

The Gargoyle

ONLY GOD COULD BRING OCTOBER!



We've been through the cold months, the dreary passage of what is sometimes known as Mud Season has come and gone. Summer sauntered in with hot days, lots of time to play and travel. Maybe you planted a garden, tending to it as it grew.

After all this activity, the miracle comes our way. The breezes are cool and refreshing. The magic transformation begins. Trees start displaying vibrant hues reds, yellows, oranges. Squashes in all sizes and color are laying around in those gardens or in grocery produce bins. People actually get in their cars to go on leaf peeping excursions. Weather forecasters report the best sites to explore. This harvest of abundance leads to plenty available for all human and critter alike to survive what's to be.

We need to drink in the beauty, precious blessings and know how loved we all are by a magnificent God who has provided for our needs brilliantly. Father, Creator, Holy Spirit, Thank You.

Lyme Congregational Church
Photograph & article by: Mary Alapa



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Trivia Night
- Organizational Meeting
- Craft Fair
- Help Wanted



PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Autumn Greetings to you this day!

Last week, didn't we all enjoy the beautiful full moon? We are now making the shift from the summer season into the fall and many of us are relieved to be moving out of the hot humid days of summer into the cooler days and clear blue skies. What a gift to enjoy this beautiful part of the world on such days! I think we're all finding it more comfortable to gather for worship in our sanctuary while we are all still following the protocols and wearing our masks to try to stay safe from the Covid virus. I give thanks for everyone's cooperation and making it possible for us to still gather and, also sing some of our favorite hymns. I am incredibly grateful that we continue to be able to worship in person so I can ask questions and hear some responses and the laughter as well as hear your reactions to my sermons. We continue to pray that more and more people will choose to be vaccinated and soon our younger children will also be able to receive these gifts and be protected from the major consequences of the virus.

Let us Pray: for our children that they may they be safe as they have returned to their schools.

Let us Pray: for the elderly and those who are the most vulnerable.

Let us Pray: for the medical workers who continue to offer their care day after day. As well as the Research Teams coming up with more ways to keep us all safe and healthy.

During September, we were so grateful to see so many of you return from your summer schedules and vacations. We're also grateful to see some new visitors who are enjoying our community. On Sunday, September 19, we were hoping to welcome some of the young families and children back into our midst for Rally Day and were sorry that the virus has kept them away as well as some of their sports activities.

Rachel Candee, Anne Campbell, Jill Martin, and Cindi Bryte are offering their time and talents to create a One-Room School house style program and we're doing some brainstorming now to discern if there might be a better time to hold Sunday School than on Sunday mornings; especially once the vaccines are approved for the children between ages 5-12. Stay tuned for further information.

Rachel Candee, our youth director, is also planning a Trivia Night event on Oct 22nd for those 40 and under. Please bring a friend!

Please see the announcement about our Oct 10 Annual Organizational Meeting. I will be curious to see what unfolds at that meeting as we are fewer in number than in years past, and our boards and committees will be leaner than usual. The truth is that we are still trying to meet the needs of the congregation, clarify our vision at this time, and answer God's Call to serve and to love as the disciples of the man named Jesus in this part of CT. I hope you can join us for that meeting and share what you are hearing within specifically on how to live in the NOW and all that is here, because of the pandemic and the change in our younger generations understanding of spirituality and religion. This is not a new challenge, but one that is blossoming in new ways for us today. What is God asking of us NOW? How do we go forward with trust and love – giving thanks for all who are here and offering the gifts of their time, talents, and love?

When you study scripture and are invited to preach on the passages over many years as I have been, I have become familiar with one passage in particular that speaks to me now - Esther 4:14 (NRSV): "Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

In October 2021, when you consider who all are worshipping with us, think about that phrase: “for such a time as this.” What is God asking of us? What are we to do and to say? What is the choice made from love and not fear? Not out of arrogance but from a place of compassion and humility?

Are you hearing something?

If so, I hope you’ll please join us at the Oct 10 meeting and share it. If you can’t because of another commitment, will you please send us an email or letter to let us know *what you are hearing*? I personally would be grateful.

