



Dear friends,

Spring is slowly arriving. It is a joy to see the trees and flowers blooming in all their glory. (Even if it is wreaking havoc with my allergies.)

Spring also brings the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, what we call Easter. The Easter season lasts until May 24 this year. May 24th is the Day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the Holy Spirit being given to the Apostles and other believers. Pentecost is often called the birth of the Church in the world. Pentecost happens fifty days after the Resurrection, so it is a moving holiday, just like Easter.

And the Holy Spirit is still with believers today, all across the world, even here in Groton, at our own church. Please remember to wear red, if you can, on Pentecost! Red is the color associated with the movement of the Holy Spirit. It is often the only day in the church year when red is the liturgical color of the day. Sometimes red is used on Palm Sunday, when it is called Passion Sunday and the emphasis is on the upcoming crucifixion of Jesus. Red is also used at ordinations as a symbol of the call to ministry received by the Holy Spirit.

I will be on a week of Study Leave, from Monday, May 4 through Sunday, May 10. Most of that week I will be in Washington, DC for a conference. Should you have a pastoral care need or an emergency while I am on study leave, please contact a member of the Board of Deacons. Your Deacons are: James Kerrigan (chair), Jean Young, Sadie Beatrice, Chuck Barnum, Sally Turner, Lew Clark, and Doris Pulaski.

Blessings to you all! I am praying for all of you, and for our church. I'd love it if you would pray for me, too.

Rev. Christine





“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” – 1 Peter 4:10

By authorization of the Church Council, Groton Congregational Church (GCC) is now a Heritage Site Partner with Thames River Heritage Park (TRHP). If you are unfamiliar with TRHP, its website is <https://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/>. As we were only recently made a Partner, we have yet to be added to the list of sites, but rest assured that GCC will be included. The first event that we will be participating in is, “Discover the Park!” at Fort Trumbull on

Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. A flyer for this event will be placed on the midway bulletin board.

GCC will be the venue host for “Lumos Experiences” on Saturday, July 25, 2026. This is a musical performance (string trio) that will occur in the sanctuary; there will be two evening performances. More details forthcoming.

A very productive joint meeting of the Deacons and the Trustees was held wherein discussion ensued and updated documents were drafted relative to the building use agreement and guidelines, wedding policy and funeral/memorial service. Once finalized, these documents will be available for reference and use.

Please keep in mind that if a vehicle is parked in the side yard, the handicap ramp cutout must *not* be blocked. This needs to be clear and accessible for applicable use. Also: when parking on the street, please pull up behind any car in front of you (already parked) so that as many cars as possible can fit (i.e., don’t leave large gaps that are too small for a car to parallel park in). Thank you!

The next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for May 17, 2026.

Submitted in love,

Cathy Johnson
Chair, Board of Trustees

Thank you to all that donate their bottles and cans to the church for financial redemption. Proceeds of the returnable items go to the General Fund. They do add up!

A few “pleases” when donating:

- Do not crush the bottles and cans
- Do not remove the labels
- Please remove all liquid from the bottles and cans – rinsing the cans makes for a more smooth and less messy redemption experience
- Where possible, replace the bottle caps on any bottles
- Please do your best to determine if the item is indeed returnable for cash (versus recyclable, only) as not all are

Thank you!





Welcome to May everyone and the blooming of the May flowers. What a beautiful time of year. When I think of May, I always think of the two days that mean so much to everyone, Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

First, let me talk about Mother's Day, May 10, 2026.

Mother's Day in some form has been celebrated around the world for centuries. However, in the United States, it was first established by Anna Jarvis in 1908, who wanted to honor her own mother. The first Mother's Day church service is said to have been celebrated on May 10, 1908 at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia and it then was designated a National Holiday in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson.

Although it is celebrated to honor human mothers, I believe we must remember the importance of All Mothers, human, other animals, insects, and plants as well.

We as Christians, refer to Christ as the "Son of God". But we need to remember that Jesus had a Mother as well, Mary. Mary carried Jesus for nine months until his birth in Bethlehem. Remember that Mothers are the source of life for all, as mothers provide everyone, everything with the nurturing needed to develop and blossom into a life. That is why we all need to celebrate Mothers and all they do for us as living beings everyday.

So, I ask everyone to say a prayer and to remember ALL Mothers on May 10, 2026. May GOD bless them all, animal, insect, and plant.

The next big day in May is Memorial Day, May 26, 2026. Memorial Day is the national holiday to celebrate and honor those in the military who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life fighting for and/or defending our beautiful country, the United States of America. The first Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30, 1868 and it was called Decoration Day to honor Union Soldiers who died in the Civil War. By 1890, every union state had adopted and celebrated the holiday. In 1971, congress named it a Federal Holiday to be observed on the last Monday of May and to celebrate all those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

In conflicts the United States of America has been involved in since the Revolutionary War, our country has lost lives as follows:

1. Revolutionary War – 23,800
2. War of 1812 – 15,000
3. Mexican American War – 11,500
4. Civil War (Union and Confederate) – 655,000
5. World War I – 116,000
6. World War II – 405,000
7. Korean War – 36,574
8. Vietnam War – 58,220
9. Total in ALL Conflicts with US Involvement (throughout history) – **1, 308,468**

So on Memorial Day this year, May 26, 2026, I ask everyone to take a moment and say a prayer for all those who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life for the United States of America, may GOD bless them all.

