

The Gargoyle



The Pastor's Musings

By Reverend Lee Ireland

Greetings to you all as we've launched into the fall season.

Looking at my October calendar, I take a deep breath with all that we hope to do with some wonderful worship services, activities and events coming up. I invite you to look in this newsletter for the reports from each of the Boards and Committees to catch up on their dreams and vision of how to "be" the Body of Christ here in Groton.

We are now enjoying such beautiful fall clear days, but I believe we are all paying attention to what has happened to all of those who have been impacted by Hurricane Ian in FL and the southern states. Our worship services provide us the ways to offer prayers collectively, and to consider how our actions here can aid our neighbors near and far. Thank you for your presence and the ways in which you serve. You've heard me share the words of Teresa of Avila before, but they seem even more significant now. May we never forget our role in helping Jesus' ministry come alive in our ordinary lives and in our ordinary choices for love and forgiveness:

*Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which
He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.—St. Teresa of Ávila (attributed)*

An anthropologist proposed a game to the kids in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told the kids that who ever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he told them to run they all took each others hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they had run like that as one could have had all the fruits for himself they said: "UBUNTU, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

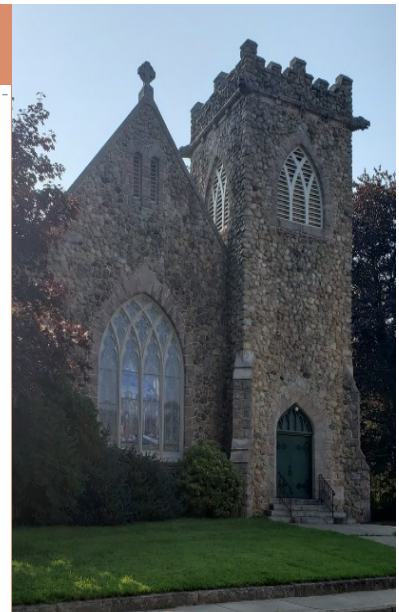
"UBUNTU" in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are"



Let us gather for worship on October 2nd, when we can share in the celebration of World Communion Sunday. Then on October 16th we rejoice that we will be Welcoming New Members, but also welcoming back several who are Renewing their membership after being away for a while.

This past Sunday, September 25, I shared this picture of boys in a circle in Africa where they were learning about the African term "Ubuntu." I talked about how it can encourage us to consider how we can strengthen our community together as we care for one another and proclaim, **"I am because we are."** I believe this is a more modern interpretation of one of Jesus' core teachings, part of many parables in which

he's trying to challenge the power of the hierarchy in the Jewish communities which was based on human categories of wealth, health and their positions in workplaces. Jesus was continually challenging the Pharisees and Sadducees to see that God was the God of all peoples, not just some. That love and forgiveness were present for all — as the Way to lead people into their own personal sense of freedom and relationship.



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SIERRA BRYTE

MADELINE CAMPBELL

ELIZABETH CHAPPELL

LOIS DEMPSEY

NATHAN THOMAS DETMER

COOPER JOHNSON

Sanctuary Flowers

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

To do so, please contact the church office at the number above 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 at the number above.



Youth Environmental Justice Retreats

Climate change and environmental injustice weigh heavily on young people's hearts -- and these retreats are a response to those concerns, encouraging youth to take action for environmental justice that is grounded in their faith. As you know, spending time in God's Creation (like at Silver Lake!) is a key way young people experience the love of God that inspires them to care for our neighbors and Creation.

There are four offerings of this day-long retreat to choose from:

- October 8, 2022 at Silver Lake
- October 22, 2022 at Irons Homestead
- February 18, 2023 at Irons Homestead (snow date – March 25)

SNEUCC's 2022-2023 Confirmation Retreats

Weekend Retreats at Silver Lake: Two nights with four meals - Friday from 7:00pm to Sunday at 11:30am. Additional activities include team building on the low ropes course and campfire time on Saturday evening. Cost is **\$195 per person**.

