how to stay faithful and connected during a global pandemic. There have been zoom meetings, virtual coffee hours, phone calls, letters, bell choir, sermons, and music online. We have connected with the community with the Backpack

Drive, chance encounters in the grocery store, or standing in line outside for take-out when you suddenly realize you know that person behind the mask. We are together in spirit and God is with us all the time. It will be a joyful day when we can worship and share fellowship in person again. Until then, we will stay faithful and know we are still a strong, connected congregation.

Our pledges for 2020 continue to come in and our finances are in relatively good shape. As some of you may know, the church was able to receive a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program – a loan that we do not have to pay back. It has been a blessing to not worry about paying salaries and ongoing expenses.

As we look ahead to 2021, whether we worship in-person or remotely, we will need to finalize a budget for next year and move forward with meeting that budget. This budget allows us to continue to do God's work and live our faith beyond our walls. Please be on the look-out for more information from the Stewardship Team as they prepare for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign.

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15



Stewardship Team

—Jean Armstrong
—Margaret Wheeler

—Halsey Platt

—Rev. Corey Sanderson

—Craig Smith

Just for Fun

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Y Z Y A H Y Q Z X Q U D K L F
T M R F T H O T E H O E U V N
F G M N I K A L N C T U X P T
R K A U A T B D T E V T Z Y I
E E S J F A C G R D P E Z G L
D C H U R C H N Y Q C R O U A
E S N A I T A L A G F O E F U
E A P L X L Q V D S D N X S B
M E H E L H T E B F M O S E S
G O L I A T H Z R Y C M W K I
R D F I E J U I T P L Y P T C
A E R Q L L D Z T A Q Y A E T
C M W G L A S T S U P P E R C
E G N X Y K G P O L A D S Y J
B K T O Q L R D L Y W Q R X Y

FAITH	GALILEE	CHURCH
GOLIATH	GOOD FRIDAY	BETHLEHEM
GRACE	PAUL	REDEEM
MOSES	LAST SUPPER	SANCTIFY
SERPENT	GALATIANS	PSALMS
DEUTERONOMY	ETERNAL LIFE	PARABLE

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United Church of Christ
220 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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Please return to your mail carrier.

Harvest Fair News

**Due to Covid-19, the Harvest Fair has been
cancelled for this year.**