



THE VISITOR

**TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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



In this edition . . .

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**There's
Still
Time to
Help**

**with the Ham Supper
on April 29**

Since this newsletter will be published before our ham supper on April 29, Wanda is squeezing in one last reminder that she is still looking for contributions of desserts for this supper. Call her at 978-597- 6803 if you can help.

Also tell your friends and spread the word on Facebook!

Thanks!



Auction!

Our Auction is right around the corner! See pages 3 and 4 for the latest update and a listing of the offerings, so far – exciting stuff!!

Remember to share this event on Facebook – if you need a jpg image of the poster, send me an email and I will send it to you.

Cathy

May Calendar

14 Happy Mother's Day!

15 Council Meeting

21 Spring Planning Meeting

28 June Newsletter Deadline

Handbell Practice every Wed. at 6:30 pm through May 10

Choir Practice every Wednesday at 7:30 pm

**Spring Planning Meeting
May 21, 2023
~ After worship ~**

**Mark your calendars and
plan on attending!**



**Pentecost is
on Sunday,
May 28 this
year!**

Remember to wear something red in celebration!



May 2023

Volume 46 No. 5

Pastor: Rev. Gregory Schmidt
Pastor's Line at TCC:
978-597-0157

TCC Administrative Asst.:
Judy Karkane
Office Line: 978-597-8925

Village Common Children's Center Line: 978-597-0834

Editor: Cathy Hill

TOWNSEND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UCC
PO BOX 487
TOWNSEND MA 01469

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secretary@tccucc.org

Newsletter:
newsletter@tccucc.org

Village Common Children's Center: vccc@tccucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

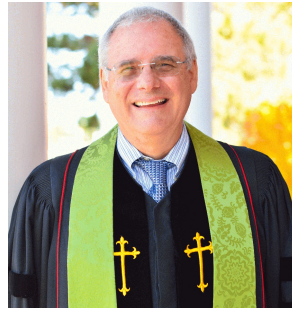
Mon. & Tues.: 3:15-5:15 pm
Wed.-Fri.: 9 am - 1 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Wed 9-1, or by
appointment.

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org and visit
us on Facebook**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, MAY 28**



No Pastor's Letter?

Pastor Greg has had a very busy month in April with Holy Week and Easter, along with the ongoing care of his elderly father.

We gave him this month off from writing for the newsletter. I hope you will be eagerly anticipating his contribution for the June edition.

Cathy Hill, Editor



Thank You to ALL Contributors of our Community Dinners!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the free community dinners this past church year! If you donated food and/or your time for the dinners, you helped to feed about 600 people who were in need in some way! This past week we fed 110 people. In doing so, we also provided a chance for members of the

community to "check in" with others while, we too, were enjoying working on a common project and catching up with other church members. Thank you for your generosity and kindness!

Your donations of time and resources touched many lives this past year.

Bless you!

June Cloutier and Wanda Wilson



Pastor Search Committee Update

Your Search Committee has been working hard on the Profile for posting on the UCC Opportunities website. We hope to have it completed and posted before the end of May and then we will wait for interested responses.

Blessings,

Bill Coalter, Kathy Duckett, Cindy Miller, Pam Snaith, David Wilson





Mark your calendars for Saturday night, May 13, for the TCC Annual Auction!

The Auction is a fun social occasion, with free finger foods and a cash bar with beer, wine and soda.

Everyone has a great time!

The preview starts at 5 pm with the auction starting at 6 pm.

Again this year we have a matching fund challenge to raise even more dollars for our ongoing support of TCC-UCC and its programs. This year, the challenge will be to raise \$3,000. If we can raise \$3,000 in cash donations, we have a donor who will match that dollar for dollar for a total of \$6,000. All checks should be made payable to Townsend Congregational Church and have "Auction" in the memo.

The schedule for setting up and accepting donations begins on Sunday, May 7th, during the following hours:

- Sunday, May 7th - after worship - set up tables and chairs;
- Monday, May 8th, 3-5 pm

- Tuesday, May 9th, 3-5 pm
- Wednesday, May 10th, 4-8 pm
- Thursday, May 11th, 4-8 pm
- Friday, May 12th, 10 am to 6 pm

Items that are popular to donate are themed gift baskets, vacation rentals, sport tickets, services donations such as lobster dinners, homemade soups and cakes, coupons for house cleaning, etc.