[Weekend at Silver Lake - November 4th-6th, 2022](#)

[Weekend at Silver Lake - March 24th-26th, 2023](#)

[Weekend at Silver Lake - April 21st-23rd, 2023](#)



Overnight Retreats:

One night with two meals - Friday from 7:00pm to Saturday at 4:30pm. Cost is **\$145 per person**.

[Overnight at Craigville - December 2nd-3rd, 2022](#)

[Overnight at Prindle Pond - February 10th-11th, 2023](#)

[Overnight at Craigville - March 3rd-4th, 2023](#)

[Overnight at Craigville - March 24th-25th, 2023](#)

Space is limited to 35 attendees for overnight retreats and 50 attendees for weekend retreats. Programs will be led by a group of experienced facilitators. Each group is required to bring chaperones for youth at a rate of one adult for each eight youth.

For more information about these events, please contact Faith Formation Program Support Associate [Sean Amato](#).

[View the full Conference event calendar here](#)

Women's Fellowship

By Sally Turner



Women's fellowship met on 9/14/22. There was a potluck luncheon before the meeting. We have nothing but great cooks in this church.

We spent much time fine tuning the plans for the fall festival which will take place 11/05/22 9a.m. - 2 p.m.

We will be accepting donations of theme baskets to be bided on during the festival.

The craft meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Friday mornings from 10-12 noon.

There will be a bake sale on Sunday 10/02/22 after church. We so appreciate all who bake or buy. The money earned allows us to help our church in many ways.

Our next meeting will be 10/12/22 at 12:30 p.m. bring your lunch. All women are welcome.



Community Meals

By Janice Kimball

Good news! Pending October kitchen inspections by the Ledge Light Health District, we are getting ready to restart in-house Community Meals in Dutton Hall Saturdays beginning November 12th. We will plan to serve foods prepared in the kitchen from 12 noon to 1 PM, and continue to offer meals to shut-ins. In the meantime, we will follow the bag lunch distribution time of 12 noon to 12:30 PM in the church parking lot. During the Fall Craft Fair on November 5th, we will be making the distribution from noon to 12:30 PM at Bill Memorial Library.

We would like to thank the Trustees and Property Committee for their kind cooperation, plus the Missions Committee and Women's Fellowship for their support, along with all our volunteers and donors.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at 860-235-0494.

May God bless you in abundance this harvest season!

Janice Kimball, volunteer



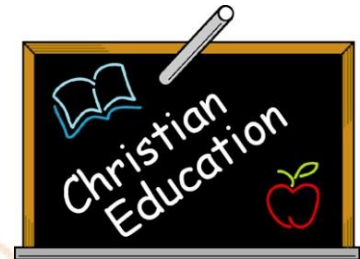
Christian Education

By Janice Kimball

Our nursery is ready and waiting for your family during worship! We have renewed the beautiful make-over of room 2 downstairs in our church building for use as a place for your young children and grandchildren. There is a speaker that will broadcast the Sunday message downstairs to families using the nursery!

Also, we are currently seeking nursery attendants to be certified and available to supervise young children. Please call Janice Kimball at 860-235-0494 or the church office if you are interested. Thank you!

Janice Kimball, for the Christian Education committee



Missions Message

By Anne, Beth, & Penny



It's October and time for the crop walk that works towards ending hunger. The walk starts at St Mark's Church in Mystic at 1pm on October 16th. It goes to Noank Baptist Church and back to Mystic. Donations are accepted [online](#).

Things to look forward to in November-
Grammies Jammies
Items to help with Thanksgiving baskets for Groton Human Services
Adopt a Family

Our next meeting is October 16th at 9am.

Missions
Anne, Beth and Penny

Stewardship Message

By Cathy Johnson, Sue Stottlemeyer, Phyllis Meyer, Doris Pulaski, & Melissa Beaupre



In a recent Sunday Bulletin, as part of the Unison Prayer of Confession, the following words were spoken by the congregation: “....to be good stewards of your creation....to be good stewards of your gospel....to be good stewards of your spiritual gifts...”

