

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts

June 28, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The Rev. Priscilla Lawrence, Interim Minister
Bernard Crane, Music Director
Cheryl Townsend, Handbell Choir Director

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Large print bulletins and personal listening devices are available at the back of the Sanctuary or from an Usher. If your baby or child(ren) become a little restless during worship, feel free to walk with them in the back of the Sanctuary or use the rocker by the right-side exit door. Children (PreK-7th grade) go to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall after the Children’s Sermon. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

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PRELUDE *Sweet Hour of Prayer* — arr. B. Crane

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When the Lord seems far away,
People: may we place our faith in God.
Leader: When God’s face is hidden from us,
People: may we put our trust in God’s steadfast love.
Leader: When our souls bear the pain of earthly trials
People: may we seek God’s strength, lest we break.
Leader: Let us place our trust in God’s goodness and mercy.
People: Our hearts rejoice in God’s salvation.

*HYMN #315 *Let Your Heart Be Broken*

*OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*

Mighty God, we come into your powerful presence with hope in our hearts. May we pray with the same focus and strength, when you receive our prayers. Flow through our prayers and our worship this day, that we may rediscover childlike trust, even as we mature in faith. Send your spirit and hear our prayer as we pray that which you taught...

*PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *(unison, debtors)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, you are invited to share the peace of Christ with those closest to you.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

MUSICAL OFFERING *Whispering Hope* — S. Winner
Carl Byron, Soloist

CHILDREN’S SERMON

(Following the Children’s Sermon, children grades PreK-7 may proceed to the Fellowship Hall.)
**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 853, pew bible)

Luke 18:1-18

SERMON

A Persistent Widow Teaches Prayer

Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence

OFFERING OF PRAYERS

SONG OF PREPARATION

In The Stillness

—E. Tompkins

*In the stillness, Savior, draw me near. In the stillness, teach my heart to hear.
Like a little child I come to Thee, and pray that in the stillness I may rest in Thee;
and know that in the stillness You will speak to me.*

LIFTING NAMES INTO GOD'S LIGHT, SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC & PASSING THE PLATE

*THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

**Gracious God, bestow your power and your strength on these gifts we now return
to you. Multiply them as they go forth to serve your church and your world. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION REFRAIN # #323 (v.3 only) *Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.**

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

(Note: we use gluten free bread and grape juice, so all can join at Christ's table.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by
granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one
another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the
power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*, found at the back of the Hymnal)

*HYMN #11

My Tribute

**BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Connections

— B. Crane

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

***Following the Benediction, you may depart immediately or remain seated to listen to the Postlude.*

Thank you for serving today: Nancy Thornton (Greeter), Andrea McDonough (Usher)
Jenn Coviello (Reader)

Offering Note: Pledge offerings and donations can be given in the passed plate, or scan the QR code on the back of this bulletin to give online. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our congregation. **Ministry of Fellowship:** Welcome to all who are joining us this morning. We're glad to have you sharing in our celebration of worship. Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship for refreshments and conversation.

Welcome Guests and Newer Folks

Our church family is made up of people from all walks of life and from every point along the spiritual journey. No matter who you are, what you believe, or even if you aren't sure what you believe, you are welcome here in this place. We are not a church that tries to get everyone to think alike, but we do encourage and teach people to love alike. If you would like to stay up with what happens around here, we encourage you to sign up for our weekly Union Digest email that comes straight to your email inbox each Friday. There you will find worship recordings, devotional videos, seasonal reflections, upcoming events and opportunities, and other materials to support you in your journey of faith. Feel free to sign a guest card and place it in the offering plate, sign up on our website www.uccgroton.net, or email the office at unioncc@uccgroton.org.

Our Ongoing Prayer List:

Edie Tompkins	Joe Marchesani	John Greene
Janice Owen	Settled Pastor Search Committee	Billy Smith
Barbara Gale	Abby Winkler	Rachel Elliott
Halsey Platt	Don Landry	Friends of Sheila Mitchell
Family of Michael Janiszewski	Family of William Shute	Family of Rev. Vicki Hammel
Family of John Murphy	Chris Brown	David Stewart
Sarah Reiff	Family of Rev. Skip and Peg Lloyd	Family of Barbara Kenney
Mark Epply	Marvin Caldwell	The Hargraves Family
Lily Burgess	Nils Nordberg	

We have updated and refreshed our prayer list. If there is a name you would like to add or remove, or if we have removed someone erroneously, please contact the Church Office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Need prayer and need it now? Simply email prayer@uccgroton.org and your request will go to the confidential pray-ers; or the Church Office (978-448-2091) and we 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.



