



Dear members and friends,

July is the month for beaches, watermelon, cook-outs and picnics, and for relaxing and vacationing, not to mention fireworks. The church, of course, may slow down a bit, but we always keep going. We still worship together every Sunday at 10:00am.

This year on the 4th of July the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which was the catalyst for the American Revolutionary War and the forming of our country. I know that even through all the special and exciting celebrations I will continue to be in prayer for our country, as we find our way into the future. I hope that while you celebrate you will also be praying with me as well.

I will be taking a few days of vacation in July, from July 4 through July 7. And I will be on study leave from July 25 through August 1. The Rev. Chris Horvath will be filling in for me on the two Sundays I will be away. If you should have an urgent pastoral care need or an emergency while I am away, please contact a member of the Board of Deacons: James Kerrigan, chair, Jean Young, Sadie Beatrice, Doris Pulaski, Lew Clark, Chuck Barnum, and Sally Turner.

I hope everyone has a joyous 4th of July, and a wonderful month! See you in church!

Rev. Christine





“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.” – Proverbs 29:2

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, one may ponder how, in 1776, the minister and members of Groton Congregational Church viewed such a revolutionary concept. Did it promote the idea that faith can inspire positive change in society?

By all accounts, Groton Congregational supported the ideals of the Declaration: Equality, Unalienable Rights, Government by Consent and Right to Revolution. Oh, for a conversation with Rev. Aaron Kinne, the church’s minister at the time of the revolution! While that is obviously not possible, he did leave behind a collection of books, folders and pamphlets, which include sermons. These items are housed in the Special Collections of the Summit County Public Library in Akron, Ohio. Indexed among the collection: Kinne, Rev. Aaron, Journal of Rev. Aaron Kinne, dated from January 1, 1775 to December 25, 1777. Road trip to Ohio?

Groton Congregational Church has endured for 324 years – that’s quite a history and legacy. Just think of all that has happened internally and externally in the context of our church and all the individuals that contributed and continue to do so to keep it not just alive, but to encourage a sense of belonging within a larger faith community.

The next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for Sunday, July 12, 2026.

Submitted in love,
Cathy Johnson
Chair, Board of Trustees

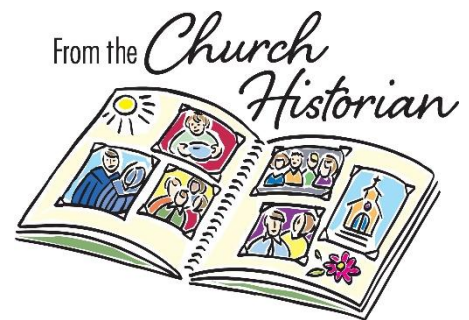
The church participated in the CT Open House event again in 2026. We had fourteen visitors who enjoyed the tours. We gave out church history pamphlets, American flags, and coloring pages to our guests.

Thanks to Chuck Barnum for storing the outside signs, to Cathy Johnson who lent us historical materials, and to Sue Stottlemeyer and Janice Kimball, who provided musical demonstrations.

Especial thanks to Sue Stottlemeyer for providing lunch for our volunteers/tour guides, and to Ingrid Measimer for printing out all the history pamphlets, coloring pages, and other needed items.

Finally, thanks to all of our tour guides: Rev. Caton, Sue Stottlemeyer, Janice Kimball, Ingrid Measimer, and Doris Pulaski, and to the church members who dropped in to support us: Patty Hensley, Amya Radecki, and Penny Sullivan.

Doris Pulaski, Historian





Deacons

Celebration! There are many Bible verses that address celebration. You can find something that speaks to every occasion:

- Celebrate the festival (1 Corinthians 5:8)
- This is the day (Psalm 118: 24)
- They saw the child with Mary (Matthew 2:11)
- Your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life (Proverbs 9:11)
- For joy that a human being has been born (John 16:21)
- Joy in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7)

We celebrate to mark milestones, strengthen bonds, and manage emotions both good and bad. Celebrating helps us to recognize achievements and the positive feelings that come with them. Hopefully with celebration we're building self-confidence and self-esteem. Psychology Today reports that "stepping back to celebrate – even during difficult times – cultivates a positive mindset, helping you see the good that exists around you."