We as a congregational family are asked to be stewards in a myriad of ways. Thank you for being the stewards of and at Groton Congregational Church. As we plan for the future of our church and family, you may be asked where you feel you can best use your talents - don't be afraid to let your light shine! The Stewardship Committee welcomes Melissa Beaupre as a member where she is shining her light with us.

During the month of October and November, we will be exploring the theme of “From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving” as part of our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. We ask that you ponder these words in your life as you begin to consider your pledge for 2023.

“Stewardship, simply put, is what we do with what we have.”

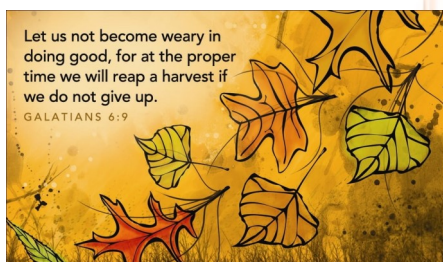
Thank you to all that donated, solicited donations, bought tickets, sold tickets and/or purchased tickets for the September Monthly Raffle! We are happy to report that ticket sales resulted in \$5,375 for the building/restoration fund. In the process, we interacted with members of the community, heard from church family that were no longer in the area and received some generous donations to the building/restoration fund outside of ticket sales – just because they wanted to support the church. It was hard work, but it was exciting. A very special “thank you” to Sue Stottlemeyer and Doris Pulaski for coming to the church every day during the month of September to pull tickets and be there to distribute prizes.

October 30th is our next “5 for 5” Sunday! If you are able, please put an extra \$5 (or any amount) in the collection plate on that Sunday. Thank you for supporting this fun play on words.

God's blessings be upon you.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Cathy Johnson, Sue Stottlemeyer, Phyllis Meyer, Doris Pulaski, Melissa Beaupre



Deacons Message

By Mary Alapa



God is so gracious. I was in prayer Saturday asking His help to write the Gargoyle message for October for the deacons when He instructed me to go to Genesis. I opened to the story of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph's brothers were resentful of him and thought to murder him. But instead sold him to a passing caravan traveling to Egypt where he went into service to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

The brothers were sent by their father to Egypt during a seven-year famine to purchase grain. They went to the Pharaoh's adviser, not recognizing it was their brother Joseph, to accomplish this. Even though he gave his brothers a difficult time, he eventually gave them the grain they needed.

My story is how God is still working in present day to help the oppressed who have come to this country. The recent treatment of the governors of Florida and Texas are similar to the oppressors of the past. The lies they told, the failure to show kindness to mankind, the contempt of God's law to show love to the stranger and their lack of leadership. The example of Joseph with his brothers is similar to the oppression and cruelty of what is happening now in the present. The people of Martha's Vineyard welcomed the immigrants without notice of their arrival.

The message for all is to keep the faith, know God's love and develop an attitude of love to all God's children. Your life will be pleasing to God, and you will have a peaceful life doing God's work here on earth.

Genesis: 42-47

Mary Alapa



Revised Bylaws

By Sue Blaisdell



On September 25, 2022 at a meeting of the Church Corporation, the Church Council recommended the by-laws be revised to recombine the Annual Organizational and the Annual Budget meetings. The vote passed unanimously.

The Annual Meeting of the Church Corporation will now be held on the third Sunday of January each year. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held on January 15, 2023. Committees and boards will be notified of the due date for annual reports to be received by the church office so that they can be published and available 2 weeks prior to the Annual meeting.

Respectfully, Sue Blaisdell



All reports for the Annual Meeting are due to be turned in to the church office no later than 10am on Tuesday December 27, 2022, for dissemination to the Congregation on Friday December 30, 2022.

Files may be submitted .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf, no Pages (Apple) files please. Thank you,
Lisa

Nominations

Dear friends,

It is time to seriously plan to fill current and upcoming vacancies among officers, boards, and committees. Because of two years of Covid, changes in formats and timing of meetings, and other challenges we have many vacancies to fill. Looking back through annual reports it was found that the terms of service were not given on some. The information on page 15 is an attempt to reconstruct a "Proposed Slate". The slate lists those members with the last full year they are currently scheduled to serve. The names with an asterisk are friends who have already volunteered to step up.