I close with the words of a wonderful hymn, “How Can I Keep from Singing.” As we go into this next month and walk together, may they remind us of how God’s light and love are guiding us each and every day.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Rev. Lee A. Ireland,
Designated-Term Pastor



*My life flows on in endless song;
above earth’s lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though faroff hymn
that hails a new creation.*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*
Lyrics by Robert Lowry in 1868

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday Worship Service

October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st
10:00am

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study:

October 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
5:30pm via Zoom

Handbells:

Thursdays-6:30pm

Sr. Choir:

Thursdays-7:30pm

Crafting:

Every Tuesday
10:00am-12:00pm

MONTHLY MEETINGS

DEACONS:

OCTOBER 19TH

STEWARDSHIP:

OCTOBER 24TH
AFTER WORSHIP

TRUSTEES:

OCTOBER 3RD
AFTER WORSHIP

MISSIONS:

OCTOBER 17TH
9:00AM

WOMENS’

FELLOWSHIP:

OCTOBER 13TH
12:30PM

DUTTON HALL

AGENDA:

CRAFT FAIR DETAILS

SEARCH

COMMITTEE:

MONDAY EVENINGS VIA
ZOOM



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

SIERRA BRYTE

MADELINE
CAMPBELL

ELIZABETH
CHAPPELL

LOIS DEMPSEY

NATHAN DETMER

COOPER JOHNSON

Stewardship- To Everything There is a Season

To everything, there is a season, and a time to every purpose, under heaven.

The fall season has arrived: cool air, leaves changing color, pumpkins, gourds. What's your image of fall?

In our church congregation, fall is that time of the year when we initiate our stewardship campaign – a time to contemplate what each of us can bring to the church to sustain it (in its many ways and forms) for the coming year.

The 2022 theme – “Rooted in Love” – draws inspiration from Psalm 1, “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.”

Like fall images, rooting also brings forth imageries of growth: we plant, we water, we nurture, we bloom, and we harvest - all from a seed.

The seed is planted with the faith that it will grow.

Every day we are called upon to make decisions and choices. Know that you are rooted and grown in love at Groton Congregational Church. Let love be your guide.

Thank you for your continued pledges of time, talent, and treasures.

God's blessings be upon you.

Your Stewardship
Committee,

Cathy Johnson
Sue Stottlemeyer
Phyllis Meyer



Save The Date

holiday Craft Fair

November 13, 2021

Women's Fellowship has been diligently working away to bring you some of the finest and most whimsical crafts this year. Join us on November 13th in Dutton Hall for this one-of-a-kind display. More details to follow in next month's Gargoyle.



October 10, 2021

ANNUAL MEETING

After Worship

This meeting will be held on October 10, 2021 in the church after worship service. Reports went out to congregation members on September 26, 2021 via email. If you did not receive yours, please contact the office to have your email address put on file with the church



A Message From Our Parish Visitor

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



Sanctuary Flowers

Honor that special person or occasion with a floral donation to the Sanctuary.

To do so, please contact Lisa at the church office if you would like to have your floral donation dedication printed in the bulletin and announced at worship.

For more information, please contact Janice Kimball.

TRIVIA


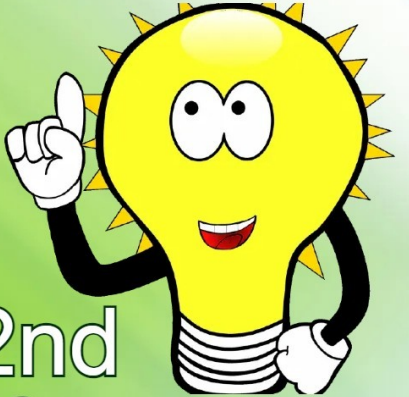
TEST YOUR BRAIN POWER ON

Bring a Friend
Adults 20 to 40 years young

TRIVIA NIGHT

October 22nd
6:30pm-8:30pm

Groton Congregational Church
162 Monument St. Groton, CT



All Covid Protocols in Effect

Join in the fun on Trivia Night!