Give Online



Upcoming Events



Join Our Email List

ANNOUNCEMENTS - June 28, 2026

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Mission Trip Send-Off Coffee Hour

Join us after worship on Sunday, June 28th for a special Mission Trip Send-Off Coffee Hour as we celebrate and support our youth and leaders heading to Kentucky from July 3–12. Enjoy light refreshments, fellowship, and the opportunity to share messages of encouragement on poster boards for the mission team. During worship, Rev. Priscilla will offer a special send-off prayer for the group. We hope you'll join us as we send our mission team off with the love and support of our church family!

Summer Coffee Hour

Hi all! We skipped spring and went right to summer!

Traditionally summer coffee hour is relaxed and all hands-on deck, and Kitchen Ministry steps back. To help make sure someone is here to make coffee and put cups out, bring them outside if nice out, we have put together a sign up genius. You can sign up at uccgroton.org/signups.

Additionally, Alicia is leaving the kitchen Ministry for a well-deserved retirement. Are there any folks who would like to help with this over the next year?

Thanks, in advance,

Jenn and Alicia

Red Cross Blood Drive - Friday



HELP SAVE A LIFE.

Schedule your blood
donation appointment today.



On **July 10th**, we will roll up our sleeves and help save lives! We will proudly partner with the American Red Cross to hold what we expect to be the first of many blood drives. The Red Cross has over -135 years of experience providing humanitarian aid including more than 75 years of supplying blood to those in need. Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more.

What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact on people in our community and across the country. We are very excited about the drive and hope you are too. If you would like to volunteer to help on the day of the drive, please contact Charlotte about joining the team. To schedule an appointment to donate, you can contact Charlotte or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> and type GROTON in the search bar to find our drive.

Summer Kids Club

Sunday School is over for the year, and we are hoping to offer "Kids Club" during the summer months. Kids Club is simply supervised time for the kids to hang out in the Fellowship Hall after the children's sermon. They will be able to play games, color, and use the nursery area. We are looking for people to chaperone Kids Club each Sunday. There is no need to plan an activity (though that is welcome), just be present to supervise. If you're interested in signing up for a Sunday, you can do so at uccgroton.net/signups.

Greeters and Ushers Needed

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer your time for the church? We are always looking for volunteers to fill the roles of Usher and Greeter on Sunday mornings. These are some of the most important roles you can fill, as the greeters and ushers are the first faces visitors to the church see. The only extra time commitment is to come to church thirty minutes early. If you're interested in signing up to fill one of these roles on an upcoming Sunday, you can sign up at uccgroton.org/signups

Email Scams

There have been a few recent instances of people attempting to impersonate UCC Groton staff members via email. As a reminder, no one from UCC Groton will ever email you asking for personal information, gift cards, or money. Any donations to the church should be made through official channels, such as checks made out to UCC Groton or donations through Vanco, our online giving platform. If you are ever in doubt, please call or email the church office (978-448-2091 or unioncc@uccgroton.org).

Shopping for Backpack Supplies

Since 2018, generous UCC church members have helped provide backpacks and other school supplies for children in need just in time for their school year to begin. The Backpack Program Team is starting its shopping a little early this year! Because we lost one of our corporate sponsors, we are hoping to get ahead of purchasing backpacks and school supplies and would love your participation.

To help with buying school supplies that will fill 160 backpacks for distribution in late August, please visit the colorful display in Fellowship Hall. There, you can select the supplies you'd like to "purchase" and make your donation (without ever setting foot into a store!). We will purchase the supplies in bulk later this summer, maximizing the value of each dollar received.

If you won't be at church in the next few weeks, you can visit the church's Giving Page and simply donate to the Backpack Drive in any amount you'd like. In addition, donations of new, unique backpacks for any age group, Pre-K through High School, will be collected over the course of the summer as well. Thank you for joining us in serving our neighbors!