There may very well be names that need to be added or removed and dates that need correction. Please contact me to fix any errors or omissions. Also, very importantly, contact me if you would like to fill one of the vacancies.

Contact me or leave a message with Lisa in the church office. This list is posted on the Midway bulletin board.

Things To Know

- 1-The proposed committee slate on page 9 shows those committees with existing and upcoming vacancies.
- 2-The positions of moderator and assistant moderator are 3 year terms
- 3-The positions of treasurer, asst. treasurer, clerk and historian are 1 year terms
- 4-Members of the boards of deacons and trustees must be members of the church
- 5-Vacancies are shown as full committees; we should have at least 3 members on each committee except for the boards of deacons and trustees where full membership is preferred
- 6-The committee slate has been adjusted to stagger terms so that committees will have members laying over for the new members.

Bill Blaisdell

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2023

<u>Moderator</u>	~ Ingrid Measimer	(25)	<u>Treasurer</u>	~ _____	(23)
<u>Asst. Moderator</u>	~ _____	(25)	<u>Asst. Treasurer(s)</u>	~ _____	(23)
<u>Clerk</u>	~ _____	(23)	<u>Historian</u>	~ _____	(23)

Board of Trustees (3 year)

Lew Clark (23)
 James Kerrigan C (23)
 Marilyn Wright (23)
 Ed Magown (24)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (25)
 _____ (25)

Board of Deacons (3 year)

Mary Alapa (23)
 Chuck Barnum (23)*
 Sue Blaisdell C (23)*
 Sally Turner (23)*
 Anne Campbell (23)*
 _____ (24)
 Doris Pulaski (25)*

Nominating Committee (3 year)

_____ (24)
 _____ (25)
 _____ (25)

SNEC Conference Delegates (2 year)

_____ (25)
 _____ (25)

Property Committee (2 year)

Sue Stottlemeyer (24)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (25)
 _____ (25)

Memorial Fund (2 year)

Carolyn Hanover (23)
 Marilyn Wright (23)
 _____ (25)

Ushering Committee (2 year)

RozWomack (23)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (25)
 _____ (25)

Christian Education (2 year)

Janice Kimball (23)*
 Jill Martin (24)*
 _____ (24)
 _____ (25)
 _____ (25)

Stewardship Committee (2 year)

Phyllis Meyer (23)
 Doris Pulaski (24)
 Sue Stottlemeyer (24)
 Melissa Beaupre (25)*
 _____ (25)

Missions Committee (2 year)

_____ (23)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (25)
 _____ (25)

Music Committee (2 year)

Janice Kimball C (23)
 Sally Turner (23)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (24)
 _____ (25)

Florida Relief—Hurricane Ian

The following is a list of vetted organizations where you can donate to help Florida recover after being hit by Hurricane Ian. If you are reading “The Gargoyle” electronically all the links below will work for you and take you directly to their respective sites where you can find out more about how you can help.



<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/disaster/>
UCC

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/knowning-god/>
Samaritans Purse

<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/donatefdf/>
Volunteer Florida

<https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/hurricane-relief.html>
Red Cross

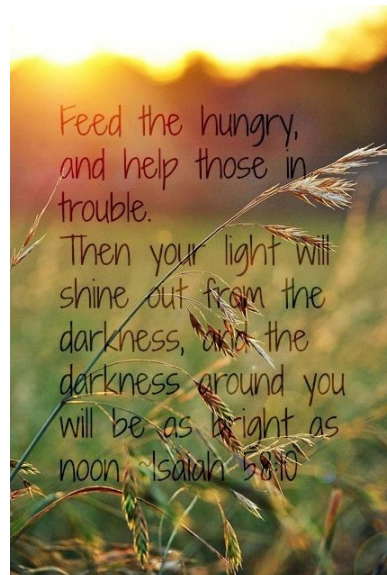
<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/hurricane-ian-how-to-help>
Save the Children

<https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/hurricane-relief/ian>
GoFund Me

<https://teamrubiconusa.org/>
Team Rubicon

<https://feedingtampabay.org/ways-we-serve/disaster-relief>
Feeding Tampa Bay

<https://wck.org/>
World Central Kitchen



The Great Resignation Hits Churches-Pastor Hopeful

By Generous Thoughts

If you've been reading the news, you've probably heard the term "The Great Resignation." It refers to a societal phenomenon in which we've seen significant swaths of the workforce resign from their employment in the last two years. Factors include wage stagnation, workplace dissatisfaction, and both safety and fatigue regarding COVID-19.

