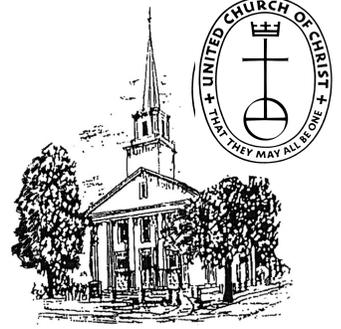


THE UNION COURIER

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

220 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450



May 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

‘Do not be afraid.’ That’s what the disciples were told on that very first Easter morning. For those of us living so many years later, we know full well there are a number of things in the world that cause us great fear and trembling. From the horrifying war in Ukraine to concerns about Covid in our towns, sometimes it feels like the onslaught of painful things will never end. One of my favorite pastoral theologians, UCC minister Martin Copenhaver, writes:

As a pastor I spend a portion of my time in close proximity to death. In such regions, shadowed by fear and loss, I so much want to reach for words that are reassuring. In the end, I don’t have such words to offer, at least none of my own. I am not alone in this, of course. Neither do the doctors. In the end, ultimately doctors do not have the authority to say, ‘Do not be afraid.’ Doctors do not know the future. They do not have the antidote to uncertainty. They cannot accompany a patient down every road. None of us can.

This is the reality of our lives and yet it is also the hope of Easter. Copenhaver says that whenever we find ourselves in these moments of fear, that’s precisely when we need angels to arrive, in scripture and occasionally in our lives, to reassure us, ‘Do not be afraid.’ God often has this marvelous way of breaking into our lives and into human history, and often in ways that take us by surprise.

Copenhaver reminds us, “When the angel says, ‘Do not be afraid,’ or when Jesus says, ‘Fear not,’ it is not the assurance that nothing can go wrong, because often things do. It is not the assurance that everything will turn out for the best, because often it doesn’t. Rather, it is the assurance that, whatever may happen to us, whatever the day may hold, God has the power to strengthen us and uphold us; that whatever we must face, we will not face it alone; that nothing we encounter is stronger than God’s love; that ultimately God gets the last word in the end — and sometimes even before the end.”

This is the message of the Easter season, and this is the hope that helps usher in new life for us and for the world.

Peace,



Our Church Family



Ongoing Prayer List

If there is a name you would like to add or remove, please contact the church office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Stephanie Booth
Danielle Dukstein
Kristin Kelly
Mayra Marquez

Helen Misselhorn
Matt & Mandy Spain
Joe Marchesani
Bill Moeller

Sakkinen Family
Betty & Liz Waggoner
Laurie Waye

Need prayer and need it now?

Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call 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.



- Cassie Sampas and family, in the death of her mother, Betty Sampas.



May Birthdays

Anne Cahill	05/03	Nancy Huguenin	05/12	Katie Milano	05/23
Monique Meehan	05/04	Kyle Plausse	05/14	Drew Davenport	05/24
Katie Leonard	05/05	Joel Hughes	05/15	Dennis Carey	05/25
Jocelyn Byron-Kelly	05/05	Kelly Sullivan	05/16	Caleb Brennan	05/28
Sara Zambuto	05/06	Joy Meiners	05/18	John Brooks	05/31
Deb Shields	05/08	Emily Hanson	05/21		
Margaret Sullivan	05/10	Raquel Majeski	05/23		

If we missed your birthday, it is not in our database (please email unioncc@uccgroton.org). Also, we would like to recognize significant anniversaries if 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!



If you would like to help by being a Greeter, Usher, or Reader on Sundays, please use the link in the Friday email. If you are having trouble, just contact the church office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org) and let us know what Sunday and in what capacity you would like to help and we will sign you up. We appreciate your support!



LILIES—All Women of the Church are Welcome!

May 3, 17, and 31

7:00 – 7:45 p.m. via Zoom

“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,” (1 Corinthians 6:19), so please join us to talk about how we feed It — both physically and spiritually! We will be reading Lysa Terkeurst’s book, *I’ll Start Again Monday*.

The Schedule for the readings is:

May 3: Chapters 1-6 (Pages 1-40)

May 17: Chapters 7-12 (Pages 41-87)

May 31: Chapters 13-18 (Pages 88-131)

Please join us as we dive into this fascinating topic of how taking care of our physical bodies can be a spiritual practice! There is a link to the Zoom meeting included in the Friday email.

