



THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

275 Years at the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

June 2011

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Wed. 10am-noon; Thurs.
4-6pm; or by appointment

Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, JUNE 20 - NOON**

Our New Members

When you see them, please welcome our new members who joined TCC during our worship service on May 22. They are: Karin Canfield, Louise Coalter, Bill Coalter, Alice Kay and Cindy Miller. *Welcome!*

Spring Planning Meeting

The Spring Planning meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, June 12 following worship. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate this important meeting.

Jim Clish, Moderator

BAND CONCERT JUNE 16 - SET-UP 5:30PM

The church band concert/lawn party will take place on the Town Common, Thursday evening, June 16, unless the weather is continuous showers or thunderstorms at the time. We need everyone in the congregation to support this to make it a successful fund raiser. If you can't be there, we will miss you, but please try to help as it takes more than a few people to run the different tables.



Please provide: baked goods (2 or 3 homemade breads, pies, fudge are all possible options), cut-up fruit, books, grills (for the food court), and hands. Help is needed that night in the food court and especially the games area which the children love.

Set-up begins at 5:30 pm – we would like to be set-up by 6:00 pm at the latest. Help is needed to bring out and set-up the tables and games as well as getting the food court ready for cooking.

Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall after church.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

We are having a community yard sale on Saturday June 11 on the Common. You can donate your stuff to the church's "white elephant" table or rent a space for \$20 and sell your stuff. Michelle Enright will be inviting the community, so reserve your space early as space is very limited.

Michelle Enright



PICK UP CHOIR JUNE 12

If you like to sing, please join our choir for the anthem on June 12. Please be in the sanctuary at 9:15 for a short rehearsal. We are looking forward to hearing all the beautiful voices.



Getting Slow ... by Pastor Shayna

An article by Marco Visscher and Jay Wallijasper that appeared in issue #15 of Ode Magazine (www.odemagazine.com) suggests some ways to 'get slow'. Visscher and Wallijasper suggest that we leave

our watches on the bedside table. Check e-mail only twice a day. Take the scenic route. Light candles before we start to cook dinner. Make up rituals. Say a silent word of thanks and make eye contact with everyone at the table before we start eating. Let the phone ring several times before answering. Set aside one night a week all for ourselves. Etc.

This makes sense for a couple of reasons. For starters, our technology driven, break-neck pace world continually hurls us forward into the next moment, and the next and the next, and so on, long before we can even process the moment we are in. It is hard to claim any moment for our own before the next one comes crashing in.

But did you know that the "speed of life" is estimated to be about 270 mph? That is the speed at which our nervous systems send messages throughout our bodies. That is the speed at which our brains must process all that is going on around us, and another reason 'getting slow' requires some intentional focus and may be a good idea!

Summer can be a great time for 'getting slow'. Things definitely slow down around the church what with the choir and Sunday school on vacation for a few months. Many task teams and the council itself take a break from meetings. And, this summer I will be working half-time from mid-June to mid-August, with four weeks off in between.

Summer can be a great time for 'getting slow'...or not! Sometimes I think summers in New England get even busier. The weather is nice so we feel we must cram a years worth of activity into two months. Our kids are out of school and we begin to feel it is our obligation to entertain them 24-7. Many of us head off on summer travel adventures, or to summer jobs, or to summer homes that require a good deal of maintenance after lying fallow during our tough New England winters! Summer CAN be a great time for 'getting slow', or we can continue the head-long tumble into the next moment, and the next, and the next.

I guess, at the end of the day, 'getting slow' is like a lot of other spiritual practices. It comes down to choice! Choice often made amidst the hurried and harried pace of life. Choice often made against the tide of social expectations. But 'choice', never-the-less.

Here's my recommendation. This summer;

"Spend as much time outdoors in natural settings as you possibly can. Pay attention to the cycles of the moon...Sit for a moment with your eyes closed when you start your computer. Take a few moments before you climb out of bed in the morning to remember your dreams and think about what you want from the day. Factor in an additional 25% every time you estimate how long something will take. Always jump at the chance to play with a child. Never pack your schedule so that there's no room for a short walk. And, take a left where you normally take a right" (Visscher and Wallijasper). And most of all, have a great summer!

Blessings & Shalom-

Pastor Shayna

TCC AUCTION RESULTS!

The final profit figure for this year's auction is \$5,465.75! Thank you to all the auction donors and solicitors, those who worked on the planning and the day of the auction, and all those generous auction bidders! All of you made this TCC fund raiser a wonderful success!

