



Dear Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that September is upon us. Soon the leaves on the trees will change to brilliant oranges and yellows and red, with a beautiful scene of God's glory, and then fall away to get ready for winter. But before the winter sets in, the weather is often perfect, and I get to wear all the sweaters I love. I don't do as well when it is really hot, or really cold. So Fall is my favorite time of the year.

The church will be beginning our journey toward the birth of Jesus in December before we know it.

In the meantime, I will be holding a Bible Study, beginning in October. We will be studying a document written by our Palestinian Christian siblings called Kairos Palestine II (we will look at Kairos Palestine I as well.) This will be a serious study of how people can be faithful in times of deep distress and violence. I hope that we will be able to become more compassionate, more caring, more open to our Christian siblings all over the world who are suffering. And that we can also become more faithful to Jesus at the same time. I hope that you will prayerfully consider attending this Bible Study. Please let me know if you have questions, or if you plan to attend, so that we can have enough materials on hand for everyone.

The dates and times for this study will be five weeks in October on Fridays, including October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 1:00pm in Dutton Hall.

You are welcome to bring your lunch or a snack or beverage with you. I will be praying for everyone who is considering coming to this study. And if you work, the next Bible Study after this will be in the evenings, perhaps around Advent time.

I pray that your entrance into the rhythms of Fall will be peaceful and gentle, and that I will see many of you in worship on Sundays.

Blessings,
Rev. Christine





“All things shall perish from under the sky, music alone shall live, music alone shall live, music alone shall live, never to die.”

The above words are lyrics to a German folk song that I used to sing at Girl Scout camp; perhaps you sang them, too. It's quite beautiful when sung in a round. The song came to mind when I heard the news that the necessary amount of funds has been received for the next round of needed organ repairs – what marvelous news!!

We at Groton Congregational have a wonderful music program and are very fortunate to have Sue Stottlemeyer as our director and talented organist. Thank you to all who have helped to make this happen. The Organ Repair Fund will remain in existence for donations, as the organ is a sophisticated musical instrument that will, from time to time, need repairs beyond yearly maintenance.

The Trustees have again entered into a contract with Anderson Oil for the upcoming heating season. At a cost of \$315, The contract caps the price at \$4.15 per gallon. This means that if the price goes up from that per gallon amount, we remain at \$4.15 and if it is lower than \$4.15, then we pay the lower price. This arrangement has financially benefited us for several years.

Sunday, August 30, 2026, is a Five-on-Five month: five Sundays in the month! Thank you to Jill Martin for bringing the Five-on-Five initiative to our church some years ago. Anyone making an extra donation can put it in the collection plate or use the pew envelopes if you'd like it to go to a designated fund. If money in the collection plate is not somehow marked for a specific fund, then it will go into the General Fund – there is no other way for the Treasurer to know the donor's intent.

The next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Submitted in love,

Cathy Johnson
Chair, Board of Trustees



In The Need Of Prayer

*"It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standin' in the need of prayer."*

In the old spiritual, "Standin' In the Need of Prayer," the singer is asking for prayers for him or herself. Those prayers would have to come from those who hear the plea.

It's a common situation. We, too, will be much in need of prayer in the hard times of our lives. So every day, there are those who need our prayers. There is a list of people in need of prayer in every Sunday bulletin.

But have you ever thought that you needed to add your own name to that list? As much as others need our prayers, we need to pray. We need to spend that time daily speaking to God, and as important, listening for anything He has to say to us.

So when you pray for others, remember to speak to God for yourself. Remember to thank him for all he has done for you. And especially, remember to listen.

And remember to do it every day.

Doris Pulaski



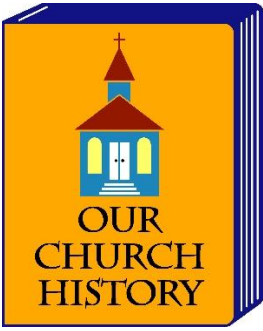
On September 6, 1781, the Battle of Groton Heights was fought at Fort Griswold.

