

# The Gargoyle

A publication of Groton Congregational Church

FEBRUARY 2020



## MUSIC DIRECTOR

If anyone is interested in joining the Sr. Choir or the handbell Choir, please contact me or the office.

Sue Stottlemeyer



## February Birthdays

Bill Blaisdell

Heidi Chappell

Jim Dougherty

Barbara Frucht

Mary Gregory-Manning

Joan Jordan

James Maynard

Haley Rogers

Penny Sullivan

Howard Turner

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH VISITOR

If you know of anyone in need of a visit or a phone call, contact me or the church office.

Thanks, Connie Stoddard

### DECEMBER BUDGET UPDATE

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Pledge	\$9,589	\$9,052
Plate	\$1,779	\$1,566



### CHURCH FUNDRAISERS FOR DECEMBER

We would like to thank all who contributed to our Remembrance Star Collection, our Alternative Gift for Community Meals and our Christ Fund on Christmas Eve.

Remembrance Stars	\$840.00
Alternative Gift Giving	\$260.00
Christmas Fund	\$524.00

# PASTOR'S MOMENT- FEBRUARY

It may be impossible to believe but the Season of Lent begins at the end of February this year. Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of the grace God has to offer.

So, to begin this Lenten Season, please join us on **Wednesday, February 26** for our Ash Wednesday service at **7:00 p.m.** in Dutton Hall. This will be a service on contemplation, prayer and the distribution of ashes.

And look for other ways to join in this season of contemplation and reflection as we hang Lenten Prayer Flags outside, receive communion on Maundy Thursday, walk the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, and join a Sunrise Service along with our regular Worship service on Easter Morning.

## **Three Part Sermon Series in February on the Beatitudes: We are Blessed, now what?**

February 2: Blessed are the poor in Spirit; those who mourn; those who are meek

February 9: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; those who are merciful; those pure in heart

February 16: Blessed are the peacemakers; those who are persecuted for righteousness sake; those who suffer from condemnation

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Joan

## **Wild Geese by Mary Oliver**

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting --  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

## **A LITTLE HISTORY FROM OUR HISTORIAN**

A number of people have asked about the Avery Memorial window. Here is some history gleaned from our church records and from other sources.

When planning for the memorial window, the church fathers considered designs submitted by a few different companies. They chose the Church Glass and Decorating Co. of New York. This company was founded in 1899 by Edward Peck Sperry and Russell Foot. Sperry was formerly with the Tiffany Glass Company and one of its most celebrated designers. He left Tiffany in 1898. Sperry's new company continued to design but they did not construct. Construction was generally commissioned to the Calvert and Kimberly Co of New York. Both Oliver Kimberly and Thomas Calvert had also worked for the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co. but had also left in 1898. Our beautiful window appears listed in their 1904-1905 catalogue as "The Avery Memorial Window in The Avery Memorial Church, Groton, Conn." !

Unfortunately, the Church Glass and Decorating Co. had a practice of not signing their windows or including their artists in copyright petitions, which often led to misattributions in their day as well as now. They worked specifically in opalescent stained glass and are often compared to designs and work of Tiffany Studios.

Our records show the estimated cost of the Avery Window to be \$2000.00. Our records also show the final cost to be \$2020.50. We paid Church Glass and Decorating Co. a total of \$1800.00. An additional \$215.00 was extended to the Ecclesiastical Society for mullions, tracery, etc. Programs and Invitations were an additional \$5.50. A total of \$2020.50.

Not much this day in age for a magnificent creation that can inspire, delight and warm our hearts with its beauty.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!

Matthew 25:23



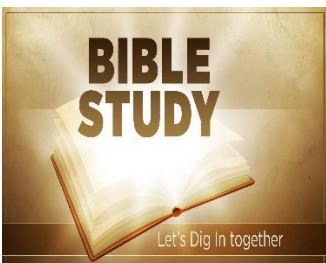
**Open MIC Night will begin again on March 31, 2020. Please check the March Gargoyle for more information.**



## **Coffee Hour**

**We are looking for volunteers to sign-up for Coffee Hour. Our sign-up sheet is in Dutton Hall on the bulletin board. Our Barista, Jim Maynard makes the coffee, we only need help with set-up, a small snack you may wish to bring in, or cookies from our Hospitality Bin. Our Youth Group has volunteered to help with clean up. Please contact Marilyn Wright if you wish to volunteer, or sign-up on the Volunteer Sheet in Dutton Hall.**

**We are running low! If anyone would like to donate a can of coffee, please leave in the kitchen or drop it off in the office. THANKS.**



## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Bible Study has started again. The group meets every Thursday from 11:00-12:00 in Dutton Hall. A Lenten Bible Study will begin on March 5<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome!**



**The Book Club meets every Wednesday at 10:30 downstairs in the Youth Activity Room. Please stop by and check us out.**



**There is a 2020 Flower Calendar on the bulletin board in Dutton Hall for anyone who wishes to provide flowers for the Sanctuary in memory or celebration of a loved one, and event or a day special to you. The flowers can be anything you like. Add your name to the chart or contact the Office.**



**Don't forget to stop by our Volunteer Board and check out the options to serve in the Church. Help is always needed.**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES**

**Members of the church cannot use the Church's name in Social Media without the approval of the Trustees.**



We have our first Silverlake fundraiser of sandwich or salad and a movie on February 9th directly after the service. We are watching "Breakthrough". If you have not seen this movie, we highly recommend it. It is a moving movie about the power of God at work and a community of faith that all members pull together. If you cannot attend but would like to donate, please see a CE member.