Lew Clark

Deacon



Items Needed for the Church Yard Sale on May 30.
Items may be brought in May 27, 28 & 29 between 9 am and 2 pm.

NO CLOTHING OR ELECTRONICS

Bake sale items can be brought in on those same days.
Please have your items priced when you bring them.
If you need help with pricing, we will help you.

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

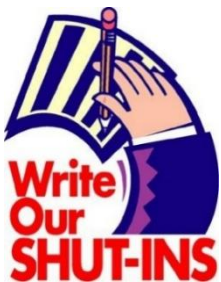


MISSIONS The Mission's Committee has continued meeting regularly and we are now working on two projects with Groton Human Services. The first is to provide food for the children in need that are food deprived during the summer months.

The second is a new free clothing, shoes, and accessory shop they are starting. They are asking for new and gently used items.

We will have more information about both projects in the near future.

Donald Beatrice
Chair



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.



The choirs continue to work hard in providing beautiful music for our worship services. The Eater service was especially lovely with the addition of a trumpet played by guest musician Eric Gerhardt. The Sunrise service was graced with music by Janice Kimball on flute. The dedication and talents of all of these people are greatly appreciated by everyone.

The organ repair fund is an ongoing project and we are grateful to Don and Sadie Beatrice and Jean Young for volunteering to host a lasagna dinner. They were aided by Joan Jordan who made an excellent salad and James Kerrigan who helped serve. Janice Kimball and Sue Stottlemeyer welcomed everyone at the door and collected payments. The dinner was a success with members and friends enjoying a social evening of good food and good company. These dedicated people raised \$1,000.00 which brought the total amount in the fund to \$27,500.00. That means we have reached about two thirds of our goal of \$38,000.00 to repair the swell motors and assemblies of our beloved organ. These units are about 60 years old and are not an "on the shelf" item. They must be rebuilt by hand. We welcome any contribution of money or fundraising ideas to raise the final \$10,500.00.

SAVE THE DATE! On July 4th all churches in the country have been asked to play the tower bells at 2:00 to celebrate 250 years of American independence. Sue plans to play our bells in celebration. All are invited to join in this event.

Florence Barnum, Sally Turner, Janice Kimball, Joan Jordan and Steve Tavernier



Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday May 13th at 12 Noon. We will be discussing future plans for the yard sale to be held on May 30 th. Plans for our Ladies night out dinner will also be discussed.

A huge thank you to Phyllis Meyer & Penny Sullivan for the planning and details that made the Ladies Tea so successful. Thank you to all the members of Women's Fellowship that made all the many varieties of finger foods. It was a beautiful Tea. The money raised goes to the Property Committee to help with the cost of having the West wall in the sanctuary repaired & repainted.

Sally Turner

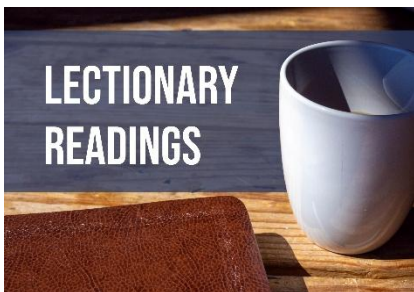


Women's Fellowship

Easter Tree



Honoree	Donors	Honoree	Donors
Fred Meyer	Phyllis Meyer	Burt	Sally Turner
Blanche & Les Caton	Rev. Caton	Friends	Marilee Dull
LeBurton & Blanche Beebe	Rev. Caton	Family	Marilee Dull
Ida & Irving Caton	Rev. Caton	Lannie	Lew Clark
Our Parents	Dick & Sue	Milo	Lew Clark
Stottlemeyer		Fudd	Lew Clark
John & Carolyn Orkney	Jean Orkney Young	Ollie	Lew Clark
Jean & David Montgomery	Jean DeGrowth	Mother-Vera	Emily L. Miller
Lois Dempsey	Janice Kimball	Sister-Vera Theresa	Emily L. Miller
Amanda Riley	Janice Kimball	In Memory of Loved Ones	Cathy Johnson
Priscilla	Patty Hensley	William Giesler	Bonnie Giesler
Gary	Jamie Radecki	Grandparents	Jean DeGrowth
Bill	Penny Sullivan	Ski	Doris Pulaski
Shane	Penny Sullivan		



Curious as to where pastors get the readings for Sunday mornings? Often, though not always, they use the Revised Common Lectionary. A number of years a group of churches of different denominations created a 3 year cycle of readings. If you follow it, in three years you don't end up reading the whole Bible but you do get an overview by reading a good part of it.. The readings don't only cover Sundays but a number of other observed Holy days.

Below is a like to a site that people often use to follow the lectionary. It gives the current week's readings, though you can look up any dates you'd like. It also has links to art, hymns, sermons, etc if you want to study the readings.

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 12n Community Meals
3 10a Worship	4	5	6	7 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	8	9 12n Community Meals
10  10a Worship 11:15a Trustees	11 6 pm Deacons	12	13 12 p Women's Fellowship	14 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	15	16 12n Community Meals
17 10a Worship	18	19	20	21 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	22	23 12n Community Meals
24 10a Worship 11:15a Stewardship 11:15a Music	25	26  Gargoyle Deadline	27	28 6:30p Bell choir 7:30p Choir	29	30  9 am to 2 pm
31 10a Worship						



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