Sunday, September 6, 2026, marks 245 years to the day of that battle.

Members of Groton Congregational Church participated in our country's battle for independence, and many made the ultimate sacrifice.

Please join Groton Congregational Church's Choir and Pastor Christine Caton, along with other organizations, at a commemorative ceremony beginning at 6:00 pm on the grounds of Fort Griswold.





The commemoration of the 1781 Battle of Groton Heights will occur on September 6th.

To illustrate how this horrible massacre affected just one family connected to our church, the Perkins family, I am reproducing the messages on their gravestones. Even 28 years later, the extreme hatred for the British is clear. Two of the members of the family survived but were severely wounded. Five family members died. The old and the young both served as soldiers in the battle.

Capt. Solomon Perkins(1729 – 1809) was severely wounded but survived.

His inscription:

"Ye British tyrants that have power,
And butchers wet with Humane Gore,
Judgement must come and you will be,
Rewarded for your cruelty"

This is attributed on-line to an 18th-century anti-slavery and anti-tyranny poem, often attributed to the early American writer and activist Thomas Branagan in his 1805 work, *The Penitential Tyrant*.

Simeon Perkins, son of Solomon Perkins.

His inscription:

"In Memory of Mr Simeon Perkins
who was Slain in
Fort Griswold
Sept 6th 1781
in ye 28th year of his Age"

Mr. Elnathan Perkins, brother of Solomon Perkins:

His inscription:

"Mr Elnathan Perkins
who was Slain at Fort Griswold
Septr 6th 1781
in the 64th Year of his Age

Ye British Power that boast aloud
of your Great Lenity
Behold my fate when at your feet
I and three Sons must Die."

Mr. Luke Perkin, one Son of Elnathan:

His inscription:

"In Memory of M'r Luke Perkins
Who was slain at Fort Griswold
Sep't 6th 1781
in ye 29th year of his Age

Ye sons of Liberty
be not Dismay'd"

That I have fell
a Sacrifice to Death
But oh to think how
will this debt be paid
Who murther'd me
when they are call'd
from Earth."

Mr. Asa Perkins, second Son of Elnathan

His inscription:

"In memory of Mr. Asa Perkins
who was slain in Fort Griswold
Sept 6th 1781
in ye 33d year of his age.

Ye British tyrants
that have power
And butchers wet
with humane Gore
Judgment must come
and you will be
Rewarded for your Cruelty."

The Third Son of Elnathan, **Lieut. Obadiah Perkins**, actually did not die in 1781. He was captured and eventually paroled (at age 41), He was wounded multiple times by bayonets during the battle. After the fighting, he was loaded onto a wagon with other wounded soldiers, which was then let loose by British troops, crashing into an apple tree.

He was a member of Groton Congregationalist Church in 1771, as he is shown having a pew in the Kinne Meeting House. The fact that it was thought he had died when Elnathan 's gravestone was inscribed illustrated the dreadful uncertainty of the status of prisoners of war then as now.

"In Memory of Mr. OBADIAH PERKINS
who died Dec. 4th 1812 aged 72 years

Oft have I travell'd ocean's bring waves
And oft escap'd a thousand gaping graves
A dire disease has seiz'd my vital breath
And here I lie a prisoner of death."

MISSIONS

The Missions Committee has responsibility to the church membership to inform them about opportunities for carrying out the mission of the church in the community and to follow the Church's set Bylaws. Missions also has a responsibility to the local community to help serve in the best way possible.

Missions takes on several projects throughout the year including gathering donations for local community groups, Grammys Jammies, Christmas Adopt-a-Family, and our own Community Meals. As a committee we need to evaluate our purpose and goals and establish our project guidelines to serve as best as we can – we serve to help others with our effort and care, using whatever time and skills we have right now.

Moving into the fall, we previously mentioned gathering back-to-school items for area groups but have yet to receive positive feedback of a need. We will continue to accept donations of new t-shirts and socks, toiletries, and hygiene products which our community groups can never have too many! Next time you're at the store, think of these church missions a fill up those red wagons.