In Sunday school we are busy working on walking more like Jesus. We are focusing each week on the highs and lows of the week and celebrating in prayer for each other.

If you have any passion or talent that you would like to share, please see a CE member so that we can find time for you to join us on a Sunday a.m.

Lisa Lambert  
CE Director



The beginning of the year has been quiet for the youth group. With weather always keeping us on our toes, some events that were scheduled for January were postponed to future dates. Although we had to move out our movie fundraiser and the Launch Trampoline park trip, we still had fun! The youth group was blessed with donations of games. The youth love playing Bananagrams. We have been trying out new games, like Pictionary Telephone. The youth are having fun being in fellowship with each other, as always.

Our trip planned for February is going to the movies! We plan to see something the group decides on together (aged appropriately, of course). This will be a great trip that the youth will get to spend more time together, outside the church walls. We will also help host the movie fundraiser that was postponed from the original January date. It will help raise money for the Silver Lake Fund.

I am very excited that the three youth that attended the fall Emmaus weekend have decided to be on team for the spring weekend! Emmaus is a great opportunity for our youth to meet other youth in the area that have similar beliefs. I am hoping that more of our youth will attend the spring weekend.

Blessings,  
Rachel Measimer  
Youth Group Director

[youthgroupdirector@grotoncongregational.org](mailto:youthgroupdirector@grotoncongregational.org).

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LENTEN SEASON**

- **Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, February 26 @ 7:00 p.m. in Dutton Hall

- **Lenten Bible Study**

Thursdays, March 5<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
in Dutton Hall

- **Noontide Service**

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 p.m.

❖ Preceded by Brunch @ 11:00 a.m. in Dutton Hall

❖ Following the regular Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

- **Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae Service**

Thursday, April 9 @ 7:00 p.m., beginning in Dutton Hall and then  
the Sanctuary

- **Stations of The Cross**

Friday, April 10 @ 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
In the Sanctuary

- **Easter Services – April 12, 2020**

❖ Sunrise Service @ 6:00 a.m. (place to be determined)

❖ Pancake Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m. in Dutton Hall

❖ Easter Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

## **OUR PASTORAL SEARCH & CALL COMMITTEE**

**On February 2, 2020 a Special Meeting was held immediately following our Worship Service to introduce our Pastoral Search Committee and to vote such members in.**

**The vote for the committee was unanimous and the following list of members from our congregation will now start to search for a Settled Pastor for our church.**

**Anne Campbell**

**Edward Magowan, III**

**Sue Stottlemeyer**

**Bill Sullivan**

**Sally Turner**

**Linda Wagner**

**Jack Zuliani**

**Barbara Dutton, in her role as Moderator, will attend committee meetings with no voting privileges.**

**The Search Committee will be meeting with UCC Regional Minister, Chuck Erickson, on February 26<sup>th</sup> to go over the “Search & Call Process”. A survey of the congregation will take place, once the committee is organized.**

## CHURCH PHOTOS



A beautiful picture of our Church for the Christmas Service taken by Bill Blaisdell



A warm welcome to our newest members: Bill Sullivan, James Kerrigan, Amanda Mayersohn and Mike Hodge.

# FEBRUARY 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					AL-Anon-12:00 AA-12:30& 7:00	<u>1</u> Leadership Workshop-9:00 Community Meals 12:00-1:00
<u>2</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest  Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 CE Committee AA-6:00 AA-7:30	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> AA-12:00	<u>5</u> Book Club- 10:30	<u>6</u> Bible Study-11:00 Bells-6:30 Sr Choir-7:30	<u>7</u> AL-Anon-12:00  AA-12:30& 7:00	<u>8</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00
<u>9</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 AA 6:00/7:30	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> AA-12:00  Deacons-5:00	<u>12</u> Book Club- 10:30 Women's Fellowship – 12:30 Pastoral Search Committee- 7:00	<u>13</u> Bible Study-11:00  Bells-6:30 Sr Choir-7:30	<u>14</u> AL-Anon-12:00  AA-12:30	<u>15</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00
<u>16</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest Trustees-11:30 Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 Missions-11:15 Music-11:30 AA-6:00 AA-7:30	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> AA-12:00	<u>19</u> Book Club - 10:30	<u>20</u> Bible Study-11:00	<u>21</u> AL-Anon-12:00 AA-12:30& 7:00 Youth Group Movies-	<u>22</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00
<u>23</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Ireland  Youth Group- 11:30-1:00  AA-6:00	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> AA-12:00	<u>26</u> Book Club - 10:30 Pastoral Search-5:30 Ash Wednesday Service-	<u>27</u> Bible Study-11:00	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00