



This week, churches all over the world are preparing for Holy Week. What is Holy Week, you might ask? Holy Week is the week beginning on Palm Sunday, and ending on Easter Sunday. And there is so much happening in that one little week. I hope you will join us for the many worship opportunities that will be taking place here at the Groton

Congregational Church during Holy Week.

On Palm Sunday we will worship at 10am. This is the day we commemorate and remember the triumphant entry Jesus took into Jerusalem, knowing all the while that he was coming to die. We will sing, and wave palm branches, and remember with joy mixed with a foreshadowing of what is to come.

Our next opportunity to worship together will be on Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. The word 'Maundy' comes from a Latin word meaning commandment. This refers to the new commandment Jesus gives his disciples at the Last Supper to love one another. Maundy Thursday is the day we especially remember the Last Supper Jesus has with his disciples. We will remember this night by celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

On Good Friday, which is the most somber and solemn day in our church year, we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. There is no formal worship on this day, but the church sanctuary will be open from 12 noon to 3:00pm for silent prayer and meditation. I will be there, and some of our Deacons will be there as well during this time. Please come anytime between noon and 3:00. Stay for as little or as long as you wish during this time.

Following the pain of Good Friday, there comes the uncertainty of Saturday.

But this is quickly followed by the most important worship service in the church year, which we call Easter Sunday, at 10am, when Christians all over the world come together to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will do this with music, prayer, the hearing and proclamation of the Word, and because this will be the first Sunday in April, we will also celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as is our custom. Please plan to be there for this joyous time of worship.

I hope that no matter what you do during Holy Week that you will take some time to pray. Pray for those you love, pray for your enemies, pray for the sick and those who mourn, pray for those without housing or food, pray for those who struggle, pray for those who are victims of war and violence, pray for peace, and don't forget to give thanks for the love we have in Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Blessings to you all,

Rev. Christine



*“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” – 1 John 3:18*

“This verse emphasizes that love is demonstrated through action, not just words. In the context of agreements, it is vital to show our love for others by being reliable in our commitments and fulfilling our promises”  
*(ScriptureSavvy; Accessed March 23, 2026)*

Among the responsibilities of the Trustees – on behalf of Groton Congregational Church - is to enter into various types of contracts, such as with an employee or a vendor. Another type of contract comes in the form of a covenant, though the two generally diverge in their foundational purpose. Groton Congregational has entered two member-driven covenants: one of intentionality and one of embracing ourselves as an open and affirming congregation. These covenants are shared here. We encourage you to read, contemplate and live them.

**The next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for April 12, 2026.**

Submitted in love,

Cathy Johnson  
Chair, Board of Trustees



### **Covenant of Intentionality**

We, the members of Groton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, covenant one with another and before God, to support one another and to build Christian relationships.

We will always listen to the opinions and feelings of all persons, treating each person with respect and decency in all our relationships.

Today and in the future, we commit to offering our support, our concerns and our prayers for discernment in all aspects of our life together.

We shall seek and offer forgiveness freely, not holding on to alienations, wounds and past perceptions or transgressions.

We shall seek to follow Christ’s words, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Lk 6:31).

To this covenant, we sign our intentions and affirmation on this day, the 10th day of March 2019.

## Open & Affirming Covenant

A covenant in an act of faith, a solemn promise to God Groton Congregational Church values and welcomes a diverse congregation. We declare ourselves to be an Open & Affirming Christian Community, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We celebrate everyone, including people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, educational, spiritual, religious or faith backgrounds and traditions.

All persons are welcome and invited to participate fully in the life, leadership, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, ministry, mission, blessing, and joys of this church family as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

We are people on a continuing journey, seeking justice in our neighborhood and world, relying on the presence of Christ's Spirit to show us when and where we are to serve. We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open & Affirming congregation, one that lives out the belief that God is still speaking. With God's grace, we journey together in Christian faith.



## **Eastertime**

Not an ending, but a beginning.

Advent to Christmas, followed by a couple of weeks of Christmastide. Followed by another 40 day celebration, Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Eastertime! Easter is a beginning, not an ending. The Gospels account for Jesus' post resurrection appearances and provide both evidence and inspiration. Seven Sundays from Easter Sunday to Ascension Sunday, forty days, Jesus' travels are described in detail in the Gospels which should remove any doubt you might have that He is risen!

Rather than thinking about doubts as "the wind in the sails of faith," perhaps think of it as a kind of recharging the spiritual essence from within. Everyone should be honest and reflective about doubts, but they shouldn't be content to just hang on to those doubts and never move beyond them. Especially with the approaching of the Ascension Sunday.

God sent Jesus to us. God blesses us every day with His "love".

Eastertime: Not an ending, but a beginning.

Peace to you and may you overcome your "doubt" challenges with God's grace.

Chuck Barnum, Deacon

The Mission's Committee is currently reviewing the programs that were done previously and looking towards the future for other possibilities. We are, of course, planning to continue with the current programs including Grammys Jammies and Adopt a Family. We are in contact with Groton Human Services and the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London.

# MISSIONS

We welcome any ideas and suggestions.

Donald Beatrice  
Chair



We would like to thank everyone for their continuing support during 2026. We cannot do it without you, especially our volunteers.

We recently had an inspection from Ledgelight and we passed.

Come join us for a meal some Saturday.