Holiday Craft Bazaar - November 14, 2026

The Crafters are going strong and the 11/14/26 holiday bazaar is coming up fast.

We are approaching this fall with a full schedule. If you are interested in helping us out, get these Craft Night dates (5:30 – 8 p.m.) on your calendar:

Wednesday, September 9th
Wednesday, September 16th
Tuesday, September 22nd
Wednesday, September 30th

We will continue to organize small, easy craft projects to help with, but new ideas are welcome. For those non-crafters wishing to help, please see the bulletin board post in Dutton Hall for donation needs.



Women's Fellowship will meet on September 9 at 12 noon. A Potluck lunch will precede the meeting. We will be discussing plans for Nov. 14th. There will be a bake sale September 14th. _ All bake goods are accepted. We look forward to getting back together.

Sally Turner

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

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

The weekly Stewardship messages will echo the main theme and the themes in our Stewardship banners:

The schedule for the campaign's five messages is:

October 18 - Campaign Kickoff- "**Thank**" by Sue Stottlemeyer

October 25- "**Grow**" by Janice Kimball

November 1- "**Touch**" by Emily Miller

November 8- "**Teach**" by Amya Radecki and Patty Hensley

November 15 - "**Give**" by Doris Pulaski



The Stewardship Meal will follow the November 15 church service.

All Messages will be reviewed by Rev. Caton well before the service, and will be five minutes or less.



As summer ends and we start looking to fall and beyond, please keep in mind these deadlines to make sure we can publicize and have successful events.

Need to get something into **Sunday's bulletin or Social Media***? Get it into the office by **Wednesday**.

If you want it into the **Gargoyle**, the deadline is usually **the 4th Tuesday** of the month before.

Need a **flyer/poster** or would like to get it in **The Day** or on **Patch***? It needs to be into the office **5 weeks** in advance. The Day requires a large advance time. For flyers/posters this gives time to create a flyer, and matching social media posts. These are created in house. Your input on these designs is welcome

*Social media posts

Facebook, Nextdoor, & Instagram – posted weekly

Patch – is events based. It gets listed on their calendar of events, not weekly posts

Remember to include with your submissions:

The **Date** of the Event, The **Time** of the Event, The **Place**, and The **Contact Person**.

Submissions can be left in the office or emailed to office@grotoncongregational.org

If you have questions, feel free to talk to Ingrid.



Music Committee

Due to a recent very generous donation we have reached our fundraising goal to repair our beloved organ! A down payment has been made to Foley Baker and work will begin after Christmas. A huge THANK YOU to ALL for their hard work to make this possible!

The organ repair fund account will remain active for future organ upkeep and potential repair as needed.

Fall is fast approaching with its increase in activities and choir practices will be resuming as they prepare for morning worship services and upcoming holidays. The handbell choir will meet at 6:30 and the choir will meet at 7:30 on Thursday evenings starting on September 10th. If you are at all interested in participating in either activity, please come to this first session of the year and give it a try. We always have a good time as we practice our pieces.

Sue is already planning ahead for a special Christmas service and other events.

We are very lucky to have such dedicated and talented people to add to our worship experience. Thank you to all!

Florence Barnum



Our Choirs Will Start
Rehearsals September 10

Come Join Us!

Thursdays
6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:30 pm Choir



SEPTEMBER 2026




SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10a Worship 6p Battle of Groton Heights Ceremony At Fort Griswold	7 Labor Day  Office Closed	8	9 12 pm Women's Fellowship 5:30 pm Crafters	10 4 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	11	12
13 10a Worship	14 6 pm Deacons	15	16 5:30 pm Crafters	17 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	18	19
20 10a Worship 11:15a Missions	21	22 5:30 pm Crafters	23	24 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	25	26
27 10a Worship 11:30a Council	28	29  Gargoyle Deadline	30 5:30 pm Crafters			





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

Deadlines

Wednesdays - Bulletin Announcements, Social Media Posts

4th Tuesday of the Month – Gargoyle Items

5 Weeks in Advance - Events for Flyers & The Day

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