Remember no electronics, dishes, cloth furniture or "yard sale" items please.

If you cannot come during these hours, either call us or leave them in the front hallway of Fellowship Hall so we can account for them later.

As of this writing, here is a list of some of the amazing items up for auction.

- Coca-Cola beverage basket
- Multicolor table runner
- Wedding ring design small quilt
- Silver demitasse, sugar and creamer w/Chrysler plate
- Complete set of china "Empress" 22 carat gold trim
- Silver flatware. A variety of spoons, forks, etc.; most match
- Tan leather floral embossed handbag; 16" X 8"
- Blue leather floral stitched handbag; 10 1/2" x 13"
- Tan buckle accent leather handbag; 13 1/2" x 11"
- Black leather tote w/ adjustable shoulder strap; 8" x 12"
- Boys bike w/training wheels - new; best for age 6 and under



- Set of 3 decorative tin candles
- Pitcher, robin egg blue color
- Artificial 6 1/2 ft Christmas tree (used only once)
- Assorted picture frames w/acrylic pour canvas painting
- Set of Mother's Day mugs w/ chocolates and gift card
- Two for tea mugs
- Square coffee table
- Hand woven basket
- Umbrella holder; 24"h x 9"w and stand, 9"h x 11"w
- Mirror with white frame
- Basket of "Stampin Up" brand stamps
- Car buffer
- Weighted exercise balls, 2lbs. And 5 lbs
- Orange hand weights, 8 lbs
- Gro Light - new
- Tablet case and jacket - new
- Cat window shade for a large car; 26 1/2" x 54"
- Afghan shawl
- Homemade carrot cake with cream cheese frosting
- Child's table and chair
- Chip and dip set
- Two metal frame, heavy duty wicker chairs
- Framed picture
- Assorted handmade cards
- Basket of boxes
- White chair
- Wooden swivel chair
- Breville electric citrus press
- Paper cutter and heavy duty 3 hole punch
- Table top electric fan
- Lighthouse



watercolor print
 Bird watercolor print
 Framed painting of river scene
 Framed pastel of fields and mountains
 Balance board "Fitter First" w/ hand weights
 Blue double planter
 Chantal metal tea kettle
 Paper towel holder
 Five loaf baking pans; 2 sm, 2 med, 1 lg
 Book of baseball cards; approx 800 cards
 Kitchen Aid mixer
 Glider rocking chair
 Santa Advent quilted wall hanging

Some unique items or services.

Car Detailing - Your car will be cleaned inside and out. Includes vacuum and steam clean of the entire car (including the trunk). Your rugs will be shampooed and brushed. Seats will be cleaned and treated. Even your floor mats will be cleaned and treated. The outside will be washed and waxed, your rims cleaned and the tires shined. Prepare to have your car gone for a full day. This will take 6-7 hours. Value \$500.

1 week at a **cottage on Sand Pond**, Norway, Maine. Sleeps 6, sailboat, motor boat, canoes and kayaks to use. 170 miles from Townsend. Dates at convenience of bidder and owner.

2 dozen expertly decorated **cupcakes**.

Once a month receive a delectable **homemade dessert** for 6 months.

Stoney Brook Farm in Ashby, MA **One dozen eggs per month** for 6 months. The eggs are "free range".

One **Tax Prep** up to a \$600 Value (min. Bid of \$300).

Beachfront Condo, 2nd floor, 2-room, 2 bath suite on the beach at Sandcastle Resort in Provincetown, MA.

Here are some of the businesses that have donated gift cards or services.

110 Grille
 99 Restaurant
 Apple Meadow Hardware
 Bailey's Restaurant
 Baro's Ceramic Supplies
 Bouillon Bistro
 Bronze Bell
 Butterfly Place
 Champion Cleaners
 Chrysanthi's
 Cinema World
 Cliff's Café
 Cobblestone Quilts
 Cozy Corner Coffee Shop
 Cozy Tea Cart
 Dutch Kitchen
 Elena's Gourmet Grocery
 Evans on the Common
 Fabric and Things
 Facets
 Farmers Exchange
 Filho's
 Flower Hutch
 Forest Appliance
 Gary's Too
 Groton Pizza
 Hobart Village Mall
 Ice Cream Factory
 Ixtapa
 King Farm
 Lakeview Nursery

