THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

October 2016

Volume 39 No. 9

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Visit our web page at www.tccucc.org

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 24 - NOON

In this edition . . .

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- Turkey Supper, October 1
- Sermon Series
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- Community News: Sunday Coffee Hour at St. John's; Upcoming events at Townsend Public Library
- Our Calendar

Upcoming service opportunities – Looking for chairpersons for the February and April suppers in 2017.

October 2 is

WORLD Communion Sunday

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN OCTOBER:

1 First turkey supper of season
8 Greg's Run
12 Agapé Handbell Choir begins
16 Community coffee at St. John's
23 Harvest Fair
29 Second turkey supper - see below

OCTOBER 29 CHURCH SUPPER

The October supper will be held on the 29th and will be organized by June Cloutier. She is planning on doing a turkey supper, so mark that date on your calendar and look out for the sign-ups after the October 1 supper is past.

According to Mark

Fall is in the air, and for me, it's about time. My lawn that I thought might have died altogether somehow perked right back up with the rains at the end of last month. The peppers are all in but the tomato and green onions don't yet have the good sense to stop growing. A couple of sturdy carrots will make good additions to a savory stew later as the nights cool and the bees disappear. And two large pumpkins somehow avoided the field mice and will make swell jack-o-lanterns. It's sweater weather.

Fall used to fascinate me before I took 7th grade biology and learned all about photosynthesis and how plants store energy. I remember as a kid being totally awestruck that a tree could drop alllll its leaves in the fall, and then get so totally frozen cold for a couple of months and then all those leaves and more would come back the next year. I remember the epic snowball fights we would have as a neighborhood and coming in frozen to the bone after only 4 hours, much less 4 months of cold weather. Natural wonder abounded in my youth. And there are still some things that biology hasn't solved. Science still cannot understand a Chrysalis: the miracle of how a caterpillar spins a cocoon, becomes a gelatinous mass of goo, and comes out a butterfly, somehow with more beauty and color than even the caterpillar could have imagined.

And if science isn't astounding, there are more mundane fascinations in the world. Who will become our next President? Will the Pats be the perennial top dogs in the AFC again? Will the Celtics and Bruins somehow do a Chrysalis and find their new life so we can once again enjoy the playoffs in Springtime?

You might at this point have read enough of my columns to once again ask…what does any of this have to do with anything?

Fall is indeed a time of rapid change. Our lives seem to be changing too fast at times, too much, too soon, when we focus outwardly on the world over which we have little control. I'm sorry to say that no matter how much we shout at the TV in joy or disappointment, what happens to our sports teams is beyond our control. And while we have a vote for who will be President, there are 49 other states that have to weigh in, too. But we can affect and see the changes of those things closest to us: Townsend and its people. Our friends and neighbors. Those whom we encounter and invite into our lives, even for a moment when we say "hello" at the store or on the street. The world can be crazy, but we don't have to be. We can affect change in our hearts, change in how we treat one another, in ways less crazy.

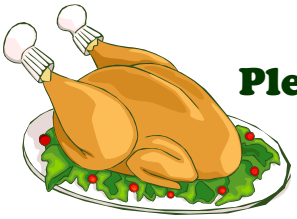
It starts with spending time with each other. We're doing some cool things this month as part of our "Bridges in Hospitality" initiative which will help us invite our hearts to experience more joy and more fulfillment through engaging others. Come and see the love of Townsend's feathered and furry friends at the Blessing of the Animals on October 2 on the Common. Experience the joyful gathering of community and memory at Greg's Run on October 8. Help us celebrate the bounty of God's grace by visiting the Harvest Festival on October 23. And come any Sunday to fill your heart with how we can live our lives more fully, more joyfully, through hospitality in our homes, hearts and communities.

Change doesn't have to be scary. But let's not also lose the wonder of its presence, knowing that God can change our hearts if we are open to the messages of love, mercy, justice, compassion, and kindness. The weather is changing, the harvest is in…but our lives can be more filled with warmth than ever.

Just don't forget your sweater.

