

The Gargoyle

Pastor's Moment

Fall Greetings to you this day,

I will be on vacation for the first 2 weeks of this month, visiting with my sisters in western NY as well as seeing an aunt and cousin from OH. Then I will travel to visit some friends who live near Valley Forge, PA to do a wedding for a woman I've known since she was an infant. Sweet!

Rev. Jack Shackles, Rev. Mobby Larson, and Rev. Janice Kimball will provide pastoral care in my absence. Should the need for clergy arise during my vacation please call the office for the phone numbers of the above Reverends or Sue Blaisdell (860-448-6903) if after office hours.

I'm sure that while I'm driving across NY, I'll be pondering some of the exchanges I had with the Deacons and Leaders during the past 2 months as I was preparing to sign my new covenant as your "Transitional Minister." The first question we are all asking is **"What are we transitioning from – to?"** My question is: "What can we give ourselves permission to address, adjust, or try out during this next year? Is there a message that is trying to come through and it is only as we collectively listen, that we will be able to discern well what the Still-Speaking God is inviting us to hear?"

I've stated that I believe the 10 am worship service is greatly enjoyed and valued by so many. If we honor its style and value, what can we offer that would speak to the younger generations to encourage their participation and commitment?

On that note, at the last Leaders' Meeting, Rachel Candee, James Kerrigan, and I decided we'd try to offer a time at a pub - for an "Open Conversation" to see if any younger people would come. (We won't limit the age at all!)

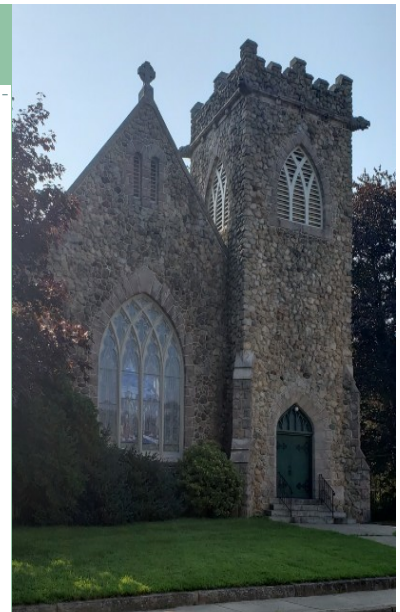
Rachel shared how she had been at a previous church where they called the successful gatherings **"Theology at the Pub."** We will launch this offering on **Sept. 25th at 4 pm.** We're still considering the logistics. Stay tuned.

We're also trying to launch a CE Committee but are stymied. Are you interested in serving and/or helping out? If so, please speak with me, Ingrid Measimer or Janice Kimball. Thanks.

I would also like to see if there's any interest in a couple of alternative Bible Study options. We've been gathering for our traditional style on Monday mornings at 11 AM. Please see page 3 for some other suggestions. Also, during my children's message on 8/28, I mentioned the gift of learning how to listen to our dreams. Are you having any good dreams and want to join a "Dream Class"? Let me know.

As we launch into September and the fall season, I offer my prayers to the parents with children returning to school and to the teachers and administrators. This is normally such an exciting and hopeful time of year as well as one with normal transitional concerns. I pray, that we will see the safe launching of this year's school season around our country for all.

For those of you who have been away for the summer months due to traveling or choosing to stay cool, we look forward to seeing you return with your smiling faces and your warm spirits and hearts. We offer prayers for those who are struggling with medical concerns or overcoming some complications from Covid. (continued on pg. 14)



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162 Monument St
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www.grotonucc.org
860-445-7409



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SARAH FULTON

MARY HOWARD

BRIAN SHEPHERD

CONNIE STODDARD

GAVIN WALL

MARILYN WRIGHT

JEAN ORKNEY

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.



NEW MEMBERS INVITATION

Our first New Members Class will be held after church on **September 25th at 11: 30 AM**. A second class will follow on a date agreed upon during the first class. The purpose of these classes is to share information about Groton Congregational Church, our history, the polity, and the United Church of Christ.