Gretchen Churchill



Casey Thompson graduated from Northeastern University with a major in Nursing

John and Elaine's granddaughter, **Winter D'Angelillo**, graduated from the University of Buffalo, NY with a Masters Degree in Architecture.

Connie Gile's grandson, **Kyle**, graduated from Endicott College.

Sasha Gay is graduating from Montachusett Regional Voc. Tech and going to college at Vermont Technical College for diesel technology and business.

Justin Gay is graduating from Endicott College heading to Colorado shortly after graduation to work with an outdoor expedition company for the summer.

Kristina Wilson has received her Pharmacy Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut.

Tammy Blackburn graduated from Springfield College with a Masters Degree in Social Work.



For "Soles for Souls"

Thank you to all the members and friends who donated shoes for "Soles for Souls" which were delivered to the homeless people of Springfield.

Tammy Blackburn

From the Music Team



Many, many thanks from the music task team to the Jr High Sunday school, as well as June Cloutier, Diane Thompson and Dave Ryder, for the beautiful wooden music stand they presented to the Music Ministry of our church. It was such a big surprise and so very special to us all because it came from your hearts. The Jr High class consists of: Julianne Capone, Emma Culotta, Cailley Culotta, Kaitlyn Baker, Matthew Avison, Corey Martineau, Will Hunt, Charlie Duckett, Liz Palmer.

Another huge thank you to the Saturday at 7 group who so kindly refurbished the balcony closet in order to provide much needed storage space for the music program. We are very excited about our "new" closet.

Congratulations to Julie Zielenkiewicz who won the beautiful hand-made afghan. Heartfelt thanks to Bob Lorenzen who made this afghan and thanks to all those who purchased raffle tickets. We were able to add \$106 to the organ fund.

Thank you all for your willingness to share your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Renée Fossey and the Music Team

To Artist Floyd L. Truitt

On Easter Sunday we were amazed and humbled by the gift given to our church by artist and member, Floyd Truitt. Floyd created a woodcarving entitled "The Open Tomb" for the purpose of glorifying and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Once permanently mounted to a church wall, and when we pass by, we will have a visual

reminder that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is indeed risen from the dead. The open tomb makes that very clear.

Floyd says that he was inspired by the scripture of Matthew 28: 06 "He is not here, for He is Risen, as He said."

The carving is 18 x 24" or 21.5 x 27.75 with the frame. The carving itself is made from basswood (linden) and the frame is black walnut. Floyd started working on this creation on January 22, 2011 and completed it on March 5, 2011, spending a total of 155 hours on this labor of love.

This moving creation has been on display in the sanctuary since Easter day, if you have not seen it yet, please stop by to be moved and amazed by the simplicity and complexity of this three-dimensional message.

Cathy Hill

From Justin Gay

I would like to take the time to thank the Townsend Congregational Church for a scholarship I received last spring (March-June 2010) to study abroad in the mighty Himalaya of India through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Having graduated this past weekend, I can say confidently that the 4 months I spent traveling in India was the most influential experience I had while at Endicott College.

NOLS is the premier organization for teaching outdoor skills, leadership, and environmental studies and does all this while using the wilderness as their classroom. They offer a wide variety of courses ranging in length from a week to a semester, and take students all over the world from the jungles of the Amazon to the plains of Africa. I chose a semester with NOLS to receive a unique education that is based exclusively in the outdoors, while also utilizing experiential education practices through hands-on learning.

The education aspect of my semester taught me new technical skills such as mountaineering and backpacking travel and soft skills such as group management and risk assessment. I also was able to learn about the local ecology and environmental problems this area of India is dealing with. I also got to learn through careful observation from my instructors of how to facilitate a group of students. Through this trip I was able to create a very strong bond with the 14 other students that I traveled with. You learn every single little nuance about a person(s) when living with them for 4 months in a crowded tent. However, despite the close quarters I will consider these 14 people some of my best friends, and it is great to create such connections around the country and the world.

Highlights of the trip include traveling over a 16,000 ft pass, rafting through class IV whitewater on the holy Ganges river, spending 10 days with a home stay family in a rural mountain village, taking an invaluable wilderness first responder medical course, the vivid lightning storms that would illuminate the Milam Valley like the forth of July, and

finally the wide variety of beautiful plants (blooming high alpine rhododendrons) and animals (leopards, blue sheep, giant carp) that I got to encounter.

This trip was invaluable in helping to find myself as it came at a very transitional point in my life. I was able to discover an undiscovered passion for outdoor education, that has since led me to complete a semester long internship with the Appalachian Mountains Club Youth Opportunity Program who focus on getting urban and at-risk youth outside. I am also moving out to Colorado for this summer to lead backpacking and rafting trips through Deerhill Expeditions. I also hope to complete my NOLS instructor's course next summer either in Alaska or Wyoming.

