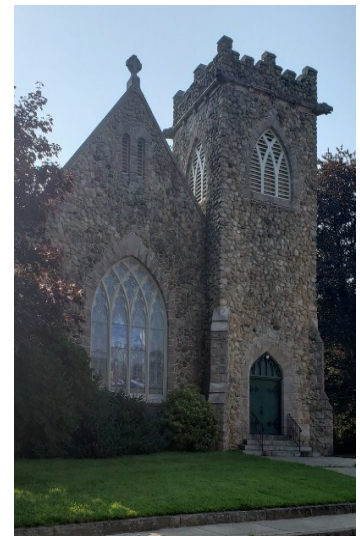




# The Gargoyle



# CHRIST IS RISEN



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## The Pastor's Musings

by The Reverend Lee Ireland

Spring and Easter Greetings to you all,

As we continue our time through Lent and move toward Holy Week and Easter, I'm so grateful for those engaging with me in the Weekly Bible Studies and our exploration of the early key stories that shaped the Hebrew people and their understanding of God and the lore into which Jesus entered to try to be present to them and offer a more liberating understanding of how to be in community and care for one another. He invited them into a transformation, even though, he knew it would cost him his life. But he could see the reason: *to get beyond any one particular human's control and therefore, be able to call each of us into letting go of our demands for how God should behave and make the world function according to our human logic. Thus, calling us into the larger vision and realm of God's forgiving love.* What a story!

In 2023, we are those being guided by the Holy Spirit now, leading us through another chapter of human transformation at so many levels: culturally in this digital age, but also post pandemic and scientifically. Our understanding of God is in the midst of a Second Reformation and a massive redefining of our definitions and understandings of how to BE people of faith. We can't just continue on as we've done in the past and be blind to the reality of this because across our nation, we are all witnesses to the truth, that our church populations are revealing that something is going on - beyond our control. *The question is "Are we listening?"*

*I mean really listening to the new Call?"*

Will we hear the invitation? To transform or insist that our vision and desire for one form remain?

Here at GCC, we've been doing the "Brainstorming Sessions" specifically to address this, with the hope that we'd be able to hear and then begin to articulate our new sense of vision, based on our core values and mission.

## Pastor's Musings continued

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We will be having our next one on April 23rd. We stalled during March due to the presence of Covid in our midst. Covid has made us pause and readjust our lenses and consider how we look at life and our faith to be caught by surprise I think as we look through that different lens and see things from a new paradigm. Oh, may we be patient with one another through this transition.

In one respect, we can remember that we've not lost everything like those in MS and FL and CA did to natural disasters. We've not had a tragedy like those rocked to the core by one of the mass shootings in our midst. But, we are people of faith who are going through our own challenges and trials and we all have hearts that feel and respond to the joys and sorrows of others. May we never close our ears to hear Jesus' call – "to love our neighbors as ourselves."

As we go into April and into Holy Week, may we listen carefully to the words of scripture and the words in the hymns that express someone's personal experience with Jesus or God. I wonder: have you personally written a poem or a journal entry to share a "God moment"? Would you be willing to share it somehow? I invite you to go into this week and try to pay attention and see if there is an opportunity - to be awakened at a deeper level to the love God is sharing with you. May we give thanks that God honors our free will and does not demand our offerings as an obligation to prove our worthiness or love back. Love does NOT require a dutiful or obligated response. Love is not free then if it does. Love allows others to be themselves, not conform to a shape that makes you feel comfortable. We start our services with "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." There's are NOT mild words to live. We get to practice them together....and forgiveness and compassion are at the core.

On Palm Sunday, the choir will be offering a short Cantata. On Maundy Thursday, we will share communion and the Tenebrae Service through word and song.

On Good Friday, I've invited 7 guests to lead the 20- minute segments and offer a core message on one of The Last 7 Last Words of Christ. On Easter morning, we will gather again at 6 am at Fort Griswold to celebrate the good news. Marc Frucht will lead us in the music on guitar and Janice Kimball will accompany him. Come and rejoice. Then at 10 am we will gather for our Annual Easter Celebration.

The following week: I will be on vacation, but we've invited Charity Dell to lead the worship on April 16. She's been singing in our choir, but I've learned she has also been through seminary.

