

# THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



## November 2021

*From the  
Pastor*



Have you ever said to yourself, 'If only I had ..., then I would ...'? It's perhaps one of the most common and easily recognizable signs that we have reached some plateau in life. This sentiment can come in many shapes and sizes. Maybe this conditional 'If/Then' phrase gets trotted out as a justification for some failure in life. 'If only I had a better upbringing, then I wouldn't have such a difficult time with relationships.' Maybe it's a sign of inertia in one's work or career. 'If only I had more time or freedom, then I would take on that big task or really work for that promotion.' The problem underneath this mode of thinking is often called the 'myth of scarcity.' It's the mentality where we start thinking that there isn't enough — enough time, talent, or treasure.

Through the years, this 'myth of scarcity' has become a dominant underlying message in our culture and our world. You can see the effects of it with the seemingly unstoppable waves of individualism and greed in peoples' individual lives. You can see it in the endless consumerism and competition running rampant across the world. It happens so much and so often that people are led to believe that this is a normal thing. People resort to fisticuffs at a Black Friday sale to save a hundred dollars on a new TV. Nations go to war over natural resources. Corporate executives cook the books to grow their personal wealth. Parents work overtime to create and maintain an excessive lifestyle for the family they rarely see. Students burn the wick at both ends, often sacrificing their health and values, to get good grades, earn big scholarships, and win the jobs they want so they can have the lifestyle they desire.

Fewer and fewer people seem content with what they already have. Most of us will go to great lengths, and often with great haste, to chase after whatever it is that we lack. We assume that there is only so much of what we want to go around, so we shouldn't waste any time in trying to get it.

The Christian faith offers a different approach to life. The Apostle Paul, for instance, offers a vision of a God of abundance. This is a God of 'enough.' Paul knows God as the one who has always been, and will forever be, a keeper of promises. It is faith in God that sustains us through our seasons of need, loss, and suffering. This is why Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, can say, "We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

In a world of seeming scarcity, Christians are those who are called to remember the God of abundance. This God of abundance offers manna from heaven, turns water into wine, and creates a feast for thousands of people from just a few fish and barley loaves. For those who believe, the seasons of loss and need in life will not be invitations to grasp at all that lack. Rather, these moments and seasons are opportunities to receive with open hands from the God who is abundantly able to provide all that we need.

As we enter our season of stewardship, let us remember and hold fast to the hope that we carry so that the fullness of our lives is filled with abundance and joy rather than scarcity and fear.

Peace,





# Our Church Family/News



## 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](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org)).

Stephanie Booth  
Kristin Kelly  
Rudi Schmid

Matt & Mandy Spain  
Joe Marchesani  
Bill Moeller

Sakkinen Family  
Betty & Liz Waggoner  
Laurie Waye

## 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.

## Prayers...

- Brian (Jr.) and Mikel Keese, on the birth of their son, Atticus Luke, on October 13.
- Bob Hargraves, who celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 14!
- Dick Ferrero, who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 17!

## November Birthdays

Lisa Hitsos	11/02	Curtis Prestia	11/07	Kim Daly	11/18
Makayla Hughes	11/02	Krista Kubick	11/08	Leon Avey	11/19
Andrew Kuliesis	11/03	Halsey Platt	11/10	Kelli Hnath	11/19
Karen Sjoberg	11/04	Erica Davenport	11/12	Bryce June	11/21
Hailey Sullivan	11/05	Savannah Kuliesis	11/12	Sally Waite	11/22
Connie Wall-Haas	11/06	Kimberly Kuliesis	11/15	Izzy Smith	11/24
Nina Morrison	11/06	Bob Brown	11/16	Briana Manalo	11/25
Liam Colbert	11/07	Heather Houde	11/16	Barbara Gale	11/26

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!

## 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 were 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](mailto:collector@uccgroton.org)).

## Stated/Budget Meeting

**Sunday, December 5**

**Copies of the Proposed 2022 Operating Budget will be available beginning November 21.**

Then on December 5 all are invited to a meeting at which the membership will approve the Operating Budget for 2022. Questions may be directed to our Treasurer, Dennis Carey ([Treasurer@uccgroton.org](mailto:Treasurer@uccgroton.org)), Mary Hanson ([mary.hanson@monotypeimaging.com](mailto:mary.hanson@monotypeimaging.com)) Stewardship & Finance, or Moderator Jean Armstrong ([jean\\_armstrong@verizon.net](mailto:jean_armstrong@verizon.net)). We hope to have this meeting in-person in the Fellowship Hall, with a Zoom option for those who cannot be there in person.

# Church News

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## Serving on Committees and Ministries

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting in January/February 2022 (when the “turnover” of committee members occurs), the Church Council invites you to let us know your interest in serving on committees and ministries. Committee positions require formal membership in the church and ministry positions allow for anyone to serve.

**Committees:** Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Diaconate, Endowment, Missions, Pastor-Parish Relations, Stewardship & Finance

**Ministries:** Fair, Kitchen, Technology, Youth and Family

Feel free to approach Jean Armstrong (Moderator) with your questions or to express an interest in serving.

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## Greeters, Ushers, and Readers Needed

We currently have a short list of people who are willing to be Greeters, Ushers, or Readers on Sundays. It would be wonderful if we could expand this list, so we have more names to choose from and do not have the same people volunteering multiple times during a month. If you are interested in being a Greeter, Usher or Reader, please contact Carol in the Church Office ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org) or 978-448-2091) and she will add you to the list. If you have a preference, please let her know which role you would like to fill.

We are all set for November, but dates have been added for December. If you would like to help, please use the link in the Friday email or contact Carol in the Church Office. Thank you to all who have volunteered!

