

The Gargoyle

July 2025

A publication of Groton Congregational Church



For the church, this is a time in the liturgical calendar that is usually referred to as 'Ordinary Time.' But, really, there's never anything ordinary about our worship of God. And even though we may slow down a bit in the summer, we still gather together every week for worship, which is the most important thing we do as a congregation. I have begun a summer sermon series on stories from the book of the Acts of the Apostles, which is a part of scripture that I think is often neglected.



I am also currently leading a Bible study on the book of the Revelation of John. There's one more week left on that, and you are more than welcome to come, even if you've missed the other weeks. Our final meeting is Monday, July 7 at 6:00pm in Dutton Hall. Bring your dinner if you wish!

In September I will begin leading another Bible study, which will focus on the Acts of the Apostles, building on the sermon series. Dates and time to come later.

June 28 to July 2 I will be taking a few days off. And during the last two weeks in July I will be taking my study leave time, spending a week in Montreat, North Carolina serving as a small group leader at the Montreat Youth Conference. This will be followed by a week at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Louisville, Kentucky, serving on the Triennium's care team (as in pastoral care.)

If you need pastoral care during the time I am away, please contact any member of the board of Deacons.

I continue to normally be in the church office on Mondays from 10am to 2pm, and sometimes on other days as well. I do recommend that you make an appointment with me if you would like to talk with me about anything, even if you want to come on Mondays. I am normally not available on Tuesdays and Fridays, except in cases of emergencies, of course.

I pray that as you experience that rest and relaxation of the summer season, that you will rest in God as well, and continue to grow spiritually in your lives as Christians.

May the peace of Christ be with you all —

Rev. Christine



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

»Church« is the translation of the Greek term ekklesia? and is used in the New Testament to identify the community of believers in Jesus Christ. It literally means »assembly? »congregation? or »meeting? A similar term was used in the Old Testament referring to experiences such as »the day of the assembly? »the.

Lord's congregation? or »meeting before the Lord?

Thus? when Jesus declares; »I will build my church« (Mt. 16:18) it did not come as something unfamiliar to the common listener. Shortly after? in the New Testament? the word is confined strictly to refer to the congregation of believers in Jesus Christ.

It is worth mentioning that in the New Testament? no synagogue? temple? chapel? tabernacle? building or any other meeting place was ever called a »church? The term always referred to the Christian assembly and? in the New Testament? it was used for both the local community of believers and the overall collection of Christians (”What is the Church? Its Role and Purpose According to the Bible”, Pastor Luis Angel Diaz-Pablon)

- A reminder that office hours at the (physical) church are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Also, the office is closed on the following holidays (when they fall on a day that the office is scheduled to be open): New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Good Friday, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Indigenous People's Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- The Trustees authorized the use of the side lawn for parking on Saturday, July 12 for fireworks parking. Cost is \$20 per car with proceeds to go to the Building Fund.
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The Trustees' next scheduled meeting is on Sunday, July 6, 2025.

Submitted in love,
Cathy Johnson
Chair, Board of Trustees

Wherever you are, God is with you

Ah the joys of summer. Perhaps you are travelling on vacation. Perhaps you are staying at home. July is often a time to break away from the normal day to day routine even if for only a moment. I think that we are trained from our school days as children.

June is a transition. Ending of one period and anticipation of the next. Finishing your school year and waiting for summer break. August is about the end of summer with the impending school year around the corner. July is the month of freedom. A sentiment that is only reinforced by the July 4th holiday at the beginning of the month.



This is a tradition that carries on into our adult life. Summer is the time to get away. Whether on vacation or just an afternoon at the beach. For those of us who perhaps live in Groton, particularly around our church local community we all know the annual schedule of the Fireworks in July.

This pattern of living enters into the life of our church as well. If you take a look at the church calendar marking of the Seasons we are in this long period of “After Pentecost”. Half the year is spent counting the Nth week after Pentecost to span the time from Pentecost to Advent. Our handbells take a break over the summer, and our vocal choir drops regular rehearsals to follow a pickup choir. Attendance at weekly services may drop a bit over the summer, either due to travel plans or members simply trying to beat the heat.

None of this matters. God is not confined to a building on a set weekly time schedule. God is out in the world and in your heart. I often find myself feeling a stronger presence of God out in the world, exploring his creation compared to when I am sitting in church. It doesn't matter if you are sitting in Church, out in nature, with a large group, or sitting alone in the dark. God is with you.

For those of you staying in our community and going to church on Sundays do not despair if there are fewer people present. For those of you who are travelling or just avoiding the heat know that God is present with wherever you are.

James Kerrigan
Chair, Board of Deacons



Community Meals

We are continuing serving meals to all on Saturdays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Since March, we have welcomed and trained three new staff members - Ludwig Pulaski, baker; Nancy Wallace, cook; and Phadealia Pearsall, clean-up. Thanks to all three for their help!

We are planning a Day Late July 4th picnic on Saturday July 5th. We thank Mary Howard for pledging to donate the watermelon.

On July 12th, we will not be serving due to lack of parking due to the Fireworks.

On July 18th, we will be serving pork casserole, mashed potatoes, and a salad.

On July 25th, we will be serving, menu TBD.

