



Dear friends,

As I write this article, we are in the midst of final preparations for Christmas. It has been a busy December. I hope you all were able to find a rest and a peace amidst the hustle and bustle of this season.

The Christmas season does not really end in the life of a church until January 6, which is Epiphany day, when we commemorate the Magi following a star from the East to find the baby Jesus. We will celebrate Epiphany on January 4th, the closest Sunday to the 6th. We will again include in this service the giving of Star Words to each person in the congregation. This is a word for you to focus on for the following year. It is a word given by the Holy Spirit, as we choose the word without looking at what is written on any of the stars. If you will not be at the January 4th worship service, and would like a Star Word, please call the church office and let Ingrid know. I will choose a Star Word for you and send it in the mail, or save one for you for the next time you are in church.

In February I plan to begin a new Bible or book study. More details to come, but this will be a daytime study, since the last one was an evening study. I plan to continue to rotate between day and evening, so all those who wish to attend may do so.

I will be away on Sunday, January 11th to attend a memorial service in New York City for my dear friend from college, Tom, who died a couple of months ago. Rachel Candee will be preaching on that Sunday. I will return to work on Tuesday, January 12.

I hope that this January will be a time of reflection and renewal for each of us, with the hope that you will all draw closer to God in this cold and dark month, and that God will touch your heart and renew your calling. I also hope that you will all be able to enjoy a warm beverage with a good book this winter season.

I am always praying for you, and ask that you pray for me as well.

Blessings to you all,

Rev. Christine





“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

Two thousand twenty-six is quickly approaching and Groton Congregational Church has completed another trip around the sun: that’s 324 years since our establishment!

A reminder that our Annual Meeting is on Sunday, January 18, 2026. As has been relayed in several ways, January 5, 2026, is the deadline for submitting committee and board reports to the office. A collective Church Annual Report will be printed for distribution and review before the Annual Meeting. Please make every effort to be in attendance as we look back on 2025 and prepare for 2026.

If there are any meeting minutes that have not been filed with the office, please do so; this is per our Procedural Guidelines. These are primary sources of information on prior actions taken or discussed and can help in clarifying issues.

The Property Committee has asked for the following advisement: if, while you are in the church building you adjust the thermostat, that upon departure it be set back to 67 degrees. There are two thermostats: one in Dutton Hall and one in the Sanctuary. Both devices have a notation on them regarding the 67-degree designation. So: along with checking about the locking of the doors, it is imperative that the thermostats be returned to the 67-degree setting. If you have any questions regarding the thermostats, please see Dick Stottlemeyer.

Thank you to our church family for all you have done in 2025 and will continue to do in 2026.

Submitted in love,

Cathy Johnson
Chair, Board of Trustees



January in the Christian calendar is a time of new beginnings, revelation, and deepening faith; themes of hope and God's promises for the year ahead.

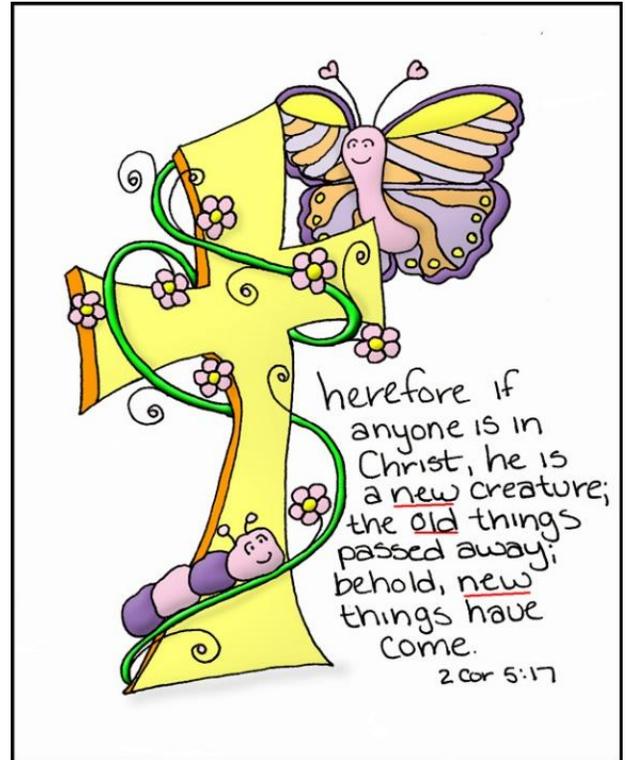
In our Christian circles, we start by celebrating the Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, which is a festival that commemorates the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God.

In our secular life, an epiphany is a moment of realization or insight that changes how you see something. A moment where you finally understand something important potentially shifting your perspective forever.

As we enter January, a lot of us look for ways to reinvent ourselves and put the past behind us, change our perspective, and look forward to a new year, a better year.

How to make the most of a fresh start:

- Reflect and set realistic goals – what needs to change; be specific
- Write down your intentions – place it somewhere visible as a reminder
- Prioritize self-care and declutter – consider both physical and mental spaces
- Practice mindfulness and gratitude – stay centered and positive
- Seek support – connect with loved ones or community groups
- Embrace every day – every morning is opportunity for a fresh start



Happy New Year to all and prayers for growth,
Jean Orkney Young, Deacon

MISSIONS

A heartfelt Thank you! to everyone for their incredible generosity again this holiday season.

Many thanks to Penny for coordinating with the Early Childhood Development Center in Groton our long standing mission-Grammies jammies -30 jammies and many books were given this year.