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## Canoe Trip

### Saturday, October 16

Steve Legge led a canoe trip for the men of the church. The weather was good and a few had the opportunity to enjoy some time on the river (through Nashoba Paddler) before the season gets too cold. Perhaps more will join us if we have another trip in the Spring/Summer next year.



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## Come Hike with Us!

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### Andre's Institute (Brookline, NH)

#### Sunday, November 21 (Meet at Church at 1:00 p.m.)

Steve Legge is planning a hike on Sunday, November 21, at 1:00 p.m. This will allow people time to go home after Worship, have a quick lunch, and then meet back at church at 1:00 p.m. We can car-pool from there (it's about 20 minutes to the site). The hike will start around 1:30 and we should be back to the church before 4:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for the Congregation to get together for an outdoor activity before the truly cold and snowy weather sets in. If you would like more information on the Andre's Institute, use the link provided in the Friday email. You can signup through the link in the email or contacting Carol in the Church Office ([unioncc@uccgroton.org](mailto:unioncc@uccgroton.org) or 978-448-2091). There will also be a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway at church.



## A Message from the Stewardship Team



### Stewardship — Invitation to Pledge

We are grateful to have been able to gather again for in-person Worship this year, while also keeping in contact with outdoor and virtual gatherings. Our congregation has demonstrated that we are indeed good stewards of one another and this church — working through the reopening stages and protecting each other, while remaining faithful givers. We are excited for what the future will bring, and we trust that God will guide us and keep us close in spirit in the coming year.

On Sunday, November 14, the congregation will be invited to make their financial pledges for the upcoming year. This is an opportunity to joyfully share some of what God has blessed us with as individuals and to underwrite the mission and ministry of this great congregation. We will be preparing the 2022 Operating Budget after Pledge Sunday.

If you are worshipping in person, you will be able to bring your pledge card forward during our celebration. If you are not able to be with us in person, pledges may be mailed or dropped off at the church office.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.  
Matthew 6:21*

### Pledge Sunday — November 14



Stewardship Team

—Jean Armstrong

—Rev. Corey Sanderson

—Craig Smith

—Margaret Wheeler

## In the Community...



Groton Interfaith Council

### Etched in Glass

### The Legacy of Steve Ross

**Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

### Groton Dunstable Middle School Performing Arts Center

The Groton Interfaith Council welcomes the public to attend a free of charge screening of the film *Etched in Glass, The Legacy of Steve Ross*. Immediately following, we'll Zoom a Q&A session with the film's writer, producer, director, Roger Lyons.

The film shares the compelling true-life story of a Polish boy who survived ten Nazi concentration camps over a five-year span and going on to devote his life working with inner-city at-risk youth. After his liberation from the Dachau camp, Steve Ross immigrated to America, achieved three college degrees, finally becoming a youth worker in the inner-city. He was the founder of the iconic New England Holocaust Memorial, standing proudly on Boston's historic Freedom Trail. *Masks are Required. This movie is recommended for ages 13+.*

**If you have any questions, contact Natina Perrotti, Groton Interfaith Council (978-808-6400; [natinaperrotti@gmail.com](mailto:natinaperrotti@gmail.com))**

**Co-Sponsored by:** Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee, Groton Selectboard, Groton Police Department, Dunstable Board of Selectmen and Dunstable Police Department



# Christian Education

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## Sunday School

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**November 7—Communion**  
**Activity in the Fellowship Hall (PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**November 21—*Christ the King,***  
***John 18:33-37***

**November 14—*Be Ready***  
***Mark 13:1-8***

**November 28—*A Good Ruler***  
***Jeremiah 33:14-17***

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### Sunday School and Communion Sundays

As a reminder, there are no Sunday School classes on Communion Sundays. Grades PreK through 4 have "All Together Time" downstairs in Fellowship Hall for a fun activity. Grades 5 through 8 remain in Worship. At this time, as a precaution, children attending "All Together Time" must wear a mask as is done during class time.

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### Sunday School Teacher Needed – PreK-K

We currently have two teachers for PreK-K who alternate weeks. We could really use a third teacher to make scheduling easier. There are currently only two students in this age group and the class is only 10-15 minutes long (involving reading to the students and then they return to their parents in Worship). If you are interested, please contact Carol in the Church Office (unioncc@uccgroton.org or 978-448-2091). Thank you for your consideration.

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**Christian Education Committee**

—Carl Prestia, Chair

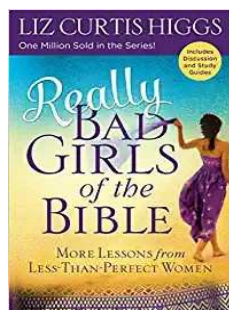
—Jenn Coviello

—Bonnie Marchesani

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## ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED

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### LILIES

#### Really Bad Girls of the Bible

**Tuesdays in November (see below)**

**7:00 – 7:45 p.m. via Zoom**

Now that you have your book and your reading assignments (see below), please join us via Zoom for some great discussions.

#### Zoom Discussions:

Tues, 11/2	7-7:45 p.m.	Chapters 1-3
Tues, 11/16	7-7:45 p.m.	Chapters 4-6
Tues, 11/30	7-7:45 p.m.	Chapters 7-8

Please use the link provided in the Friday emails to participate in these Zoom meetings.

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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.

## November



*(Daylight Savings Ends November 7 at 2:00 a.m. — turn clocks back one hour)*

**Sunday November 7 — 10:00 a.m.**

Holy Communion

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class in the Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, November 14 — 10:00 a.m. — Pledge Sunday**

**November 21 — 10:00 a.m.**

Baptism: Luca and Parker Morrison

Handbell Choir

**Thursday, November 25 — Happy Thanksgiving**

*Church Office will be closed November 25 and 26.*

**November 28 — 10:00 a.m. — First Sunday of Advent**



**Annual  
Stewardship  
Campaign**