See you soon,

Pastor Mark



Please plan on joining us for the first supper of the church year!

We will be serving our famous turkey dinner on October 1 (yes, a week later than usual) from 5 to 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The sign-up sheets for donations of food and workers for that evening will be available soon! We will need 20 lb de-boned turkeys, 20 baked potatoes each, units of 4 doz. dinner rolls, cooked winter squash, peas and units of two homemade desserts. If you know where you want to sign up, what you would like to donate or have any questions, please call Wanda Wilson 597-6803 or email her at Wswilson7652@yahoo.com. Working at the supper is a wonderful way to meet new friends, catch up on news, and provide a night out for those who enjoy our meal!

Sign up soon: you'll be glad you did!

Sermon Series September 25 - October 30: Hospitality

One of the most ancient duties of a People of God is to welcome all who come to our doors. As we transition to live into our calling as a community church, we will examine what Scripture has to say about hospitality and how we can start putting Biblical lessons into practice. If you'd like to read ahead, here's what we're doing:

Sept. 25 **Genesis 18:1-8** *Extravagant Welcome*

October 2 **Matthew 25:31-46**
ALL God's Children are Being Welcomed

October 9 **Romans 12:9-13; 1 Peter 4:7-9**
Being Welcomed is Being Loved

October 16 **Luke 18:15-17; Matt 18: 1-5**
Being Loved is Being Accepted

October 23 **Hebrews 13:1-3**
Being Accepted as a Way to Know God

October 30 **Luke 19:1-10** *One Man's Journey on Changing, Welcoming, Loving, and Embracing*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Tell Me S'MORE about JESUS!

Have you walked through the halls downstairs and peaked at our Sunday School bulletin boards near the choir room and conference rooms? We will be adding some of our classroom work to them as well, so please come by and take a look!

Our fall preaching series is Hospitality, and Extending the Invitation to Others . . .

In going along with this theme, we are going to have an even **BIGGER** and **BETTER** harvest festival than in the past years! We need the help of everyone in the congregation to get the word out to the community about this **FUN FREE** event! Let's **REACH OUT** to our neighbors and INVITE them in to celebrate the **HARVEST** with us. I'm asking every single person in our church - "what can you do to help?" We need someone to greet people as they enter, we need people to supervise games, the prize table and the kid's craft table. We need strong people to help set up games before, and clean up at the end of the event. We need a couple of adults in the kitchen baking/passing out **FREE** pizza and drinks! We need people to bake items with **PUMPKIN** to submit to our pumpkin bake off - and we need a supervisor for the bake table (items will be free and people can help themselves but we want an adult to oversee it so kids don't go crazy and take more than their share!). And we will need JUDGES for the bake off as well!!!

How much fun will this be? Will our community feel welcomed into our Hall? That is up to all of you. Please let me know how you will help!!!

Thank you,

Sarah Goyette, swgoyette@gmail.com

12th Annual Greg's Run (Saturday, October 8) Needs Food Donors and Kitchen Help for Race Day!

Race organizers are busy making plans for the 12th Annual Gregory Reeves Memorial Scholarship Fund Race to be held on Sat. Oct. 8, 2016. This year we are reaching out to the community for more food donations.

Homemade food donations and volunteers needed are:

Home Baking - cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and bars.

Kitchen Help on Race Day - 5 volunteers are needed to help set out the food and manage runners/walkers as they go through the line both pre-race (8-10) and post race (10:30-1). If you can do one or both shifts, that would be GREAT.

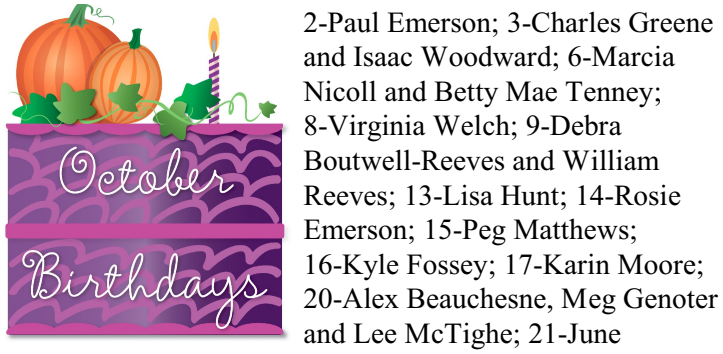
If you are able to make a food donation or volunteer in the TCC kitchen on Race Day, for planning purposes please respond to this request by Oct 4.