May God's love and grace pour upon us all as we continue to discern how to walk together as the people of have heard the message of Christ and are following his Light as we serve and love in this world today.

Peace to you all,  
Rev Lee



# Stewardship

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By Doris Pulaski

## **“If You Don't Ask, You Mostly Don't Get”**

### If You Don't Ask, You Mostly Don't Get

That was an old saying of my Grandad's, and it is often true. Part of the business of the Stewardship Committee is to ask for donations on behalf of our church.

Back in 1950's, my dad was on the Stewardship committee. The church had what was called an Every Member Canvass back then. Every church member would be called on by canvassers who would explain the church's needs and the pledge process, and ask for a pledge. It was not always a pleasant job.

One particular visit troubled dad a lot, and since he told me about it, it has been on my mind. Dad and mom visited an elderly woman and repeated their Stewardship presentation to her. She told them she had just made a will and had left all her estate to Oral Roberts' church. Dad asked why she did not leave something to Groton Congregational Church?

She said, "Because you never asked me to leave the church anything in my will, and Oral Roberts did."

No one had asked, of course, because they did not wish to appear grasping, even though the request was for the church and not for themselves.

Now that I am on the Stewardship Committee, I do not want to repeat the mistakes made in the past. If anyone here needs to be asked about remembering the church in your will, consider that you have been asked.

The church has done so much for me, I am considering doing it myself.

If you, too, feel gratitude to our church, you might consider leaving it a small bequest the next time you make a will.

Or not. This is only a request, not a requirement. However, if anyone was just waiting to be asked, we just asked you.



## Deacons

by Anne Campbell



### Reflections after Retreat

*"From God's fullness we have all recieved, grace upon grace." John 1:16*

I was blessed to have had the opportunity and privilege to attend ***Growing in Grace***, the UCC New England's Women's celebration XI weekend retreat in Manchester NH with several beloved women from this congregation and approximately 300 other women from across New England.

The weekend featured workshops, speakers, worship, music and more (including shopping!)

We were graced by phenomenal worship leaders and speakers: Dr. Marcia McFee, Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Rev. Karoline Lewis, PH.D and many motivational workshop leaders, including Rev. Ireland.

In addition to fellowshiping in large gatherings and worship we were able to attend sessions that nurtured our personal growth such as yoga, soul collaging and drumming as well as sessions to help us nurture and grow our congregations, including: *Resilience in Spiritual Communities*, *Work for Justice, Peace, and Hope*, *From Generation to Generation: Honoring Tradition and Embracing Change in Our Congregation*, *Opening Doors — Creatively Using Church Space* and more.

The experience was inspirational and invigorating and has given me renewed energy and insight. I have a better understanding that each of us bring different histories, energies, perspectives and approaches to our spiritual lives and how these differences can be used to work together toward a common goal of being God's people.

My hope is that we can trust ourselves, and each other, to experiment with new ideas and ways of worship, to be open to changing our perspectives as we walk and work together as a team to explore how we can best serve God and each other.

I am confident that by with love and open hearts we can work to discover how to be the *Eyes and Hands of Christ*. I am looking forward to *Growing in Grace* together as we move together into our spring visioning and beyond.

I would encourage you to explore more about the retreat on the Celebration website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/uccwc/home>

Yours in Christ,  
Anne Campbell

Seeking donations of magazines with good images to use in a future collage experience.

There will be a box in Dutton Hall. Thank you.

## Christian Education

by Janice Kimball, CE Director Pro Tem

Our supervised nursery care for young children continues to be offered downstairs in our beautiful nursery room at GCC! Sierra Bryte is our first-aid certified nursery attendant, available from 9:30 AM to end-of-worship time on Sundays. Youth Group led by Rachel Candee meets Mondays 6 to 8 PM; see Rachel or the church office for more information.

The Sunday School class option will be meeting upstairs with the 10 AM service on Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, so that young people may enjoy the special music chosen for Holy Week. Other Sundays in April, we are still offering Sunday School during worship. If an “education hour” following the worship service would appeal to you and/or family members, with our celebrated coffee hour in between worship and study time for different age groups, please let me or Jean Young, Christian Education Committee chairperson, know as soon as possible!