I would like to sincerely thank everybody at the church that help made this scholarship happen as it has helped shape who I have become and gave me a firm direction on my path for the future.

Justin Gay

OUTREACH & MISSION HAPPENINGS

RELAY FOR LIFE CANCER WALK

JUNE 24 and 25 - 6:00pm to Noon



The Greater Ayer Relay For Life American Cancer Society team walk is now less than a month away. The Townsend Crusaders church team has raised over \$7,000 and we're still collecting and fund raising. Bristol-Myers Squibb agreed to partner with our event this year with a \$2,500 sponsorship, due in part to the

initiative of Nick Zielenkiewicz. Thank You Nick and Thank You Bristol-Myers Squibb!

Look for our table in Fellowship Hall after worship. We will be offering luminaria bags for a \$5 donation and tiki torch donations for a \$50 donation. You may dedicate these to someone who has fought the battle (or is currently in the fight) or remember those who fought valiantly but lost their battle. You may personalize the luminaria bags with pictures and decorations. These will be placed around the oval track and light our way as we walk through the night. You may also donate to any team member or to the team in general. Look for our team page on-line at:

http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11NE?team_id=872344&pg=team&fr_id=31374

We will be selling rootbeer floats at the yard sale on June 11 - come find a treasure and enjoy an old fashioned treat for only \$1.00!

Carole Gustafson and Jodi Robinson, Team Co-Chairs

David and Kristina Wilson, Elaine D'Angelillo, Linda Ireland, Karin Canfield, Michelle Merenda, Lorraine Misner, Michelle Enright, Nick and Julie Zielenkiewicz, Ed, Cheryl and Ray Cutler, Carrie and Sydney Davidson.



SEEKING UCC DELEGATES

The Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ is holding their annual meeting in Sturbridge on June 18. Our church currently has no delegates to attend this meeting to present our views and vote on the resolutions. If you would be interested in being a delegate, please contact Carole Gustafson as soon as possible at 978-597-6364 or carolegus@gmail.com. This is a great way to learn more about the UCC, in particular the Massachusetts Conference, and to network with other church members.

DID YOU KNOW the Hospitality Team has been serving *Fair Trade Coffee* during fellowship time after worship on Sundays and at other church gatherings since 2004?



This means the growers, laborers and distributors of our coffee receive a living wage for their products and services . . . and the coffee tastes great!

There are many coffee, tea and chocolate choices to be had – just go to **www.equalexchange.com** online to find out more and to place your own order.

MISSING AUCTION SIGNS - Two TCC Auction Signs, last seen in front of Fellowship Hall on the day of the auction, are missing. The signs are reusable simply by changing the date, and cost \$20 each to replace. If found, please return to the church office. Thank you.



In June: 2-Elaine D'Angelillo and Arnie Howard; 4-Gail Kendrick; 5-Debra Greene and Connor MacNeil; 6-Roy Shepherd; 8-Sydney Davidson; 10-Joe Sheahan; 13-June Beauchesne; 21-Rachel Baker; 24-Tyler Beauchesne, Corey Martineau and Lorraine Misner; 26-Max Duckett; 29-Melinda Ryder.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

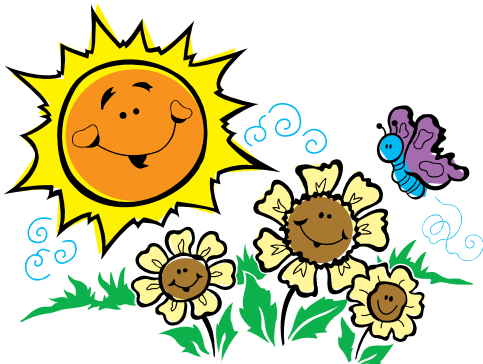
Messages from Lamontville

June Cloutier, Correspondent

May 2011 - Flo has been well and working daily in the Thembaletu Care Center and always busy with the church. She was surprised on Mother's Day weekend when one of her sons from Johannesburg called to say that he was arriving with his family for an overnight visit with her to celebrate Mother's Day. She had a wonderful time with them having dinner out and visiting. She is concerned and asks for prayers for a young 12 year-old girl named Noma who collapsed at school and is having trouble walking. She was a bit better after a hospital stay and a prayer group came to her, but was hospitalized again for blood tests. They think that it might be juvenile arthritis. She has crutches now and can use them well.

