



Rev. Lee's Summertime Musings

I greet you as we go into the summer days for which we've been waiting! Many of you know that I enjoy taking pictures of the beautiful sunrises and sunsets in our area and of the beautiful landscapes and floral grounds at Harkness and around. This summer is blossoming into such a sweet time for us to enjoy all that is here to help renew our hearts and souls and minds after the challenges of the winter and the Covid

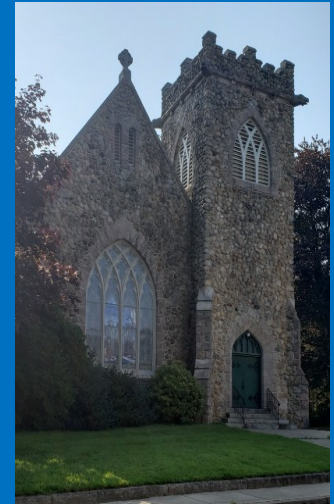
restrictions and questions. I've had a chance to be with my larger family recently and it was such a joy. I hope you will be able to visit with some family and/or dear friends too now with the easier mobility - regardless of the price of gas.

I hope you will also have a chance to pause and reflect on the gifts of our community and fellowship and the invitation that is here for us now, that is different than 2 years ago, let alone 2 months ago. Much is happening in the world that calls us to hear more deeply the words that Jesus was offering when he walked the earth during seriously challenging times: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." and "Love one another as I have loved you." Seems some of our national leaders are offering an odd version of Christianity that has misconstrued what those words say. I write this out because there are many in our younger generation who've not attended church and don't know the message many of us have learned and don't want to step inside our sanctuary. We've got much work to do, but we also know this is in God's hands and is in God's timing and not ours. In case you're interested, we've changed our Bible Study time to Monday mornings at 11 am. They have become quite a fun time as we explore together the scriptures that I'll be preaching on for each week and hearing some of the historical background. We also share some stories and rich moments of laughter about the realities of life and we also share some concerns. I've really come to enjoy these gatherings; you can come into the church and be with me in person or participate on Zoom.

As we go into this weekend of the 4th of July and celebrate our nation's freedom and hear again the words in the *Declaration of Independence*, may we remember the words St Paul wrote to the Galatians about the freedom that God has invited us to experience through Jesus. He chose to surrender and be sacrificed on the cross so that the resurrection could happen. Through his experience, we learn how God's love could prevail over some of the darkest days when some evil powers were trying to be in control. We rejoice because we know - Love prevailed. May we hear that truth in these current challenging days when we are witnessing the tragedies around the globe where some are deaf to Jesus' message to "Love God first and to love ourselves and our neighbors as ourselves."

Let us give thanks for the gift of the summer flowers and give thanks as they are a daily reminder that there's a larger Will at work in the world - governed by love and forgiveness. May we choose this day to listen for that voice and see what God is inviting us to see in our personal lives and collective lives as the body of Christ here at Groton CC.

Peace and blessings this day,
Rev Lee



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HARRIETTE LYNNE FULTON
BONNIE GIESLER
ALEXANDRA ORKNEY

Sanctuary Flowers

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

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



A Message From Our Parish Visitor

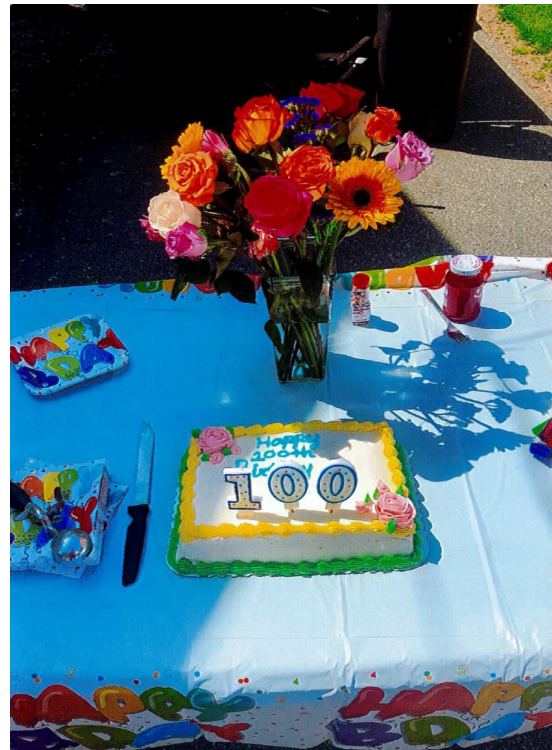
If you know of anyone in need of a phone call or a visit, please contact Connie Stoddard or the church office.

Pick-Up Choir—All singers are welcome to join! We meet at 9:30am each Sunday downstairs in the practice room and prepare for worship. Come as you can! All ages and all persons are welcome!

Happy 100th Birthday! Mrs. Shearer!!



Your friends at Groton Congregational Church hope your very special day was spectacular!!!



FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Seating Survey

DEAR CONGREGANT:

MANY OF YOU HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHURCH. IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHURCH OFFICE TO PLACE YOU IN A SEAT THAT WILL BEST SUIT YOU, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN IT TO THE OFFICE.