If you or someone you know is grade 6 to 12 you are invited to come to the youth group meetings for fun and fellowship. If you are interested email Rachel Candee at: [youthgroupdirector@grotonucc.org](mailto:youthgroupdirector@grotonucc.org)



**\$20 ADULTS**

**Spring Dinner**

**\$10 UNDER 12**

**10 APRIL 2026**

5:30 - 6:00 TAKE OUT  
6:00 - 7:30 SIT DOWN DINNER

**Lasagna**  
Meat, Vegetable & Gluten-free  
Salad    Garlic Bread  
Dessert    Beverage

Reservations by April 6  
Walk-ins Welcome

**TO BENEFIT THE ORGAN REPAIR FUND**

The flyer is decorated with a floral border at the top and bottom. It features two clusters of colorful flowers (pink, purple, and blue) on either side of the central text. The background is a light cream color.



Our choirs continue to perform beautiful music and inspiration to our worship services. We are thankful for these dedicated people who give of their time and talents so generously.

Sue has planned lovely musical selections for a joyous Easter morning service this year. Music for the sunrise service will be provided by Marc Frucht on guitar and Janice Kimball on Flute. A big thank you to them for their contribution to this special service.

Don and Sadie Beatrice and Jean Young have generously volunteered to host a dinner in support of the ongoing Organ Repair fund drive. A lasagna dinner is being planned with choices of meat, veggie, or gluten free at a price of \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 and under. Take outs are available from 5:30 to 6:00 and a sit down meal from 6:00 to 7:30. We invite everyone to join us for a delicious meal and a relaxing time of fellowship with friends and neighbors. What a fun way to support the music part of our worship services.

Florence Barnum

**Women's Fellowship** will meet on April 8th at 12 noon in Dutton Hall..

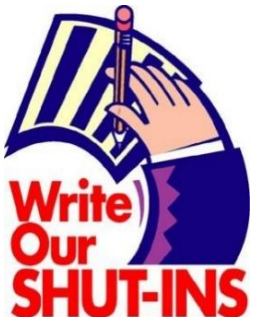
We had a very successful corned beef dinner & thank all who prepared the food, decorated the tables so beautifully and helped clean up. We also thank all who took take-out dinners & all that ate in.

There will not be a bake sale in April . The Ladies Tea will be on April 18 th at 2 pm. Reservations are required and will become available to make in the very near future.

Sally Turner



**Women's Fellowship**



**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

If you know anyone else that should be added to this list please contact the office.

## Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



- Author Unknown

Groton Congregational Church  
162 Monument St., Groton

Spring Fling Tea

Limited Seating  
Reservations Required

860.445.7409

[office@grotoncongregational.org](mailto:office@grotoncongregational.org)



Proceeds to benefit the Restoration Fund

## **Free to Good Home**

Sturdy, black bookcase; one adjustable shelf.

Dimensions:

Length: 37"

Height: 29.5"

Depth: 11.5"



Contact Cathy Johnson if interested. It's in the back of her van and she is generally at church on Sunday's!

## **Need a Notary?**

If you are in need of a notary, please contact Cathy Johnson to make arrangements. You will need identification (current driver's license suffices) She cannot give legal advice.



## **Top 10 Useless Phrases I Learned in Latin**

1. "PISTRIX, PISTRIX!" = "SHARK, SHARK!"
2. "Fors Fortis." = "Fat chance."
3. "Casu consulto." = "Accidentally on purpose."
4. "Frena pro feris teneo." = "I brake for animals."
5. "Si fractum non sit, noli id reficere." = "If it ain't broke don't fix it."
6. "Id imperfectum manet dum confectum erit." = "It ain't over until it's over."
7. "Eamus O Ianqui!" = "Let's go Yankees!"
8. "Latine loqui coactus sum." = "I have this compulsion to speak Latin."
9. "Noli me vocare, ego te vocabo." = "Don't call me, I'll call you."
10. "Ita, te adloquor!" = "Yeah, I'm talking to you!"

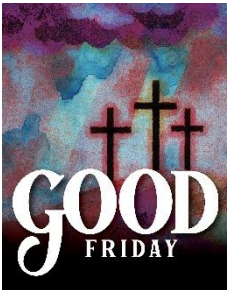


# Holy Week

**April 2**

7 pm

Maundy Thursday Service



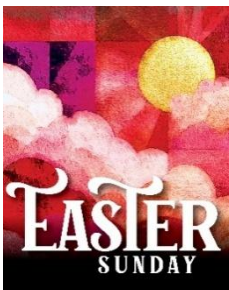
**April 3**

Noon – 3 pm Silent Meditation & Prayer

**April 5**

6:30 am

Easter Sunrise Service  
at Ft Griswold




**April 5**

10 am

Easter Service



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> 7 pm	3 <b>Good Friday</b> Silent Prayer & Meidation 12p m -3 pm	4 <b>No Community Meals</b>
5 <b>Easter</b> 6:30a Sunrise Srv @Ft Griswold  10a Worship	6 6 pm Deacons	7	8 12 p Women's Fellowship	9 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	10 <b>Spring Dinner</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>	11 12n Community Meals
12 10a Worship 11:15a Missions 11:15a Trustees	13	14	15	16 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	17	18 12n Community Meals  <b>Spring Fling Tea</b> <b>2 pm</b>
19 10a Worship <b>11:30 a Council</b>	20 6 pm Joint Trustees/Deacons	21	22	23 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	24	25 12n Community Meals
26 10a Worship 1:15a Stewardship 11:15a Music	27	28  <b>Gargoyle Deadline</b>	29	30 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir		



**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.

162 Monument Street  
Groton, CT 06340  
860-445-7409

[www.grotonucc.org](http://www.grotonucc.org)  
[office@grotoncongregational.org](mailto:office@grotoncongregational.org)  
[pastor@grotoncongregational.org](mailto:pastor@grotoncongregational.org)

Office Hours  
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
9 am to 2 pm