Flo is concerned about Ruthann who had surgery again in late April to remove a tumor in her lungs. (Ruthann and I spoke yesterday and she is having a slower recovery this time and would love our additional prayers.) Ruthann tries to call Flo almost once a week to let her know how she is. Flo was also concerned about Pastor Gail and her recent treatments since her re-occurrence of cancer.

She sends her blessings to our whole church and still feels the wonderful connection that we had in February during her stay!



**MACUCC
News**

Being A Generous Church ~ Together!

Coming to your neighborhood ... to change your world

The Stewardship and Mission and Justice teams invite you to their next free regional breakfast, on Saturday, June 4, to discuss best practices for being a generous church - within and beyond the local congregation. This light breakfast and discussion will take place at Evangelical Congregational Church of Westborough from 9-11 a.m.

Pastors and lay leaders: bring a team from your church to meet others who are involved in a common mission. Discussion leaders for the regional breakfasts may include MACUCC

staff, associate conference ministers, board and commission members, and national UCC staff.

Please sign up with Karen Methot at methotk@macucc.org, and let us know how many to expect from your church (so we have enough coffee and materials ready).

Regional breakfasts are also planned for

Sept. 17 - Eliot Church in Newton

Oct. 22 - Mittineague Congregational Church in West Springfield

Nov. 12 - Tewksbury Congregational Church

A huge THANK YOU to all who contributed to Our Church's Wider Mission in 2010! Together, with God's help, we can change people's lives for the better, locally and around the world.



We recognize and give thanks to Lorraine Misner for 50 years of service in the TCC choir. She first joined the choir on May 18, 1961!



“Lord, teach us to pray...”

Luke 11:1

OUR BLESSINGS:

Thanks be to God for Lucas, Jen and Carrie's new son, who is now home and doing well; for the Capone family who have finally completed their move into their new home; The Relay for Life Teams and everyone else who helped put on a very good supper in April; for Olivia who has been able to

return to school after a serious injury; and for Ben Mulrenan who was able to participate in the Special Olympics in April. Kristina Wilson's friend Cavida received good news that an irregular growth was just a cyst. Thanksgiving that Olivia Hunt's friend very much enjoyed her visit to our church. Congratulations to Arnie and Donna Howard as they welcome a new granddaughter into their family. We celebrate the joy of having Asa Joel Nixon baptized on 5/15/11. Thanksgiving that Cory Lowe has found employment. What a joy to experience all the beauty of spring around us. What a blessing to receive five new members into our church family! Congratulations to Trudi, who is a grandmother for the first time - her granddaughter's name is Isabella. Prayers for all new mothers, be they two legged or four. Congratulations to the Robinson family as

they prepare for a wedding next June. Thanks be to God for the safe return of Bob Lorenzen's grandson from Afghanistan.

CONCERNS: Let us lift up in prayer the mother of Christina Vinsant who is near the end of her life; the Miller Family who are grieving the death of their daughter, Alicia; Brian and Michael; the new Bible study groups; and the ministry to the sick and shut-ins. Prayers for friends who lost their baby this spring.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY? Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Ruth Smith who passed away on May 8. Prayers for all the people who lost homes in the New Mexico fires, and for all those dealing with flooding in the U.S. and Canada. Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Patricia Lambert who passed away on May 8. Prayers of comfort also for the family and

friends of Melanie Ouellette's Aunt Charlotte who passed away recently. Prayers for all those dealing with the aftereffects of natural disasters, and all the aid workers. Hold in our hearts and prayers all those who are in harm's way. Prayers also for all those who are unemployed and underemployed.

Prayers of healing for Chris Clish who is being treated for bronchitis, and is soon to have heart surgery; Judy Concemi who is recovering from surgery to remove ovarian cancer; for Donna Howard who is also recovering from surgery; Chris St. Jean's sister, Stacie, who is facing a difficult surgery; Lee Collette that his healing will continue; Amber, an 18 month old child who is facing multiple medical problems; for Tim Lane who is recovering from injuries to both his hands; for the friend of Kathy Duckett as she recovers from her fourth hip surgery; for Pastor Gail who is still in the midst of her chemotherapy; for Molly Wright who is recovering from back surgery in a rehabilitation center; for Rachel, Cheryl Cutler's sister, who is having surgery soon; for the daughter of the McPhee family who is in critical condition; for Julie Zielenkiewicz's sister-in-law, Kathy Zielenkiewicz, who will be having surgery to remove breast cancer; for Pat who is recovering from cancer surgery and facing chemotherapy; for Bill Beldan's son-in-law, Ross Azud, who has come through his surgery with good results, but is still facing chemotherapy; for Ruthann Hall who had another operation in late April for a tumor on her lungs and is having a slow recovery.