Churches experience a Great Volunteer Resignation as well.

Susan Beaumont, who writes and coaches particularly around the intersection of organizational health and spiritual vitality, describes the situation she's seeing in many congregations this way:

We don't know whether the absence of volunteers is due to temporary post-pandemic fatigue, ongoing fear of the pandemic, or a seismic cultural shift.

The early days of the pandemic provided a natural pause in many volunteer relationships. When the buildings closed and programs went on hiatus, we relied on staff to innovate a narrower portfolio of offerings. It was safer to keep the number of people in the building to a minimum. Congregants were overwhelmed with the demands of work, school, and family—all restricted to the home. Churches grew accustomed to working with fewer volunteers. Now we want our volunteers back, but they are slow to respond.

At this stage of the pandemic, people are carefully assessing how they will invest their time and talent. Job transitions in the workforce are at an all-time high as people reevaluate how they will spend their days. It makes sense that people are extending the same scrutiny to their volunteer lives.

I observe this at my congregation too. As we work to resume, reinvigorate, and revitalize ministries that have been dormant amidst the pandemic, many of our former volunteers are either not returning or taking this opportunity to retire - and reasonably so.

Take Ed Tucker; he "retired" after 35 years teaching Faith Formation this last spring. No one begrudged Ed his retirement, and yet he is one of the faces of the Great Congregational Resignation. The depth, breadth, and length of his volunteer service stands out, but this wouldn't be a Great Resignation if he were alone. Folks have, reasonably, stepped back from ushering, reading, hosting coffee hour, gardening.

And, while many of my colleagues are pessimistic about this phenomenon, I'm not.

A church consultant that I worked with years ago whose name I've forgotten had a theory that vital churches needed to continually be creating new opportunities and ministries because it's hard for people to insert themselves into already existing groups. His idea was that it's hard to navigate the already existing interpersonal dynamics and unwritten rules of existing programs and offerings, and so he was a big advocate for creating new opportunities, so that folks would see that there was room for them around the circle.

I see this dynamic in the music ministry of my congregation. Without our experience of the pandemic and the resulting need to put the chancel choir on hiatus, several of our cantors would not have had the opportunity to share their gifts. Our online services gave these folks a different opportunity to serve the congregation in a way that worked for them, a way that was different from the tried and true "way we've always done it."

Don't get me wrong, one of my ministerial fears is having NO ONE to teach Faith Formation or lead Youth Group. My initial reflex to the news of very active volunteers moving and others stepping back from roles is absolute dread. But recently, I've become more philosophical about it. Maybe it's age or parenting or pandemic wisdom, but more and more, I find myself looking at resignations as opportunities for the church. Maybe, instead of framing this as a Great Resignation, we need to look at it as a Great Reimagining, a Great Reshuffling, a Great Transformation. While we're deeply grateful for the time and energy and gifts people have given to the church and its ministries in their current shape, the Great Resignation can be an opportunity to update both what we do and how we do it.

Susan Beaumont, the coach and writer I quoted earlier, has a few suggestions about re-engaging volunteers, including streamlining roles, promoting flexibility (i.e. the time / way things happen), moving toward episodic micro-volunteering, and helping people pursue their passions. I think all of these suggestions have possibility, and I also think that the Great Resignation gives us some space. **(continued pg.12)**

The Great Resignation Hits Churches-Pastor

Continued from page 11

How do you make space for new volunteers in your congregation?

For some people, that space is made by knowing that there's room for them to offer their gifts. In some instances, that space will be made by reimagining and reshaping how we share the Gospel.

How do you help people know they can share their gifts?