So, let's start July with a Happy Birthday USA and continue through the year by finding something to celebrate every month, every week, every day. God is good!

Jean O. Young

Fireworks Parking

Near Fort Griswold

July 11

\$20 per car

**Groton Congregational Church
162 Monument Street, Groton, CT**

grotonucc.org

All proceeds will go to the Organ Fund

MISSIONS

The Missions committee would like to thank everyone that helped to gather clothing this past month. We gathered and delivered over 30 bags to Groton Community Threads, New London Hospitality, and Safe Futures. Snack foods were delivered to New London Hospitality and toiletries to Safe Futures. All organizations were grateful for our donations.

For July, we continue to ask for donations of new t-shirts and socks along with individually wrapped snacks. Also on our request list for the month is toiletries and laundry pods.

Holiday Craft Bazaar - November 14, 2026

Sadie Beatrice and I are chairing this year's Holiday Craft Bazaar. We are going to get started this month by scheduling a couple of Wednesday craft nights on July 15th and July 29th, 6 pm. You can join us to help us create what we might be working on or just come to be social and bring a craft that you're working on.



Bring us your ideas: Some of the categories that we will be showcasing at the bazaar will be homemade crafts, stocking stuffers, gift baskets, and giftable items. If you have a craft idea or an area that you think will be marketable, let us know how you can help.

For those non-crafters that want to help, we are currently looking for donations of yarn (does not need to be a new skein), basket filler/paper shred (any color), white or off-white bar soap, and Xmas holiday napkins (leftover are great here - does not need to be a new/full pack).

More to come,
Jean Young



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.



It is officially summer and time to relax and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine. We are looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of 250 years of American independence with special events and activities.

Here at Groton Congregational we will be participating in the ringing of church bells at 2:00 on the Fourth of July in joyful celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Feel free to stop by the church in support of Sue as she “rings” our church bells at the organ.

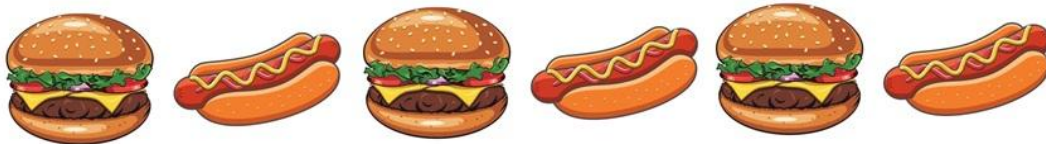
Another special activity at the church is a program we are hosting. This is a musical program called “Lumos Experiences” performed by a string trio on July 25th.

Watch for more information on this special musical evening. We understand that proceeds from this event will go towards our organ repair fund, which gives us another reason to support this event.

Speaking of the organ repair fund, there is now over \$29,000 towards the goal of \$38,000. Just a final push to make the balance in the next few months as Sue is working with the company hoping to have the repairs completed after Christmas. That’s something to look forward to. Thank you to everyone who has been supporting this project.

Thank you to all who are participating in the “pick up” choir. Your music always adds so much to our worship service.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer!



Community Meals will be serving meals the first Saturday of the month in July, and August.

That is, July 4th and August 1st

The July 4th meal will be a picnic with hotdogs, hamburgers, watermelon, and delicious side dishes. We are serving from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm to make it easier for people to avoid the July 4th parade.

We will also be serving on August 29th.

All are welcome to attend for a good meal, a good time, and good company!



The Stewardship Committee is working on the fall campaign.

We have already purchased and downloaded the UCC 2026 Stewardship campaign materials.

This year the theme, ***THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE***, is inspired by Matthew 6:21:

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



Please spend some time thinking about this theme. If you would like to speak on the topic of Stewardship and this year's theme as part of the campaign, please get in touch with one of the members of the Stewardship Committee. The general topics within the theme are reflected in our Stewardship banners:

- Give
- Grow
- Touch
- Teach
- Thank

Also please be thinking about how you will contribute to the church in 2027, remembering that contributions can come in many forms.