I WOULD PREFER TO SIT IN THE:

____ TALKING/WHISPERING SECTION

____ NO TALKING SECTION

IF TALKING WHICH SUBCATEGORY DO YOU PREFER?

____ STOCK MARKET

____ SPORTS

____ ACHES/PAINS

____ GOSSIP

I WANT A SEAT LOCATED:

____ NEAR MY IN-LAWS

____ FAR FROM MY IN-LAWS

____ FAR FROM MY EX-IN-LAWS



I WISH TO BE SEATED IN A SEAT WHERE:

____ I CAN SLEEP DURING THE PRELIMINARIES

____ I CAN SLEEP DURING THE SERMON (ADDITIONAL CHARGE)

I recently came across this church joke while looking through some old issues of the Gargoyle. It struck me as funny because for many years I sat in the same pew week after week. It became an ingrained movement to naturally gravitate to the same pew. I felt comfortable in that pew, I new the people around me and happily greeted them each week. It never occurred to me that I might change where I sit.

Now I primarily sit in the choir loft and I feel comfortable sitting there amongst my fellow choir members.

But I wonder how would I feel if I were new to our church, how would I know where to go? Where should I sit? Who is there to greet me?

Each week we greet everyone with the words, "No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." (continued next page)

The deacons are looking for greeters and ushers to help during the worship service. It would entail handing out bulletins on Sunday morning, greeting members, friends and newcomers to make them feel invited and welcome here. Greeters and ushers would also take up the collection during stewardship time and take a head count of the congregation.

It's a fun way to get to know the people in the pews and to participate in the worship service.

If you are interested in serving, please see one of the deacons. We would like to compile a list of people who would be willing to take one Sunday a month unless, of course you would like to do more.

Thank you in advance for your support and service.

Blessings from the board of deacons,

Mary Alapa, Chuck Barnum, Sue Blaisdell, Beth Chirillo, Kevin Measimer



Open Conversation Coffee Hour

I know it's summer time and many of you may be away, but if you are here on **July 17**, please join us for another **Open Conversation at Coffee Hour**. No agenda - just a chance to talk and get to know one another better.

Rev. Lee



Women's Fellowship

By Sally Turner

The Ladies night out held at Langley's restaurant on June 7th was attended by 22 lovely ladies. The noise level was joyous, and everyone had great meals and wonderful fellowship.

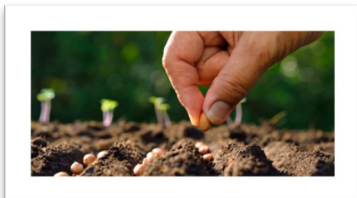
There will be no Women's Fellowship meeting in July.

Information regarding the August 10th meeting will be forth coming.

Sally

Tiny Seeds

By Mary Alapa



We have many things to ponder in the lives we live. My latest wonder came when I made plans to use my small garden in my back yard this year. I had to deal with an invasion of roots that were destroying anything I planted. To correct this situation, I had to put the garden to rest for a year with a tarp over the area. I am now making the new start with the root troubles gone.

I began with new dirt. The town of Groton has compost available at the town dump at no cost. A friend was able to bring me a good supply. For the plants I choose; corn, beans, and beets. I want to honor the first settlers in the land and praise their kindness helping the first immigrants from England learn the way to survive in the wilderness.

As I spread the seeds I marveled at their small size and dryness. Who would think something so small and insignificant would have such bountiful goodness come from them?

I have no scientific knowledge but know that people who do make their living from nature have an awesome calling.

There is a rewarding feeling to putting food that you have raised on the table and the satisfaction you have knowing our God provides and allows us to be a partner in His work.

I pray everyone has a very safe and happy summer.

Mary Alapa

Community Meals

By Janice Kimball

Hearty thanks are due to all those who have donated prepackaged food and water to our Community Meals pick-up and distribution, and to those who help assemble and share the meals. We make approximately 48 bag lunches with your help. God bless you!

We can always use volunteers to donate and put together Community Meals.

Please contact me at 860-235-0494 if you would like to help. Many thanks!

Janice Kimball, volunteer

Music Committee

By Janice Kimball

A RESOUNDING SUCCESS was the June 15th concert by SHORELINE RINGERS here at Groton Congregational Church, UCC! Thanks to our Director of Music Susanne Stottlemeyer and Richard Stottlemeyer, with Music Committee members Sally Turner, Ingrid and Joshua Measimer, Joan Jordan, and hosts Rev. Lee Ireland, Edward Magowan III, Constance Stoddard, plus our anonymous but generous sponsors, we were able to offer a delightful evening to seventy-plus people free of charge! Much appreciated fun and celebration, folks!

The JUNIOR HANDBELL FESTIVAL is on for Thursdays JULY 7 THROUGH AUGUST 11, starting at 6:45 PM in the church sanctuary! We have available just a few openings for young folks ages 7-12, and for the young at heart as well! If you have not yet registered, please call me at 860-235-0494 TODAY for information and registration. It's both a way to praise God and a great team sport (and the sanctuary is cooler in the evening, too)!