Please note that food drop off is requested at the Townsend Congregational Church kitchen by Fri., Oct.7, the day before the race.

All donors are asked to confirm your donation by contacting Rev. Mark Brockmeier by email (revbrock@bu.edu) or home phone 603.432.3255 or cell 603.818.2328

Thank you so much for your generous support!

Rev. Mark C. Brockmeier

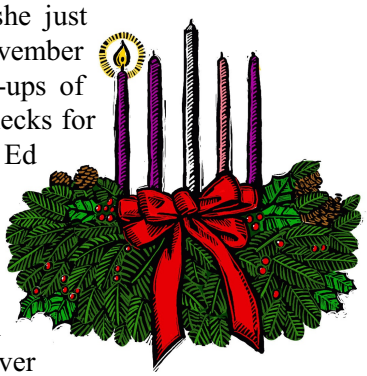


2-Paul Emerson; 3-Charles Greene and Isaac Woodward; 6-Marcia Nicoll and Betty Mae Tenney; 8-Virginia Welch; 9-Debra Boutwell-Reeves and William Reeves; 13-Lisa Hunt; 14-Rosie Emerson; 15-Peg Matthews; 16-Kyle Fossey; 17-Karin Moore; 20-Alex Beauchesne, Meg Genoter and Lee McTighe; 21-June Cloutier; 22-Louise Coalter; 25-Deanna Capone; 26-Floyd Truitt; 27-Gretchen Churchville and LillyAnn Vincent

Advent Wreath Workshop??

We have been so blessed to have Lisa Hunt oversee the Advent Wreath Workshop for several years. Sadly, she is not available this year to run this event, so this is a very early call-out to our church family to see if anyone would be interested in overseeing this event. The 2016 date would be Sunday, November 27.

I asked Lisa what her basic process was in getting this event together and she said that she just gets the notice in the November newsletter and collects sign-ups of who will be participating; checks for supplies in the Christian Ed closet and purchase what is needed (funds are collected from the participants to cover costs); and coordinate with holiday fair greens team (Wanda Wilson) to leave leftover greens for wreath making. The night before the workshop, set up foam wells and water in fellowship hall; and create a sample wreath to display at the workshop, for those who need a visual aid.



We can certainly get any details needed that are not covered in this outline. Please pray about this and let me know if you are called to take this on - it will mean a lot to those who have participated every year. My email is chill01469@gmail.com.

Submitted by Cathy Hill

Agapé Handbell Choir Begins Practice on October 12, 2016

The Agapé Handbell Choir, those musicians who are in the ninth grade to age 101, rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Sanctuary. We play during the fall and holiday season, take January and some of February off, then start again at the end of February for the Spring. We end in May. Everyone is invited to participate in this choir. For information, please contact the director, Wanda Wilson, at 978-597-6803.

Our Holiday Fair is in two months, on Saturday, November 19, 2016. It is one of our most popular community events and it takes many in our TCC family to make it wonderful. Our crafters have been notified for months and really love our fair. Thank you to all our chairpersons who are returning to head up particular areas. Please think of working in any department for an hour or so before or after your own shopping and delicious luncheon at our busy bistro. Our many areas are the Bistro (kitchen or helping to serve crafters), Greens, Books, Bake Table, Regifting Table, TCC Crafts, Children's Crafts, Basket Raffle, Heifer Project Table, Cash Raffle, and Photos with Santa.

Don't forget to put gently used or new/non desired items aside for our Regifting Table. This was very successful last year. Please consider donating a craft to our church Craft Table for our TCC display. We have so many clever crafters in our own church and you may take your item back if unsold. Look through your gently used books to donate and we would love any jams, relishes and baked goods for our Bake table to make it look like an old time bakery.

