

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



March Birthdays

Dave Bryte
Alma Dougherty
Gus Hager
Mary Healy
Cathy Johnson
Ellen Kerr
Gay Lambert

Lisa Lambert
JT Lambert
Josh Measimer
Nancy Moffat
Henry Shepherd
Julie Shepherd
Burt Turner

Jonathan Lambert

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY UPDATE

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Pledge	\$19,396	17,342
Plate	2,800	2,908



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

We are inviting everyone to volunteer to be a reader on the lectern. If you are interested, please give your name and contact information to one of the Deacons or drop it off at the church office. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Dutton Hall.

We would also like to thank all who contributed to the Deacon's Fund in the last few weeks. Those contributions helped us to continue our mission in the community.

PASTOR'S MOMENT- MARCH

The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to experience both sides of Jesus' wilderness journey. That of "taking away" and that of "taking on". The traditional practice of fasting, or other forms of "giving up," or such as chocolate or deserts, take away the familiar supports we've come to rely on, and can re-focus our trust on God. "Taking on" devotional practices like prayer and Bible study helps us experience and understand the depth of God's love for us. "Taking away" and "taking on" during the season of Lent can yield blessings, even as it requires sacrifice and patience, each day. The scripture passages for this Lenten season remind me of the Song "Day by Day" from the musical "Godspell": Oh Dear Lord, Three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, the love thee more dearly, to follow they more nearly, day by day".

We have "Special Opportunities" coming up in the next few weeks. Take a look at them and hopefully you can join us for all or some.

March 15: Special Educational Opportunity: 11:15 a.m. in Dutton Hall – all ages are invited



Prudence with Coretta Scott King

Prudence Allen: Secretary to Coretta Scott King During Civil Rights Movement

Prudence was exposed to few people of color in rural Old Lyme, CT but was reared in a family that supported equal rights for all. She became intimately involved in the civil rights marches that began in 1966 in the south. She signed up with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and marched through Mississippi, when racial strife in America hit a fevered pitch. She briefly worked for Coretta Scott King and she kept treasured photos of herself with the King family. Today, older and less mobile but still razor sharp in mind and spirit, Prudence remains adamant in her belief in non-violence. Join Prudence for a talk about her experience working with the King Family and her continued work in the area of Racial Justice.

March 29: Special additional Noontide Worship Service

Sometimes attending worship at 10 a.m. can be hard for folks. So, on Sunday March 29, in addition to our regular 10 a.m. worship service, the staff would like to invite the congregation to brunch at 11:00 a.m. in Dutton Hall and an abbreviated, casual worship service at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary. All ages are welcome to come and participate. There will be no childcare at the noon service

Special Lenten Opportunities:

Prayer Flags: During this season of Lent we have hung outside on the railing, small flags. You are invited to take one, write a prayer concern and hang it on the line. This is open to the community as well. Inside our sanctuary we also have our Prayer Weaving Loom and you are welcome to write a prayer and weave it into the loom.

Thursday, April 9: Special Maundy Thursday Last Supper and Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

We will start in Dutton Hall with a retelling and sharing of Jesus's Last Supper and then move into the sanctuary for the traditional Tenebrae service reading scripture passages of the final hours of Christ's life.

Friday, April 10: Stations of the Cross: 11:30-1:30 a.m. and 3:00-5:00-0 5-7 p.m. .

You are invited to enter the sanctuary for an individual self-guided tour as you travel along the road Jesus traveled during his final week. I will be present for individual prayers.

Sunday April 12: Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. at Avery Point

The service will be held at the Branford House lawn area. Followed by **Breakfast** at 7:30 a.m. in Dutton Hall.

Regular Easter Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Peace & Love

Rev. Joan

A LITTLE HISTORY FROM OUR HISTORIAN

THE CORNER MAPLE

At the corner of church property, at Cottage and Meridian Streets, stands a Rock Maple tree planted by the children of our church Sunday School. The 1938 hurricane had done considerable damage to trees in Groton Borough and the Fellowship Circle of the King's Daughters of Groton Congregational Church led in the planting of several trees in this area. On April 21, 1939 children of our Sunday School, along with the minister, Rev. Frederick W. Walsh and the King's Daughters, planted the Rock Maple that now helps to shade our lawn and parking area. The photo below appeared in the Friday, April 22, 1939 issue of the New London Day.