## Community Meals

by Janice Kimball

We are “springing forward” to our summer season at Community Meals! During April, we are featuring a special Easter ham dinner on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and will serve our best as well on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, but starting May 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing through June and July, we will be distributing our famous bag lunches from the church parking lot (May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> we will give out the bag lunches from the Bill Memorial Library parking area) from 12 noon to 12:30 PM. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, we anticipate returning to Dutton Hall for meals prepared and served from our kitchen, with serving time 12 noon to 1 PM.

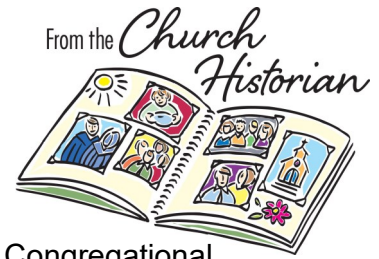
Because of our anticipated change, please note that we would most appreciate donations of nonperishable food items that are wrapped for individual servings, preferably 30+ servings per box. We can also use bottled water, 8 oz. and 16 oz. servings, paper lunch bags, and napkins. Thank you for your donations and monetary offerings of support, it means a lot to the people who receive them.





## Historical Notes

by Chuck Barnum, Historian



As I have continued reading and looking at the historical records of the Groton Congregational Church, I have been looking specifically at the time period of 68 years ago. If you remember the Gargoyle was not referred to as the Gargoyle, but was called the “Letter”. So this month’s notes are quoted from the February 9, 1955 issue of the “Letter” “NOTES TO YOU”.

Quote:

February 28 at 8:00 p.m., this Church, through the Mission Committee, will be host to the Congregationalists of the County, who are interested in “Social Action beginning at home”. Dr. William Bradley will be the speaker. Dr. Bradley is the first executive Secretary to the Connecticut Committee on Social Action, and we will be one of the first to look at our local responsibility under his leadership. Here is a chance to climb aboard the old Conestoga wagon, to do some pioneering, in an area we think has not yet been explored much. But whoever heard of pioneering with refreshments served afterward?

LAYMEN’S FELLOWSHIP – March 8. The Laymen of this Church will be hosts to the New London County School of Churchmanship. We are pleased to announce that Professor Oliver Nelson of Yale University will be the speaker of the evening, and his topic is “Laymen’s Duty in Church”. This address will be preceded by a supper served at 7:15 p.m. (Contribution \$1.25 – and worth more). These meetings are very inspiring and are followed with a great deal of interest as is indicated by the average of 165 from 17 out of 26 churches in the County.

There is only one more meeting this season after March 8, and that is at Lebanon, April 19, and the speaker will be Reverend J. Garland Wagner of the University of Connecticut.

Unquote

What I really find interesting, as I hope you do as well, is realizing just how busy and active this Church was in 1955 – not just within the four walls of this structure, but our outreach as well. Especially the next page which is a letter written by the Reverend Malcolm Crook who was the called minister in 1955.

Wishing peace and blessings to all

Chuck Barnum

Historian

The Meeting House  
162 Monument Street  
Groton, Connecticut  
March 9, 1955

Dear Friends:

Why do we?

Here we are at the ~~lag~~ end of winter. Colds and measles and wearinesses are heckling us all. Work is piling up at every turn. This is the time of year when all kinds of troubles are thickest. Why do we take on one more burden just now?

We do, you know. The burden of Lent. Just here when we are at the lowest ebb of the year, we take on the burden of deepening our spiritual life. Make no mistake; that is a burden. It takes time to attend church, to attend to your own personal spiritual welfare, and to help others enrich their souls, the way we do. The choir, the Sunday School teachers, the Visitors - they all find themselves putting out extra effort, just now when energy is at a premium.

We do it, following the best wisdom that man can have. For it was Jesus himself, who said, "Take my yoke upon you". That is the burden of Lent; the burden of following and learning of Him. He concluded that saying though, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

So Lent comes at the best time of year - just when we need it most. When without the burden of feeding our souls, spirits would be inclined to give up in despair.

Your Church has help to offer you this Lent for the preparation of your Spirit. There are the "Fellowship of Prayer", a booklet that you can pick up from the pile in the church literature rack; the classes and services of the church, at which the emphasis just now is: what do we really believe, and what is just a lot of theory that we don't bother to deny; the quiet sanctuary; the comradeship of the Church; the deepest friendship and counsel of any one of us that you may choose to seek out.