The New Members Ceremony will be held on October 9, 2022 during our 10 AM worship service.

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 16th 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.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship met on 8/10/2022 at Shennecossett Beach. Our **next meeting** will be **9/14 2022**. We will meet at **12 Noon for a pot-luck lunch** before the meeting. **All ladies of the church are invited.**

Our Up Coming Events Are:

There will be a **bake sale** after church on 9/11.

Our **Fall Fair** is scheduled for **Saturday Nov. 5th from 9a.m. - 2p.m.**

More information will be forthcoming.

Sally



Crafting Group



Crafting Group starts on Tuesday, **September 6th** from **1pm to 3pm** downstairs in the Crafting Room. We will meet at the same time every week to get ready for our upcoming Fall Fair. Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun.

Penny Sullivan

Community Meals

Please do continue to remember our "bag lunch" community meals program at church, every **Saturday from 12 noon to 12:30 PM**. Economic stresses felt by many of our friends and neighbors are relieved by your generous support through volunteer work and donations of food and funds. If you would like to volunteer, please notify Janice Kimball at 860-235-0494 for times and details. Thanks and God bless you!

Janice Kimball, volunteer



Music Committee



It's time! **The Handbell Choir** will reconvene for its first practice of the autumn on **Thursday, September 8th, at 6:30 PM.** New ringers are encouraged to attend; see Director of Music Sue Stottlemeyer for more information.

Also, the **adult choir** will begin rehearsals on **September 8th at 7:30 PM**, volunteers welcome.

The choir will again sing during the **Fort Griswold Commemorative Service** on **Sunday, September 4th at 6 PM**, at Fort Griswold State Park on Monument Street.

Janice Kimball, chair

Youth Group

The new school year is upon us, which means Youth Group is back in session! Youth Group will **meet every Tuesday evening, 6-8 pm** in the Youth Room **starting September 20th**. If you are interested in helping with a meeting, please let me know!
youthgroupdirector@grotoncongregational.org

Can't wait to see everyone real soon!

-Miss Rachel



Leadership Notes

The August Church Leaders' meeting took place in Dutton Hall on Monday, August 15th, at 7 PM, Ingrid Measimer, moderator.

The Trustees reported that a repair of the damaged church sign will be funded through church insurance, with a balance of \$2,275.

Rev. Ireland shared that all who are interested in joining the church on October 9th are invited to the New Members' classes at the end of September.

Please note information to be posted on the midway bulletin board, concerning church **organizational meeting** and election of officers and committee members: your church needs your talents! The meeting will be held after worship, also on **October 9th**, luncheon included.

Next Church Leaders' meeting will be in Dutton Hall, Monday, **September 12th at 7 PM.**

Janice Kimball, pro tem

Stewardship Message



"Do you bear fruit? Perhaps you've never thought of yourself as bearing fruit. Biblical contemporaries grew their own foods, tended orchards, and depended on their crops for their livelihood. Thus, we have many biblical food illustrations. The fruit is the end product of the planting season. First comes the seed, which is placed strategically in the ground. The seeds of our fruit as a Christian are being planted throughout our lives. As the water of love, relationships, and experiences pours into us, the seed becomes active and begins to grow. When we accept Jesus into our lives, the seed sprouts and the Holy Spirit continues to nurture the seed of our fruit." *Linda Gilden*

Recently, Reverend Lee posed a question in one of her Sunday messages (paraphrasing, here): what kind of fruit have we (the congregation) planted and what is it (what are we) producing? Word and thoughts to ponder.

Our congregation is a family and together we plant, grow and produce. In order to do that, we tend to and take care of the things that have come before us and what will come after us. It is in doing so that we commit – through our pledges and offerings – to share what we are producing, both individually and collectively.

Again, we thank all who continue to offer-up what they are able in service to the Groton Congregational, and, again, we ask that you consider how you might use your time and talents to serve the church.