Also, great thanks to Don for overseeing the Adopt a Family this year. It takes a lot of time and effort to make sure everything's been gathered. A single mother with four children will have a wonderful Christmas this year because of our fantastic congregation!

We had another productive red wagon perishable food drive for Groton Family Services. We donated 80 items.



Again, many thanks to all
Your Missions committee
Anne, Beth, Don, Jill, Penny



Music Committee

A huge "Thank you" to members of the choir and bell choir for filling our church with beautiful music throughout the year. We are truly blessed with such a dedicated group of people who show up for rehearsals, Sunday services, and extra services on a regular basis and provide such excellent music! Sue gives 110% of her time and talent with her low key approach to directing. She not only works with our choirs, but also brings in outside talent to enhance our repertoire.

We would also like to express our thanks to members and friends of the congregation who show how much they appreciate the efforts of our choirs. Much of this support is demonstrated in the ongoing drive for funds needed to repair the organ. So far, over \$24,000 has been raised toward the goal of \$38,000.

Music committee: Florence, Sally, Janice, Joan, Steve.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all those who helped decorate our Sanctuary Memorial Tree by asking us to remember and honor people and pets who hold an important place in their (and our) hearts.

We also would like to thank those who gave their time to create the ornaments.

Finally, we would like all of you to read through this list and pray for all the honorees and donors as we move into a New Year.

The tree will be coming down at Epiphany. We will give your ornaments to you at that time.

Honoree	Donor(s)	Ornament
Our Parents	Chuck & Florence Barnum	Sm Angel
Family & Friends, past & present	Marilee Dull	Lg Angel
John & Jacqueline Dell	Charity Dell	Lg Angel
Rev. Nathan Dell	Charity Dell	Lg Angel
Jessie Rhodes	Charity Dell	Lg Angel
Pricilla	Patricia Hensley	Lg Angel
Wally	Patricia Hensley	Lg Angel
Gary	Amaya Radecki	Lg Angel
Kayla	Amaya Radecki	Lg Angel
Music Ministry	Janice Kimball	Blue Star
Sharon Eiseman	Michael Wiseman & Thomas Kubik	Sm Angel
George Kubik	Michael Wiseman & Thomas Kubik	Sm Angel
Lannie	Lew Clark	Lg Angel
Milo	Lew Clark	Lg Angel
Fudd	Lew Clark	Lg Angel
Ollie	Lew Clark	Lg Angel
Friends & Family, No Longer W/Us	Jill Martin & Peter Swift L	g Angel
Jean & David Montgomery	Jean Montgomery DeGrowth	Sm Angel
Faithful Musicians	Dick & Sue Stottlemeyer	Silver Star
Ski	Doris Pulaski	Lg Angel
Lola	Doris Pulaski	Lg Angel
Marsha & Family	Emily Miller	Sm Angel
Rev. Robert Rindos	Emily Miller	Sm Angel
Bill	Penny Sullivan	Lg Angel
Shane	Penny Sullivan	Lg Angel
Blanche & LeBurton Beebe	Christine Caton	Sm. Angel
Ida & Irving Caton	Christine Caton	Snowflake
Blanche & Les Caton	Christine Caton	Blue Star
Norm Dull, Lily Gamber, Ruh Louis	Marilee Dull	Lg Angel
Burt	Sally Turner	Silver Star
Diane Beaulieu	David Beaulieu	Snowflake
Carolyn & John Orkney	Jean Young	Lg Angel
Bill Giesler	His Soulmate, Bonnie Giesler	Lg Angel
Fred Meyer	Phyllis	Lg Angel
Sara O'Connor	Rachel Candee	Sm Angel
Linda Jackowicz	Ingrid	Sm Angel
Barbara Frucht	GCC	Lg Angel
Bette Thomson	GCC	Lg Angel
Lorraine Chappell	GCC	Blue Star
Archie Swindell	GCC	Blue Star





*Shut-in
Outreach*

Help to brighten Mary Alapa’s day. Take time to drop a card or letter to her.

Mary Alapa

235 Lestertown Road Rm 116A

Groton, CT 06340

We would like to thank everyone for their support during 2025. We could not have done it without you, especially our volunteers. We wish you all a very Happy New Year

We will be planning to serve throughout January 2026.

We need extra large and medium Nitrile powder-free gloves and apple juice!



Women’s Fellowship

Women’s Fellowship wishes everyone a healthy & happy New Year.

Our next meeting is January 14th at 12:30 p.m. we will be discussing some exciting plans for the coming months.

Our monthly bake sale will be on January 11th. Hope to see many of you there.

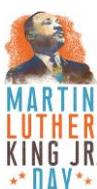
Sally Turner

Can’t make it to church on a Sunday morning? You can watch the service on you computer, tablet or even phone. Services on Sunday mornings are livestreamed on Facebook at 10 am.

Miss a service? Want to hear the choir’s anthem one more time? Or maybe you want to hear part of the pastor’s sermon again. Past services are posted on YouTube.



JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 12n Community Meals
4 10a Worship 11:15 Trustees	5 Annual Reports Due	6	7	8 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	9	10 12n Community Meals
11 10a Worship	12	13 6p Deacons	14 12:30p Women's Fellowship	15 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	16	17 12n Community Meals
18 10a Worship 12n Annual Meeting	19 Office Closed  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	20	21	22 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	23	24 12n Community Meals
25 10a Worship	26	27  Gargoyle Deadline	28	29 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	30	31 12n Community Meals



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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pastor@grotoncongregational.org

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

9 am to 2 pm