It is truly an exciting and festive day and you will want to be part of it.

Look for our poster soon at coffee hour or email chill01469@gmail.com (Cathy Hill) or junecloutier@verizon.net.

Please keep in mind . . .

Beth Klein is back in charge of the popular **Basket Raffle**. If you would like to contribute a basket and need inspiration for a theme, a whole page full of ideas was published in the September newsletter that can be found on the TCC website www.tccucc.org.

Gretchen Churchville is once again taking charge of the **Jingle Bell Bistro** and will be on the lookout for people to provide the food elements and for people to help on the day. When it comes to our Bistro, there's no such thing as ***too many cooks in the kitchen!***

IF YOU LIVE WHERE THERE ARE LOTS OF EVERGREENS, WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!!

The Greens Table Committee needs a large amount of greens (balsam, laurel, cedar, winterberries, etc.) to make all the beautiful arrangements and sprays. We will be collecting greens through Saturday, November 12, and storing them at ***Wanda Wilson***'s home until we make the arrangements on November 17. We need people to help cut greens or who are willing to drop off their greens on Nov. 17. Please call Wanda at 597-6803 if you can help in either way. **Looking for red winterberries!** If you have these growing on your property, please let Wanda know as soon as possible. These are a very popular item at the fair.

THE GREENS TABLE IS SEEKING BASKETS AND DECORATIONS!
If you have any, bring them to the church or contact Wanda Wilson.

Nancy Clough will be working with ***Bill and Louise Coalter*** again this year on the **Cash Raffle** – Keep your eyes open for these tickets and let your friends know about it!

Sarah Goyette will be organizing **Santa's Workshop** and will definitely need lots of helping hands and supplies - even helping for an hour will be huge if enough people jump in to help.

Sadly, we have no-one who has come forward to oversee the **Apple Pie** table this year. If you enjoy baking and getting together with friends, then this is the job for you! I have no doubt that past chairs would be happy to share their knowledge with you: Meg Genoter was the last chair.

OUR BLESSINGS:

We give thanks for Lee Duckett completing his treatments and being cancer free. We also give thanks for a successful season opening for the VCCC with the new director. We celebrate the 10-year anniversary of "Holy Joe's Café" - a huge program to provide

free coffee to our troops in the field. We celebrate with Pastor Mark's sister, Mary, as she has found the breed of puppy she was seeking (his name is Owen). We give thanks for the joy of having so many of our youth joining us in worship. Kyra Genoter gives thanks for the roadtrip to Montana she was able to take with her family this summer. We give thanks for work opportunities as Julianne starts her first job this December, Kathy Duckett's sister (Mary) was hired by a new (better) company on Tuesday, and Max Duckett has found a part-time job. Sarah Goyette gives thanks for everyone who participated in the all-church breakfast; she also give thanks for her job that she has had for one year. Pam Snaith gives thanks for Rosie's well-being as she was very ill with both Lyme disease and meningitis this summer. Deanna Capone gives thanks for her time at Oceanwood this summer and is also thankful that she will have the opportunity to work there next summer. We give thanks for having Wanda Wilson in the senior choir for 50 years. Lee McTighe gives thanks for 6 great days at Star Island. Cathy Parsons gives thanks for her new kitty named "Oreo". Jennifer Davidson is closing on her new home on 9/23, we pray that everything goes smoothly. We give thanks for the rain that will bring new life to our parched earth. Meg Genoter gives thanks for being a part of such a supportive community. We give thanks that apparent serious injuries at a recent game turned out to be minor.

I was pleasantly surprised on rally Sunday to be honored for my fifty years as a member of the choir! Wow! (I was 6 when I joined!) Now I need to say thank you as well. First, a big thank you to Renee for the announcement and gift. Then to our Choir. The choir has been a very important part of my life. The members have rejoiced with me during the happy times of my life and carried me through the difficult times. Thank you to the choir and this church. Being a member of the choir has certainly been my "joy of discipleship"!