By the time you read this, the first prize of the September Raffle will most likely have been chosen! The Stewardship Committee thanks the many people who have donated prizes and sold and purchased tickets. We know that not everyone can or will win, but we hope that you will delight in knowing that you played a part in supporting the Building Fund. Tickets are still being sold, so we don't yet have any final numbers, but we will let you know!

God's blessings be upon you.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Cathy Johnson, Sue Stottlemeyer, Phyllis Meyer, Doris Pulaski

**2nd Annual
Outdoor Artisan
Market**

Saturday, September 24
Rain Date – September 25
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
The Bill Memorial Library
Next to Fort Griswold

Fun for the whole family!


Alpacas from Six
Paces Farm

**Local
Crafters &
Artisans**

Kids Activities!


Dog Dancing &
Frisbee Demo
by
Top Hat & Tails

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THE BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
240 Monument Street, Groton, CT
860-445-0397

 SCAN ME



Battle of Fort Griswold Ceremony-Sunday, September 4th beginning at 6:00 pm at Fort Griswold.

Candlelight Commemoration Ceremony marking the 241st anniversary of The Battle of Groton Heights. Ceremony participants include descendants of defenders, the Groton Congregational Senior Choir and Rev. Janice Kimball. Bringing a lawn chair. Is suggested if you wish to sit.

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE CALENDAR

The daily winner will be notified by phone and the results posted on the Groton Congregational Facebook Page (with authorization from winner). Each ticket purchased remains in the raffle, with exception of the winning ticket. Proceeds support the building preservation and maintenance fund. Thank you for your support!!

♥Please visit and support our generous donors ♥

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Meadow Brook Golf, Four Players, Weekday \$272	2 Italian-Theme Gift Basket \$100 Fisher Florist \$40 Avery-Copp House Personal Program	3 Wine Glasses and Accessories \$130 Certificate One Case Avery's Beverages and Six-Pack \$25
4 Shennecossett Golf Course, 2 Players Round of Golf \$150 Sneekers Café \$50	5 Personal Pet Oil Portrait by Fine Artist Marc Massaro \$250 Johnny's Peking Tokyo \$30	6 Kitchen Basket \$130 Mystic Luxury Cinema, 3 Tickets+Popcorn and Drinks \$54	7 Mystic Massage & Wellness \$100 U Nails & Spa \$25 Wildflower Hair Salon \$25	8 Vera Bradley Collection \$215 Rio Salado \$25	9 Framed Watercolor Seascape Painting by Fine Artist Ralph Acosta \$300	10 Project Oceanology, 2 VIP Tickets \$80 99 Restaurant \$50; Niantic Children's Museum \$50
11 Foxwoods Voucher 1 Night Deluxe Overnight \$200+	12 Tree Trail Adventure + Goodie Bag \$120 RC Model Sportscar \$50	13 Groton Pizza Palace \$100 Mystic Kite Shop: Outdoor Games \$70; 4 Books from Bank Square Books \$60	14 Oak Whiskey Barrel Shelf \$250 Groton Townhouse Restaurant \$30	15 Lyman Allyn Art Museum Family Membership \$75 Thames River Greenery \$50; 99 Restaurant \$25	16 Mystic Aquarium 2 Tickets \$75 Johnny's Peking Tokyo \$30 Burnett's Country Gardens \$25	17 Garde Arts Center 2 Tickets up to \$120 Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant \$30
18 Grader Jewelers Ladies Earrings \$195 Lillian's Café \$25	19 Stonington Natural Medicine Acupuncture or Massage \$100 Engine Room \$50 Adore \$25	20 Frame of Mind Matted Sketch and Certificate for 20% off Framing \$200 The Spot \$25	21 Emeril Lagasse Pizza Oven Grill \$120 Johnson's Hardware \$25 Jealous Monk \$25	22 Mystic Seaport 2 Guest Admission Passes \$54 S&P Oyster House \$50 Aprima Studios Massage \$122	23 Piano Lessons with Janice Kimball \$100 Choice of Mystic Gift Shops \$25 99 Restaurant \$25	24 Thames River Heritage Park 2 Tickets Narrated Boat Tour The Barn \$25 Paul's Pasta \$50
25 Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra 2 Loge Seats \$130 Capt. Daniel Packer Inne 2 Dinner Entrees	26 Walmart Gift Card \$100 Supercharged Indoor Carting and Axe Throwing \$70; The Shack One Breakfast and One Dinner Meal	27 Kelley's Pace \$100 Hempsted House Family Membership \$75 Johnny's Peking Tokyo \$30	28 Shennecossett Golf Course, 2 Players Round of Golf \$150 Sneekers Café \$50	29 Personal Pet Oil Portrait by Fine Artist Julianna Cameron \$175 Oz N Bones Cert + Bottle of BBQ Sauce \$30	30 Cash \$50 VISA Gift Card \$50 4 Amazon Gift Cards, \$25 each	