The next meeting of the Music Committee is Sunday, July 17th, at 11 AM (after worship).. All members and friends are welcome- come and find out what joy we will be up to next time!

Musically yours in Christ,

Janice Kimball, chair

Missions

By Beth Chirillo



NEW LONDON Homeless Hospitality Center



'Let us see the invisible poor.'

All of us are neighbors. All of us are brothers and sisters to Bill Walsh and to one another. Let us resolve today, in his memory, to make our city a "city on a hill," to which everyone can look for inspiration, to make our country "a light to the nations," that cares for its neediest citizens.

Let us get up tomorrow morning and start to work together to create a homeless hospitality center in New London that will be a model for the rest of our region and our nation. Let us see the invisible poor, and live together with all our sisters and brothers in the beloved community the God of justice invites us to become."

Excerpted from Emmett Jarrett's sermon at the funeral of Bill Walsh in 2006

Over the summer Missions' Red Wagon is collecting needed and wanted items to assist the New London Homeless Hospitality Center in its mission to be a welcoming bridge in the quest to find permanent affordable housing in New London area for those so desperately in need.

If you can help monetarily, you may donate directly to the Hospitality Center by going to their website <https://www.nlhhc.org/>

Below is a list of most needed/requested items. Please bring in your donations every Sunday and help us fill the Red Wagon for our neighbors in need.

Kitchen/Food Needs

Disposable Plates
Disposable Cups
Disposable Utensils
Napkins
Canisters of Coffee
Coffee Creamer
Tea Bags
Sugar Packets/sweetener
Instant Oatmeal
Hot Chocolate

Toiletries

(travel size) Shampoo
Conditioner
Soap
Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Dental Floss
Razors
Shaving Cream
Lotion
Combs
Deodorant
Feminine Products
Alcohol free mouthwash
Denture Gel
Chap stick

Adult Men/Woman Needs

New underwear
Bras
Socks
Hoodies
Belts
Backpacks

Miscellaneous

Pillows
Blankets
Paper Towels
Detergent Pods
Earbuds
Cell phone chargers

The Hospitality Center **does not** currently accept clothing other than what is listed. They ask that you please consider donating clothing and household goods to the **Jumble Shoppe at St. James Episcopal Church**.

To **donate furniture** please call **Homeward Bound Treasures** at (860) 834-0193.

Guests of the Center benefit from the Center's partnership with each of these organizations.

For questions about donating, call 860-439-1573 ext 321. THANK YOU!

Stewardship

SUMMER

It's summertime!!! What comes to your mind when you hear the word "summer"? Maybe it's the beach, swimming, the warmth of the sun, picnics, parades, baseball, vacation....ah, vacation. One thing that doesn't go on vacation is the church – it is here, regardless of the season. The work of the church and the congregation takes no vacation. But being human, it might be easy to forget "the church" and with it, your pledges. It happens; no judgment, just a gentle reminder to try to keep up with your pledge to Groton Congregational Church. Thank you for the giving of your time, talents and treasures. It's never, ever too late to make the commitment of a pledge, if you haven't yet done so. Cards are in the church office (completion of the cards helps the church treasurer in terms of budgeting).

The Stewardship Committee has been working hard to obtain donations to the September, month-long raffle. It's exciting to see the list grow! To date, we have donations of gift cards from restaurants, museums, boat trips, golf outings, body massages and gift baskets. There's no way to have too many items!! One thing we'd like to add to the list is the prize of cash (who can't use some cash?!). If you are in a position to make a monetary donation, please contact a member of the committee (listed below) and, collectively, we can have a sizeable cash prize added to the calendar. If you have an idea for a prize, let us know! As has been stated, proceeds from the raffle will go into the maintenance and restoration fund for our church building. Ticket sales will begin in August and we will be asking for help in the sales department. We'll have updates during the month of July.

God's blessings be upon you.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Cathy Johnson, Sue Stottlemeyer, Phyllis Meyer, Doris Pulaski



Worship Watch

July Church Services

Proper 9 (14)

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 3, 2022

Sermon: "The Songs of Freedom"

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Isaiah 66:10-14
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16



Proper 10 (15)

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 10, 2022

Sermon: "Go and Do Likewise"

Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Luke 10:25-37

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14



Proper 11 (16)

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2022

Sermon: "Mary & Martha"

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Proper 12 (17)

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022

Sermon: "Ask, Knock, and Receive"

Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13



Proper 13 (18)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2022

Sermon: Guest Preacher

Hosea 11:1-11

Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

July 2022

Additional Meetings:

After Worship Coffee Hour—Every Sunday after Worship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10am	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10am Deacons Aft. Worship	11 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Trustees 6pm	12 Leadership	13	14	15	16
17 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10am Open Conversation aft. Worship Missions 11:15am Music Committee 11am	18 Prayer & Bible Study 11am	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10am Stewardship 11:30am	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10am						

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.

Bring Your Family to Our Family..

Located near historic Fort Griswold, by the banks of the Thames River, Groton Congregational Church, an Open & Affirming 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.



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