Launch
 Lavender
 Legends Restaurant and Bar
 Lunenburg Diner
 Mane Attraction
 Mane Attractions Terry Grieg Retail
 Marron and Mark Truitt
 Mass Audubon Society
 McNabb's
 NE Nails and Spa
 Northern Spy Golf Club
 Parker's Barn
 Patriot Pizza & Subs
 PC Lan
 Pizza Pizzazz
 Pottery Painting Place
 Riverdale, Groton
 Settle Shop
 Settler's Crossing
 Slattery's Restaurant
 Sophia's Pizzeria
 Sterilite
 Stewart's Florist
 Sweet and Salty
 Townsend Ford
 Townsend Veterinary Hospital
 Westminster Woods Golf Course
 Wilkins Farm
 Yee's Village Restaurant

So as you can see, we have a full night of fun. Be sure to invite your friends and family.

This is going to be a great event!

Beth Klein: 978-597-8517
 donald.klein2@verizon.net

Carole Gustafson: 978-597-6364
 carolegus@gmail.com

Wanda Wilson: 978-597-6803
 wswilson7652@yahoo.com





The Village Common Children's Center

Hello TCC Friends!! Happy May 2023 from VCCC!!

Hope you are all enjoying this beautiful season of spring as much as we are! We have most welcomed the sunny days and warmer temperatures which have allowed us to enjoy more time outside playing on the playground and going for walks through the neighborhood, especially on the new rail trail!

April found the VCCC children happily engrossed in learning about so many new things through lots of fun, playful activities. Believe it or not, even our youngest friends in our Infant/Toddler classes have been working on their "writing skills" as they've enjoyed daily hands-on activities such as finger painting, squishing and rolling playdough, and playing with tongs and cooked colored spaghetti in the sensory table!! All of these activities are technically pre-writing activities as they help to strengthen fine motor muscles needed to someday hold a writing implement the correct way and write! The Toddler class children have also become bird watchers as the teachers hung bird feeders outside one of the classroom windows! The children have most enjoyed watching feathered friends

as they feast themselves at the feeders!

Our Preschool/PreK friends enjoyed exploring the themes of Insects, Pond and Forest Life, and Dinosaurs! A cooking project where they made some very yummy banana bread allowed them to incorporate math and science concepts, as well as strengthen gross motor muscles as they all took turns stirring up the batter and watching it go from solid to liquid form, then back to solid! Language and communication skills were enhanced in the Dramatic Play Center as the children played in the "Bakery Cafe" that was set up! Math concepts were again subtly evident as the children "bought and sold" cupcakes and donuts and whipped up make-believe smoothies!

And in all classrooms, the concepts of kindness and friendship and the development of positive social skills were, as always, reinforced every day. Children are not the only ones learning at VCCC - staff are required by our state regulations to participate in 20 hours per year of professional development training and last month the staff participated in a number of online trainings that addressed such topics as "Language and Literacy Activities for Infants and Toddlers", "Natural Playgrounds", "Outside Play Activities", and "Diversity".

Our registration for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year is still ongoing. Our Infant and Toddler classes are full but there is still some limited availability in our Preschool/PreK program, so you if you know of anyone looking for a Preschool/PreK program, please do

send them our way! Also, our Summer Program 2023 registration is now open so please pass along the word on that to anyone with young children!

We would like to thank all of our TCC friends for your continued support of VCCC, we very much appreciate all you do for us. From all the Staff, the VCCC Board of Directors and myself, we wish you all a Happy Spring along with continued health and happiness!

Carol Ciccolini, 
VCCC Director



We love our church!

After we have reached the \$3,000 goal for the matching gift with our auction, we can start looking at how we can contribute to the repairs needed for our beloved building . . .

FUND-RAISER!

Cool Air and Sprinklers!

We have two maintenance projects that the church needed to be deferred until this year because of the expense of our new roof over the VCCC playschool. They

involve our sprinkler system and the compressor for the air conditioner that serves the church offices, which failed last summer! Both projects now need to be completed.

Last March, Cogswell Sprinkler out of Worcester, inspected our sprinkler system and found three areas that needed to be updated to pass state codes. We corrected two of the items last year, but reserved the third for this year. The twenty year old system contains antifreeze that needs to be drained and replaced with listed, acceptable antifreeze to bring it up to the current state codes. The cost of this change could be up to \$7,500.