3 TICKETS FOR \$25 OR 1 FOR \$10

See a church member for tickets or call the church office @ 860-445-7409

Checks can be made payable to GCC Restoration Fund

Ticket sales will continue throughout the month of September

Deacons Message

The following story was initially presented by Lee Paton in 2001.

Downwind from Flowers

By Lee Paton(1)



Several years ago in Seattle, Washington, there lived a 52-year-old Tibetan refugee. "Tenzin," as I will call him, was diagnosed with one of the more curable forms of lymphoma. He was admitted to the hospital and received his first dose of chemotherapy. But during the treatment, this usually gentle man became extremely angry and upset. He pulled the IV out of his arm and refused to cooperate. He shouted at the nurses and became argumentative with everyone who came near him. The doctors and nurses were baffled. Then Tenzin's wife spoke to the hospital staff. She told them Tenzin had been held as a political prisoner by the Chinese for 17 years. They killed his first wife and repeatedly tortured and brutalized him throughout his imprisonment. She told them that the hospital rules and regulations, coupled with the chemotherapy treatments, gave Tenzin horrible flashbacks of what he had suffered at the hands of the Chinese. "I know you mean to help him," she said, "but he feels tortured by your treatments. They are causing him to feel hated inside – just like he felt toward the Chinese. He would rather die than have to live with the hatred he is now feeling. And, according to our belief, it is very bad to have hatred in your heart at the time of death. He needs to be able to pray and cleanse his heart."

So, the doctors discharged Tenzin and asked the hospice team to visit him in his home. I was the hospice nurse assigned to his care. I called a local representative from Amnesty International for advice. He told me that the only way to heal the damage from torture is to "talk it through." "This person has lost his trust in humanity and feels hope is impossible," the man said. "If you are to help him, you must find a way to give him hope." But when I encouraged Tenzin to talk about his experiences, he held up his hand and stopped me. He said, "I must learn to love again if I am to heal my soul. Your job is not to ask me questions. Your job is to teach me to love again." I took a deep breath. I asked him, "so, how can I help you love again?" Tenzin immediately replied. "Sit down, drink my tea and eat my cookies."

Tibetan tea is strong black tea laced with yak butter and salt. It isn't easy to drink! But that is what I did. For several weeks, Tenzin, his wife, and I sat together, drinking tea. We also worked with his doctors to find ways to treat his physical pain. But it was his spiritual pain that seemed to be lessening. Each time I arrived, Tenzin was sitting cross-legged on his bed, reciting prayers from his books. As time went on, he and his wife hung more and more colorful "thankas," Tibetan Buddhist banners, on the walls. The room was fast becoming a beautiful, religious shrine.

When spring came, I asked Tenzin what Tibetans do when they are ill in the spring. He smiled brightly and said, "we sit downwind from flowers." I thought he must be speaking poetically. But Tenzin's words were quite literal. He told me Tibetans sit downwind so they can be dusted with the new blossoms' pollen that floats on the spring breeze. They feel this new pollen is strong medicine. At first, finding enough blossoms seemed a bit daunting. Then, one of my friends suggested that Tenzin visit some of the local flower nurseries.