COMMUNITY NEWS

The **Townsend Community Garden** has scheduled meetings for June 14 and June 28 at TEO. Lead by Darryl Clark - darrylclark2002@yahoo.com, cell 978-877-7954.



Come visit the Townsend Public Library's Food and Farm Events June 1st -18th

Composting Workshop Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM in Meeting Hall A. Topics to be discussed: What is composting? Why compost? Different methods for composting and Grandpa's secret recipe.

Rainwater Garden: Food and Farm Program

Wednesday June 8, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Meeting Hall A. Join us for a free workshop on how to create a rain garden to beautify your yard, cleanse storm water runoff, and keep local streams and ponds healthy. Ed Himlan, of the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition, will present a slideshow about the design and benefits of rain gardens. Rain gardens attract birds and butterflies while also protecting water supplies. They can make yards and neighborhoods more attractive as well as reduce pollution. The slideshow will explain where to place a rain garden, how to select plants, and how to keep the garden flourishing as a lovely accent for your home or business. This workshop will also explain other easy and inexpensive ways to help keep water clean and healthy. The program is free and no reservations are required. Refreshments will be served.

Gerwick Puppets Twig Family Tuesday, June 14, 11AM - Noon in the Storytime Room. As a part of our Farm and Food Event, The Townsend Public Library welcomes the Gerwick Puppets: This original story by puppeteer Deborah Costine is about a family of imaginary twig people who live in an oak tree in harmony with nature. They share a tree with robins, a gray squirrel and a tree frog. Sponsored by the Amanda Dwight Library Fund.

Liz Barbour Cooking from the Edible Garden

Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM in Meeting Hall A&B. The modern movement of eating locally grown and raised seasonal fare has its roots deeply planted in our historic kitchens. Now, "eating locally" and "eating seasonally" have become fashionable terms. Join Creative Feast Chef Liz Barbour as she explores our modern journey back to the local farm with a discussion about the benefits of buying local and eating within the season. Enjoy a cooking demonstration of recipes featuring locally harvested seasonal ingredients and sample the distinct flavors of your local harvest. Recipes and samples included. *Sponsored by the Amanda Dwight Library Fund.*

Food and Farm Movie Night will be showing the movie Fresh Friday, June 17, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in



Meeting Hall A&B. FRESH celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system. Each has witnessed the rapid transformation of our agriculture into an industrial model, and confronted the consequences: food contamination, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, and morbid obesity. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

Natural Fiber Dying Class Saturday, June 18, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in Meeting Hall B. Fiber Frenzy Extra! Natural Fiber Dying Class with Lynne Chantler. Come join a special edition of Fiber Frenzy, and learn about dying fiber with onion skins, turmeric, and cochineal. Due to the fiber needing a pretreatment, fiber, and yarn samples will be available at the class. We will also have an indigo pot for

your yarn in skeins that are less than 50 grams. There is a \$7 materials fee for the class, payable at class time. Limit: ages 18 and up. This class will be held outside, so has a rain date set for Saturday, June 25, 10-1 p.m.

Farm and Food Festival Day Saturday, June 18, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Featuring a Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Contest, Farm Animals, Squannacook Food Coop, Mystery Veggies, Erin Willet Smaht Fahm presents Journey to Becoming Sustainable, TEO Community Garden, Still River Winery, Music, Face Painting, Garden Stories and more.

For more information, please contact Stacy Schuttler at sschuttler@cwmar.org or Cheryl Cloutier at ccloutier@piesky.com.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2011					E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL: newsletter@tccucc.org Questions? 978-337-0638	
			1 7:30pm Snr Choir	2 7pm - Council room 4	3	4 7am Saturday at Seven team
		5 Worship/SS COMMUNION	6 6:30 Open Sew	7	8 7:30pm Snr Choir	9 11am-7:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:30pm Music Team - Quiet Rm
12 Worship/SS <i>Pentecost</i>	13	14	15 7:30pm Snr Choir	16 TCC Band Concert	17	18
19 Worship/SS	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -	21	22	23 VCCC Graduation 23 and 24 in F.H.	24	25
26 Worship/SS	27	28	29	30	Relay for Life at Ayer High School 6pm - Noon	
					GOD IS STILL SPEAKING	

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship, Sunday School & Nursery at 9:50am



SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Townsend Congregational Church, UCC is an Open And Affirming congregation. God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace you. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are unconditionally welcomed into the full life and ministry of our congregation.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)

To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)

To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)