The Stewardship Committee

Doris Pulaski, Sue Stottlemeyer, Janice Kimball, and Emily Miller.



The Church will have a table at City of Groton Day again this year.

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

Friday, August 7, 2026, from 5 - 8 pm in Washington Park. This year's celebration will expand on past year's, offering interactive tables with City departments, community organization booths, activities, games and more.

Please contact Doris Pulaski if you would like to help out or have any ideas to make our outreach table better than before!

LUMOS

The Beatles Candlelight Experience

an unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting
indoor setting

Groton Congregational Church
162 Monument St, Groton, CT 06340
Saturday, July 25th
2 Sitzings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm



Book tickets now!
www.lumos-experiences.com



The Church Council is seeking nominations for the new Nominating Coordinator role as outlined in proposed Bylaws Section 5.12. Although the proposed bylaws have not yet been adopted, the Council believes it is important to fill this position now so the Coordinator can begin work on preparing the 2027 Proposed Slate. The revised position description is based on the 2017 approved bylaws and reflects the current needs of our congregation. As our congregation has become smaller, recruiting enough members to serve on a Nominating Committee has become increasingly challenging. Establishing a Nominating Coordinator provides a more practical and sustainable approach. The Nominating Coordinator must be a member of Groton Congregational Church.

The proposed bylaws section 5.12 currently reads as follows:

5.12 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

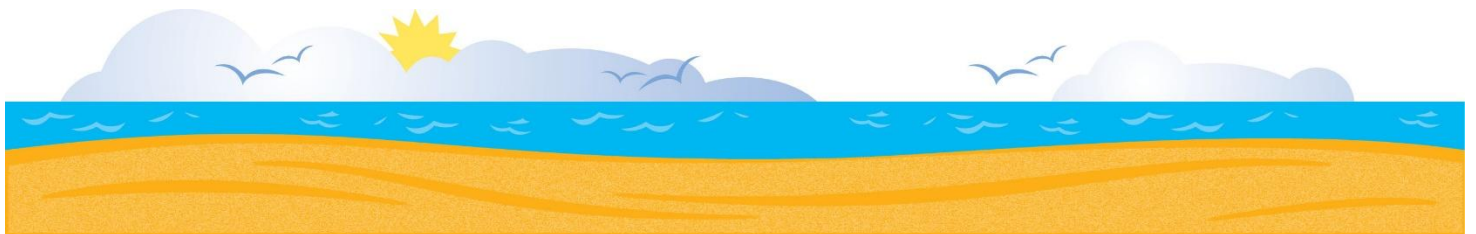
- a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of one member who shall be elected to serve a three-year term as the Nominating Coordinator.
- b. The Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Stewardship Committee, Property Committee, Christian Education Committee, Missions Committee, Music Committee, Memorial Fund Committee, and Ushering and Greeting Committee shall submit recommendations to the Nominating Coordinator to fill vacancies.
- c. The Nominating Coordinator shall submit recommended names to the Church Council when vacancies occur during the year.
- d. The Nominating Coordinator shall include the proposed slate of Corporate Officers, delegates, and members of the respective boards and committees in the Annual Report to be voted upon at the Corporate Annual Meeting.
- e. The Nominating Coordinator must present vacancies for positions in which a member has completed their term and no new nominee was presented at the Annual Meeting. The position may not be filled by the outgoing individual unless no one volunteers for the role at the Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in the position of Nominating Coordinator or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact Sue Blaisdell, Clerk of the Church or Howard Turner, Moderator.

Remember: stewardship consists of time, talent and treasures!

July 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 12n Community Meals 
5 10a Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11 NL Fireworks 
12 10a Worship 11:15a Trustees	13 6p Deacons	14	15	16	17	18
19 10a Worship 11:15a Missions	20	21	22	23	24	25 Lumos Concert (info in Gargoyle)
26 10a Worship 11:15a Music 11:15a Stewardship	27	28  Gargoyle Deadline	29	30		





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
office@grotoncongregational.org
pastor@grotoncongregational.org

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