For the elevation of your Spirit, your Church can offer you, especially, the climactic services of Holy Week; Palm Sunday - with its bowing down of Creation before the Lord; Maundy Thursday, when the Choirs will sing the deeply moving Cantata - "Olivet to Calvary", during which the Lord's Supper will be served in memory of the Last Supper of the Master, and the unending fellowship in the Church about this Table; Easter's Dawn; and the Triumphant Assembly of Easter Day.

The invitation then, to every person who reads this letter, is that you come closer to the Center of Life, where the Master of men can give you the courage, and the Vision so to live that every burden becomes a triumphant Cross; and every darkness, the promise of the Resurrection Dawn.

May God Bless you richly this Lent.

*Abraham S. Cook*  
Pastor

## Missions

by Beth Chirillo



Thank you to all who have been supporting the Early childhood development Center – they are very appreciative of our donations. We are continuing April with requests for:

- diapers/pull-ups -sizes 4,5,6
- outdoor toys – bubbles, hula hoops, jump ropes, playground balls, chalk
- crafts – washable markers, paints, and glue.

The New London Homeless Hospitality center is having its 16th annual walk to end homelessness. The walk is April 30 -it begins and ends at “Parade Plaza” at the Soldier’s and Sailor’s monument in downtown New London. You can register or donate at [www.nlhhc.org/walk](http://www.nlhhc.org/walk) .

Next month look for our new mission with Heifer – fill the ark/faith lessons.

As always -if there’s some thing that speaks to you and would like Missions to participate in- please speak to one of the missions committee or email us at [missions@grotoncongregational.org](mailto:missions@grotoncongregational.org)

In faith,

Your missions committee



## Youth Group

by Rachel Candee



Happy April!

I am loving that the sun stays out later in the day. Just praying for warmer weather now.

Youth Group has been meeting consistently. I am so glad the youth room can be a fun place to hang out on Monday nights. We are playing pool, watching movies, and enjoying each other’s company.

The Youth group will be going to the trampoline park at Naskart on Tuesday, April 4th. If you have a child in grades 6-12 that would like to attend, please email me for more information.

Miss Rachel



## Women’s Fellowship

by Sally Turner



Women’s Fellowship’s Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner was a great success. We served 45 dinners. There were many worker bees who helped make everything go smoothly. Thank you to everyone who helped and those who received the meals. We really appreciate your support.

Our next meeting will be in Dutton Hall on April 12th at 12 noon. We will be discussing plans for the May 20th sale. The sale will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Items for the sale may be brought into Dutton Hall beginning Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the 19<sup>th</sup> between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. There will be posters out which will designate items that won’t be accepted i.e. clothing & electronics.



# April Scripture Readings

## Worship Watch



<b>Palm Sunday</b> 10am April 2, 2023 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 <b>or</b> <i>Matthew 27:11-54</i>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7pm April 6, 2023 Holy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<b>Good Friday</b> Noon-3pm April 7, 2023	"The Seven Last Words of Christ"
<b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> 6am April 9, 2023 Fort Griswold	Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46 Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6 Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 <b>or</b> Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19 Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43 Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143 Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98 <b>New Testament Reading and Psalm</b> Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114 <b>Gospel</b> Matthew 28:1-10
<b>Resurrection of the Lord-10am</b> April 9, 2023 Easter Day	*Acts 10:34-43 <b>or</b> <i>Jeremiah 31:1-6</i> Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 <b>or</b> <i>Acts 10:34-43</i> John 20:1-18 <b>or</b> <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>
<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> April 16, 2023	*Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> April 23, 2023	*Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> April 30, 2023	*Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10



Berta Cadorette

Joan Cianci

Barbara Frucht

Carolyn Hanover

Margaret Shearer

Rose Mary Ward

Those in the armed services and their families

Those recovering from illness

Those who are unemployed

Those who are in nursing homes or shut-ins

Those who are victims of violence

Those who are victims of war

Lord Jesus, You know how we feel today, our secret fears and pains. I pray for healing in whatever way You know will help those who are sick or hurt in body, mind, or spirit. I trust in Your power. You proclaimed God's reign by curing the sick, comforting and strengthening those who are sad, and giving new freedom to all who accepted You. Guide also, those who help in Your healing work: doctors, nurses, chaplains, and all who extend Your care. Together we do the work of Your Father. We pray in Your Spirit, Lord Jesus. Amen.