Your donations of help, food, and money are always appreciated. We will be asking you to help us with particular needs each Sunday in the Announcements, so be sure to look!

Thanks to those who donated molasses, Crisco, and chocolate chips. Cookies are in our future!

Music Committee

The choir and bell choir are taking a well-earned break during the summer the "pick up" choir has been doing an excellent job on Sunday mornings. Remember they welcome new voices of anyone who would like to join them and warm up sessions are at 9:30 Sunday mornings.

Regular choir and bell choir practice will resume in September.

HAPPINESS IS



...singing
in a choir.

(c) 1aafemon.com

Stewardship

Our Easter tree fundraiser earned over \$400.00!

This year we added butterflies to our choices of ornaments (Easter eggs, bunnies, and wooden crosses.)

All the ornaments have been delivered to those who donated.

We want to thank all of you who participated, and especial thanks to Penny Sullivan, without whose help in assembling the tree, this fundraiser would not have been possible!

This year, we will again be participating in City Day, as a visibility event for the church. The event should be bigger than ever. Here is what the City is advertising:

<https://cityofgroton.com/233/City-Day>

"Save the date! The 40th Anniversary City Day event will take place on Friday, August 1, 2025, from 5 - 8 pm in Washington Park. This year's celebration will expand on past year's, offering more activities, games, and a Concert in the Park (beginning at 7 pm). "

If you are interested in participating, and helping us with our table, please get in touch with Doris Pulaski, Sue Stottlemeyer, Emily Miller, or Janice Kimball.

It is a fun event!

We are now at the very beginning of our fall Stewardship campaign, and have already downloaded the UCC material for the campaign.



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will not be meeting in July or August. The June Ladies Night out at La Luna was attended by 21 ladies. It was a lovely evening. The food was excellent, and the staff was very attentive. We didn't lack for anything.

See you in September

Sally Turner

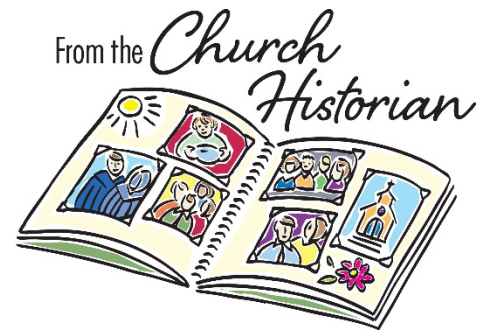


Historian

CT Open House Day

We successfully participated in CT Open House Day again this year!

Fifteen visitors toured the church. Most were happy to take away our History.of.Groton.Congregational. Church pamphlet.



The organ demonstrations by Sue Stottlemeyer were the star of the show. One visitor coaxed Sue to show and explain a bit about how our organ works!

Another visitor came in because they had stopped to listen to the tower chimes.

Several of the visitors expressed interest in attending church services.

Thanks to all who helped to make the event a success: Rev. Christine Caton. for greeting all our visitors, Cathy Johnson for loaning items from her collections and for presenting the information about the Avery Window to the tourists; Sue Stottlemeyer for organ demonstrations, Lew Clark for presenting information about the organ, Janice Kimball and her flute for participation in duets with Sue Stottlemeyer, Ingrid Measimer for editing, printing, and assembling the history pamphlet, and Chuck Barnum for storing and getting our outdoor signs to us. Your efforts are gratefully acknowledged here.





July 6

- 2 Kings 5:1-14 and [Psalm 30](#)
- Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9
- Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
- Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13

- Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82
- Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Psalm 25:1-10
- Colossians 1:1-14
- Luke 10:25-37

July 20

- Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52
- Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15
- Colossians 1:15-28
- Luke 10:38-42

July 27

- Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85
- Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138
- Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
- Luke 11:1-13



Rev Caton began a four week sermon series in June. Stories from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

July 6 - Acts 7: 54-60; 8: 1-3; 9: 1-19

The story of how the Conversion of Saul happened .

July 13 - Acts 16: 16-40

The story of Paul and Silas in prison

August 3 - Acts 10: 1-48

The story of Peter and Cornelius and the question of what is clean or unclean

Rev Caton will be holding classes in August for those who are interested in officially joining this church. Attending these classes does not obligate you in any way to join, but gives you the opportunity to explore what membership means at the Groton Congregational Church. If you choose to join the church at the end of the classes, a meeting will be arranged for you to meet with our Board of Deacons, and then a date will be set up for you to make a public statement of your faith and be received into membership during a worship service. If you are not a member, please prayerfully consider attending these classes. If you have any questions, please talk to Rev Caton.



Schedule for New Member Classes with Rev Caton:

These are all on Sundays at 11:45am, held in the sanctuary.

August 10 - Who Are We?

Explore the history of the Groton Congregational Church and the United Church of Christ.

August 17 - What Do We Do?

Find out more about the ministries and mission of this congregation.

August 24 - What Do You Believe?

A discussion of what, how, and why we believe, and how you individually believe.



Groton Congregational Church

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 worshipers from all walks of life. We embrace the belief that no matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are invited and 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.

The Reverend Christine Caton
Sunday Worship begins at 10 am
Stay for Coffee Hour After Worship

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

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

9 am to 2 pm