I called the manager of one of the nurseries and explained the situation. The manager's initial response was: "You want to do what?" But, when I explained the request, the manager agreed. So, the next weekend, I picked up Tenzin and his wife with their provisions for the afternoon: black tea, butter, salt, cups, cookies, prayer beads and prayer books. I dropped them off at the nursery and assured them I would return at 5:00. The following weekend, Tenzin and his wife visited another nursery. The third weekend, they went to yet another nursery. The fourth week, I began to get calls from nurseries inviting Tenzin and his wife to come again. One of the managers said, "we've got a new shipment of nicotiana coming in and some wonderful fuchsias and oh, yes! Some great daphne. I know they would love the scent of that daphne! And I almost forgot! We have some new lawn furniture that Tenzin and his wife might enjoy." Later that day, I got a call from the second nursery saying that they had colorful wind socks that would help Tenzin predict where the wind was blowing. Pretty soon, the nurseries were competing for Tenzin's visits. People began to know and care about the Tibetan couple. The nursery employees started setting out the lawn furniture in the direction of the wind. Others would bring out fresh hot water for their tea. Some of the regular customers would leave their wagons of flowers near the two of them. It seems that a community was growing around Tenzin and his wife.

At the end of summer, Tenzin returned to his doctor for another CT scan to determine the extent of the spread of the cancer. But the doctor could find no evidence of cancer at all. He was dumbfounded. He told Tenzin that he just couldn't explain it. Tenzin lifted his finger and said, "I know why the cancer has gone away. It could no longer live in a body that is filled with love. (can't pg. 9)

Deacon's Continued—"When I began to feel all the compassion from the hospice people, from the nursery employees, and all those people who wanted to know about me, I started to change inside. Now, I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to heal in this way. Doctor, please don't think that your medicine is the only cure. Sometimes compassion can cure cancer as well."

Commentary: Compassion will cure other ills, too. Compassion is medicine to heal the soul, fill people with Grace, and thus heal the mind, heart, then the body.

Lee Paton, RN, MSN, Seattle University, Hospice of Seattle, who shared this story at a Hospice Seminar in Seattle, WA in May 2001.

This story, as shared, was a part of our Chaplaincy training program at the Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, VT, with emphasis on compassion as we visited patients during our rounds.

Ephesians 4:31-32: Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Peace and Love to everyone -

Deacon Chuck Barnum

Thursdays in Black



"We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates." —Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries and Operations Co-Executive Global Ministries.

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma, and further violence. Globally, 30% of women experience physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, according to data from the World Health Organization. Such violence can increase during public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that everyone is safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations.

Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in [the campaign](#) by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:

We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence. We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags **#ThursdaysinBlack**, **#UnitedChurchOfChrist**, and tag us.

The Privilege of Not Seeing

By John Dorhauer

"I hurt easy, I just don't show it. You can hurt someone and not even know it."
So sings Bob Dylan in his song "Things Have Changed."

For people of color in the United States, this has always been true. Every day is an endurance test of micro-aggressions leveled against them, constantly working to 'just don't show it', and living alongside a largely white crowd that hurt them and didn't even know it.

When teaching about white privilege to white audiences, I almost always begin the discussion with the same question: what do you see. It is a test and it is a provocation.

The test is to examine the extent to which the privilege that manifests itself in micro-aggressions to people of color and deepens their experience with pain can be seen by whites. Do they even know it?

The provocation is a nudge to help whites open their eyes to the manifestations and impact of a privilege that persists, pervades, and perpetrates every aspect of their being – and yet cannot be seen by most whites.

To not see is itself a privilege. Very few people want to be known or seen as capable of doing damage or harm to another person. Therefore ignorance of a persistent problem like white privilege reduces the inner turmoil of guilt and shame that, if experienced in its fullness would prove debilitating to most whites.