Sincerely, Wanda Wilson

OUR CONCERNS:

We keep in our prayers all those in the flood areas around the U.S. We offer prayers of consolation for Kathy Perkins whose mother passed away on September 2. We keep Tracy Winslow in our prayers as she is scheduled for the first of her surgeries at the end of September. We pray for a peaceful hajj for those Muslims joining the pilgrimage this year. We offer prayers of condolence for Elaine D'Angelillo as she mourns the passing of her friend, Linda. We keep Jason Goyette in our prayers as he undergoes surgery on his knee on 9/20 and will be out of work for another 4 weeks after this. We pray that all our children have a safe and rewarding experience in their respective schools, and especially for those who have started at new schools this year. We pray for all those who are unemployed or underemployed, including both of Lyn Bennett's brothers and her nephew. We pray for Cathy Hill's mother, Pat, who has advanced dementia. Following the bomb explosion in New York city, our prayers are with the people of New York as they learn to live in a more violent environment. We pray for those families impacted by the "friendly fire" on Syrian troops, and we pray for wisdom for our government leaders. We offer prayers of condolence for the extended Misner family as they mourn the passing of Barbara Misner on September 15. We pray for the family that had a serious house fire in Townsend on 9/15. We keep Bailey Mulrenan in our prayers as she struggles to get a handle on her diabetes type I, as well as learning how to deal with several newly discovered food allergies. Lisa Hunt asks for prayers for a young family, J and J, recent high school graduates, and their newborn child, as they struggle with life-changing decisions about getting married and fiscal concerns. Lisa also asks for prayers for our VCCC community of staff and families; that we, collectively, understand the difference between free speech and symbols of hatred and that we always remain a loving and supportive community.

OUR HEALING PRAYERS:

We offer healing prayers for Cathy Hill as she deals with arthritis and possible carpal tunnel syndrome in her hands; for Jason Goyette; for Judy Paglia (TCC Bookkeeper) who is very ill and undergoing testing; and for Dorothy DuBreuil who is recovering from eye surgery on 9/21.

OUR CANCER FIGHTERS:

We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them. Louise Coalter's cousin, Dorothy; Bill, who is the husband of Heather's birth mother; Susan Riggins; Karen Baer's friend, Cathy; Lorraine M who has cutaneous T cell lymphoma; a friend of Emily Austin-Bruns, Karen, who has breast cancer; Tammy Blackburn's aunt who has been battling metastasized breast cancer for 10 years; Paul Martineau's sister-in-law who has been diagnosed with breast cancer, and his work-friend, Diane; Cathy Hill's sister, Morag, who has lymphoma; Pastor Sally Calhoun, leukemia; Kim Emerson's friend who has lymphoma; Lyn Bennett's mother who has colon cancer; Pastor Mark's cousin, Diane, who has terminal cancer; Lee McTighe's cousin, Tony, who has lung cancer; George Bruns (Ken's father) who has colon cancer; Louise Coalter's friend, Sherrie, who has lung cancer; Ashley Peroni (Karen Lee Peroni's sister-in-law), who has a rare brain cancer; and for Isabella, a child in Townsend who has leukemia.

Village Common Children's Center

Hello Congregational Friends!

My name is Carol Ciccolini and I am the new Director of the Village Common Children's Center! I have been well ensconced in the field of early childhood education for almost thirty years now, and have always felt so blessed to have a career that I am so passionate about and enjoy so much. Many years ago I was asked what I thought made an early learning center successful. I believe that a center's success is based on a focus that embraces four components: the children, the parents, the staff and the community. The center should focus on ensuring that the children are learning through play in a nurturing, supportive, developmentally appropriate environment where they are happy and excited to come to each day. The parents should be able to drop off their children each day and leave with the peace of mind that their children are going to be happy, safe and well cared for. The staff should be excited and eager to come to the center each day because they truly enjoy what they do and they feel appreciated and respected by administration and parents for all their hard work and commitment to children. And the center should be a recognized and contributing member of the local community. I am now very excited and honored to be a part of the VCCC's "Circle of Friends" because I believe that all those components of success can be found here in this wonderful center that is the Village Common Children's Center! I am looking forward to the opportunity to partner with the TCC, UCC community, as well as the Townsend community at large in a variety of ways in the future!