## Parish Visits & Outreach

If you know of anyone in need of a phone call or a visit, please contact the church office 860-445-7409.



FOR AS IN  
ADAM ALL DIE,  
SO IN CHRIST  
ALL WILL BE  
MADE ALIVE.

1 Corinthians 15:22, NIV



# Groton Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



He is  
**RISEN**

Palm Sunday  
April 2nd 10am

Maundy Thursday  
April 6th 7pm

Good Friday  
April 7th noon-3pm

Easter Sunday  
Sunrise-Fort Griswold  
In church 10am



## Visioning and Brainstorming Session

The next Visioning and Brainstorming Session will be on Sunday, April 23rd after the worship service.

These sessions are important to the life and communications of our church family in determining how we move forward as a leaner congregation.

How do we keep doing the good things we do with a smaller church government and fewer volunteers?

Please join us for the continuing discussions.





# CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

If you have done any of the following in the last 2 years please contact the church office:

Moved, changed your phone#, changed your email address, or do not wish to be listed.

**860-445-7409**





### Thinking about becoming a member?

We would love to have you!

A New Members session will be held on Sunday, April 30th at 12:00 (or as soon after the worship service as practicable).

Please join us in Dutton Hall and meet with Reverend Ireland and the Deacons.

Reception of new members is tentatively scheduled for May 28th, Pentecost.



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



## Fellowship Coffee Hour

Sundays After Worship



### Committee & Board Meetings

#### Trustees

April 10th 6PM

#### Women's Fellowship

April 12th 12:30PM

#### Missions

April 16th 11:15AM

#### Deacons

April 17th 6PM

#### Church Council

April 17th 7PM

#### Stewardship

April 23rd 11:30AM



**May 20, 2023 ~ 9 AM to 2 PM**

Intake of items for the sale will be Tuesday May 16th through Friday May 19th from 9 AM to 3PM.

Please, no electronics or clothing.

Watch for posters with additional information regarding items that will and will not be accepted.

## Community Meals

SATURDAYS  
NOON-1PM



### GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

162 Monument St., Groton



### Warm Food & Friendly Folk

Enjoy a nourishing freshly prepared hot sit-down lunch.

Never a charge but donations are always welcome.

Come join us on Saturdays!



For more information please call 860-445-7409



SNEC

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## 2023 WOMEN'S YOGA AND MUSIC SPIRIT RETREAT

**May 5-7, 2023**



Whether you're a yoga devotee or a novice, a seasoned singer or shy about your voice, we have a special place for you in our circle!

This will be a weekend of exploration and restoration, rather than performance and perfectionism. We will focus on using our bodies and voices as meditation in order to arrive at deeper peace and understanding.

We'll nourish our minds, bodies, and spirits so that we may return to our lives feeling more empowered and energized. We'll share new skills and tools for use throughout our lives.

***Join us for the entire weekend, or just for the day on Saturday!***

\$235 full weekend  
\$100 Saturday only

Join a phenomenal group of women as we reconnect with the sacred in ourselves and each other.

Deans: Whendi Cook-Broderick & Sara Billings

The retreat is open to all who identify as women.

[Learn more and register online today!](https://www.silverlakect.org/campsessions)

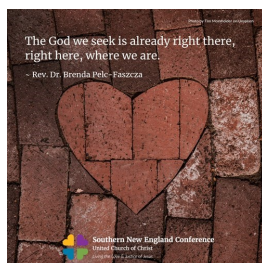
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### A Note About Immunizations

Silver Lake follows the immunization requirements for students and staff in Connecticut schools. In addition, Silver Lake requires all guests to our site to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. If you have a medical exemption, please contact us for more information.

As a ministry of the [Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ](https://www.sneucc.org) (SNE UCC), Silver Lake adheres to all the policies put in place by the Conference.