For questions or more information, please contact:

Betsy Bridge or Raquel Majeski



Music Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, May 15

Sunday, May 15th is Music Appreciation Sunday and is also the day of the Groton Road Race. We are going to have coffee and donuts *before* church, starting at 9:15. This *pre-worship coffee hour* gives people enough time to arrive, get parked, and get settled in for worship with no stress or

troubles at all. **We suggest arriving at church before 9:30** just to be sure. After worship, we will still have our regular coffee hour so folks can stay around for a few minutes while the roads are being opened back up.



Fellowship Hour - Can You Help?

The Kitchen Ministry has started having Fellowship Hour again after Worship. We would like to continue with Fellowship Hour, but we need volunteers to help with hosting. If you would like to help, please contact Jean Armstrong or Greg Balligan. We'd like to set up a schedule for at least two months to make sure we can keep it going once we start back up. If you haven't served before or would like a refresher, we can help you get familiar with the kitchen and making coffee, etc. We appreciate your help!



Upcoming Graduates!

Are you or someone in your family graduating this spring? We would like to honor our graduates in the June Courier. Please let us know who is graduating and from where, and any significant next steps in their lives. **Please email your information to the Church Office (unioncc@uccgroton.org) as soon as possible** so we can be sure to get your information in our newsletter! Thank you.

Missions Committee



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Humanitarian Supplies

- Backpacks
- Batteries
- Crutches, Canes
- Diapers
- Feminine Pads
- Generators (3-5KW)
- Hygiene Items & Kits
- Solar Chargers & Lamps
- Tents
- Wheelchairs

Nutrition

- Baby Food
- Granola and Protein Bars
- Protein Drinks

Medical Supplies

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Antiseptics
- Antibiotic Creams
- Bandages
- Beds for Children with Special Needs
- Bed Rails
- Ibuprofen
- Medical Gloves
- Medical Scissors
- Multi-Trauma Dressing
- Pepto Bismal
- Trauma Kits

Items must be new and unexpired.
No glass accepted.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

DONATE! Donate online at www.nudaysyria.org or send checks to:
P.O. Box 4521, Windham, NH 03087.

SHOP THE LIST. NuDay's Amazon list includes most-needed items. Shop at <https://a.co/7TPKvHb>.

Learn more here!



@NuDaySyria
www.NuDaySyria.org



Donations are tax deductible.
EIN: 46-2041995 / 501(c)3

Save the Date!

Block Party Trash Cleanup!

Saturday May 21, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join us on the front lawn of the church at 3pm on Saturday, May 21 for very local Mission project. We plan to collect trash from the sidewalks in the block or two around the church. ALL AGES WELCOME! If you have a purple UCC shirt plan to wear that for visibility or just wear purple! We will have trash bags; you can wear your own gloves, or we will have non-latex gloves to wear. ***Event is weather dependent***

Missions Committee

—Julie Platt, Chair

—Liz Corcoran

—Krista Kubick

—Stefanie Lempp

—Lynn Manalo

Sunday School



We will continue with in-person Sunday School through the end of the year. **On Communion Sunday**, we have PreK-4th grade at **All Together Time** in the Fellowship Hall (5th—8th grade remain in Worship). On other Sundays there will be the usual in-person classrooms in the Parish House and Fellowship Hall (for PreK-K students).

Hope to see you in Sunday School!

See you in Sunday School!

Christian Education Committee

—Jenn Coviello —Bonnie Marchesani

Just for Fun

Bible Names Word Search



ABRAHAM
ADAM
EVE
DANIEL
DAVID

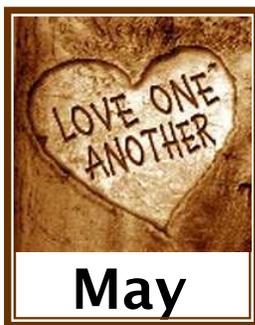
GABRIEL
JESUS
JOSEPH
MARY
LUKE

MARK
JOHN
PETER
PAUL
MOSES



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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Please return to your mail carrier.



May Highlights

Sunday, May 1 — 10:00 a.m. Worship

Holy Communion

Fellowship Hour — Accessibility Project Update

Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day) — 10 a.m. Worship

Sunday, May 15 — 10:00 a.m. Worship

Groton Road Race—Come for Fellowship Hour before Worship (at 9:15 a.m.) to get a parking space.

Music Appreciation Sunday

Lots of music from all of our choirs!

Sunday, May 22 — 10:00 a.m. Worship

After Worship—Confirmation students, parents, and mentors stay for rehearsal for June 5th Confirmation

Sunday, May 29 — 10:00 a.m. Worship (Memorial Day Weekend)