Our air conditioner in the church office areas also stopped working last summer. It was established that the compressor was gone and needed to be replaced. It was going to cost \$7,600 last fall. I canceled the order so we could research more about "Mini splits", air cooling and heating units, that would update the technology we use to cool and heat the offices. By switching to mini splits, the church will use electricity, with savings that we get from the solar panels, to cool and heat the area. When it gets down to around -5 degrees, the present furnace for that area will "kick in" to continue the process of warming the area. We have been told that four of our furnaces are aging and could stop working soon. This change to mini splits could extend the life of the existing furnace for that area because of its decreased usage.

I have, once again, followed a huge learning curve to understand these changes and, with the help of the

Council, made decisions as how to best proceed for the church.

Now we must also consider the church's financial well being. Both projects combined could cost the church around \$20,000. We have fortunately received generous donations of \$6,050 already. We also may be able to receive a rebate for part of the expense. We still need to raise what we can to avoid using our invested funds, the interest from which supports our yearly budget, if possible. Can we do it? I hope so! Please consider donating.

All donations need to be labeled "Maintenance Fund-raiser". They can be mailed to:

Townsend Congregational Church
PO Box 487
Townsend, MA 01469

Donations can also be electronically made on our web site, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the Sunday offering.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Wanda Wilson
Minister for Property



**They were all filled with
the Holy Spirit ...**

Acts 2:4, ESV

Poetry Corner



FROM A SOLDIER IN HEAVEN

I left my home, my family.
I did not know where I would be.
To serve my country I desired,
And knew I'd be where guns are
fired.

Then for my country did I die,
I know the grief to say good-bye.
And now I'm gone to golden land,
Find me where God holds my
hand.

Remember me, my love for you,
Accept my strength to see you
through.
I rest beyond the rainbow's end,
With God and all my soldier
friends.

Remember too the soldiers all
Who answered selflessly the call;
Yes, to protect our country so
With freedom you and yours
could grow.

I ask the Lord to hold you near
Until we meet another year.
Respect the soldiers still on
earth,
And value them for all their
worth.

Christine Clish



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. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!



2-William Hunt; 7-Nyla Carney; 8-Teddy Burnham; 9-Barbara Goodwin; 11-Jessie Marshall and Shane Miller; 14-Jim Misner; 15-Andrew Reeves; 16-Ben Mulrenan; 18-Kathleen Avison; 22-Virginia Hunt; 23-Bill Coalter, Brydon Emerson and Sheila Miller; 25-David Bennett; 28-Sandi Shepherd-Gay.



OUR BLESSINGS:

We celebrate Lorraine M's 62 years of singing with the TCC choir.

Nick and Julie Zielenkiewicz are joyous over the birth of their new grandson, Bryce Owen.

Wedding Anniversaries:

David and Lyn Bennett,
34 years on May 20
Tad and Heather Rochette,
4 years on May 31

OUR CONCERNS:

Prayers for the family and friends of Robert Foote. He was a former member of the church and passed away on March 6.

We continue to pray for a resolution to the gun violence that



is still taking innocent lives in our schools and communities.

Karen Baer is asking for prayers for her friend, Dan, who is having surgery.

Karen also needs prayers for Nathan who is fighting a setback after starting a new treatment.

Carol Swenor is asking prayers for her grandson's wife, Sarah, whose injury is not healing as expected.

Continued prayers for Shirley Coit.

Prayers for Sharlene Rourke (our former secretary) as she grieves the death of her husband, Jim, on April 6.

Prayers for Dede and Dave O'Hair's daughter.

Carole Gustafson is asking prayers for her niece, Kathi, and her family upon her recent diagnosis; and as Kathi begins her treatments.

Carole is also asking for prayers for her brother, Bill, whose disease has returned and is facing surgery.

Moe Tremblay is asking for prayers for his friend, Janice, whose disease has returned.

Moe also would like prayers for his friend, Ernie, who is undergoing testing.

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.





