

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



**The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts**

May 3, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The Rev. Priscilla Lawrence, Interim Minister
Bernard Crane, Music Director
Cheryl Townsend, Handbell Choir Director

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Large print bulletins and personal listening devices are available at the back of the Sanctuary or from an Usher. If your baby or child(ren) become a little restless during worship, feel free to walk with them in the back of the Sanctuary or use the rocker by the right-side exit door. Children (PreK-7th grade) go to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Sermon. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

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PRELUDE *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* — arr. J. Carter

CHORAL INTROIT *Come and Worship* — K. Marroli

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When we look into the mirror, we do not look alone.

People: We look, knowing that God is with us.

Leader: We look, not filled with regret or sadness,

People: but with assurance of God's grace and mercy.

Leader: We are alive to the possibilities that our faith offers to us in the present and in the future.

People: Let us worship God together!

*HYMN #297 *I Love to Tell the Story*

***OPENING PRAYER** (*unison*)

Gracious and Holy God, we come to you in worship, offering all that we are and all that we have. Help us to be attentive to the possibilities that a life immersed in you offers. Increase our trust, strengthen our faith, and build up this community of faith centered in Jesus Christ, who taught all of his disciples to pray and join together...

***PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR** (*unison, debtors*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, you are invited to share the peace of Christ with those closest to you.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL ANTHEM *A Psalm of Triumph* — Lloyd Larson

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Following the Children's Sermon, children grades PreK-7 may proceed to the Fellowship Hall.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:4-52, Philippians 4:4-14

SERMON

The Nature of our Discontent

The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

OFFERING OF PRAYERS

SONG OF PREPARATION *In The Stillness* —E. Tompkins
*In the stillness, Savior, draw me near. In the stillness, teach my heart to hear.
Like a little child I come to Thee, and pray that in the stillness I may rest in Thee;
and know that in the stillness You will speak to me.*

LIFTING NAMES INTO GOD'S LIGHT, SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE *Amen* — B. Crane

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC & PASSING THE PLATE
Serenity — Kurt Meyer

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of steadfast love, bless these gifts, that they may bring your message of faith and love to the world. In faith and trust we dedicate these offerings in your name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION REFRAIN # #323 (v.3 only) *Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.**

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

(Note: we use gluten free bread and grape juice, so all can join at Christ's table.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love, you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send. Us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and for the world. Amen.

*APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*, found at the back of the Hymnal)

*HYMN #341 *Lord, I'm Coming Home*

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE *Savior Again, To Thy Dear Name* — E. J. Hopkins

POSTLUDE *The Lord Sends Us Forth* — Cathy Moklebust

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***Following the Benediction, you may depart immediately or remain seated to listen to the Postlude.*

Thank you for serving today: Nancy Thornton (Greeter), Andrea McDonough (Usher),
Erica Davenport (Reader)

Welcome Guests and Newer Folks

Our church family is made up of people from all walks of life and from every point along the spiritual journey. No matter who you are, what you believe, or even if you aren't sure what you believe, you are welcome here in this place. We are not a church that tries to get everyone to think alike, but we do encourage and teach people to love alike. If you would like to stay up with what happens around here, we encourage you to sign up for our weekly Union Digest email that comes straight to your email inbox each Friday. There you will find worship recordings, devotional videos, seasonal reflections, upcoming events and opportunities, and other materials to support you in your journey of faith. Feel free to sign a guest card and place it in the offering plate, sign up on our website www.uccgroton.net, or email the office at unioncc@uccgroton.org.

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

Edie Tompkins

Janice Owen

Barbara Gale

Halsey Platt

Family of Michael Janiszewski

Family of John Murphy

Sarah Reiff

Mark Epply

Joe Marchesani

Settled Pastor Search Committee

Abby Winkler

Don Landry

Family of William Shute

Chris Brown

Family of Rev. Skip and Peg Lloyd

Marvin Caldwell

John Greene

Billy Smith

Rachel Elliott

Friends of Sheila Mitchell

Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel

David Stewart

Family of Barbara Kenney

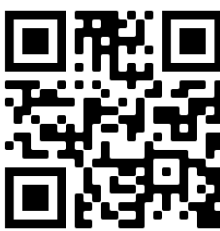
The Hargraves Family

We have updated and refreshed our prayer list. If there is a name you would like to add or remove, or if we have removed someone erroneously, please contact the Church Office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or the Church Office (978-448-2091) and we 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.



Give Online



Upcoming Events



Join Our Email List

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 3, 2026

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

We are now on Youtube! Find our channel at

www.youtube.com/@UCCGroton

Graduating Seniors – Last Call!

Is someone in your family graduating this year? Please email the office to let us know!

Mother's Day Mission Trip Bake Sale

Support the youth of **UCC Groton** and **Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Ayer** as they prepare for their **July 2026 mission trip to Winchester, Kentucky**. The group will host a **Mission Trip Bake Sale** just in time for **Mother's Day**. Baked goods will be available **by donation** and may be purchased in advance through a **Sign-Up Genius** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084DACAD2DAAFD0-62965459-mission> or during coffee hour from a mission trip participant. Available items will be listed online, and **once they are claimed they are gone**.

Pre-Order Deadline: May 1, 2026

Pickup Date: Sunday, May 10, 2026 (Mother's Day)

Items may be picked up after worship at: Union Congregational Church, Groton or Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Ayer

Any extra baked goods may also be available for purchase after church on May 10. Funds raised will support the youth as they travel to Kentucky to assist residents—especially seniors and families in need—with projects such as painting homes, building wheelchair ramps and porches, repairing trailers, and completing other necessary home improvements. Thank you for supporting our youth and their mission of service!

Habitat for Humanity Lunch

On **Wednesday, May 13th** we'll provide lunch for volunteers from the University of Mary Washington at the new build site in Acton. Prep for the lunch will be on **Tuesday, May 12th** from 4-6PM at the church. Sign up to help provide food, prep, and/or serve the lunch at uccgroton.net/signup. If you have questions, ask Janet Kennedy.

Greeters and Ushers Needed

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer your time for the church? We are always looking for volunteers to fill the roles of Usher and Greeter on Sunday mornings. These are some of the most important roles you can fill, as the greeters and ushers are the first faces visitors to the church see. The only extra time commitment is to come to church thirty minutes early. If you're interested in signing up to fill one of these roles on an upcoming Sunday, please visit uccgroton.net/signup.

Anniversary Birthday Party Update

The Flag Day Parade has moved to September 12th, but our June 14th UCC Birthday Party is still on!

Join us for a party to celebrate our 200th Birthday immediately following worship on June 14th. We will fire up the grill at 11:30 and have live music, games, and goody bags from 12-2pm. Mark your calendar and invite a friend! We are also looking for photos of the church and congregation through the years. If you have any please, send them to the office!



NEW ENGLAND
RINGERS
SPRING
CONCERT SERIES

MAY 19TH, 7:30 PM
BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL
BOSTON MA

MAY 30TH, 7:00 PM
UCC CHURCH
GROTON MA

MAY 31ST, 3:00 PM
JOY OF MUSIC PROGRAM
WORCESTER MA

 WWW.NEWENGLANDRINGERS.COM