But ignorance of the impact doesn't reduce the pain of privilege, it in fact exacerbates it.

And so it is time to start seeing.

See the black woman you walked by at the counter who was there in line in front of you but which you just disregarded and stepped in front of.

See the black man pulled over for a faulty headlight who is sitting anxiously in his car and wondering how safe he and his daughter in the back seat are.

See the persistent portrayal of black actors as either victims or perpetrators of crime in most of the roles they are given in film and TV.

See discomfort in the eyes of the black friend you invited to your office dinner party as they survey the room and see that there is not another person of color in the room while you strut around comfortable with your peers and showing off how woke you are.

See the white Jesus hanging in your sanctuaries and portrayed in your stain glass windows and hung on the walls of your Sunday School classrooms – and remind yourself again that we know for a fact Jesus wasn't white.

See the grimace on the face of your co-worker as two white employees make an offhand remark about how sad it is the Cleveland Indians had to change their name while you stand there and say nothing.

See and see and see. Privilege has its, well, privileges. But it has its costs, as well. And there is a world of unseen pain out there to be known. Dylan is right – you can, and you likely do, hurt someone and not even know it.

Let those who have eyes to see, see on this, our journey [Into the Mystic](#).

Preaching
that we are to
LOVE our neighbor,
WELCOME the stranger, &
STAND UP for the marginalized
does not mean you are making
political statements.
It means you are making
BIBLICAL statements.

- A Southern Pastor

Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church

By Cindy Worthington Berry

"Good morning, Gary, I'm Rev. Cindy. It's nice to meet you; welcome to worship." Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry, of [UCC Boxborough](#), in Boxborough, MA, introduces herself to the man with the bright smile, and he responds with "Lovely to meet you!" It's as if they are meeting for the first time, although they saw each other just a few days ago.

Gary has dementia. He is in severe cognitive decline, needs help with basic tasks, and cannot be left alone. He still has good recall of events from decades past, but has trouble even identifying family members. He definitely doesn't remember his pastor and parishioners of the congregation he's been a member of for several years. Rev. Cindy noticed it was distressing for him when people talked to him like they knew him, when to him they were strangers. So she just started introducing herself every week, and he responded with delight instead of distress.

Like many congregations, UCC Boxborough has a number of parishioners with dementia, and even more who are involved in caregiving for someone with dementia. As an older congregation, and the rate of dementia on the rise, this isn't surprising. But this congregation has also had younger members diagnosed with dementia-related illnesses. And so for years they have been working on understanding dementia, supporting caregivers, and exploring best practices to welcome and embrace individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

Led by UCC Boxborough's Called to Care Ministry Team, the church offered workshops to the congregation and community, read books, shared resources, and set up visitations. But the team wanted to do more. They explored helping the town of Boxborough become a Dementia Friendly Community, but COVID and town transitions made that a challenge. So instead, they began exploring the possibility of becoming a Dementia Friendly Faith Community.

A [Dementia Friendly Faith Community](#) (DFFC) seeks to foster spiritual connection and meaningful engagement for those living with dementia, as well as supporting their families and caregivers. A DFFC recognizes that people with dementia are spiritual beings, beloved by God, and gifts to the congregation as a whole. People with dementia benefit from being part of a faith community, and surrounded by God's love. Through education, adaptations to the physical environment, interpersonal connection, support groups, and worship, a DFFC helps people with dementia and their caregivers continue to be part of the church as dementia worsens.

At UCC Boxborough, the Called to Care Ministry Team educated the congregation about the value and importance of becoming a Dementia Friendly Faith Community. Even in the midst of COVID, the team continued to offer workshops and worship services on dementia, including presentations by Alzheimer's Educator, [Mal Allard](#) and author and advocate [Rev. Jade Angelica](#) with a high level of participation and appreciation from the congregation and community. With support of the church Council, the Called to Care Ministry Team proposed the congregation vote to officially become a Dementia Friendly Church.