COMMUNITY NEWS

The following article is one that has been used for a number of years to describe our Memorial Day tradition in Townsend. If anything changes, I will post something in the weekly Spirit.
—Cathy

LECTIONARY, MAY 2023

May 7, 2023 -

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First reading: Acts 7:55-60
Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Second reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel: John 14:1-14

May 14, 2023 -

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First reading: Acts 17:22-31
Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20
Second reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel: John 14:15-21

May 21, 2023 -

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First reading: Acts 1:6-14
Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Second reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
Gospel: John 17:1-11

May 28, 2023 -

Day of Pentecost

First reading: Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
Gospel: John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39



Townsend will Observe Memorial Day on Sunday, May 28

Members of VFW Post #6538 and its Auxiliary, American Legion Post #199 and its Auxiliary, and DAV Chapter #122 will begin the observance by attending the morning church service as a body - probably at the Townsend United Methodist Church, but arrangements have not been finalized at the time of this writing. The West Townsend parade, with three brief memorial services, will commence at 1:30 pm. The next parade, with four memorial services in Townsend Center, will begin at about 2:30 pm. Observances will culminate with the Townsend Military Band Concert on the Common between 4 and 5 pm. All Veterans, active military personnel and members of their families are invited and strongly encouraged to join the VFW, American Legion, and DAV members at the church

service (most likely at TCC this year) and in the afternoon parades and memorial services. It is hoped that many area residents will come out to watch as Townsend observes Memorial Day, much as it has for many years. Anyone wishing more information about Townsend's Memorial Day observances should contact Betty Mae Tenney at 978-597-6495.



William James College INTERFACE Referral Service



INTERFACE is a mental health referral service that is available for all residents in Townsend, Pepperell, and Ashby. Just call 888-244-6843 during normal business hours (M-F, 9-5) and you will be able to speak with a licensed mental health professional, or an advanced level graduate student, who will discuss the situation with you, and then call you back with a referral which meets your therapeutic needs, insurance, schedule availability and immediate openings. This service is funded by the North Middlesex Regional School District. Check out the web site for the WJC INTERFACE Referral Service at interface.williamjames.edu.

Submitted by Pam Snaith

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Again, O Lord? The Pain of Gun Violence Against Children

3/28/2023 - by: Noah Brewer-Wallin - Conference staff

Again, O Lord? Again, are we suffering the consequences of loving the freedom to own guns more than the freedom for children to go to school without being killed?

It is horrifying to see the photos of young children being evacuated from their classrooms. It is horrifying to read the names of the three nine-year-olds who were killed. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform us and our nation so that this violence ends.

The pain of this violence calls us to act. Learn more about what gun violence prevention organizations in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts are doing, and join in their action:

<https://www.sneucc.org/gun-violence>

In addition to the pain of this senseless violence is the pain of learning that the shooter was a transgender man. We must be vigilant that our discussions of this tragedy does not turn the very real grief and need for action into anti-trans rhetoric, policy, and violence. The UCC national setting is curating resources and action

opportunities to support trans people, and you can join in here [go to blog page for links

<https://www.sneucc.org/blogdetail/again-o-lord-17369837>]:

UCC Takes Up Urgent Collection of Love Letters for Trans Youth

'Trans Youth Lives Matter': UCC leaders commit to love and justice in action amidst anti-LGBTQ bills



Noah serves as the Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Southern New England Conference. Noah supports congregations in making God's love real through

engagement in environmental and economic justice.



Registration is Now Open for SNEUCC Annual Meeting!

Registration is NOW OPEN for the 4th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference, to be held June 17 at the DCU Center in Worcester. An online option is also available.

The meeting will include messages by UCC General

Minister and President Nominee Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson and SNEUCC Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin; engaging worship; and two sets of breakout sessions, one on "Mapping Your Church's Path Forward" and one on "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." There will also be a Children's Program, a Marketplace and some pre-meeting events.

Find the details and register at: sneucc.org/2023AM.

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PENTECOST

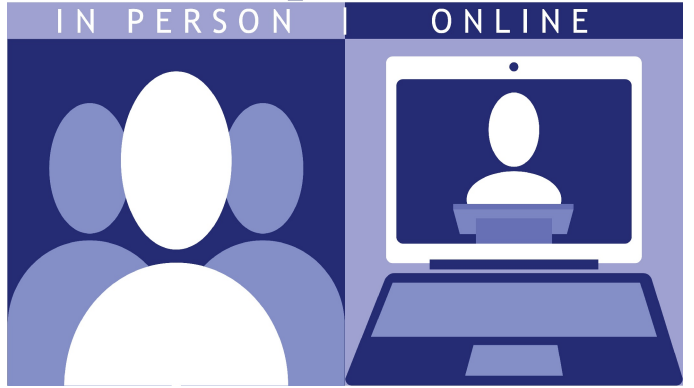
To each is given
the manifestation
of the Spirit for
the common good.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, ESV

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

Worship/Sunday School at 10 am

Worship With Us



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)*