I know my congregation needs people. Not just to fill someone else's shoes. It would be almost impossible to do that. We need them to be part of a next chapter of our congregation's magnificent story, a story of thousands upon thousands of people over the years who have striven to live our church covenant in which we promise to "do the will of God and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations."

Generous Thoughts is a collaborative effort of UCC stewardship, generosity, fundraising, and development professionals to provide our conferences and congregations with information to aid them in their fundraising efforts. The SNEUCC is represented by the conference's development team, David Cleaver-Bartholomew and Lee Gagen.

**Generous
Thoughts**



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus



*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Psalm 107:1*



Kissing the Earth

By John Dorhauer

"Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet."

So wrote Thich Nhat Hahn.

Pause for a moment and think about how precious the Earth is. In all the discovered and known universe, it stands alone as a planet on which life flourishes, including a species capable of self-awareness, compassion, worship, intellect, and love. This is not to suggest such things are not possible or do not exist elsewhere – chances are they are and do. But if they do, we haven't yet learned of it and that suggests that what we have here is pretty special. Literally one in a billion. And it has taken even what we know now to exist on this rare Earth 13.7 billion years to get here.



"Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet."

I don't know if you are paying attention, but there are reports out of Europe of the Rhine, the Loire, and the Danube running dry in places. Lakes Mead and Powell are sinking to record lows, threatening the Colorado river and its ability to provide water to a large swath of the Southwest. And China is seeing crop yields fail in massive areas as they are experiencing heavy droughts that persist year after year, each day setting new records for sustained high temperatures.

"Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet."

Cyclones in the Pacific rim, wildfires in Australia, drought in East Africa, floods in South Asia, aridity in Central America, hurricanes in the Atlantic all currently threaten large populations. The Earth has reached a one-degree lift in average temperatures, halfway to the apocalyptic figure of a 2 degree shift that permanently alters the ecosystem and threatens its continuance in the web of life that has sustained it over billions of years of evolution.

"Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet."

Climate change and climate disaster are no joking matters. These are dire circumstances that demand immediate action and singular resolve. As I have been saying for a decade, if we don't solve this justice problem it will solve all other justice problems for us. In his book *Climate Church, Climate World* Jim Antal makes the bold and prescient claim that saving mother Earth is the vocation of the Church. It has become our reason for being. We are stewards of God's creation. That does not give us access to dominion over, but calls us to care for. Capitalism's authorization to grab what you can when you can, to see the Earth not as mother who feeds all but as commodity that satiates lust and greed is going to kill us all. The more biblical notion of stewardship is an invitation to sustain and not to ravish.

"Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet."

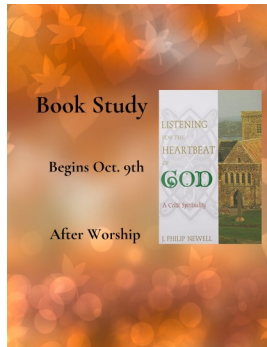
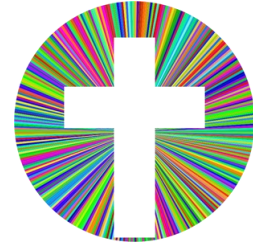
There is a line that is oft quoted, but whose origins seem to be somewhat disputed. Nonetheless, I will repeat it here: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Every day I ask myself what are we leaving behind for our children and grandchildren? What tortures will they face because of our acquisitiveness and lack of restraint? What can I be doing today as caretaker of the Earth they will need to live to ensure they have a planet safe to inhabit?

Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet on this, our journey Into the Mystic.

Upcoming Church Events

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Groton Congregational Church is happy to announce the addition of two Adult Education Programs which will take place this Fall. All Members and Friends of the church are welcome to join. If you're interested in one or both of the following spiritually intense programs, please contact Reverend Lee. Classes are forming now.