# When God Falls off the Ceiling



3/2/2023 - by: [Brenda M. Pelc-Faszczka](#) - [Starting With Scripture](#)

## Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV)

*From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and*

*livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'*

## Reflection: When God Falls Off the Ceiling

In his 2020 book *Saving God from Religion*, UCC pastor, teacher and writer Robin Meyers tells about a dream he had that Michelangelo's famous painting of God and Adam on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the one with God's and Adam's outstretched hands not quite touching, came crashing down.

"In a pile on the floor, in a thousand pieces, was all that remained of the most famous fresco in the world. I looked up to the ceiling and saw a dark gash where the painting had been. Adam's reclining body remained, but his hand now stretched toward nothing. The plaster where Michelangelo's image of God and his heavenly host had been fixed for five hundred years had broken loose and fallen to the floor. God had fallen off the ceiling." \*

Meyers goes on to use this as a metaphor for what he calls "the God crisis" that the church has on its hands. That is, in our modern age, the God who once seemed to dwell so securely high above us appears, for many, to have fallen from that lofty perch, such that we are asking anew, like Moses' people, "Where is God? Among us or not?" and testing the answers we get, or don't get. High up and far away no longer seem like satisfying or meaningful descriptions of God's location, in a world daily testing its ground-journey for meaning.

"What we can no longer deny," Meyers writes, "is that organized religion has a God crisis on its hands. Traditional theism, the idea that God is a kind of super-person who dwells outside the world as we know it and occasionally intervenes to answer prayers or impose the divine will has run its course and been rejected by millions.... We need new ways to be in relationship to the sacred and to one another."\*

This is a large constructive task for the current church, at the very heart of our purpose as faith community.

In the church I serve, the Calls to Worship in our Sunday liturgies often end with the words "God is in the midst of us, and we are in the midst of God." We say them to remind ourselves, especially when we have gotten testy about the adversities of our own wildernesses, that the God we seek is already right there, right here, where we are. That it's generally not so much a matter of looking far up and away, trying to spot something sacred way beyond us, but of looking out and around, right here at ground level, to recognize it. "Because," as Meyers concludes about the imagery of his dream, where God had fallen off the ceiling, "God has always been down here." \*

Which is, I'd say, the primary thing we learn from Jesus.

\*Meyers, Robin, *Saving God from Religion: A Minister's Search for Faith In a Skeptical Age, Convergent*, 2020. Quotes are from the Prologue

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka is the pastor of [The First Congregational Church of Canton Center, CT](#), and a lecturer at Yale Divinity School.



## Community Events



### April 1, 2023

Out of the Darkness Walk  
Mitchell College, NL  
Registration: 11:30am  
Walk begins: 1pm  
Benefits: American  
Foundation for Suicide  
Prevention

### April 1 & 2, 2023

Spring Shop and Hop  
Port & Starboard, OBP,  
NL  
10am-3pm  
More than 50 vendors  
Free Photos w/ Easter  
Bunny  
Live Music  
Egg Hunt on the Beach  
begins at noon on both  
days (\$5.00 per child)

### April 9, 2023

Farmer's Market  
295 Meridian St., Groton  
11am-2pm

### April 16, 2023

Seal Watch Cruise  
10am-12:30pm  
UConn at Avery Point  
(Project Oceanology)  
Adults: \$35.00  
Children (6 to 12): \$5.00  
No Children Under 6

### April 30, 2023

Walk to End  
Homelessness  
Parade Plaza, NL  
Registration & Festivities:  
12pm



- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Or Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!

# April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Community Meals Noon-1pm
2 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10am	3 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday Noon-3pm- Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	7 Good Friday 7pm	8 Community Meals Noon-1pm
9 Easter Sunrise Fort Griswold 6am Sanctuary 10am	10 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Trustees 6pm Youth Group 6pm-8pm	11	12	13 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	14	15 Community Meals Noon-1pm
16 Worship Service 10am Missions	17 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm Deacons 6pm Council 7pm	18	19	20 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	21	22 Community Meals Noon-1pm
23 Worship Service 10am	24 Prayer & Bible Study 11am Youth Group 6pm-8pm	25	26	27 Handbells 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm	28	29 Community Meals Noon-1pm
30 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.



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## 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, 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.**  
**Stay for After Worship Coffee Hour**

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