

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



The Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Groton, Massachusetts

October 11, 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. After the Children’s Sermon, children in grades PreK-9 may go to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

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PRELUDE *Machs mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Gut* — J. G. Walther
(do with me, God, according to your goodness)

CHORAL INTROIT *See How The Galaxies Are Always There* — J. Vajda / M.R. Tucker

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of God’s hand.
People: Day to day, they pour forth speech. Night after night they reveal knowledge.
Leader: There is no speech. There are no words. No sound is made, yet their voice goes out to all the earth, and their words to the end of the world!
People: Let us worship God!

*HYMN (Insert) *In The Midst of New Directions*

*OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*
Loving God, we gather today as your people and bring to this place our unique needs and joys. Your word assures us that you know us better than we know ourselves and that your grace is sufficient for our every need. Meet us here, O Lord, and speak your word to us. We pray together, in great faith...

*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

CHORAL ANTHEM *I Am He!* — M. McDonald

CHILDREN’S SERMON
(Following the sermon, children will remain in worship.)

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

SCRIPTURE READING (p.284 and 886, pew Bible)

1 Kings 19:1-9 and Acts 2:29-36

SERMON

YOU Are My Witness

The 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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

— L. van Beethoven

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*)

**We bring this offering, O God, that others may hear your word and experience
our caring about their needs. May these gifts serve to relieve pain and satisfy
hunger in those suffering in body, soul, or spirit. Amen.**

*HYMN #138

Go Tell It On The Mountain

**BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE *Let Us Depart In Your Peace* — New Mexico Folk Song /
Bristol

POSTLUDE

The Call of Samuel (incorporating Here I Am Lord)

—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: Andrea McDonough (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	Debbie Shields
Family and Friends of Joe Garza		

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 – October 11, 2026

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

From The Pastoral Search Committee

On Sunday, October 4, our congregation voted unanimously to call the Rev. Shannan Hudgins as our next settled pastor, and we are overjoyed.

When the congregation described the pastor we hoped for, three themes rose to the top: pastoral care, faith formation, and service beyond our walls. Shannan brings real experience in all three. Before answering the call to a congregation, she spent four years as a full-time hospice chaplain, and she holds a Master of Divinity and a certificate in spiritual and pastoral care from Andover Newton, plus clinical pastoral education. She has walked with the dying, comforted the grieving, and led worship for assisted living residents, which speaks directly to our hope for a pastor who is present for the sick and homebound. She also started a caregivers' support group at a former church that still meets today.

As a teacher and guide in faith, Shannan designed a six-week program introducing congregants to practices of prayer and has written devotions for the Southern New England Conference. Years of leading a choir and teaching Sunday school, along with her own musical gifts, will feel at home in a church that treasures its music. During the pandemic she helped a congregation move worship online with livestreamed and recorded services, a skill that matters to us as we reach neighbors we haven't yet met. Her commitment to service runs deep: she helped organize an advance care planning symposium for health care providers and faith leaders in Rhode Island and serves on the board of Dementia Friendly Charlton. Having worshiped in Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, and Disciples of Christ communities before finding the UCC, she brings a gift for welcoming people from diverse spiritual backgrounds.

We are incredibly grateful to Rev. Priscilla Lawrence for her service the past three years and will celebrate her final week with us on November 22nd. Rev. Shannan will join us beginning on November 29th, coinciding with the start of Advent.

- The Pastoral Search Team (Carly, Cheryl, Erica, Grace, Jon, Pete, and Sara)

New Members are Encouraged and Invited!

We are grateful to have each one of you in our community, whether you are worshipping with us on Sundays or have been joining us for another activity! If you have been wondering what it means to take the next step and become an official Member of UCC Groton, we welcome your interest and invite you to join us for an informal chat after Church on October 25. Please let one of the Deacons know so we can stay in touch about upcoming dates. A tentative date for New Member Sunday is November 8, 2026.

From the Collector

Donation statements as of September 30th have been mailed to all pledgers. Please check your statement and if you have any questions or concerns, please see Holly or Margaret or email us at collector@uccgroton.org

Youth and Family

Halloween Party with the Residents

Elementary and Middle School Youth

Sat, Oct 24, at 2:30 PM

Nashoba Park Assisted Living, Ayer

Wear your costumes! Snacks provided. Fun activities with the residents!

Youth Event Planning Meeting

Sun, Oct 18, at 4 PM, Fellowship Hall at UCC

This meeting is for parents only, but **please bring ideas and suggestions from the kids!** Also **bring your calendars** so we can plan event dates.

Lecture by Historian Louise Knight - October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Most Groton residents know the town for its Revolutionary-era history and historic landmarks. Fewer realize that nearly 190 years ago, Groton briefly became the setting for a pivotal moment in two of America's most transformative reform movements—the abolition of slavery and the fight for women's equality. On Aug. 4, 1837, **Angelina Grimké, one of the nation's most influential abolitionists, spoke from the pulpit of Union Congregational Church.** Join us for an opportunity to learn more about this remarkable chapter in Groton's history when historian and author Dr. Louise W. Knight presents a lecture on the Grimké sisters at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24.

Please spread the word about this event! You can RSVP and share our facebook event at <https://bit.ly/UCCLouise>. We are looking for volunteers to greet and direct attendees during the lecture. If you are available, please sign up at uccgroton.org/signups

Coffee Hour

Understanding how other folks celebrate our religion through food, or what other religious holidays may happen in a month, will help us be good neighbors.

I will make a sign-up genius with the holiday and some items that are associated with it, or blank spots for you to add something you would like to make. You can sign up for one, make something you discover, or bring anything you like! Putting it on the sign-up genius will help everyone know what others are making or bringing. Thanks in advance! Please review the available slots at uccgroton.org/signups