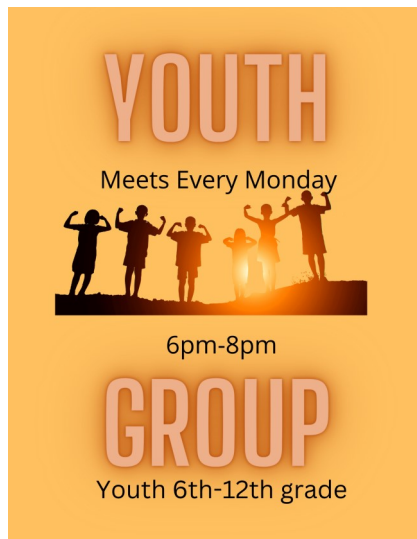


1-A 4-weekly study of J. P. Newell's, Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Study of Celtic Spirituality. Class begins October 9th after worship.

2-One of the groups of scriptures that many of us have not yet explored are the Gnostic Gospels, the Nag Hammadi Library, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and/or the Apocrypha. This program will explore The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, and some of the other non-canonical scriptures. This educational program is still in the planning stages. We are seeking to hold this class as a hybrid study during daytime hours offered both in-person and via Zoom. Alternatively, this study could also take place as an evening program once/week for 8 weeks until Advent.

Once again, if you are interested, please contact

Reverend Lee pastor@grotoncongregational.org or email the office office@grotoncongregational.org to sign up.



Local October Events



Rocky Neck State Park

October 30th



Starts 11am



Worship Watch

October Church Services

Proper 22 (27) Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost October 2, 2022 Sermon: <i>"Write the Vision Down"</i> Communion	<u>Lamentations 1:1-6</u> <u>Lamentations 3:19-26</u> or <u>Psalm 137</u>	<u>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4</u> <u>Psalm 37:1-9</u>	<u>2 Timothy 1:1-14</u>	<u>Luke 17:5-10</u>
Proper 23 (28) Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 9, 2022 Sermon: <i>"Shaped by the testing"</i>	<u>Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7</u> <u>Psalm 66:1-12</u>	<u>2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c</u> <u>Psalm 111</u>	<u>2 Timothy 2:8-15</u>	<u>Luke 17:11-19</u>
Proper 24 (29) Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 16, 2022 Sermon: <i>"Covenant written on our hearts"</i> Receive New Members	<u>Jeremiah 31:27-34</u> <u>Psalm 119:97-104</u>	<u>Genesis 32:22-31</u> <u>Psalm 121</u>	<u>2 Timothy 3:14-4:5</u>	<u>Luke 18:1-8</u>
Proper 25 (30) Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 23, 2022 Sermon: <i>"Dream dreams and see visions"</i>	<u>Joel 2:23-32</u> <u>Psalm 65</u>	<u>Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22</u> <u>Psalm 84:1-7</u>	<u>2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18</u>	<u>Luke 18:9-14</u>
Proper 26 (31) Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 30, 2022 Sermon: <i>"Do justice and love kindness"</i>	<u>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4</u> <u>Psalm 119:137-144</u>	<u>Isaiah 1:10-18</u> <u>Psalm 32:1-7</u>	<u>2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12</u>	<u>Luke 19:1-10</u>

Bible Study – On Monday mornings at 11 AM, we've been gathering in person and/or via Zoom to create a community of people studying the lectionary biblical readings for the coming Sunday. If you're interested, we hope you can join us and share in the conversations in which we laugh and engage in learning from one another. I personally love listening to other people's insights and wisdom I had never heard before each week. Such a joy! —Reverend Lee



October 2022

Additional Meetings:

After Worship Coffee Hour—Every Sunday after Worship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship Service 10am	3 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm	4 Crafting 10am-noon Trustees 5:30pm	5	6 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	7 Crafting 10am-noon	8
9 Worship Service 10am	10 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm	11 Crafting 10am-noon Deacons 6:00pm Leadership 7:00pm	12 Women's Fellowship 12pm	13 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	14 Crafting 10am-noon	15
16 Worship Service 10am New Members Missions 9am Trivia 4pm	17 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm	18 Crafting 10am-noon	19	20 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	21 Crafting 10am-noon	22
23 Worship Service 10am Music Com- mittee 11am	24 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm	25 Crafting 10am-noon	26	27 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	28 Crafting 10am-noon	29
30 Worship Service 10am	31 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm					

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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