On February 13, 2022, the congregation voted unanimously to become a Dementia Friendly Church, with this mission statement: As a Dementia Friendly Church, we at UCC Boxborough strive to make an environment that is open, welcoming and safe for those with dementia and their families and caregivers by providing support and ways to increase their spiritual fulfillment.

Since the vote, the congregation has begun holding dementia-friendly worship services once a quarter. These are shorter, simple worship services held in person during the week. All are welcome, with about 1/3 of the participants experiencing dementia symptoms. Participants gather in a circle, and the pastor builds an altar with the group, setting out a Bible and candle and flowers. Knowing the powerful impact of familiar music, the group sings the first verse of several favorite hymns. A scripture passage is shared, and the pastor offers a brief reflection. All present are invited to share what they would like lifted up in prayer, and join together in the Lord's Prayer. Afterwards, of course, there are snacks! Those present participate at different levels, but it is amazing to see people who don't remember their children suddenly join in on Psalm 23 or Amazing Grace. (Worship resources include items from the [Calvin Institute of Christian Worship](#) and [Us Against Alzheimer's](#).)

The congregation has also redone interior signage to make it "dementia friendly," including images wherever possible. And a dementia resource shelf now greets visitors in the church lobby. With more to come.

Nicolette Wellington, member of the team, observed, "Dementia has been part of life's journey for family and church members near and dear. It has invited presence, patience, vigilance, great love and imagination. Small loving acts matter."

The designation of Dementia Friendly Church serves as a consistent reminder of God's call to care for our neighbor, especially our neighbors who are caregivers or living with dementia. And as is so often the case, the entire community benefits.

Upcoming Church Events

GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 11:30AM

If you are considering becoming a member, please contact one of the Deacons or Rev. Lee to sign up.



GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHOIR & HANDBELLS

Offer your singing voices in praise to the Lord!

PRACTICE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 8TH
HANDBELLS AT 6:30PM IN THE SANCTUARY
CHOIR AT 7:30PM IN THE PRACTICE ROOM

Everyone Welcome! If you would like to join please see Sue Stottlemeyer or Janice Kimball for more information

All Proceeds Benefit the Building Fund



September 1st-30th
Prizes Drawn DAILY!

Gift Certificates! Evenings Out! Free Rounds of Golf!
And so MUCH MORE

Tickets are \$10.00/each or 3 for \$25.00



OCTOBER
9
SUNDAY

THE ANNUAL CHURCH

Organizational Meeting

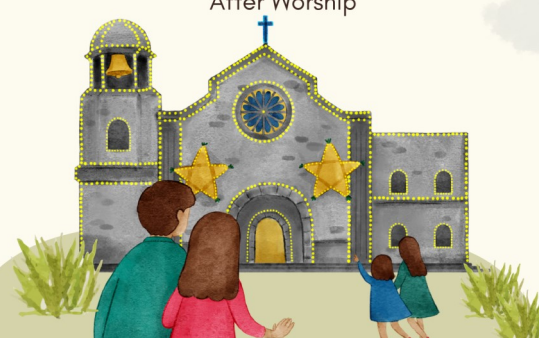
AFTER WORSHIP

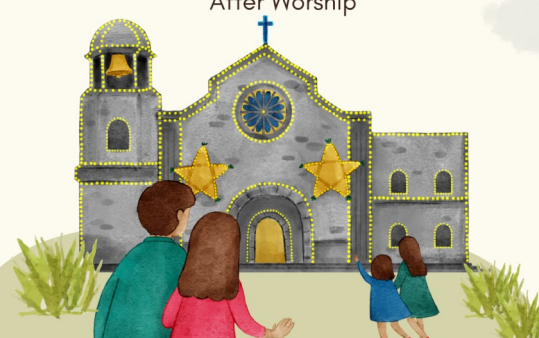
Upcoming Church Events

GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Celebration Day

September 18, 2022
After Worship

An illustration of a church with a steeple and a cross. In front of the church, there are several people: a man in a green shirt, a woman in a pink shirt, and two children in blue and green dresses. The church has yellow stars on its facade.



