

# THE UNION COURIER

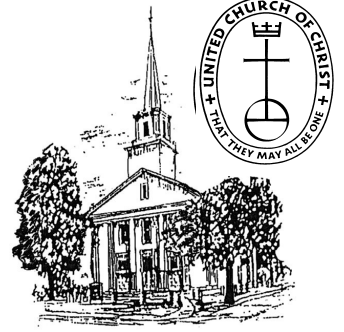
Union Congregational Church

20 Main Street

United Church of Christ

Groton, Massachusetts 01450

The Rev. Corey J. Sanderson, Interim Pastor



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## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Sunday, June 5th, is the festival of Pentecost. Informally, Pentecost is often referred to as the 'birthday of the church.' There aren't too many times in life when you get to celebrate a *two thousandth* year birthday or anniversary, are there? Certainly, a lot has changed through the last two thousand years. Sociologists of religion argue that the changes that we have seen, felt, and experienced in just the last 100 years, have been as monumental as the some of the greatest historical events of the past (e.g. The Protestant Reformation).

Given the general sense of weariness we are all feeling from the pandemic, along with pain of the recent tragedies in New York and Texas, it's easy to wonder if God is even around. One of the challenges that people of faith often struggle with is finding God in the midst of the ups and downs of daily life. Through the years, people of faith would ask 'why' questions. 'Why is this happening to me? Why I am in this mess? Why is the world in the terrible shape it's in?'

We assumed that if we could figure out the 'why' of life, the reason why certain things were happening, then we'd be all set. These days, we're in a totally different place. Life is far more complex. For many people it feels like life is more anxiety producing and depressing. These days, people are now asking the 'where' question.

People inside and outside the church mostly want to know *where* we can find God, *where* we can find community in God, and *where* we can stay grounded and connected while life goes on spinning. Of course, the church is where we find this well-trod proven path that connects us to God. Church gathers us with a community of believers who are striving to follow God's ways, and it grounds our lives in all the things that are most important.

The season of Pentecost is a time to experience God's renewing presence. The high holidays of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are full of light, expectation, and joy. Lent, Holy Week, and Easter point us to the Resurrection promises of new birth and eternal life. The season of Pentecost allows us a join in this sacred rhythm that frees us to be God's hands and feet out in the world.

This year on Pentecost, we are receiving our Confirmation students. Through the rite of Confirmation, these teens will officially become members of this church and the church universal. We hope you will be able to join us on Pentecost as we support them with our love and prayers.

Wishing You Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corey".



# Our Church Family



## Ongoing Prayer List

If there is a name you would like to add or remove, please contact the church office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Stephanie Booth  
Danielle Dukstein  
Kristin Kelly  
Mayra Marquez

Family of Helen Misselhorn  
Matt & Mandy Spain  
Joe Marchesani  
Bill Moeller

Sakkinen Family  
Betty & Liz Waggoner  
Laurie Waye

## Need prayer and need it now?

Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or call the church office (978-448-2091) and she will put your prayer request in motion for you. Prayer requests are held in confidence among those who are praying for you, and you may request that your name be withheld.

## June Birthdays

Bill Gale, Sr.	06/01	Hayley Cahill	06/10	Alison Houde	06/24
Andrew Leonard	06/04	Aiden Luth	06/11	Cailidh Houde	06/24
Gerry Cahill	06/05	Sammi Smith	06/11	Kim Burgess	06/25
Barbara Avey	06/07	Grant Howard	06/12	Isabella Meehan	06/27
Jillian Van Pelt	06/08	Amy Nickerson	06/13	Bill Semienko	06/28

*If we missed your birthday, please email unioncc@uccgroton.org so it can be added to our database.*

## The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! If everyone participates, this will add up to a significant amount. Please participate and watch our gifts grow!

## Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates!

Congratulations to all our recent graduates and wishing you God's blessings for a bright and happy future!

- **Rebecca Brennan** is graduating from Groton-Dunstable High School and will attend Keene State College in the fall.
- **Ben Coviello** is graduating from North Middlesex Regional High School and will attend the University of Maine as a Civil Engineering Major in the fall.
- **Zachary Cebollero** is graduating from Ayer Shirley Regional High School and will attend Worcester State University in the fall.
- **Sophia Smith** is graduating from Pearson Online Academy and will attend Wagner College in Staten Island, NY as a Music Theatre Performance Major in the fall.

# Expanding Our Mission!

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## Service Sunday - August 28, 2022

Join us in trying something new to share Christ's love in our community. On August 28, 2022, we invite you to celebrate the end of the summer while reaching out with our neighbors.

**Join us after worship for a barbecue lunch, distribution of backpacks, and fun for all ages! We will also be collecting donations for Loaves & Fishes and Catie's Closet**

Our goals for this day include celebrating a day of service with our congregation and the Groton community while sharing food, fun and fellowship and generating a church-wide opportunity for community outreach. We hope to collect donations for local agencies which serve our neighbors, in addition to distributing 200+ backpacks to families which have pre-registered through local food pantries (this is in addition to the Devens Backpack Drive).

*\*\*Note: The distribution of backpacks at the Bob Eisengrein Community Center at Devens will still be taking place, 2 days earlier, on Friday, August 26, 12 – 5 PM. We need your help on both days!*

On Friday, August 26, we are looking for volunteers to help with setup, backpack distribution, and break down.

For Service Sunday, we are looking for volunteers to help with set up and logistics on the day-of, as well as help organizing and advertising for the event.

Please contact Stefanie Lempp or Julie Platt if you are able to help with either event.

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**Missions Committee**

—Julie Platt, Chair

—Liz Corcoran

—Krista Kubick

—Stefanie Lempp

—Lynn Manalo

# Loaves and Fishes



Donate to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. The need is great and we can each make a difference.

Join us in helping 800+ families/individuals in Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley. Bring your donations to church **on or before Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

## Most needed items

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Ensure                 | Canned pasta  |
| Flavored rice          | Coffee, ground or instant (no whole bean or k-cups) |
| Macaroni & Cheese      | Helpers (hamburger, tuna, dry potatoes, etc.)       |
| Jelly                  | Peanut butter                                       |
| Snack crackers/cookies | Cake, pancake & cookie baking mixes                 |
| Shampoo                | Deodorant   |
| Dishwashing liquid     | Depends small unisex                                |

*Please do not donate extra-large or family sizes as they are difficult to manage with our drive-through food pantry model.*

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## From the Collector

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Thank you to people who have put their offerings and pledge donations in the collection boxes or sent them to the Church Office, or who have given online through their bank, through the Online Giving link in the weekly email or on the Church's website. Your donations support all we do to serve our congregation as we regather.

If you are considering using online giving and have some questions or have questions or concerns about your pledge, please contact Margaret Wheeler at 978-692-5401 or email me at [collector@uccgroton.org](mailto:collector@uccgroton.org) to see how I can help.

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### Church Life...



Block Party Clean Up



Donations for Ukraine

Facebook saw these photos first!  
Join our new church Facebook group!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/uccgroton](http://www.facebook.com/groups/uccgroton)



Music Appreciation Cake

Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
220 Main Street  
Groton, MA 01450

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**June**

**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

[ ] *PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST  
Please return to your mail carrier.*



## **June Highlights**

**Sunday, June 5 — 10:00 a.m. Worship**  
Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

**Sunday, June 12 — 10 a.m. Worship**  
All Church Stated Meeting following Worship

**Sunday, June 19 — 10:00 a.m. Worship**  
Fathers Day

**Sunday, June 26 — 10:00 a.m. Worship**