The Tree Today



Clark Brogan, Harrilyn Greenleaf, Helen Louise Brogan and George Marquardt throw earth onto the roots of the Fellowship Circle's tree as schoolmates watch. Just to the right of the tree stand Mrs. Harry C. Brogan and Mrs. Harry J. Remmert, Jr. of the Circle while School Supt. S. B. Butler looks on at the right.



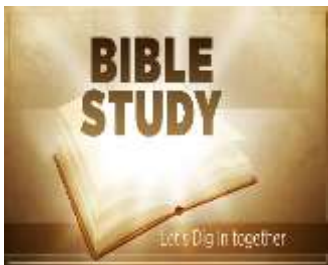
Open MIC starts up again on March 31 at 7:00 p.m. The featured artist this month is Carolyn Brodgerski, who features award-winning Roots and Healing Music on dulcimer and guitar. Please join us for a night of good music, good food and good people for a good cause. Suggested donation: \$5.00.



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 meets every Thursday from 11:00-12:00 in Dutton Hall. A Lenten Bible Study will begin on March 5th. 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.



Our Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on March 16th. Tickets will be sold after the worship service for the next few weeks. The price is \$15.00 for Adults and \$7.00 for kids 12 and under. We will begin serving dinner @ 5:30. Take-out dinners can be picked up at 4:30 or 6:30.

We will also be selling tickets for a Spring basket: \$1.00 a ticket, or 6 for \$5.00, 12 for \$10.00, 18 for \$15.00 and 25 for \$20.00. Bring a friend and enjoy and good meal and fellowship.

MISSION MOMENTS



The Missions Team — Beth Chirillo (chair), Laurie Bliss, Phyllis Gregory, Penny Sullivan, and Mary Howard

We are changing things up a bit with the **Little Red Wagon Food Pantry**. Donated items will be used in our **Community Meal** program. For March, we are asking for: canned beans (kidney, garbanzo, black) canned tomatoes (diced), tomato sauce, hamburger and kielbasa.

Our **Community Meals** program serves 50 lunches each week to people in the Groton area who need a nourishing meal. Many of our patrons are homeless and most deal with food insecurity issues. **Please consider making a monetary donation to our program, so we can continue this important ministry.**

Community Meals needs volunteers, specifically cooks! If you are interested in planning and preparing a meal, please see Ellen Kerr or Mary Howard. Community Meals are held every Saturday from noon-1p.m. Volunteer hours are from 11 a.m. until approximately 1:30 p.m. The congregation has spoken out, saying that Community Meals is our most important program. Currently there are 5-6 people from our church who regularly volunteer. Please, if this program is important to you, contact Ellen or Mary to see how you can help.



For the month of March, we are working on and focusing on how to walk and talk more like Jesus. Some of the games will include “Simon Says” and “Hide and Seek”. We will be making butterflies that will be part of our Easter celebration. I am excited that the children will have an active part in the Easter celebrations and the coming season. I would like to thank everyone that supported our Silver Lake fundraiser and remind that you can donate to that cause on any Sunday. If you missed the movie, it is called “Breakthrough”.

Lisa Lambert
CE Director



Just when I think that the youth group can't be a tighter knit group, they genuinely surprise me. Over the last month, it seems like our meetings have been filled with more laughter and happiness. We've been playing more games, thanks to generous donations. Bananagrams still seems to be a favorite.

February's outing was to the movie theater! We saw "Sonic The Hedgehog", a cute movie about a lovable video game character. It was a hilarious movie and it was fun to see the youth hang out. The kids loved it!! During February, they helped with coffee hour and will be helping more in the future. If you see a youth serving coffee and juice, make sure to say hi!

In March we are planning to catch up on some missed outings from earlier this year. In the future, we are planning a "lock-in", a 30-Hour Famine event and other fun outings! The youth loved being involved in the planning of the events, and since it is their group, it is great to see them want to take ownership. I am excited for the warm weather so we can play games outside.

Rachel Measimer
Youth Group Director

youthgroupdirector@grotoncongregational.org

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. – 1 Peter 4:10

So, a new church year has begun, and we've made financial pledges to the functioning and service of the church. Thank you!

As a reminder, you can now submit your pledge - be it weekly, monthly, quarterly – electronically from your financial institution directly to the church. No need to worry about remembering on Sunday or catching up if you were away on vacation.

If you'd like to participate in the automated payment program, you can use your "Bill Pay" option. You can obtain the information needed to set this up from our Treasurer. If you have questions about this, you can inquire with our Treasurer, Gay Lambert, and/or your financial institution.