Groton Congregational Church

Fall Craft Fair

Hundreds of Handcrafted Items


Saturday
November 5th
9am-2pm

162 Monument St. Groton, CT

A cluster of colorful autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red.A decorative vine with red and green leaves.

YOUTH

Begins Tuesday 9/20

Silhouettes of six young people standing on a hill, raising their arms in a gesture of praise or prayer.

6pm-8pm

GROUP

Come in-person
Join via Zoom

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER MEETING

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Mondays 11am

A graphic showing several hands of different colors (yellow, green, blue, purple, red) reaching upwards towards a central point where a Bible is open.

Pastor's Moment Continued

Due to my travel and vacation time, we have set September 18 as our Day of Returning and our "Celebration Day" with the launching of the new school year here. We will serve the monthly Communion service on that day as well. We hope you'll be able to join us and stay for a potluck luncheon.

With a grateful heart for all that is happening in our congregation and community, I wish peace and blessings to you all,

Rev Lee A. Ireland

Pastor@grotoncongregational.org

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 will also be posted on the Midway bulletin board.

Things To Know

- 1-The proposed committee slate on page 15 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, Delegates, Board and Committee Members 2023

CHURCH OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Ingrid Measimer (25)	INVESTMENT ADVISOR: VACANCY (23)
ASST. MODERATOR: VACANCY (25)	HISTORIAN: VACANCY (23)
CLERK: VACANCY (23)	ACTING TREASURER: VACANCY (23)

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: James Kerrigan (23) Lew Clark (23) Marilyn Wright (23) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25)	BOARD OF DEACONS: Sue Blaisdell* (23) Chuck Barnum* (23) Mary Alapa (23) Sally Turner* (23) Anne Campbell* (23) Doris Pulaski* (25) VACANCY (24)	STEWARDSHIP CMTE: Phyllis Meyer (23) Doris Pulaski (24) Melissa Beaupre * (25) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25)
MISSIONS COMMITTEE: VACANCY (23) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25)	MUSIC COMMITTEE: Janice Kimball (23) Sally Turner (23) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25)	MEMORIAL FUND: Marilyn Wright (23) Carolyn Hanover (23) VACANCY (25)
SNEC DELEGATES: VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25)	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GROUP: Janice Kimball (23) Jill Martin (23) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25)	PROPERTY CMTE: VACANCY (24) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25)
NOMINATING CMTE: VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25)	USHERING CMTE. VACANCY (23) VACANCY (24) VACANCY (25) VACANCY (25)	**2-year positions: Missions, Stewardship, Music, SNEC, Property, Memorial Fund, Christian Education and Ushering **3-year positions: Trustees, Deacons, and Nominating.

Chairs are denoted in green font.

Worship Watch

September Church Services

Proper 18 (23) Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 4, 2022 Chuck Barnum, Lay Preacher	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1	Philemon 1:1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Proper 19 (24) Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 11, 2022 Rev. Jack Shackles, Guest Preacher	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14	Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Proper 20 (25) Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 18, 2022 Communion "We Gather Again"	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79:1-9	Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Proper 21 (26) Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 25, 2022 "If only..."	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

September 2022

Additional Meetings:

After Worship Coffee Hour—Every Sunday after Worship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 10am	5 Labor Day	6 Crafting Group 1pm	7	8 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	9	10
11 Worship Service 10am Music Committee 11am Bake Sale	12 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Trustees 6pm Leadership 7pm	13	14 Women's Fellowship 12pm	15 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	16	17
18 Communion Worship Service 10am Missions 11:15am Celebration Day	19 Prayer & Bible Study 11am	20 Deacons 6pm	21	22 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	23	24
25 Worship Service 10am New Member Class 11:30am Stewardship 11:30am	26 Prayer & Bible Study 11am	27	28	29 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	30	

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.



162 Monument Street
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office@grotoncongregational.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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