I would like to introduce my amazing star-studded VCCC Staff with whom it is my immense pleasure to be working with:

Our Infant/Toddler Team

Emily Arsenault

Karen Casker

Sharon Hackler

Carolyn LaRoche

Rachel Mayer

Our Preschool/PreK Team

Nicole Beauchesne

Joshua Coffey

Marlena Michaud

Rachel Mayer

Emily, Josh and Rachel are our newest team members, and in addition to all of our regular staff, we will also have the pleasure of having Miss Helen return to volunteer a few days per week in the Preschool/PreK classroom, and Miss Louise will help out as needed in our Infant/Toddler classroom! While I/T teacher, Melany Lorance, has returned to school full-time to pursue another academic and lifetime goal, she has not totally left us-she will be helping us out as a substitute teacher whenever she is not in school! We are also looking forward to having Celia Malette return to VCCC as a substitute teacher! We are very fortunate to have this dedicated group of early childhood professionals to care for and educate our children every day.

As a non-profit organization, we are always looking for ways to augment our budget. So this year we are going to implement the "Box Tops for Education" and the "Campbell Soup Label" programs. But because we are such a small program, we wondered if we could invite the TCC, UCC community for some help in saving these box tops and labels for us! Please look for our collection box in the church's entryway, and we thank you so much for your help and support.

For any of you who may possibly be looking for quality childcare or a formal preschool program, or know someone who may be looking, we do have some limited openings still available for this school year. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you and schedule a tour! I can be reached at 978-597-0834 or by email at vccc@tccucc.org.

Looking forward to meeting you all soon!

Rainbow Wishes,

Carol Ciccolini, VCCC Director

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday Community Coffee Hour at St. John's

St. John the Evangelist Church is inviting the Townsend community to join them at their monthly community coffee time on October 16. Morning coffee, tea, juice and homemade sweet and savory selections in Father Mealy Hall following 7:30 am and 10:30 am Masses (8:15 - 9:30; 11:15 - Noon). No charge.

News from the Townsend Public Library

Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag program:

The Friends of the Townsend Public Library are excited to announce that they have been chosen by the Townsend Hannaford store as the latest beneficiary of the ***Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag*** program! This means every time anyone purchases the blue reusable bag with the good karma message at the Townsend, MA Hannaford during the month of October, the Friends receive $1! This is truly a great opportunity for them! Please go to the store, find the reusable bag rack, and buy the bag! Good for the Library, Good for the Planet! Funds received help purchase passes to local attractions which can be used for free or reduced admissions. For a list of the passes currently available, go to their web site, www.townsendlibrary.org and click on "Reserve Museum Passes"

Panic at the Pond-Fear in the Forest . . .

Come to the forest at night and see what awakens while you sleep!