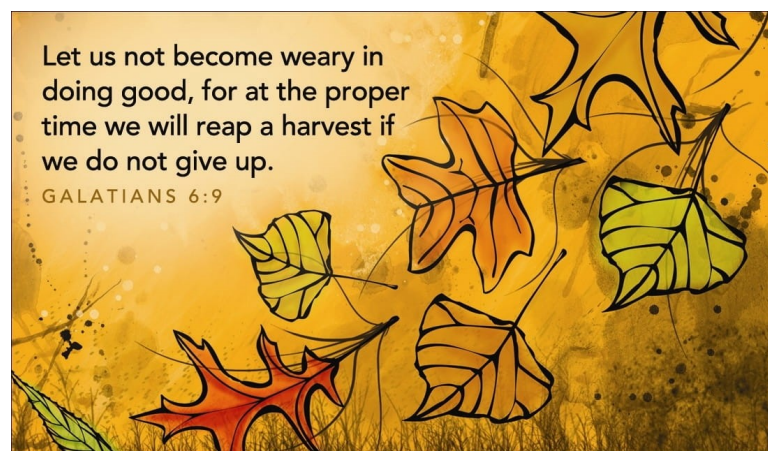
This event is for members and their friends who are adults 20 to 40 years of age. There will FREE pizza and soft drinks. Share an evening of good natured competition and test your brain power.



The Library/Lounge and the Music Room need new light fixtures. It is a two-person job and no experience is required. I just need someone to hold an old fixture while I detach it, and hold a new fixture against the ceiling while I attach it. About 13 fixtures are needed, so it may require more than four hours to complete.

If you can help me, please contact me at 860-235-6542 or email rrstottlemeyer@gmail.com

Thank you,
Dick Stottlemeyer



SNEC MOMENT

Where Do You Worship?

9/14/2021 - by: [Deborah Kirk](#) -
Worship & Spirituality

A dusty road, at the seaside, and even in a boat. Yes, Jesus preached in the synagogue, but he was more frequently found sharing good news in outdoor settings which allowed him to connect with a variety of people. He spoke of God's eternal love where people sat together for a meal, where people fished and mended nets, and where they drew water from the community well. Jesus met people in ordinary places and transformed lives with an extraordinary message of hope and healing.

Eighteen months of Covid has taught us that the church is not the building, and that physical distance does not necessarily mean spiritual distance. We have found sacred space on Zoom, shared prayers through a Facebook chat, and delighted in outdoor sanctuaries. We have connected even when we could not gather in person. We have found that on-demand virtual worship can have a broad geographical draw.

Covid has expanded our concept of where worship takes place and as we enter into the fall, [Dr. Marcia McFee](#), renowned worship designer encourages us to reflect on the pandemic experience:

- What have we learned?
- What do we want to bring forward?
- What cancellations do we actually celebrate?

She also urges congregations to continue to experiment with worship in these ways:

- **Sanctuary enhancement**- Adapt or shift your space to match the size of the group. Find ways to amplify togetherness, such as sitting in a circle to see faces and create a sense of unity.
- **Community connections**- Continue to stream or post worship services so that those who are vulnerable to Covid can remain connected. Hold outdoor events as weather permits, or invite guests from local non-profits to share their ministry goals and needs.
- **Rhythmic flexibility**- Worship does not to be confined to a Sunday morning time slot. Provide a menu of options, including open house hours for self-guided worship, or posts and podcasts that can be accessed on demand.





OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Proper 22 (27) Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 3, 2021 <i>Sermon: "In Integrity He Walked"</i>	<u>Job 1:1, 2:1-10</u> <u>Psalms 26</u>	<u>Genesis 2:18-24</u> <u>Psalms 8</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12</u>	<u>Mark 10:2-16</u>
Proper 23 (28) Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 10, 2021 <i>Sermon: "For God, All Things are Possible"</i>	<u>Job 23:1-9, 16-17</u> <u>Psalms 22:1-15</u>	<u>Amos 5:6-7, 10-15</u> <u>Psalms 90:12-17</u>	<u>Hebrews 4:12-16</u>	<u>Mark 10:17-31</u>
Proper 24 (29) Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 17, 2021 <i>Sermon: "God Answered Out of Whirlwind"</i>	<u>Job 38:1-7, (34-41)</u> <u>Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c</u>	<u>Isaiah 53:4-12</u> <u>Psalms 91:9-16</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:1-10</u>	<u>Mark 10:35-45</u>
Proper 25 (30) Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 24, 2021 <i>Sermon: "Sow in Tears; Reap with Joy"</i>	<u>Job 42:1-6, 10-17</u> <u>Psalms 34:1-8, (19-22)</u>	<u>Jeremiah 31:7-9</u> <u>Psalms 126</u>	<u>Hebrews 7:23-28</u>	<u>Mark 10:46-52</u>
Proper 26 (31) Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost/ All Saints' Day October 31, 2021 <i>Sermon: "A New Heaven and a New Earth"</i>	<u>Isaiah 25:6-9</u> <u>Psalms 24</u>		<u>Revelation 21:1-6a</u>	<u>John 11:32-44</u>

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship Service 10am Trustees Meeting after worship	4	5 Crafting 10am-12pm	6 Prayer & Bible Study 5:30pm via Zoom	7	8	9
10 Worship Service 10am Organizational Meeting after worship	11	12 Crafting 10am-12pm	13 Women's Fellowship 12:30pm Prayer & Bible Study 5:30pm via Zoom	14	15	16
17 Worship Service 10am Missions Meeting 9am	18	19 Crafting 10am-12pm	20 Prayer & Bible Study 5:30pm via Zoom	21	22 TRIVIA NIGHT	23
24 Worship Service 10am	25	26 Crafting 10am-12pm	27 Prayer & Bible Study 5:30pm via Zoom	28	29	30
31 Worship Service 10am 						

Local Events



EIGHTMILE RIVER
WILD & SCENIC WATERSHED

FREE-Chowder, Chili, Cider, Music & more!

EIGHTMILE River Fest

Saturday, Oct. 16, 1-4pm  Devil's Hopyard State Park

OCTOBER 23, 2021 10AM TO 3PM

THE FALL CRAFT MARKET

SUBMARINE VETERANS CLUB
40 SCHOOL ST. GROTON, CT

Boo Bash at the Beach!

Sunday- Oct. 17th, 2021
From 11-3 pm
At the
Port and Starboard Ballroom
Ocean Beach - New London



HALLOWEEN

SPOOKY EVENING AHEAD

Drive-thru Trick or Treat

When: October 28th
Where: 100 Tern Rd. Groton, CT 06340
Time: 4:00-6:00pm
*Limited While Supplies Last

**SPECTRUM AUTO CLUB
PRESENTS
TRUNK OR TREAT
OCT 31ST 2021**



NO RACING
NO STUPID
NO LOUD MUSIC
NO REVVING

LOCATION
GROTON BOWLING ALLEY

20th Annual Great Halloween Egg Hunt

- October 24th 5:00pm-6:30pm

Music, Hay Rides, Crafts, Face Painting & The Famous Egg Hunt

FREE Admission with Donation of Canned Goods

166 S. Broad Street
Pawcatuck, CT

Our Vision

To continue our three-hundred year tradition of spiritual presence and service to the community

To live and grow in the spirit of Jesus Christ

To share our time, talents and resources in support of community and other missions, through which Jesus Christ might be made known to others

To welcome into the Groton Congregational Church family all those who share our love of Jesus Christ and our mission of community service.

To continue a tradition of caring, comfort and support for all those within the Groton Congregational Church family.



162 Monument Street
Groton, CT 06340
860-445-7409
www.grotonucc.org
office@grotoncongregational.org

Bring Your Family to Our Family. We are here to celebrate Jesus Christ with you.

Located near historic Fort Griswold, by the banks of the Thames River, The Groton Congregational Church welcomes you with open hearts, minds, and arms. We offer a warm and progressive environment for worshippers from all walks of life. Our motto is; *No matter who you are or where you are Life's Journey you are always welcome here.*

If you want to know the love of God and the wonderful plans God has in store for you, come and celebrate the love of Jesus with us through the spoken word and the joy of music.

Sunday Worship begins at 10am.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5