The Stewardship Committee

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY CAFÉ @ THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Saturday, February 29, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A discussion with the City of Groton Police Department

GRAMMA'S ATTIC TAG SALE & BAKE SALE

Saturday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(Holiday Items, Books CDs, Furniture, Sporting Goods, Toys, Clothes
and Baked Goods)

Ledyard Congregational Church, 722 Col. Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard Center

GROTON COMMUNITY MEALS

Westside Middle School every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to set up, prepare food, serve, and clean up. If you are interested, visit grotonmeals.org and click on the "Volunteer" link.

OUR PASTORAL SEARCH & CALL COMMITTEE

The Committee had their first meeting and chose their leadership to help lead their way through this process. Ed Magowan III and Ann Campbell are the Co-chairs, other members were chosen to spearhead various tasks to help in the search for a settled pastor.

At their last meeting on February 26th, , the Search Committee met with UCC Regional Minister, Chuck Erickson, to discuss the “Search & Call Process”. A survey of the congregation will take place once the committee processes the information received from the UCC Regional Minister. More information on the survey will be forthcoming.

Ed Magowan, III (Co-Chair)

Ann Campbell (Co-Chair)

Bill Sullivan Sue Stottlemyer

Sally Turner Linda Wagner

Jack Zuliani

Barbara Dutton- Moderator, non - voting member will attend committee meetings

CHURCH PHOTOS



Rehearsing for musical production

(Day Photo by Hubert J. Warren)

Rehearsing nightly for a musical production of "The Gospel of Mark I" at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Groton re, front row from left, Jodi Anderson,

Elizabeth Chappell, Barbara McGowan, Jean Orkney, David McGowan and Chris Hendrixson; back row from left, Eric Bogue, Melissa Frucht, Robert Muise and John Hol-

lister, and musicians from left, Marc Frucht, Steven Turner and the Rev. Pamela Moffat, associate pastor at the church and director of the show to be presented next week.

A Blast From The Past" July 1979

MARCH 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>1</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 CE Committee-11:30 AA-6:00 AA-7:30</p>	<p><u>2</u> Search Committee 6:30</p>	<p><u>3</u> Nurturing Families 9:00-12:00</p>	<p><u>4</u> Mission/Meals Meeting 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>5</u> Bible Study- 11:00 Bells-6:30 Sr Choir-7:30 SRT Meeting 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><u>6</u> AL-Anon-12:00 AA-12:30 & 7:00</p>	<p><u>7</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00 </p>
<p><u>8</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest Deacon/Trustee Deacon-TBD Special Meeting-after worship Meeting-11:15 Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 AA-6:00 AA-7:30</p>	<p><u>9</u></p>	<p><u>10</u> Nurturing Families 9:00-12:00 AA-12:00 Deacons- 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>11</u> Book Club-10:30 Women's Fellowship- 12:30</p>	<p><u>12</u> Bible Study- 11:00 Bells-6:30 Sr Choir-7:30</p>	<p><u>13</u> AL-Anon-12:00 AA-12:30& 7:00</p>	<p><u>14</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00</p>
<p><u>15</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 Missions-11:15 Education Seminar- 11:30 AA 6:00/7:30</p>	<p><u>16</u> Corned Beef Dinner 5:30 P.M.</p>	<p><u>17</u> Nurturing Families 9:00-12:00 AA-12:00</p>	<p><u>18</u> Book Club-10:30</p>	<p><u>19</u> Bible Study- 11:00 Bells-6:30 Sr Choir-7:30</p>	<p><u>20</u> AL-Anon-12:00 AA-12:30 Youth Group-TBD</p>	<p><u>21</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00 .</p>
<p><u>22</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev Mark Porizky Youth Group- 11:30-1:00 Music-11:30 AA-6:00 AA-7:30</p>	<p><u>23</u></p>	<p><u>24</u> Nurturing Families 9:00-12:00 AA-12:00</p>	<p><u>25</u> Book Club - 10:30</p>	<p><u>26</u> Bible Study- 11:00 Bells-6:30 Sr Choir-7:30</p>	<p><u>27</u> AL-Anon-12:00 AA-12:30& 7:00</p>	<p><u>28</u> Community Meals 12:00-1:00</p>
<p><u>29</u> Worship-10:00 am Rev. Joan Priest Brunch 11:00 a.m. Noon Worship Service Stewardship-11:30 Youth Group-11:30</p>	<p><u>30</u></p>					