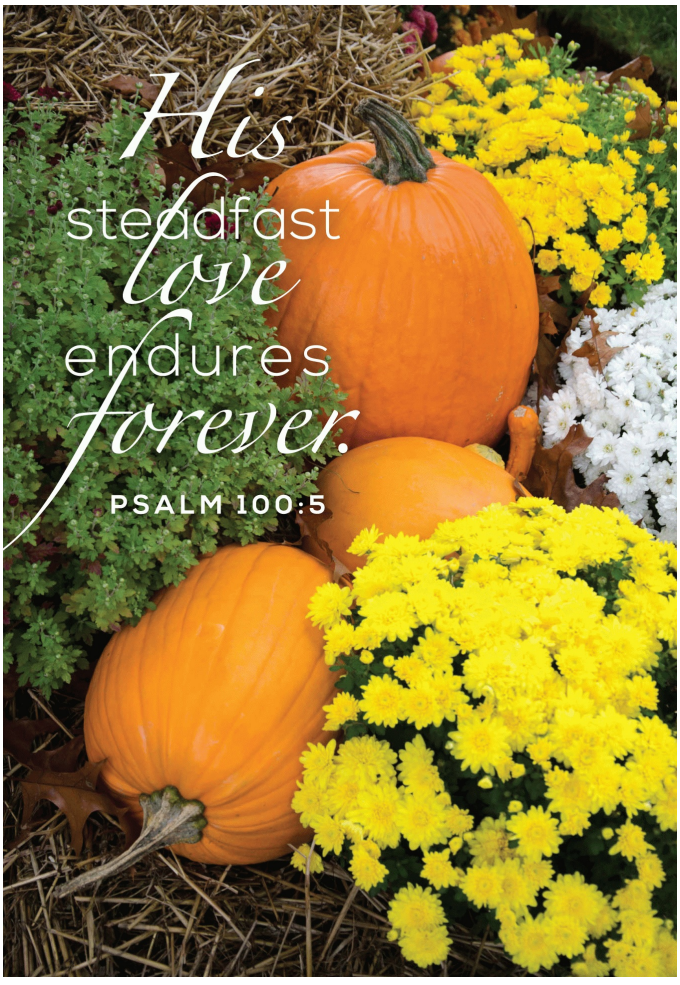
October 14 and 15; 7-9 pm

VFW 491 Main Street W. Townsend

$7 or $6 with canned good for TEO

Strobes in use. Good walking shoes required

To benefit Friends of the Townsend Library and the Townsend VFW



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	# October 2016					1 8am Saturday work team **TURKEY SUPPER 5-6:30 PM**
2 Worship/SS ***COMMUNION***	3	4	5 7:30pm Snr Choir	6	7	8 **GREG'S RUN**
9 Worship/SS	10	11	12 **6:30pm Handbells begin** 7:30pm Snr Choir	13 6:30pm Council, room 4	14	15 Red Cross Blood Drive
16 Worship/SS	17	18	19 5pm Community Supper 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	20	21	22
23 Worship/SS **HARVEST FESTIVAL**	24 ***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NOON –***	25	26 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	27	28	29 **TURKEY SUPPER 5-6:30 PM**
30 Worship/SS	31 		**TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL:** **email: chill01469@gmail.com** **or call 978-337-0638**		**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**	

Please go to the online calendar at www.tccucc.org for up-to-date entries.

R	N	R	P	C	D	L	O	T	X	W	K	X	X	K	U	R	J	C	W
B	P	N	G	Q	E	S	Q	R	S	J	O	R	C	T	B	T	P	R	H
K	K	R	G	J	S	S	X	B	S	C	H	P	Z	M	I	O	D	G	B
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G	O	I	Z	K	X	O	Z	U	L	A	Y	L	A	Y	V	M	T	L	X
Y	G	W	B	W	K	R	R	J	O	Y	H	Y	B	F	O	O	Y	D	Q

Words to Find

barley
bread
butter
cheese
corn
cucumbers
fish
fruit
garlic
herbs
honey
lamb
milk
oil
parchedcorn
pomegranates
rue
vinegar
wheat

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

Sunday School at 9:00 am & Worship at 10:15 am

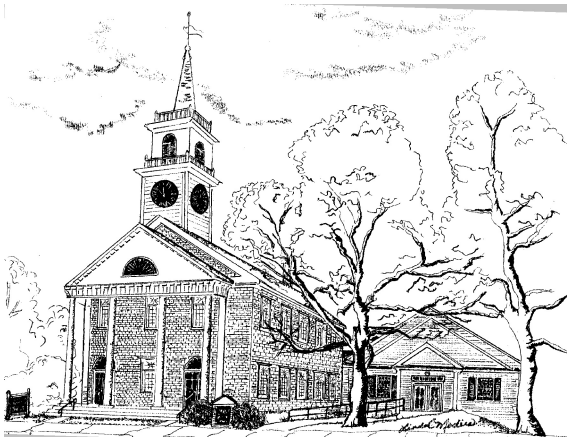
SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

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 COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT

Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.

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)*